



## Endocrine Surgery Section

# Quarterly Section Update AHNS Endocrine Section Summer 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.

### **Recent AHNS Endocrine Section Members in the news:**

## JAMA Otolaryngology–Head & Neck Surgery

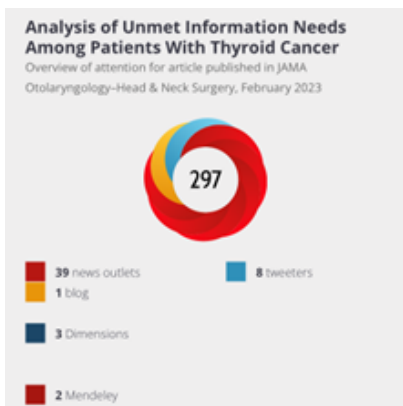
New Issue

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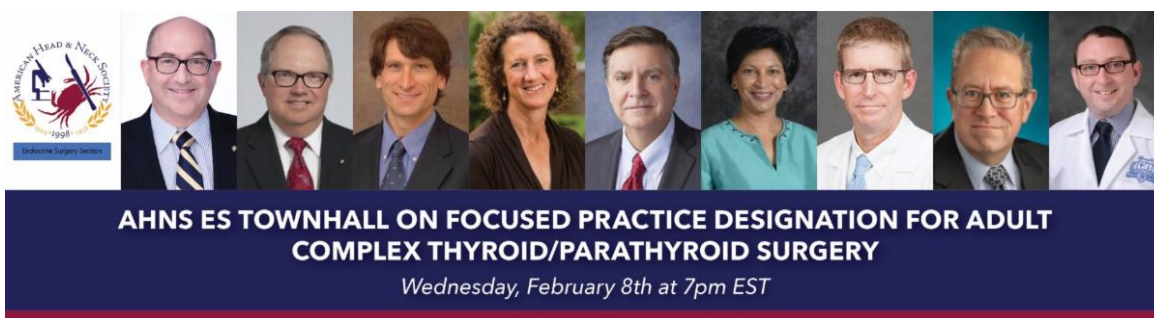


**Invited Commentary: Medullary Thyroid Carcinoma and Population Screening—The Promise and Pitfalls of Genetic Testing;** Louise Davies, MD, MS; Peter Angelos, MD, PhD

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamaotolaryngology/article-abstract/2799809>



### Recent Professional Education Webinar:



The AHNS Endocrine Surgical Section presented a townhall styled webinar on February 8, 2023 on the American Boards of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and Surgery upcoming initiation of a Focused Practice Designation (FPD) for Adult Complex Thyroid and Parathyroid Surgery. This event was well attended and represents an initiation of education about the FPD process to our colleagues. There will be a panel on this topic at the Annual Meeting of the AAOHNSF, Nashville, TN in the fall of 2023. Also expect this information to be presented at other professional meetings and fora in 2024.

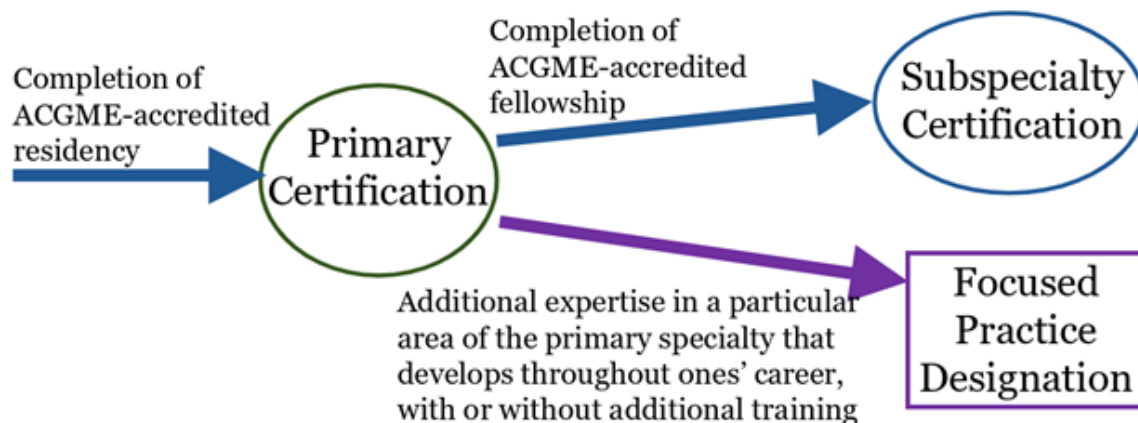


Fig 1. The FPD schema. Courtesy of Dr. Brian Nussenbaum.

**Background.** Thyroid and parathyroid surgery is in the scope of practice of ABOHNS and ABS diplomates certified in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery or General Surgery respectively. There are diplomates who focus their surgical practices on patients with thyroid/parathyroid diseases. Some have completed fellowships and others have not. Continuing board certification activities are not currently focused on this (or other)

practice-relevant content. These among other issues were part of the genesis of FPD for adult complex thyroid and parathyroid surgery (Fig. 1).

The ABS/AAES initiated a FPD for *Comprehensive Endocrine Surgery* in 2019. The ABOHNS/AHNS/AAO-HNS requested to proceed collaboratively with ABS/AAES and this was agreed with a focus on adult complex thyroid and parathyroid surgery. A work group was assembled from stakeholder certifying boards and surgical specialty societies: ABS: Drs. Peter Angelos, Herb Chen, and Jo Buyske; AAES: Drs. James Lee, Kepal Patel, and Tracy Wang; ABOHNS: Drs. Jeff Bumpous, Dave Eisele, Gaelyn Garrett, and Brian Nussenbaum; AHNS: Drs. Lisa Orloff, Greg Randolph; AAO-HNS: Dr. Dave Steward.

The FPD process started with an in-person meeting 8/22/2019, this was followed by several videoconferences afterwards resulting in ABMS approval in 2022. Consensus was reached on the following: Co-Administrative Boards, name of the FPD, assessment to obtain FPD will be a written exam, initial FPD eligibility requirements, and required practice components for eligibility.

**The FPD Process.** There are two pathways for FPD (Fig. 2). The practice component requirements can be decreased (not eliminated) if one completes an AAES or AHNS-accredited fellowship. Required cases are to include core and complex cases. Core cases will include: thyroidectomy, parathyroidectomy, and neck dissection for thyroid cancer. Complex cases will include: substernal goiter, re-operative thyroid or parathyroid surgery, tracheal resection for thyroid malignancy, and management of anaplastic or medullary thyroid cancers.

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

Fig 2. FPD requirements. Courtesy of Dr. Brian Nussenbaum.

FPD renewal will be every 5 years. Candidates must maintain good standing with their primary board certification. Sixty percent of the Board's minimum annual CME requirement needs to be thyroid/parathyroid content (ABOHNS diplomates). For example, of 25 CME credits, a minimum of 15 credits need to be thyroid/parathyroid content. Submission of new case logs will verify if the candidate is still meeting practice requirements. Candidates must also obtain a passing score on an article-based knowledge assessment. There will be an opportunity to contribute patients to a quality control data registry (QCDR). This will be strongly encouraged initially and required by the end of the first 5-year cycle of the FPD. The FPD Board will periodically revisit requirements beginning in 3 years from FPD initiation.

**Governance.** ADULT COMPLEX THYROID/PARATHYROID SURGERY FPD steering committee will consist of the following: ABOHNS: Drs. Elizabeth Cottrill, Mark Overholt, Greg Randolph

(co-chair), David Steward, and Richard Wong. ABS: Drs. Peter Angelos, Ashley Cayo, Herb Chen (co-chair), Carmen Solórzano, and Tracy Wang.

**The future.** FPD future tasks include: creation of an Exam Committee, definition of the Scope of Knowledge, creation of an Exam Blueprint, creation of content, and creation of a road map to the first exam (possibly 2025).

**A video of this event can be found at <https://vimeo.com/799653048> or at <https://www.ahns.info/meetings/virtual-education/>**

### **Recent AHNS Monthly Tumor Board featuring the Endocrine Section:**

A number of members of the section were honored to take part in the AHNS Fellows' Virtual Tumor Board in March. This session focused on the nuances of assessing and managing patients with primary hyperparathyroidism, including the normohormonal and normocalcemic variants. Section members taking part were David Terris, Alex Harbison and Michael Singer.

### **AHNS Endocrine Section/ThyCa patient outreach event:**

A session focused on differentiated thyroid cancer (papillary/follicular) - leading up to diagnosis and where do I go from there? "Early in your thyroid cancer journey." Co sponsored by ThyCa and the AHNS Endocrine Surgery Section, March 9, 2023. Section members included Drs. Ho, Stack, and Randolph.

The **AHNS Endocrine Section and ThyCa** joined forces yet again in the inaugural AHNS/ThyCa Zoom webinar. The topic centered on "Early in Your Thyroid Cancer Journey", with AHNS members fielding questions and observations from both new and established thyroid cancer patients across the country. Areas covered included topics such as nodule workup, the effect of high-volume centers, patient recovery, and the RAI usage.

The team up was highly successful with more than 33 attendees and a flurry of 40+ chat questions within an hour, indicating an extraordinarily high level of engagement! The event continues to build focus on AHNS and otolaryngology as the premier discipline for thyroid cancer care. AHNS Endocrine Section members who made this chat a success include Greg Randolph (Harvard), Merry Sebelik (Emory), and Brendan Stack (Southern Illinois). Mark your calendars for our next joint webinar is on **Thursday June 15, 2023** – see you then!

### **AHNS-ES engagement and advocacy for our specialty**

Advocacy for our specialty includes engaging with sister societies and serving in them to promote activities of consequence to our clinical practice. The ATA offers an opportunity for AHNS-ES members to engage:



## **Volunteer for an American Thyroid Association (ATA) Committee**

Are you also a member of the ATA? We encourage you to volunteer to serve on a committee. **Use this link** to access the volunteer form and provide your committee preferences. ATA members of all career stages are encouraged to volunteer. Please submit your volunteer preferences by **June 12, 2023**. Questions? Please email [thyroid@thyroid.org](mailto:thyroid@thyroid.org).

## **2023 Research Grants:**

**Good News and Opportunities for the AHNS-ES grant program.** The **good news** is the we had a record 10 grant applications for the Stryker and Eisai sponsored grants in aggregate. This reflects the robust research culture of both our clinical specialty of endocrine surgery and our section. **The opportunity** is that we need to work together (mentors and trainee applicants) to improve the quality of our grant submissions to compete in terms of scoring with peer applications seen in the C.O.R.E grant review program. Grants should be hypothesis driven which is clearly articulated in the application. Ideally submissions will be prospective and collaborative beyond a single surgeon, practice, or institution. It is our desire and plan to work toward the ongoing development of the Endocrine Surgical Section grants program to eventually offer awards of larger sums and to focus on endocrine basic science, patient perception/experience, new application of technology, population/data science. 2023 AHNS Endocrine Section grant winners will be announced soon!

## **Committee Activities:**

- **Social Media and Website committee (Ho/Shonka)**

We are gearing up for our second of 4 sessions this year with ThyCa. The first session was our first on the zoom platform and garnered substantial positive feedback from patients on the topic of **the early thyroid cancer journey**. The second session as the most popularly requested topic will be on **scarring and how to minimize or avoid it** on **June 29<sup>th</sup>**. The final 2 sessions of the year will feature our foray into Reddit.

- **Research committee (Agrawal/Noel)**

The research committee continues to march ahead with its multi-institutional study on outcomes in oncocytic (Hurthle cell) carcinoma led by Dan Rocke, Ashley Mays, and Beth Cottrill. Another study investigating the mode of detection in surgical parathyroid disease is also in the works, being led by Tony Eskander, Mirabelle Sajisevi, and Noemie Villemure-Poliquin. Stay tuned for details on how to participate in this important multi-institutional effort!

- **Patient Care/Education committee (Lango/Cottrill)**

No activities to report.

- **Pediatric committee (Kazahay/Rastatter)**

The pediatric committee has been busy with their ongoing scholarly production. Publications are forthcoming.

- **Technology and Innovation committee (J. Russell/Shonka)**

The Technology and Innovation committee has initiated a joint position statement led by the Asia Pacific Thyroid Society and AHNS-Endocrine Surgical section on "Remote Access Thyroid Surgery". This effort will be joined by representatives of AAES, LATS, and ESE. It is anticipated this project will be completed by the end of 2023.

- **Profession Education committee (Scharpf/M. Russell)**

Fall Endocrine section webinars are being calendared.

- **International Affairs Committee (Zafferreo/Cernea)**

No report provided.

## **Other endocrine surgery related activities from our section members:**

**Section members as JAMA OTO reviewers.** JAMA OTO is the official journal of AHNS. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamaotolaryngology/fullarticle/2802365>



**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. These included:

- Standardization of the definition of hypoparathyroidism; Probe-based assessment of ICG enhanced fluorescence of vascularized parathyroid glands, **Michael Singer**
- AI/Deep learning to identify the RLN during thyroidectomy, **Claudio Cernea**
- Harvard Autofluorescence Studies, **Gregory Randolph**

American Thyroid Association Surgery Working Group; American Association of Endocrine Surgeons, American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery; American Head and Neck Society; Carty SE, Cooper DS, Doherty GM, Duh QY, Kloos RT, Mandel SJ, **Randolph GW, Stack BC Jr, Steward DL, Terris DJ**, Thompson GB, **Tufano RP**, Tuttle RM, Udelsman R. Consensus statement on the terminology and classification of central neck dissection for thyroid cancer. *Thyroid*. 2009 Nov;19(11):1153-8.

**This is from Research Gate** ([www.researchgate.com](http://www.researchgate.com)). I share because it marks the impact of the first multidisciplinary paper from the American Thyroid Association (ATA) surgical affairs committee. Many of that committee have been section members over the years. Many more seminal papers have followed from this group on lateral neck dissection, molecular markers for thyroid cancer diagnosis, remote access surgery, Hypoparathyroidism, among others. All of these papers have become highly cited. Congratulations to my coauthors, surgical colleagues, and the ATA surgical affairs committee. Kudos to **Drs. David Stewart and Greg Randolph** who led this effort and other section member coauthors: **Drs. Stack, Terris, and Tufano. Please think about engaging in similar activity with the ATA (see above on ATA).**

**Section members Drs. Marika Russell, David Stewart, and Brendan Stack** collaborated on a publication of their 2021 ACS Course on The Difficult Parathyroid at the request of the editor of *Current Problems in Surgery*, Dr. Stanley Ashley of Brigham and Women's Hospital:

Gillis A, Lindeman B, **Russell MD**, Jawad BA, **Steward DL, Stack BC Jr**. The difficult parathyroid: advice to find elusive gland(s) and avoid or navigate reoperation. *Curr Probl Surg*. 2023 Mar;60(3):101262. Epub 2022 Dec 15. PMID: 36894218.

The inaugural meeting of the **North American Society for Invasive Thyroidology (NASIT)** was held March 11, 2023 in New Orleans, LA. Many of our section members were featured prominently in this meeting. They include: **Emad Kandil, Ralph Tufano, Jon Russell**, among others. For more information: **[www.nasit.org](http://www.nasit.org)**

**Drs. Stack and Randolph** were featured as Keynote speakers at the Asia Pacific Thyroid Society in Kochi, India, March 23-25, 2023. **[www.apt2023.com](http://www.apt2023.com)** The presentations were: "Machine learning in the identification of patients with hyperparathyroidism" and "Recurrent Laryngeal Nerve Management- Anatomy and Monitoring Studies", respectively.

And sessions: Panel Discussion 7, AHNS Endocrine Surgery Section and ATPS conjoint panel. Topic: Thyroid Cancer Tumor Board: Novel Treatment Strategies and Therapeutics for Thyroid Cancer. Moderators: Kyung Tae (APTS), **David Shonka** (AHNS) Lecture: Parathyroid Autofluorescence and Fluorescent Angiography: Best Practices from the AHNS ES Guidelines: **Brendan Stack, MD**

**The XIX Latin American Thyroid Society Congress** took place in Curitiba, Brazil in April. This meeting had over 2000 participants. Numerous members of the Endocrine Surgery Section were active at the meeting: **Erivelto Volpe, Claudia Cernea, Joe Scharpf, Victoria Banuchi, and Michael Singer.**

Edwards ER, Hazkani I, Stein E, Josefson JL, Samis JH, Miller JL, **Rastatter J**. Total Thyroidectomy and Subsequent Weight Gain in Pediatric Populations. *Laryngoscope*. 2023

Jun;133(6):1518-1523. doi: 10.1002/lary.30532. Epub 2022 Dec 20. PMID: 36537365.

Patel KR, Wang B, Abdelhamid Ahmed AH, Okose OC, Ma H, Behr IJ, Cheung AY, Saito Y, Kamani D, **Silver Karcioglu A, Liddy W**, Takami H, Cunnane M, **Randolph GW**. Surgical and Biochemical Outcomes in Nerve Monitored Reoperation Surgery for Recurrent Papillary Thyroid Carcinoma. Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg. 2023 May 28. doi: 10.1002/ohn.389. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37245079.

**Russell MD, Shonka DC Jr, Noel J, Karcioglu AS**, Ahmed AH, Angelos P, Atkins K, Bischoff L, Buczek E, **Caulley L, Freeman J**, Kroeker T, **Liddy W**, McIver B, **McMullen C**, Nikiforov Y, **Orloff L, Scharpf J, Shah J, Shaha A, Singer M, Tolley N**, Tuttle RM, **Witterick I, Randolph GW**. Preoperative Evaluation of Thyroid Cancer - a review of current best practices. Endocr Pract. 2023 May 24:S1530-891X(23)00416-0. doi: 10.1016/j.eprac.2023.05.009. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37236353.

Hazkani I, Edwards E, Stein E, Maddalozzo J, Johnston DR, Samis J, Josefson J, **Rastatter J**. Perioperative outcomes in children with Hashimoto's thyroiditis undergoing total thyroidectomy. Am J Otolaryngol. 2023 Mar-Apr;44(2):103785. doi: 10.1016/j.amjoto.2022.103785. Epub 2022 Dec 31. PMID: 36608381.

### **Upcoming Endocrine Surgical Events (Mark your Calendars):**

**WCTC 2023 - Just Over 4 Weeks to Go!**

**WCTC**  
**JUNE 15-17, 2023**

A global multidisciplinary meeting of all specialists involved in the care of patients with Thyroid Nodules and Thyroid Cancer.

WORLD CONGRESS on THYROID CANCER  
LONDON, UK  
June 15-17, 2023

<https://thyroidworldcongress.com/>

**The North American Society for Interventional Thyroidology (NASIT), "The Art of RFA: Full Case Video - Commented by Experts", June 29, 2023 8:00 PM EDT.** This webinar will feature a full video recording of the radiofrequency ablation procedure on a benign, non-functioning nodule by Dr. Leo Rangel. A multidisciplinary panel will review key discussion points and respond to any questions. **REGISTER HERE**

**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.

<https://www.ahns2023.org/program/overview/#SaturdayCourses>

**AHNS Endocrine Section Annual Meeting, Sunday, July 9, 2023, 1:45 - 3:15 PM, Room 512 ABEF, Palais Des Congres, Montreal, QC, CA**

***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](mailto:bcstackjr@gmail.com)***

Visit our website

**American Head and Neck Society**

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