

Voice and Upper Airway

Paediatric Voice & Airway Research Lab

Paolo Campisi, Evan Propst and Nikolaus Wolter

The Paediatric Voice Laboratory at the Hospital for Sick Children has been primarily involved in voice outcomes and epidemiological research. The laboratory collaborates with Laurie Russell, speech-language pathologist and Kim Simpson, clinical research assistant.

Recent and ongoing projects include: A multicentre randomized-controlled trial that included Toronto, Boston, Milwaukee and Philadelphia was recently published in JAMA Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery that compared two voice therapy approaches for the treatment of vocal fold nodules in children. More importantly, the collaboration has established a working model for future multi-centre studies. At the end of 2017, the laboratory began collating 10-year follow up data on the incidence and prevalence of recurrent respiratory papillomatosis locally and nationally. The data will be fully collected and analyzed in 2018 and will represent the most robust population level study that will definitively characterize the impact of HPV vaccination on disease burden.

On the horizon are several new studies that will focus on exercise endoscopy, vocal fold dysfunction and voice outcomes after thyroidectomy in children.

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Jennifer Anderson & R. Jun Lin

Dr. R. Jun Lin is a new faculty member with a Master's degree in clinical trials research and a new associate of the St. Michael's Hospital Li Ka Shing Research Institute. Dr. Lin has already initiated several interesting research projects including a qualitative study on prebarynges, effect of voice research post phonosurgery, and an animal model investigation into the use of the blue light versus KTP laser in the larynx.

Several projects in laryngology research were concluded with presentations and publications in the past year. A trainee and fellow project included a quality and safety initiative on performing outpatient laryngology laser procedures, with the paper published in the white journal (Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery).

A multi-year project in collaboration with speech pathology and a vocal pedagogist also was presented at an international meeting, and published in JAMA, in the past year on randomized controlled evaluation of vibration therapy in singers.

Two other completed projects have papers under review; one in collaboration with medical imaging on dynamic CT scanning in thyroplasty, and a second trainee research project on tracheostomy care pathways in an academic hospital.