

Flex Week Proposal:

Title	Introduction to Otolaryngology	
Submitting Team	Rachel Whelan, MD	
Experience Category	Clinical shadowing	Professional Enrichment Courses (PECs)
	Research-related Community Service	Professional Development Wellness
	Other:	
Goal	To introduce students to the field of otolaryngology, providing foundational knowledge and hands-on experience in ENT procedures and sub-specialties. Students will gain insight into the interdisciplinary approach to ENT care and the role of otolaryngology within the broader context of medical practice.	
Brief Description	In this elective, students will be introduced to the field of otolaryngology and discover various sub-specialties through a multitude of hands-on experiences. Students will learn the basics of essential ENT procedures, such as the laryngoscopy and ear tube placement. As well, they will gain exposure to the field of head and neck surgery with a microsurgery workshop. They will also have a chance to see some of these procedures done in practice, through resident shadowing in the days following the workshops.	
Organizer	Rachel Whelan, MD Assistant Professor Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery whelanrl@upmc.edu	
Admin Coordinator (contact info)	Janice Schneider schneiderj12@upmc.edu	
Department	Otolaryngology	
Capacity (# students)	12	
Locations	Mercy Hospital Eye & Ear Institute 203 Lothrop Street Pittsburgh, PA 15213	
Reporting Info	Location given on schedule	

Flex week #	Week of the curriculum	Start Date (Mon)	End Date (Fri)	Available?
4	30	2/24/25	2/28/25	X
5	59	9/16/24	9/20/24	

Open to students already enrolled in a Flex Week

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
AM	8-10 am, Intro to ENT Lecture and Flexible Laryngoscope Workshop with Dr. Whelan, Mercy Hospital Conference Room 2408	Resident shadowing (optional)		Resident shadowing (optional)	
PM		1-3 pm, Robotic surgery workshop with Dr. Contrera, Ear and Eye Institute CREATES Lab (Rm 100-101)	2-4 pm, Ear tube simulation with Dr. Jabbour, Ear and Eye Institute Temporal Bone Lab		

NOTES:

- Schedules should have activities for students at least 5hr/dy, with at least 2hr/dy synchronous
- Unlike PEC's, students will not receive grades/certificates for flex week completion

**AM/PM sessions may be flipped, depending on the instructors' teaching schedules in the spring semester.