Quarterly Section Update
AHNS Endocrine Section
Spring Quarter 2023

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Vision: To provide an organizational home for all surgeons who have a special interest in endocrine surgery, under the umbrella of the American Head and Neck Society.

Mission: To advance education, research, and quality of care for the patient with thyroid and parathyroid diseases.

Charge: The Endocrine Surgery Section has the goal of becoming the premier organization for all surgeons with an interest in Head and Neck Endocrine Surgery while improving patient care, research and education in this arena.

Headlines:

Recent AHNS Endocrine Section Publications:


Recent AHNS Endocrine Section Members in the news:


**Most Read This Week**

**JAMA Network™ | January 15, 2023**

Radiofrequency ablation and related ultrasound-guided ablation technologies for treatment of benign and malignant thyroid disease: An international multidisciplinary consensus statement of the American Head and Neck Society Endocrine Surgery Section with the Asia Pacific Society of Thyroid Surgery, Associazione Medici Endocrinologi, British Association of Endocrine and Thyroid Surgeons, European Thyroid Association, Italian Society of Endocrine Surgery Units, Korean Society of Thyroid Radiology, Latin American Thyroid Society, and Thyroid Nodules Therapies Association was at **TOP CITED Article in Head and Neck in 2021-2022.**

**Recent Professional Education Webinar:**

**AHNS-ES WEBINAR: MUTATIONAL TESTING IN THYROID CANCER**

**Date:** Wednesday, December 14th, 2022  
**Time:** 7:00pm EST/6:00pm CST/5:00pm MST/4:00pm PST  
*This session is an hour long.*

**Moderators:** Marika Russell and Alan Ho  
**Discussants:** David Shonka, Lindsay Bischoff, Lori Wirth, Yuri Nikiforov

**Panelists:**  
- Case 1: *Differentiated Thyroid Carcinoma*: Jessica Geiger  
- Case 2: *Medullary Thyroid Carcinoma*: Mabel Ryder  
- Case 3: *Anaplastic Thyroid Carcinoma*: Marika Russell

If you missed it, you can view a recording at: [https://youtu.be/GMYESA0P-9A](https://youtu.be/GMYESA0P-9A)
**Important FPD details discussed:**

Completion of ACGME-accredited residency → **Primary Certification** → Completion of ACGME-accredited fellowship → **Subspecialty Certification** → Focused Practice Designation

**Additional expertise in a particular area of the primary specialty that develops throughout ones’ career, with or without additional training.**

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### Training Pathway vs. Practice Pathway

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<tr>
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<th>Training Pathway</th>
<th>Practice Pathway</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABOHNS or ABS Primary Certification in good standing</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellowship Training</td>
<td>Completion of AAES- or AHNS-accredited fellowship required</td>
<td>No requirement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qualifying Cases</td>
<td>80 index cases (16 complex) within 2-consecutive years proximate to submitting application (avg 40/year)</td>
<td>120 index cases (24 complex) within 3-consecutive years proximate to submitting application (avg 40/year)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multidisciplinary Care, for example tumor board</td>
<td>Documentation required</td>
<td>Documentation required</td>
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<tr>
<td>Length of time to obtain FPD</td>
<td>Within 5 years of completing fellowship</td>
<td>Within 3 years of completing application</td>
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**Qualifying Cases (Training Pathway):**

- Core cases: thyroidectomy, parathyroidectomy, neck dissection for thyroid cancer
- Complex cases: substernal goiter, reoperative thyroid or parathyroid surgery, tracheal resection for thyroid malignancy, management of anaplastic or medullary thyroid cancer

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If you missed the FPD Town hall, you can view a recording at: [https://vimeo.com/799653048](https://vimeo.com/799653048). Also, please look forward to presentations on this topic at upcoming meetings of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-HNS, Society of University Otolaryngologists, and COSM.

**Top Endocrine Billing codes for Head and Neck Surgeons (Abbreviated, courtesy of AAOHNS):**
Disclaimer: Procedure coding is a listing of descriptive terms and identifying codes for reporting medical services and procedures performed by physicians. Coding should be based upon procedures and supplies provided to the patient which accurately describe the medical, surgical, and diagnostic services provided. Coding and reimbursement information is provided to you for educational purposes only and does not ensure coverage in a specific case or setting. The American Academy of Otolaryngology- Head and Neck Surgery does not make any guarantee of coverage or reimbursement of fees. Contact your local commercial third party payer representative, local Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC), or CMS for specific information, as payment rates listed are national and subject to local variations.

Current Procedural Terminology numeric codes, descriptions, and modifiers are trademarks and copyrights of the AMA.

Changes are coming to AHNS Endocrine Section Twitter chat with ThyCa:
AHNS is broadening its exciting social media partnership with ThyCa in 2023! To expand our reach to thyroid cancer patients, we are moving from Twitter to Zoom and Reddit this year. ThyCa members in surveys have indicated that they heavily prefer these two platforms for webinars, informal exchanges, and educational lectures.

What will not change is the need for your expert participation as AHNS advocates for thyroid/parathyroid surgery! Be on the lookout for opportunities to be panelists in these fast-moving, informative sessions in the near future.
Thurs 3/9/23 – Zoom (Topic: “Early in your thyroid cancer journey”)
Thurs 6/15/23 – Zoom (Topic: TBD)
Thurs 9/14/23 – Reddit (Topic: TBD)
Thurs 12/14/23 – Reddit (Topic: TBD)
Committee Activities:

- **Social Media and Website committee (Ho/Shonka)**
  The Endocrine Section social media committee has continued to work closely with ThyCa on patient awareness and education. To expand reach beyond Twitter, we have now partnered with them on a series of Zoom and Reddit chats in the coming year (see calendar above). We are also working with AHNS on Instagram posts throughout the year. We welcome any additional input or suggestions as we expand our social media presence!

- **Research committee (Agrawal/Noel)**
  The HCC multi-center study led by Dr. Dan Rocke in to start shortly with an invitation to members of the section to participate. Dr. Julia Noel has been working with her SOM Office of Technology and Digital Solutions (Stanford) on a patient-centered decision-making tool in thyroid cancer to help facilitate educated and efficient discussions with physicians. This project was selected for development into an app-based aid to be used as a resource in the peri-operative setting.

- **Patient Care/Education committee**
- **Pediatric committee**
- **Technology and Innovation committee**
- **Profession Education committee**

We held a well-attended and well-received multidisciplinary webinar in December, highlighting the recent AHNS-ITOG white paper on mutational testing in advanced thyroid cancer.

Planning is underway for 2023 webinars, with content to be focused on surgical techniques and decision-making strategies. Moderated discussion with expert surgeons will be used to illustrate skillful and nuanced management of specific surgical maneuvers and challenges in neck endocrine surgery. The first will focus on parathyroid surgery and the second on thyroid surgery. The material is intended to augment the practice of surgeons at all levels of skill and experience.

Although not a direct course from our section, we will have significant education section presence for the Trainee Program and throughout the program at the World Thyroid Cancer Congress in London in June.

- **International Affairs Committee**

Other endocrine surgery related activities from our section members:


Dr. Scharpf was also interviewed about this article: https://edhub.ama-assn.org/jn-learning/audio-player/18756688

The 5th Symposium on Parathyroid Fluorescence was held in Geneva, Switzerland February 23-24, 2023. Many presentations and panels were given by our section members. We were well represented:

Standardization of the definition of hypoparathyroidism and Probe-based assessment of ICG enhanced fluorescence of vascularized parathyroid glands, Michael Singer; Abstract Moderator: Claudio Cernea; Session Moderator (Mapping of parathyroid vessels and assessment of parathyroid perfusion after thyroid resection): Gregory Randolph; Abstract Moderator: Michael Singer, and presentations: AI/Deep learning to identify the RLN during thyroidectomy (Claudio Cernea) and Harvard Autofluorescence Studies (Gregory Randolph).

Upcoming Section Events (Mark your calendars):

The AHNS-ES in conjunction with the International Thyroid Oncology Group (ITOG) will commence the joint writing project on “Huthle Cell Carcinoma: Unique molecular alterations and comprehensive clinical management A Contemporary Review” under the leadership of Drs. Buczek and Randolph.

AHNS Twitter Chat Calendar #ahnscat
Our next Twitter event will be Thursday, March 9, 2023, 8 pm Eastern time on Differentiated Thyroid Cancers, “Early in your thyroid cancer journey”. @AHNSEndo. Register Here: https://t.co/tMjaUJiDsn.

AHNS ES Webinar
Our next webinars focusing on parathyroid and thyroid surgical techniques and decision-making strategies will be announced soon.

AHNS Tumor Board featuring the Endocrine Section will be March 1, 2023 “Tricks and Pearls in revision and non-localizing parathyroid surgery”.
The Asia Pacific Thyroid Society (APTS) met live March 23-26, 2023 in Kochi, India. This meeting combined meetings of the 4th Congress of the Asia-Pacific Society of Thyroid Surgery and the 5th National Meeting of the Indian Society of Thyroid Surgeons. An AHNS-ES/APTS session will feature various members of our section. www.apts2023.com

11th International Conference on Head and Neck Cancer, July 8-12, 2023, The Palais des Congrès, Montréal, QC Canada. We have excellent representation on the planning committee and discussions are underway for an endocrine section pre meeting session as well as subject matter related to our section to be integrated into the remainder of program. Our current program consists of 2 hour sessions dedicated to thyroid ablation, parathyroid autofluorescence, and advanced thyroid cancers. The 3 sessions will be followed by a new endocrine surgery technology event featuring over 10 vendors with hand on experience for participants. Stay tuned for more specific section related updates in the upcoming section newsletters.

News relevant to the section and its members is always welcomed and desired. Please forward these items to Brendan C. Stack, Jr., MD, section chair and newsletter editor, at bcstackjr@gmail.com

Visit our website

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