The Otolaryngology Residency Program offers the comprehensive five-year residency program, and there is the option for additional research training as a physician scientist embedded in the residency prior to the final year of training. This program is intended to provide those residents, who decide to pursue a career as a physician scientist, with the skills necessary to successful compete for funding to support a physician scientist career.

As of 2005, Otolaryngology residency training programs, approved by the residency review committee (RRC) of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) are five years in length, with the first year of Otolaryngology training replacing the traditional surgical internship. As a result, postgraduate year (PGY) number now matches the otolaryngology-training year. In other words, a resident in their first year of training (PGY1), would now be designated as a Otolaryngology one resident, where as a resident in their last year of traditional five year training program would be designated as Otolaryngology five resident. This change could result in some confusion when one compares programs, as there may yet be variability in training year designations.

The Otolaryngology Residency Training program at the University of Pittsburgh is approved currently for five individuals each year. This number is derived from the number of surgical cases performed. As the clinical experiences continue to increase at the University of Pittsburgh Hospitals it is possible that this number will be increased within the next several years. We continuously re-evaluate our program in order to assure excellence in the educational opportunities offered to our residents.

Each year we receive approximately 350 applications. It is impossible for us to interview all, hence the applications are carefully reviewed in order to select approximately 6 individuals for each open position. In this way, every individual who is selected for an interview has a real chance of being successfully matched into The Otolaryngology Residency Training program.

Our admissions committee consists of a subset of our faculty representing all of the major divisions of our department. Residency selection is based on outstanding medical student performance as well as the personal interview. We are interested in training residents who come from widely diverse backgrounds and those who express an interest in entering a wide range of practice scenarios.

Applications are available from the central application process. Further details on the application process are available from the National Resident Matching Program (www.nrmp.org).

Barry Schaitkin, MD
Program Director

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