



DEPARTMENT OF HEAD & NECK SURGERY  
DAVID GEFFEN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT UCLA  
10833 LE CONTE AVENUE, 62-132 CHS  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90095

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Dear American Head & Neck Society,

Our team is applying to the 2025 Cancer Prevention Service Community Service Awards to support an interactive session that our department, the UCLA Department of Head and Neck Surgery, will lead as a formal component of the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine (DGSOM) curriculum. This program seeks to educate medical students at our institution about human papillomavirus (HPV) and its driving force in the dramatic increase in oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma (OPSCC) incidence noted over the past few decades. Our team is well suited to deliver this lecture: we have validated the efficacy of our session in prior presentations to medical students, residents, and community providers on this topic and have published three papers about the impact of this intervention on medical students and residents.<sup>1-3</sup>

Our proposed session, scheduled for early September 2025, will target pre-clinical medical students at our home institution's medical school. We chose this demographic due to the exceedingly low rates of awareness of HPV and its association with OPSCC previously noted among medical students, residents, and primary care providers.<sup>3-5</sup> As most of these students will not pursue a professional future or clinical elective in otolaryngology, our intervention may be the only time they are exposed to this critical knowledge in their training from specialty-specific experts. We anticipate effectively educating future physicians about (a) HPV-positive OPSCC's presentation and rising incidence, (b) updated HPV vaccine recommendations, and (c) effective counseling of patients about the HPV vaccine will increase their knowledge about HPV OPSCC and their ability to fight this epidemic as healthcare professionals. This program will support the inclusion of HPV and its role in head and neck cancer in the medical school curriculum and will serve as a proof of concept that encourages other medical and healthcare provider training programs to include these topics. Hosting these sessions will also provide valuable insight into persistent misconceptions, knowledge gaps, and educational needs among trainees and students to inform future iterations that can create impact.

### Methods

This will be a two-part educational intervention, consisting of a required pre-lecture asynchronous video and an interactive in-person session. While our in-person session will be led by head and neck surgery residents, our curriculum will be developed in collaboration with head and neck surgical faculty and senior medical students to ensure its content is clinically relevant, accurate, and well-received by junior medical students. Our asynchronous pre-lecture video will be 15-20 minutes long and will communicate introductory knowledge about HPV, OPSCC, and vaccine indications. This will be delivered in an audiovisual manner, where audiological instruction will be accompanied by various visual counterparts such as instructor-facing chalk talk, images, videos, and custom-made animations to present our information engagingly and memorably. A pre-video survey will also be offered to understand students' baseline knowledge. Next, our in-person lecture will be delivered to the medical students in person and will be based on a presentation that our team has delivered and

validated over the past several years.<sup>1-3</sup> The session will begin with a PowerPoint presentation that reviews key information discussed in the asynchronous video and will cover HPV vaccine indications, clinical practice guidelines, and how to appropriately counsel patients about the HPV vaccine. Clicker questions will be used to invite audience participation and gauge levels of knowledge. Following our presentation, we will transition to an open forum for students to ask questions about lesson materials before splitting students into groups where they will then role play as they practice counseling patients about the role of the vaccine and OPSCC. Student pairs will then be asked to volunteer to practice patient-physician counseling in front of the entire class allowing time for group feedback and discussion. To encourage participation, each student volunteer will receive a \$10 gift card. Finally, students will complete a post-lecture survey, which includes cumulative assessment questions and qualitative feedback. We anticipate full participation from our 173-person first-year medical student class. After our lecture, we will use quantitative pre- and post-education data as qualitative feedback about the quality and delivery of our teaching (gathered from participating medical students, in addition to debriefing interviews from student, resident, and faculty educators to help improve future iterations and impact).

### Budget

We are requesting \$1,000 in funding to cover the cost of screening-related supplies and educational materials. The budget breakdown for the anticipated 173 student participants is as follows:

- Gift card incentive for on-stage lecture participation (10 @ \$10.00 each) = \$100
- Pre-lecture recording animation = Approximately \$900
- **Total: \$1,000**

No additional funding is being utilized for this specific project. However, the David Geffen School of Medicine will help provide ancillary services to host and record our lecture while ensuring student participation through clicker questions. In doing so, DGSOM helps our work reach a large, key audience without significant overhead, and our grant funding ensures our message is effectively communicated to the student body in such a way that maximizes long-term retention.

We are grateful for your consideration of our grant application to ensure future healthcare providers are appropriately educated about the role of HPV in OPSCC. This program will support the inclusion of HPV and its role in head and neck cancer in the medical school curriculum and will serve as a proof of concept that encourages other medical and healthcare provider training programs to include these topics. Support from the AHNS would allow us to create an impact on the prevention and early detection of HPV-positive OPSCC by increasing awareness of best management practices.

Thank you for your gracious consideration,



Matthew E. Lin, MD

Resident Physician, PGY-1

UCLA Department of Head & Neck Surgery

### Works Cited

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5. Gnagi SH, Gnagi FT, Schraff SA, Hinni ML. Human Papillomavirus Vaccination Counseling in Pediatric Training: Are We Discussing Otolaryngology-Related Manifestations?. *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg.* 2016;155(1):87-93. doi:10.1177/0194599816639932