

Philosophy of Care

Dr. Birkeland aims to be an advocate and ally for each of his patients. He understands the many factors that go into treating diseases of the head and neck, and the importance of input and decision-making from his patients. He ensures that his patients are offered the most appropriate and up-to-date care, tailored to the needs of each patient. Dr. Birkeland focuses on building strong and collaborative relationships with each of his patients.

Clinical Interests

Dr. Birkeland focuses on providing care for all benign and malignant head and neck tumors. He treats skin cancers, mucosal cancers in the head and neck, endocrine tumors, salivary gland disease, and skull base tumors. Dr. Birkeland has specialized training and particular interest in microvascular reconstructive surgery and transoral robotic surgery.

Research/Academic Interests

Dr. Birkeland's research focus is translating novel clinical and basic research findings directly to patient care. To this end, he utilizes next generation sequencing, immune profiling, biomarker identification, and animal models to understand the causes of and treatments for head and neck cancers. His overarching aim is to advance precision medicine: providing personalized, optimized treatments for each head and neck cancer patient.

Title Associate Professor

Specialty Otolaryngology (ENT/Ears, Nose, Throat)

Department Otolaryngology

Division Head and Neck Surgery

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Education M.D., Weill Cornell Medical College, New York NY 2012

B.A., UC Berkeley, Berkeley CA 2005

Internships Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI 2012-2013

Residency Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI 2013-2018

Fellowships Clinical Research, Columbia University/Doris Duke, New York NY 2010-2011

Head and Neck Surgery/Microvascular, Stanford University, Stanford CA 2018-2019





Translational Research, University of Michigan/NIH, Ann Arbor MI 2014-2016

Board Certifications American Board of Otolaryngology

Professional Memberships American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery

American Association for Cancer Research

American Head and Neck Society

American Society of Clinical Oncology

Greater Sacramento Society of Otolaryngology

Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society

UC Davis Cancer Center, Cancer Therapeutics Program, Associate Member

Honors and Awards Faculty Teaching Award, UC Davis, 2021

Fellow Teacher of the Year, Stanford University, 2019

Merle Lawrence, Ph.D. Research Award, University of Michigan, 2015, 2016, 2018 John L. Kemink, M.D., Clinical Research Award, University of Michigan, 2017

Arthur Palmer Prize for Efficiency in Otorhinolaryngology, Weill Cornell Medical College, 2012

Dean William Mecklenburg Polk Memorial Prize in Research, Weill Cornell Medical College, 2012 Alpha Omega Alpha Carolyn L. Kuckein Research Fellowship, Weill Cornell Medical College, 2011

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Hoesli R, Brennan JR, Rosko AJ, Birkeland AC, Malloy KM, Moyer JS, Prince MEP, Shuman AG, Chinn SB, Stucken CL, Casper KA, Spector ME. Intraoperative Fluorescent Angiography Predicts Pharyngocutaneous Fistula After Salvage Laryngectomy. Ann Surg Oncol. 2019 May;26(5):1320-1325. doi:10.1245/s10434-019-07262-6. Epub 2019 Feb 25. PMID:30805812.

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