



**Weill Cornell  
Medicine**

**WEILL CORNELL SEMINAR  
in  
SALZBURG**

in collaboration with

**General Hospital Salzburg**

**"Temporal Bone Surgery"**

July 15 – 21, 2018



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## SALZBURG WEILL CORNELL SEMINAR TEMPORAL BONE SURGERY

July 15 – 21, 2018

• 34 fellows from 24 different countries and regions
• 10 faculty members from the United States & Austria
• 21 lectures and 7 workshops given by faculty
• 3 Temporal Bone Laboratory Workshops
• 33 interesting case presentations by fellows
• 5 excellent case presentations selected by faculty

### Faculty Photo (L-R)

Howard Francis, MD; Christoph Arnoldner, MD; Sebastian Rösch, MD; Cem Meco, MD;  
Gerhard Rasp, MD; Samuel Selesnick, MD; Nikolas Blevins, MD;  
Georg, Alexiades, MD; Colin Driscoll, MD





**Group Photo of Faculty and Fellows**



	Sunday 15 July	Monday 16 July	Tuesday 17 July	Wednesday 18 July	Thursday 19 July	Friday 20 July	Saturday 21 July
07:00 – 08:00		BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	<b>Fellows' Case</b> Presentations	BREAKFAST	DEPARTURES
08:00 – 09:00		Introductions Pre-Seminar Test	Surgery for Otosclerosis Colin L. Driscoll, MD	Ossiculoplasty, Adhesives and Middle Ear Surgery Nikolas Blevins, MD	Bone Anchored Hearing Aids Howard W. Francis, MD	Petrous Apex: Otologic Approaches George Alexiades, MD Petrous Apex: Rhinologic Approaches Cem Meco, MD	
09:00 – 10:00		Temporal Bone Anatomy Nikolas Blevins, MD	Canal Wall Intact Mastoidectomy and the Facial Recess Approach Nikolas Blevins, MD	Powered Middle Ear Implants Klaus Boeheim, MD	Temporal Bone Trauma/ Facial Nerve Surgery Christoph Arnoldner, MD	Surgery for Cancer of the Temporal Bone Howard W. Francis, MD	
10:00 – 10:30		COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	COFFEE BREAK	
10:30 – 11:30		Histopathology of the Temporal Bone/ Facial Nerve Anatomy Samuel H. Selesnick, MD	Canal Wall Down Mastoidectomy and Obliteration Techniques Howard W. Francis, MD	Cochlear Implantation Gerd Rasp, MD	Vestibular Surgery: Endolymphatic Sac Surgery, Fistula Repair and Labyrinthectomy George Alexiades, MD	Skull Base Surgery Neurotologic Approaches Samuel H. Selesnick, MD	
11:30 – 12:30		The Otological Setup and Endoscopy Gerd Rasp, MD Use of Endoscopy in Temporal Bone Surgery Cem Meco, MD	<b>Fellows' Case</b> Presentations <u>12:15 – 12:30</u> Introduction to the Temporal Bone Laboratory Sebastian Roesch, MD	<b>Fellows' Case</b> Presentations	Surgery for Glomus Tumors Colin L. Driscoll, MD	Post-Seminar Test Evaluation & Discussion	
12:30 – 13:30		LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	
14:00 – 15:00		Surgery of the External Auditory Canal Christoph Arnoldner, MD	<u>13:30 – 16:30</u> Temporal Bone Laboratory: Canalplasty, Tympanoplasty, Canal Wall Intact Mastoidectomy Facial Recess Approach Faculty	<u>13:30 – 16:30</u> Temporal Bone Laboratory: Stapedectomy, Canal Wall Down Mastoidectomy Faculty	<u>13:30 – 16:30</u> Temporal Bone Laboratory: Ossiculoplasty, Cochlear Implantation, Labyrinthectomy Faculty	Free Afternoon	
15:00 – 16:00		Tympanoplasty Techniques and Graft Options George Alexiades, MD					
16:00 – 17:00		<b>Fellows' Case</b> Presentations					
17:00 – 18:00		<u>17:00 – 17:15</u> OMI /AAF Presentation					
18:00 – 19:00	Faculty Meeting to Review the Week					Farewell RECEPTION	
19:00 – 20:00	<u>19:00 – 19:30</u> Welcome RECEPTION	DINNER	DINNER Faculty Dinner in Private Home	DINNER	DINNER	Graduation DINNER Certificates Awarded	
20:00 – 21:00	<u>19:30 – 20:30</u> Welcome DINNER						

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**"Temporal Bone Surgery"**

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**FACULTY**





**Wolfgang Aulitzky, MD** is the Medical Director of the American Austrian Foundation. He is Associate Dean for International Medicine and Distance Learning, Adjunct Prof. of Clinical Urology and Adjunct Prof. of Clinical Reproductive Medicine at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University/New York Presbyterian Hospital. In 2016, he was appointed Adjunct Professor of Pediatrics in the Associated Faculty of the Perelman School of Medicine at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. He is also Associate Prof. of Urology at the Medical University of Innsbruck and Visiting Professor at the Medical University of Vienna. Amongst others he is a member of the American, German and Austrian Societies of Urology and was awarded the Zuckerkindpreis of the Austrian Society of Urology in 1989. In 1995 he received the Silver Medal, in 2007 the Golden Medal for Merits to the Republic of Austria and in 2014 the cross of honor of the Land Salzburg. As Director of the Medical Program of the American Austrian Foundation he has initiated the Open Medical Institute, a scientific and educational collaboration of Weill Cornell and the New York Presbyterian Hospital, the Children Hospital of Philadelphia, Duke University, Columbia University, the Cleveland Clinic and leading hospitals in Austria. Dr. Aulitzky earned his medical degree at the University of Innsbruck in 1977, was a research associate at the University of Uppsala, Sweden and the Rockefeller University, New York. He received his training as an urologist at the University of Innsbruck and the General Hospital of Salzburg. He is the author of more than 140 publications on Urology, Andrology and Health Care issues and is co-author of books on basic and clinical urology/andrology.

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**Samuel H. Selesnick, MD, FACS (Course Director)** is a Professor and Vice Chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology and Professor of Otolaryngology in Neurological Surgery at the Weill Cornell Medical College, and is a member of the Department of Neurological Surgery at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Dr. Selesnick has held and continues to hold leadership positions in key national and international medical societies. Dr. Selesnick is Past President of the American Otological Society. Dr. Selesnick is a Past President of the American Neurotology Society, which is the largest medical society in this field. Dr. Selesnick has received The Certificate of Honor, bestowed by The American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, and has been named one of the best doctors in his field by numerous lay publications. Dr. Selesnick sits on the Executive Council of the American Otological Society. Dr. Selesnick has served on the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery. Dr. Selesnick has served on the Executive Council of The American Neurotology Society, and has served on or chaired numerous committees for the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, The American Otological Society, The Triological Society, The American College of Surgeons and other medical societies. Dr. Selesnick sits on the editorial board of the journal *Otology and Neurotology*, and has served as guest editor of *The Otolaryngologic Clinics of North America*. Dr. Selesnick has lectured in 17 countries across Europe, the Middle East, and Asia, speaking on neurotologic and ear related topics in, France, Italy, the United Kingdom, Austria, Denmark, Spain, Greece, Australia, Japan, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, India, the Ukraine, Canada and Mexico. Dr. Selesnick is committed to fostering international collaboration and teaching. He has organized residency exchange programs between New York and Paris, and, in addition, has hosted other international scholars in training. In 2014, Dr. Selesnick was named the inaugural “Visiting American Doctor at the American Hospital of Paris” and serves as consultant to the administrative and medical leadership at that institution. Dr. Selesnick has researched topics in neurotology – skull base surgery and otology, and has published extensively in peer reviewed journals. The second book he has co-edited was released in November 2010. At the NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center, Dr. Selesnick has pioneered skull base surgery for acoustic neuromas as well as other skull base tumors. He has pioneered the use of lasers for the treatment of hearing loss in otosclerosis, and for the treatment of cholesteatoma, during mastoidectomy. Dr. Selesnick’s administrative role in his department includes involvement with resident and staff oversight, recruitment and practice management. Dr. Selesnick received a Bachelor of Arts from Wesleyan University and graduated from the New York University School of Medicine. He completed his training in Otolaryngology at The Manhattan Eye, Ear, and Throat Hospital – Cornell Residency Program and went on to advanced Fellowship training in Otology, Neurotology, and Skull Base Surgery at The University of California, San Francisco.

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Dr. Selesnick has been frequently interviewed by the television, radio, and print media. He is an Honorary Police Surgeon in the New York Police Department.

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**Gerd Rasp, MD, PhD (Co-Course Director)** is an Otorhinolaryngologist and Chairman of the Salzburg Paracelsus University ORL Department. Born in Bad Reichenhall, Germany, he grew up in Southeastern Bavaria and graduated after completing his Abitur in 1979. After 15 months of military service with the 1. Gebirgsdivision, German Army, he began his studies in mathematics and physics at the Ludwig-Maximilians University in Munich. In 1981, he switched to human medicine and graduated in 1987. He finished his thesis about the “primary structure and inhibitory properties of the ovine Inter-alpha-trypsin-inhibitor” magna cum laude. In August 1997, he began his Fellowship at the Department of Otorhinolaryngology at the University of Munich, Grosshadern Medical Center under the instruction of Prof. Ernst Kastenbauer and Prof. Alexander Berghaus. He became a resident in 1992 and senior resident on 1 December 1994. He completed his specialties in ENT on 8. April, 1992, Allergology on 13. January, 1994, Facial Plastic Surgery on 8. January, 1996 and Special Head and Neck Surgery on 20. December, 2001. His PhD focused on clinical investigations of inflammatory mediators in the nasal mucosa and he became an Associate Professor for ENT (Privatdozent) on 14. August, 1997. He became Vice-Chairman on 1. July, 2002 and apl-Professor for Otorhinolaryngology in 2003. He was elected Chairman of the ORL-Department, Katharinenhospital, Stuttgart on 1. October, 2005. On 14. February, 2008, he was elected Chairman and Professor of the ORL-Department of the Paracelsus Private Medical University, Salzburg. From September, 2009 to September, 2010, he served as President of the Austrian ENT Society and now is the incoming president for 2018/2019. Since February, 2013, he serves as Dean for Research at the PMU. He lives near Salzburg with his wife Dr. Karin Rasp, pediatrician, and their daughters Julia, Jana and Louisa.

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**George Alexiades, MD, FACS** is an otolaryngologist who specializes in otology/neurotology. Dr. Alexiades grew up in New York City and completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry at S.U.N.Y at Binghamton. He received his MD from New York University School of Medicine and completed his residency in otolaryngology at New York University Medical Center. Afterwards he completed his fellowship training in neurotology at New York University under the guidance of Drs. Noel Cohen and J. Thomas Roland. Dr. Alexiades' research interests include cochlear implantation, cholesteatoma and skull base surgery. Recent publications include work on estimating cochlear duct length using CT scans in *Otology & Neurotology*. He is a peer reviewer for *Laryngoscope* and *Otology & Neurotology*. Dr. Alexiades is currently on the faculty of Weill Cornell Medical College/New York Presbyterian Medical Center as Associate Professor of Clinical Otolaryngology. He lives in New York City with his wife Gari.

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**Christoph Arnoldner, MD** is an otolaryngologist at the Medical University of Vienna (Austria) who specializes in Otolaryngology, Neurotology and Skull Base Surgery. Dr. Arnoldner grew up in Vienna and went to medical school in Vienna and Paris. He did his otolaryngology residency in Hanover (Germany) with Prof. Lenarz and in Frankfurt am Main with Prof. Gstöttner. He then returned to Vienna with Prof. Gstöttner and passed his habilitation in 2010. In 2012, he became Associate Professor for Otolaryngology at the Medical University of Vienna. From 2012 to 2013, Dr. Arnoldner underwent a fellowship in Otolaryngology and Skull Base Surgery with Prof. Chen and Nedzelski at the University of Toronto. Dr. Arnoldner's research interests include two areas. The first is psychoacoustic studies with cochlear implants. In these studies, Dr. Arnoldner and his team tested different speech processors, algorithms, electrodes as well as cochlear implants to improve performance with CIs. His studies led to two US patents that were both successfully sold to industrial partners. The second interest involves his lab research, which focuses on animal models of cochlear implantation to restore and preserve hearing in acoustic as well as mechanical trauma to the inner ear. His team mainly uses Poloxamer formulations to achieve a sustained release of pharmaceutical agents to the inner ear. Dr. Arnoldner's efforts have earned him grants from the Austrian Science Fund and MedEI Corporation. He has authored more than 50 peer reviewed articles and one surgical textbook. Dr. Arnoldner is currently on the faculty of the Medical University of Vienna as Associate Professor of Otolaryngology. He is the Vice Chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology of the Medical University of Vienna.

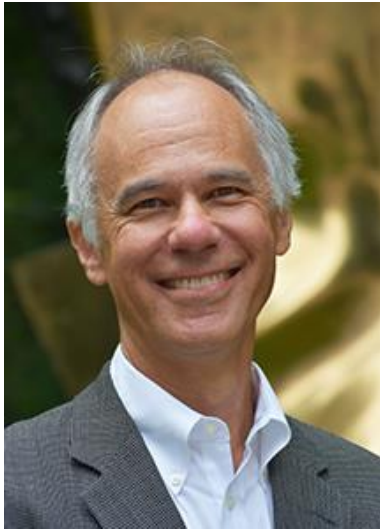
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**Nikolas H. Blevins, MD** is the Larry and Sharon Malcolmson Professor of Otolaryngology at Stanford University. He is the Chief of the Division of Otolaryngology and Neurotology, and is the Director of the Stanford Cochlear Implant Center. His clinical interests include the treatment of hearing loss and tumors of the cranial base. His research is focused on the development and application of technology to augment microsurgical approaches to the skull base. This includes the use of computer modeling and immersive surgical simulation for education and preoperative planning. Additionally, he and his collaborators are developing minimally-invasive techniques for inner ear microendoscopy, surgical micro-robotics, and other technology applicable to hearing restoration. Dr. Blevins is a California native, and received his bachelor's degree from Stanford University. He completed medical training at Harvard University, before returning to California for residency in Otolaryngology at the University of California at San Francisco. He remained at UCSF for a fellowship in otology/neurotology. Dr. Blevins joined the Stanford Department of Otolaryngology in 2003.

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**Klaus Böheim, MD** is an Austrian otolaryngologist who has specialized in active middle ear implants and cochlea implantation in the last 15 years. He graduated from the Medical University of Graz, Austria and received and completed his ENT training at University of Innsbruck where he continued his ENT specialty as a senior physician, received his docent ship and is still affiliated as Associate Professor. He was also a lecturer of otolaryngology at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts. He was head and director of the ENT Department of Landeskrankenhaus St. Pölten, Austria, for more than 20 years. He is now working in a private practice in Vienna and is a teaching surgeon and visiting professor in several European hospitals. Dr. Böheim's recent clinical research focused on active middle ear implants in sensorineural and conductive/mixed hearing loss. His publications analyze audiological outcomes with active middle ear implants. He also edited a book on active middle ear implants. Dr. Böheim was president of the Austrian ENT society 3 times, received an honorary doctorate from Victor Babes University, Timisoara, Romania, and is member of several scientific societies and scientific boards.

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**Colin L. W. Driscoll, MD** earned his medical degree from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and then complete ENT residency at the Mayo Clinic. Two years of fellowship training in Neurotology was undertaken at the University of California San Francisco, and completed in 1999, after which he joined the Mayo faculty. His practice involves evaluation and management of all types of hearing loss, dizziness, and other infectious or neoplastic temporal bone pathologies. He has special research and clinical interests in cochlear implantation and skull base tumors. In addition to serving as department Chair he is the Chairman of the Board for the American Cochlear Implant Alliance, a non-profit organization promoting research, awareness and advocacy.

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**Howard W. Francis, M.D., M.B.A., FACS** is professor and chief of the division of Head and Neck Surgery & Communication Sciences in the Department of Surgery at Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina. As a neurotologist, Dr. Francis' clinical interests span the full scope of this subspecialty, including the management of conditions of the ear, skull base and associated nervous system. His research interests include the determination of best practices of acoustic neuroma treatment, the examination of functional outcomes of cochlear implantation in young children and older adults, and the study of best practices in surgical education. Recent publications include "Multifactor influences of shared decision-making in acoustic neuroma treatment," "Clinical and psychosocial risk factors of hearing outcome in older adults with cochlear implants," and "Personal characteristics of residents may predict competency improvement." He serves on editorial boards of the *Cummings Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery Text*, the *Otology and Neurotology Journal* and the *World Journal of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery*. He is a member of the Otolaryngology Residency Review Committee of the ACGME, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. He is this year's president of the Society of University Otolaryngologists. After completing his high-school education in Jamaica, and his bachelor's degree at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, Dr. Francis earned his medical degree from the Harvard-MIT Division of Health, Science and Technology at Harvard Medical School, and then completed his internship, residency and fellowship training at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. He completed his Master's in Business Administration with a focus in medical services management at the Johns Hopkins Carey Business School. After 19 years on the faculty at Johns Hopkins, during which he served as Residency Program Director, Director of the Johns Hopkins Listening Center and Vice Director of the Department, he was appointed chief of HNS&CS at Duke in March 2017.

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**Cem Meco, MD, FEBORL-HNS** is a Professor and Chairman in Department of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery (ORL-HNS) in Ankara University, Turkey, as well as a faculty member in the Department of ORL-HNS in Salzburg Paracelsus Medical University, Austria.

He is the President Elect and Presidential Council Member of the Confederation of European ORL-HNS (CEORL), which is the uppermost organisation for ORL-HNS in Europe. Additionally, he serves as an Executive Committee Member and Group Leader of the Rhinology Section of the European Board Examination in ORL-HNS by UEMS. Being one of the first European Board eligible ENT Surgeon in 2010, thus carrying a "Fellow" title, he also functions as an examiner since 2011 in this distinct European organization. Moreover, he serves as Advisory Board Member of European Rhinologic Society and Executive Board Member of Turkish Skull Base Society. Furthermore, he was the General Secretary of the 4<sup>th</sup> European ORL-HNS Congress in Barcelona, 2017, wherein these European Congresses are considered to be the biggest and most important European gatherings by CEORL. After receiving his medical degree in 1993, from the Medical School of Ankara University, Turkey, he did his residency at Salzburg Paracelsus Medical University, Austria, under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Klaus Albegger, where he continued to work for several years and complete fellowships in Otology - Neurotology with emphasis on Cochlear Implantation, Skull Base Surgery, as well as Rhinology - Advanced Sinus Surgery. Since 2004, while continuing to be a faculty member in Salzburg, he started to function as a faculty member in Ankara University Department of ORL-HNS, where he became the Chairman in 2015. There he initiated the Cochlear Implant Program in 2005 and enhanced the multidisciplinary skull base workgroup with endoscopic techniques. He is the author and co-author of many presented or published papers. He held numerous invited lectures and panel discussions at important congresses, seminars and courses worldwide. His main research area has been the diagnosis and management of cerebrospinal fluid fistulas. In his practice, he mostly deals with rhinologic, oto-neurotologic and skull base disorders. Currently, his main area of interest is advanced endoscopic sinus and skull base surgery. Among many other society memberships, he is a Corresponding Member of the Austrian ORL-HNS Society, Member of the Turkish, German and Balkan ORL-HNS Societies; the American Academy of ORL-HNS Foundation; the European, Turkish, American and Bulgarian (Honorary) Rhinologic Societies, European Academy of Otology-Neurotology and the European, German and Turkish Skull Base Societies.

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**Sebastian Rösch, MD** is otolaryngologist at the Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery of Paracelsus Medical University Salzburg, Austria. Dr. Roesch was born and raised in Nuremberg, Germany. He graduated from Paracelsus Medical University Salzburg in 2009 and finished his residency for otolaryngology in 2015. His clinical focus is laid on otology and neurotology with special emphasis on hereditary and congenital hearing loss as well as sudden sensorineural hearing loss. He is part of an international and interdisciplinary task group, focusing on Pendred syndrome. His scientific activity includes several publications with otologic topics in international journals. He also works as a reviewer for *Acta Oto-Laryngologica*. Besides clinical activity, he is regularly holding lectures for otolaryngology at Paracelsus Medical University Salzburg.

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**WEILL CORNELL  
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**"Temporal Bone Surgery"**

July 15 – 21, 2018

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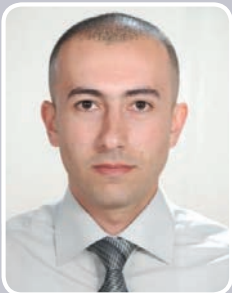
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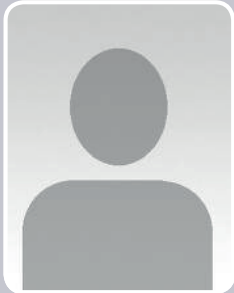
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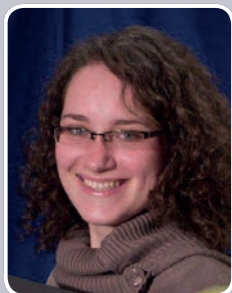
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## **SEMINAR DIARY FROM FELLOW**

**Diary of Gytis Zaldokas, MD**

**Vilnius University Hospital Santariskiu Klinikos Children Hospital**

**Vilnius, Lithuania**

**15. – 21.07.2018**



### **15 July, Sunday**

After a long journey by a plane and then a train, I finally arrived to Salzburg. I decided to go from the train station to Schloss Arenberg by foot, as the weather was fine and I was curious to see the city. Salzburg gave me a great impression: old buildings surrounded by beautiful nature and narrow streets leading to my destination. It was not hard to find Schloss Arenberg, and it took me only 20 minutes to get there from the train station. Unfortunately, by choosing to complete my journey by foot, I sacrificed the welcome dinner, which was ending when I arrived. Although all the fellows were already socializing by the time I arrived, it was not hard to jump into discussions, as they were very polite and the atmosphere was friendly.

### **16 July, Monday**

The morning started with breakfast and coffee and soon the seminar began. Professor Samuel H. Selesnick gave us an introduction speech. From the first minute it was clear, the seminar was well organized and what we are going to do will always be clear. After that, we took a pre-seminar test. It was not easy, requiring a wide knowledge from the otosurgery field. It will be interesting to take the same test after the seminar, and I hope I will see a big improvement in my knowledge. After the test, we listened to presentations from medical doctors from the USA, Austria and Turkey. They were very exciting and useful, beginning with some basic details, like how the patient should be positioned or which instruments are required for specific otologic surgeries. These are very important things and not all courses explain them. The anatomy lecture from Professor Nikolas Blevins was awesome. It was well delivered and the 3D view was extremely helpful in understanding the complex anatomy of a temporal bone. In my opinion, 3D view should be considered for use in medical schools in my country.

### **17 July, Tuesday**

The day started with presentations from the faculty and case reports from the fellows. One case report got stuck in my mind. It was about stapedoplasty and it was very useful to discuss what could be done to avoid complications. Finally, we started dissections. At the beginning, it was slow and

hard but medical doctors from the faculty were always nearby and ready to help. After the dissection we spent some time exploring a beautiful city.

### **18 July, Wednesday**

As usual, the day started with presentations from the faculty and case reports from the fellows. As we do not have enough time to fulfil our plan, Professor Samuel H. Selesnick asked us to start the seminar at 7 a.m. tomorrow! Well that is an intense course, but I like that. Professor Klaus Böheim gave us an interesting lecture about powered middle ear implants and indications on how to use it, as it is very important. After the dissection, no one had the energy to explore the city and I had to prepare for tomorrow, so I went to sleep early.

### **19 July, Thursday**

It was not hard to get up, as it was my day to present a case. I was a little nervous, but the atmosphere in the conference room was respectful and it helped in focusing on what I was going to say. Today, medical doctors from the faculty presented their surgical experience and we were able to see many impressive cases. Finally, we ended with our dissections. I feel that I learned a lot and I hope to use it in the near future. In the evening there was a piano concert in the Schloss. It was a very cozy and lovely evening and ended with the fellows mingling with the faculty.

### **20 July, Friday**

Today our seminar was shorter, as we finished our dissections yesterday. After some inspiring presentations from the faculty, we took a post-seminar test. It was a lot easier and I can see now that I gained a lot of knowledge during the seminar. After a lunch we had some time for sightseeing. It is our last day and I feel that the time passed too quickly. I have conflicting feelings about this seminar; regrettably, the seminar is finished, however I am glad because I learnt a lot from the faculty and spent time with very different and exciting people from all over the world.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone for organizing this wonderful event and for inviting me here.

*Gytis Zaldokas, MD (Vilnius, Lithuania)*

## **SEMINAR DIARY FROM FELLOW**

**Diary of Sweety B. Aubroo, MD**  
**Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences - MUHAS**  
**Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania**  
**15. – 21.07.2018**



**15<sup>th</sup> July Sunday:** I reached Munich in the morning after an 11-hour journey from Tanzania (Dar es Salaam). From the Munich airport, I took the train to come to Salzburg, which was a 2-hour trip that had a very refreshing scenery full of greenery. Upon arrival, I was shown to my room. The room was small but very cute had all the basics to enjoy a comfortable stay. After such a long journey, I freshened up and got some shuteye; I did not feel like going out to explore as I had a strange feeling at the beginning. At 7 pm, we had the welcoming ceremony from the faculty, where I was able to meet the faculty members and all the participants of the seminar and we all introduced ourselves. The atmosphere became more relaxing as the evening went on, and we enjoyed a very delicious meal. After some short conversation, we all head to our respective rooms.

**16<sup>th</sup> July Monday:** Around 6 am I woke up, quite early, as I was very excited to see what was awaiting for the day. I reached the lobby around 7:30 am, had breakfast and headed straight to the seminar room. The seminar started with a brief introduction of the Temporal Bone Surgery seminar and a test was given of approximately 30 multiple-choice questions that was quite challenging. The test was followed by a lecture by Dr Nikolas Blevins on “The anatomy of Temporal Bone.” The first lecture itself was a very unique experience as it was presented in 3D and was explained in such detail that made the complex anatomy of the temporal bone look simple.

Then we went for the group picture and had a coffee break.

After the short break, the second part of the lecture continued with Dr Samuel Selesnick on “Histopathology of the Temporal Bone/Facial Nerve Anatomy,” which highlighted very important points.

We then had another lecture by Dr Gerd Rasp on “The Ontological Setup and Endoscopy,” which basically covered the latest steps in ENT.

After that, we proceeded with lunch and resumed with the remaining lectures of the day until approximately 4pm. Then we started the fellows’ case presentations, among which I presented on the first day. As this was my first time attending this seminar, it was a completely new experience as

the case I prepared was one where I dealt with the patient personally and prepared the operation. However, other fellows did present cases that they did not work on, but that belonged to their ENT department. We had the opportunity to listen to around 12 cases as we were a little bit ahead of the planned schedule. Lastly, we had a short presentation on the OMI/AAF, including their goals and aims of the program and what they wanted to achieve globally. This marked the end for the day in the seminar lecture hall.

It was around 5 pm and the weather was magnificent, 2 other fellow colleagues and I took a stroll around the city and took the opportunity to explore the new place a bit more. The reception was of great help as they had maps of the city. We came back to the hotel around 7:30 pm, on time for dinner, and joined other fellows at dinner. Needless to say, I am very impressed with the gorgeous weather and very beautiful city.

**17<sup>th</sup> July Tuesday:** I woke up more enthusiastic than the previous day. After a few lectures, it was time to put the theory to practice as it was the first day in the temporal bone lab. With the temporal bone in place, we started drilling as instructed. As time went on, I got more comfortable with the micro instrument and I got to learn a few tips in the process as the members of the faculty were very helpful and were present at every step of the way. Time has never gone by so fast, I guess this saying applies here; time flies by when you are having fun!

**18<sup>th</sup> July Wednesday:** It was already the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the seminar and I missed breakfast. I woke up a little bit late and didn't want to be late for the lecture, so I headed directly to the lecture hall. After a few minutes, the lecture started with a topic on ossiculoplasty by Dr Nikolas Blevins and Dr Klaus Boeheim followed this with "Powered Middle Ear Implants." With a very much needed coffee break (as I missed breakfast), the seminar continued with "Cochlear Implantation" by Dr Gerd Rasp, a hot topic from Tanzania as we have recently started a few cochlear implant cases. With time limitations, only very few fellows got to present their cases as we had to rush for lunch and get ready to be at the temporal lab on time. Our time was very restricted at the lab, as we had to leave by 4:30 pm.

After the lab, the weather was at its best, so I decided to walk to the hotel instead of taking the cab. It was a very pleasant walk along the river and I just could not get enough of the view. I must say it is a very calm city and the bridges along the river are beautiful. I loved it.

**19<sup>th</sup> July Thursday:** The day started earlier than usual, as we were a little bit behind schedule, so the seminar started at 7 am with some case presentations from the participants. As soon as that was finished, we had a quick coffee break. After that, we had 2 lectures that were followed by another coffee break and we ended with another 2 lectures and then had lunch. This was the last day of the temporal bone lab dissections and the time in the lab flew by so quickly. There was much more to accomplish on the bone, but that marked the end of the lab. I finally was ready to wrap up and we took the transport to the hotel and just relaxed.



**20<sup>th</sup> July Friday:** The last day of the seminar already, the days really did fly by. I cannot even believe it. So far everything has been nothing but a very good experience. The day started with breakfast downstairs and I enjoyed a lecture with Dr George Alexiades on “Petrous Apex with Otologic Approaches,” and then the 2<sup>nd</sup> lecture on “Petrous Apex with Rhinologic Approaches” with Dr. Howard Francis. After the coffee break, the lecture proceeded with “Skull Base Surgery, Neurotologic Approaches” by Dr Samuel Selesnick. We finally took the post-seminar test, which was the same test that was given on the first day of the seminar, in order to evaluate the fellows. With the test ending, we headed for lunch. Afterwards, we all had planned to go and explore the city and walk around until we come back for the graduation ceremony.

*Sweety B. Aubroo, MD (United Republic of Tanzania)*