

Anna (“AJ”) Flaherty, M.D.

Education/Training

Virginia Mason Medical Center, Seattle, WA <i>Fellowship: Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (with Dr. Michael Nuara)</i> <i>American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (AAFPRS)</i>	07/2021 - Present
Southern Illinois University School of Medicine (SIUSOM), Springfield, IL <i>Residency (Categorical): Otorhinolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery</i> <i>Solo Chief Resident</i>	06/2016 - 06/2021 06/2020 - 06/2021
State University of New York, Buffalo, NY <i>Internship (Non-Designated Preliminary): General Surgery</i>	06/2015 - 06/2016
University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), Honolulu, HI <i>Doctor of Medicine</i>	07/2011 - 05/2015
California Polytechnic State University (CPSU), San Luis Obispo, CA <i>Bachelor of Arts: Philosophy</i> <i>Minor: Religious Studies</i>	09/2007 - 06/2010
Colorado Mountain College (CMC), Steamboat Springs, CO <i>Associate of Science: Biology</i>	01/2005 - 05/2007

Certifications/Licensure

Board Eligible: Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery	Written exam 08/31/2021
Physician and Surgeon License, Washington State Department of Health	05/2021 - Present
Basic Life Support	Valid through 05/2023
Advanced Cardiac Life Support	Valid through 06/2023

Research/Publications

In progress: “How does dysphoria related to facial features and incongruence with gender identity correlate with communication difficulties in transgender and nonbinary patients?”

In progress: “Alcohol Use and Prognosis in p16-positive Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Oropharynx: Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.”

Flaherty AJ, Sharma A, Crosby DL, Nuara MJ. “Should Gender-Affirming Surgery Be Prioritized During the COVID-19 Pandemic?” *Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg.* 2020 Dec;163(6):1140-1143.

Hara JH, Zhang JA, Gandhi KR, **Flaherty A**, Barber W, Leung MA, Burgess LP. “Oral and intratympanic steroid therapy for idiopathic sudden sensorineural hearing loss.” *Laryngoscope Investig Otolaryngol.* 2018 Mar 25;3(2):73-77.

Research/Publications (continued)

Leung MA, **Flaherty A**, Zhang JA, Hara J, Barber W, Burgess L. "Sudden Sensorineural Hearing Loss: Primary Care Update." *Hawaii J Med Public Health*. 2016 Jun;75(6):172-4.

Castel N, Soon-Sutton T, Deptula P, **Flaherty A**, Parsa FD. "Polyurethane-coated breast implants revisited: a 30-year follow-up." *Arch Plast Surg*. 2015 Mar;42(2):186-93.

Awards/Honors

Award , Excellence in Medical Student Teaching <i>Department of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery, SIU School of Medicine</i>	06/2021
Award , Best Resident Educator <i>Department of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery, SIU School of Medicine</i>	06/2020
Winner , Clinical Research Presentation "Prognostic Factors in p16-positive Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Oropharynx" <i>SIUSOM Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery Resident Research Day</i>	06/2020
Winner , Clinical Research Presentation "Prognostic Factors in p16-positive Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Oropharynx" <i>SIUSOM Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery Resident Research Day</i>	06/2019
Award , Excellence in Medical Student Teaching <i>Department of Surgery, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine</i>	2018 - 2019
Winner , Clinical Research Presentation "Post-Tonsillectomy Pain Control and Quality of Life" <i>SIUSOM Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery Resident Research Day</i>	06/2017
Award , Excellence in Medical Student Teaching <i>Department of Surgery, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine</i>	2017 - 2018
Scholarship , J. M. Long Foundation (merit- and service-based); JABSOM	2011 - 2014
Recipient , E.E. Black Scholarship (academic merit-based); JABSOM	2011 - 2014
Scholarship for Travel , Surgery Department; JABSOM <i>American College of Surgeons Annual Congress Medical Student Program, Chicago, IL</i>	09/2012
Scholarship , Dr. Shigeru Richard Horio Memorial (invite only); JABSOM	2011 - 2012
Winner (\$500), Philosophy Department Essay Contest; CPSU	05/2010
Dean's List , California State Polytechnic University	2008 - 2010
National Dean's List , Colorado Mountain College	2005 - 2007
All-State Academic Team , CO; American Association of Community Colleges	2007

Oral Presentations

- “Alcohol Use and Prognosis in p16-positive Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Oropharynx” 06/2021
SIUSOM Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery Resident Research Day, Springfield, IL
- “Prognostic Factors in p16-positive Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Oropharynx” 06/2020
SIUSOM Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery Resident Research Day, Springfield, IL
- “Transcending the Gender Binary: The Science and Philosophy of Transgender Medicine” 02/2020
Invited Guest Speaker, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA
- “Gender-Affirming Care for the Otorhinolaryngologist and Medical Provider” 10/2019
SIUSOM Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery Grand Rounds, Springfield, IL
- “Prognostic Factors in p16-positive Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Oropharynx” 06/2019
SIUSOM Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery Resident Research Day, Springfield, IL
- “Acute & Chronic Sinusitis: Diagnosis & Treatment” (By invitation) 05/2019
Memorial Health System Express Care & Emergency Department Skills Day, Springfield, IL
- “Transgender Patients: Finding Their Voice” 04/2019
SIUSOM Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery Grand Rounds, Springfield, IL
- “Prognostic Factors in p16-positive Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Oropharynx” 06/2018
SIUSOM Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery Resident Research Day, Springfield, IL
- “Prognostic Factors in p16-positive Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Oropharynx” 04/2018
SIUSOM Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery Grand Rounds, Springfield, IL
- “Post-Tonsillectomy Pain Control and Quality of Life” 06/2017
SIUSOM Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery Resident Research Day, Springfield, IL
- “Transgender Facial Surgery: History and Techniques” 04/2017
SIUSOM Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery Grand Rounds, Springfield, IL
- “Endoscopic Repair of Laryngeal Cleft: A Single Center Review of Outcomes” 04/2017
SIUSOM Department of Surgery Resident Research and Quality Outcomes Day, Springfield, IL
- “The Friends of the Medical School: My Perspective” (By invitation) 12/2014
Friends of the Medical School Annual Dinner Reception and Fundraiser, JABSOM, Honolulu, HI
- “Communication and the Management of Post-Operative Pain” 01/2014
Pan-Pacific Surgical Association, Hawaii Plastic Surgery Symposium, Waikiki, HI
- “Commencement Address for the Graduating Class of 2007” (By invitation) 05/2007
Graduation Ceremony, Colorado Mountain College, Steamboat Springs, CO

Video Presentations

- “Transverse Orofacial Cleft Repair—Video Presentation” 04/2021
AAFPRS Spring Meeting, Combined Otolaryngology Spring Meetings, Virtual

Poster Presentations

- “Skull Base COREAH: Case Report and Literature Review” 09/2020
American Rhinologic Society, Combined Otolaryngology Spring Meetings, Virtual
- “Polyurethane-Coated Breast Implants Revisited: A 30-Year Follow-Up” 04/2015
JABSOM Biomedical Sciences and Health Disparities Symposium, Honolulu, HI
- “Long-term Follow-Up of Polyurethane Implants” 01/2012
Pan-Pacific Surgical Association, Hawaii Plastic Surgery Symposium, Waikiki, HI

Quality Improvement

- COVID Vaccines, SIUSOM Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery Clinics** 06/2021
By request, presented up-to-date information and data regarding COVID vaccines (mechanisms, efficacy, side effects, indications, contraindications, etc.); goals were to increase local vaccination rates and public health/safety by ensuring all staff had adequate knowledge for personal decision-making regarding vaccination, and also for patient education and adequate counseling
- Off-Site ENT Equipment Cart, Memorial Medical Center** 2019 - 2021
Coordinated with Manager of Surgical Services to develop and maintain a cart containing necessary equipment to perform minor emergency and inpatient procedures; goals were to facilitate rapid and appropriate patient care, avoid unnecessary operating room use and/or equipment delays, minimize costs, and increase patient satisfaction
- PowerChart Order Set: Nasal Surgery** 01/2020
Worked with Memorial Medical Center Evidence-Based Officer to develop a new order set for postoperative nasal surgery patients; goals were to standardize care, minimize incorrect prescribing, ensure order clarity, and improve patient outcomes
- Operating Room Preference Card: Epistaxis Control/SPA Ligation** 12/2019
Collaborated with Memorial Medical Center ENT Surgery Resource RN to develop a new case card for emergency epistaxis cases requiring operative intervention; goal was to standardize OR set up and facilitate rapid and appropriate patient care, thereby improving outcomes and minimizing costs
- Online Paging System, Memorial Medical Center and Saint John’s Hospital** 07/2019
Worked with Residency Coordinator to correct and clarify the online paging system for Otolaryngology consults and on-call resident services; goal was to streamline contact methods, confirm the appropriate provider was contacted, and avoid delays in patient care
- Express Care & Emergency Department Education, Memorial Health System** 05/2019
Educated Express Care and Emergency Department providers regarding the AAO-HNS Clinical Practice Guideline Update for Adult Sinusitis; goals were to standardize care, minimize incorrect prescribing, improve antibiotic stewardship, and optimize patient outcomes
- Clinic Rooming System, SIUSOM Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery Clinics** 05/2019
Developed and implemented new system of patient rooming and information transfer in clinic; goal was to improve workflow and efficacy, decrease patient wait times, and increase patient satisfaction

Quality Improvement (continued)

- Junior Call Schedule:** SIUSOM Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery Residency 2018 - 2019
Collaborated with Program Director to develop and facilitate guidelines regarding the Junior Resident Call Schedule; goal was to ensure appropriate resident supervision and education, minimize resident burnout and fatigue, and maximize patient care and outcomes
- PowerChart Order Set:** Free Flaps and Transoral Robotic Surgery 2018 - 2019
Worked with Memorial Medical Center Evidence-Based Officer to develop and maintain two new order sets for postoperative free flap and transoral robotic surgery patients; goal was to standardize care, minimize incorrect prescribing, ensure order clarity, improve patient outcomes
- PowerChart Order Set:** Pediatric Admissions after Adenotonsillectomy 03/2017
Worked with Memorial Medical Center Evidence-Based Officer to develop a new order set for pediatric admissions after adenotonsillectomy; goal was to standardize care, minimize incorrect prescribing, ensure order clarity, and improve patient outcomes
- Sign Out and M & M List,** SIUSOM Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery 2016 - 2019
Developed new, HIPAA-compliant, systematic method of centralizing patient information to facilitate safe, personalized handoffs; and track complications to ensure they are discussed at monthly Morbidity & Mortality conference
- ENT Resident Handbook,** SIUSOM Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery 2016 - 2017
Revised ENT Resident Handbook, converted to electronic document for ease of access and updating

Leadership/Volunteer

- Resident Representative** (elected), Section for Residents and Fellows 2019 - 2021
American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery
- Representative from Otolaryngology** (elected), House Staff Board of Directors 2018 - 2020
Southern Illinois University School of Medicine
- Volunteer,** H.O.M.E (Homeless Outreach & Medical Education) Project 2014
JABSOM student-run free clinic; aim to improve quality and access to healthcare
- Volunteer** (2011), **Coordinator** (2012), **Liaison** (2013) 2011 - 2013
JABSOM and the Ironman World Championship Triathlon Medical Tent, Kona, HI
Coordinated with the medical tent director to organize and direct medical student volunteers (travel, lodging, work scheduling)
- Health & Wellness Chair, class of 2015** (elected), Inter-Class Counsel 2011 - 2012
University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine
- Vice President,** JABSOM Chapter, American Medical Student Association 2011 - 2012
University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine
- Race Director,** Chains of Love (Annual Fundraiser), CPSU Triathlon Team 2009 - 2010
Led committee to strategize, coordinate, and direct an annual 5/10/15k run and make a profit

Leadership/Volunteer (continued)

Bicycle Coach , CPSU Triathlon Team Planned and managed team workouts; provided support, first aid, instruction	2009 - 2010
Volunteer , Wildflower Triathlon Medical Tent; Lake San Antonio, CA	2009 - 2010
Director , Breakfast Program, Prado Day Center; San Luis Obispo, CA Undertook weekly responsibility for opening a day center to the homeless Recruited and facilitated student volunteers for the provision of morning meals	2008 - 2009
Resident Advisor , Housing Department; CPSU Received numerous awards for performance and programs	2008 - 2009
President , Alpha Rho Chapter, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Colorado Mountain College	2006 - 2007

Teaching/Mentorship

Tutor , Problem-Based Learning; JABSOM (First-Year Curriculum)	2015
Teaching Aide , Head and Neck Anatomy; JABSOM (Second-Year Curriculum)	2014
Mentorship Pod Liaison , Medical Student Mentorship Program; JABSOM	2012 - 2015
Teaching Aide , Suture Workshops; JABSOM (Third-Year Clerkship, Interest Group)	2012 - 2013
Teaching Assistant & Tutor , Philosophy and Organic Chemistry; CPSU	2009 - 2010
Cadet, Staff Mentor, & Senior Member , Civil Air Patrol <i>United States Air Force Auxiliary; Kona, HI and Steamboat Springs, CO</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emergency services, leadership training, aerospace education• Cadet Leadership School: courses in leadership and teamwork skill development, leadership theory, conflict resolution, and management - attended as cadet in 2002<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ As senior member, mentored and instructed cadets in professionalism and relationships, operations planning, and effective feedback - facilitated in 2007• Awards: Eaker (2005), Cadet of the Year (2003), Earhart (2002), Mitchell (2000)	1999 - 2008

Affiliations/Memberships

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, California Polytechnic State University Alumni Association, Association of Women Surgeons, American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Hobbies/Interests

Rescue dogs, cycling, snowboarding, water sports, singing/songwriting, woodworking, culinary