



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Department of Surgery, Division of Otolaryngology*

**Issue 3: December 2020**

## A Message From The Chief:

No one has dodged the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic this year. We have all faced incredibly trying professional challenges as well as personal and for some tragic consequences. While I am inspired and proud of how our otolaryngology community, both at Yale and across Connecticut, has rallied together and stepped-up to face these challenges, I also want to acknowledge the toll that it has taken on all of us in different ways. I hope that everyone has the opportunity over the holidays to slow down, change things up, reflect and rejuvenate.



In 2020 the Yale residents, faculty, and staff have continued to take care of patients with ear, nose, and throat diseases, which did not stop affecting people during the pandemic, while also trying to not get Covid ourselves. We have not always been successful with the later, are thankful that we are all OK despite this, and have grown more comfortable with how to stay safe while providing otolaryngology care for patients in this new environment. We have seen the brutal effects of delays in care resulting from the societal impacts of Covid which has been a reminder of the importance of what we do as otolaryngologists caring for people in our communities.

Even with all of this, our faculty, staff, and residents have continued to grow, conduct and publish research, develop education and patient centered programs, and invest in ourselves as a group. Below, you will see a fantastic list of activities and accomplishments that have happened over the last 3 months. This is a testament to the spirit and tenacity of the otolaryngology community and the group here at Yale. Thank you for tuning in and checking out our newsletter.

Sincerely,

***Benjamin L. Judson, MD***

***Chief, Division of Otolaryngology***

# ***Welcome!***



***Ron Walker, MD***

***Assistant Professor of Surgery***

***Division of Otolaryngology, Section of Head & Neck Surgery***

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to Dr. Ron Walker, who joined our team on November 16th to specialize in head and neck surgery. Dr. Walker joins us from Saint Louis University in Missouri, which is where he has spent the last 10 years of his career. He completed his fellowship at Vanderbilt University and his residency at Saint Louis University. His clinical interest is the full spectrum of head and neck surgery including free flap reconstruction and treatment of oral cavity, thyroid, larynx, pharynx, salivary, and cutaneous malignancies. He is dedicated to resident education and believes that head and neck cancer care is best delivered with a team approach. We look forward to having him as part of the faculty.



***Michele Marzulla, LPN***



***Arielle Feiman, AuD***

We are excited to welcome Michele as the newest LPN for Yale ENT. Michele started with us on November 16th. She graduated from the Bullard Havens LPN program in 2005 before working at Westwood Ear, Nose and Throat for 5 years and ENT & Allergy Associates in Trumbull for 9 years before that. She says she is most excited to work with a team that provides excellent ENT care to the community, especially one that strives to maintain an excellent reputation.

We are pleased to announce that Arielle Feiman, AuD has joined Yale Otolaryngology and The Yale Voice Center at Greenwich Hospital as of October 26th. Arielle completed her training at Emerson College in Boston, where she says she fell in love with the field of audiology. She will work alongside Dr. Michael Lerner in our state-of-the-art suite dedicated to providing patients with comprehensive specialty care and access to all elements needed for effective communication.

## *Acknowledgement & Awards*

***It is with mixed emotions that we are to announce that Dr. Clarence T. Sasaki has retired from clinical practice as of November 20, 2020.*** Since completing medical school and residency at Yale, Dr. Sasaki's contributions as a faculty member to head & neck and laryngology surgery has led Yale Otolaryngology to preeminence on both a national and international level. We are proud that he will continue in his role as the Charles W. Ohse Professor Emeritus of Surgery. We are also pleased to announce that he will remain a valuable member of the Yale ENT faculty with an additional appointment as Senior Research Scientist. Dr. Sasaki's clinical career and devotion to discovery provided him with a lifetime of achievements in investigative surgery and scientific research; he is enthusiastic to continue his research activities



in his new role within the division. ***Please join us in celebrating Dr. Sasaki and wishing him well in this next phase of his career!***



We are so proud to announce that Dr. Nwanmegha Young has been **officially promoted to Associate Professor on the Clinician track**. *Please join us in congratulating Dr. young on this well-deserved recognition and academic promotion!* [Click here](#) to view full announcement.

***A New Section of Pediatric Otolaryngology Has Been Officially Created Within the Division of Otolaryngology***

We are excited to announce Dr. Erik Waldman as the inaugural Chief! Please join us in congratulating Dr. Waldman on his new role. We look forward to his continued success!



***Yale New Haven Hospital York Street Campus Completes First Inspire Procedure - Implantable Hypoglossal Nerve Stimulator for Obstructive Sleep Apnea***

This month, Dr. Yan Lee and Dr. Mark Bianchi successfully completed the first inspire procedure for sleep apnea at Yale New Haven Hospital York Street Campus! Inspire treats obstructive sleep apnea from inside the body with the click of a remote. The small device is placed during a same-day outpatient procedure and works by opening the airway when activated by the patient for sleep. Dr. Bruno Cardoso, Dr. Mark Bianchi, and Dr. Yan Lee will close out the year with a few more of these procedures. Feel free to reach out to our attendings for further information.

***Congratulations to Michael Hajek, MD on being awarded the Yale School of  
Medicine Power Day Resident Award!***

Michael is a fourth-year resident who was nominated by students in their third-year medical class. This annual award goes to residents who model the responsible, positive, and beneficial use of power in healthcare relationships as chosen by medical students in their clinical clerkships. The Power Award Ceremony was held virtually this year on December 7th, reach more about this year [here](#).

***American Academy of Otolaryngology  
Head and Neck Surgery Virtual Annual Meeting Awards***

Congratulations to our team members for being honored as the Best of the Best - Top Oral Abstracts of 2020! We couldn't be more excited to have 2 of the top 14 studies designated as the "Best of Orals" 2020! [Click here](#) to read more.

- Dr. Sarah Maurrasse – BEST: Business of Medicine/Practice Management

**A Quantitative Comparison of Smartphone-Based Endoscopy and Traditional Tower Endoscopy**

Matthew Maksimoski, MD (Presenter); Sarah Maurrasse, MD; Taher Valika, MD

- Elisa Berson, Yale Medical Student (Presenter) & Dr. Yan Lee – Best of Sleep Medicine

## Complications With the Hypoglossal Nerve Stimulator: An Analysis of Nationally Reported Adverse Events

Elisa Berson (Presenter); Harold G. Moore; Rema Shah; Yan H. Lee, MD

# Events



### *Virtual Resident Interviews*

To go with the theme of 2020, this year our resident interviews were held virtually on Friday, December 4th and Tuesday, December 8th. After faculty carefully sifted through over 450 applications, technical plans were made for the two-day interview event. Although unlike any other year, our team pulled off the virtual interviews without a hitch! Match Day is on March 19, 2021 and we couldn't be more excited for the outcome.

# Yale Otolaryngology

---

## Webinar Series Primary Care ENT

**THURSDAY, DEC 3 • 7:30-8:30 PM**

Nofrat Schwartz, MD  
Assistant Professor of Surgery  
Otology, Neurotology, and Skull Base Surgery  
Yale School of Medicine



### *The first of Yale Otolaryngology's Webinar Series*

Primary Care ENT was presented on 12/3/20 by Dr. Nofrat Schwartz, where she discussed acute and chronic middle ear diseases and treatment options. A big thank you to everyone who tuned in! Be sure to tune in for our next, and make sure you register to receive CME.



### ***The Yale Voice Center at Greenwich Hospital is Up and Running***

The Yale Voice Center at Greenwich Hospital's comprehensive approach is designed to provide patients access to all elements needed for effective communication, specifically related to larynx and other voice disorders, including speech pathology and audiology, in one centralized location.

### ***Laryngology Services at Old Saybrook Medical Center***

Dr. Anita Kohli will begin offering specialty laryngology services at the Old Saybrook Medical Center including the ability to perform in-office video stroboscopic evaluations. She will begin seeing patients in Old Saybrook starting on January 8th, 2021.



## ***Otolaryngology Rotation for Pediatric Residents***



The pediatric otolaryngologists in the Division are excited to begin offering a 2-week elective for pediatric residents at Yale, which will be offered during second, third and chief years of residency. With a focus on providing a more in-depth look at pediatric disease processes of the head and neck, residents will be given the opportunity to choose their own learning adventure, whether that be in clinic, operating room, or consult service. We will facilitate the residents as they learn about workup and management of pediatric hearing loss, dysphagia, and aerodigestive diseases within our multi-disciplinary clinics, including focused time with the pediatric audiologists and speech learning pathologists. The pediatric chiefs expressed an interest in learning and observing some basic clinic procedures including cerumenectomy, flexible fiberoptic laryngoscopy, frenulectomy, and nasal cautery, which will be emphasized according to the interest of the resident.

## ***Audiology Extern Interviews***

The Yale Hearing and Balance Program hosted their first ever virtual interviews this Fall and are excited to have “matched” 3 new externs who will begin their training with us in June 2021!

# *Dr. Lee's "Coding Corner"*

## **CODING Q&A**

Important: Coding Q&A provides general information regarding coding, billing, and documentation that is available at the time of publication. Yale and its affiliates are not responsible for any action(s) taken in regards to the information contained in this section.

Topic: Changes in 2021 for Outpatient E/M Coding

**Q:** How will outpatient E/M coding change starting on January 1, 2021?

**A:** Effective January 1, 2021, code 99201 will be deleted. The appropriate level of E/M services will be based on the following:

1. The level of the medical decision making as defined for each service; **or**
2. The total time for E/M services performed on the date of the encounter.

### Time

Physician/other qualified health care professional time includes the following activities, when performed:

- Preparing to see the patient (eg, review of tests)
- Obtaining and/or reviewing separately obtained history
- Performing a medically appropriate examination and/or evaluation
- Counseling and educating the patient/family/caregiver
- Ordering medications, tests, or procedures
- Referring and communicating with other health care professionals (when not separately reported)
- Documenting clinical information in the electronic or other health record
- Independently interpreting results (not separately reported) and communicating results to the patient/family/caregiver
- Care coordination (not separately reported)

### Medical Decision Making

Medical decision making includes establishing diagnoses, assessing the status of a condition,

and/or selecting a management option. Four types of medical decision making are recognized: straightforward, low, moderate, and high. It is defined by three elements:

- The number and complexity of problem(s) that are addressed during the encounter.
- The amount and/or complexity of data to be reviewed and analyzed. This data includes obtaining, ordering, reviewing, and analyzing medical records, tests, and/or other information. This includes information obtained from multiple sources or interprofessional communications and interpretation of tests that are not separately reported. Ordering a test is included in the category of test result(s) and the review of the test result is part of the encounter and not a subsequent encounter.
- The risk of complications, morbidity, and/or mortality of patient management decisions made at the visit, associated with the patient's problem(s), the diagnostic procedure(s), treatment (s). This includes the possible management options selected and those considered, but not selected, after shared medical decision making with the patient and/or family.

Details on each code based on Time and on MDM are included in the two tables attached.

Tips and Reminders for documentation:

- Communicate the complexity of the patient's condition
- Provide a clear assessment and plan
- Indicate the number of tests being ordered, with rationales
- Include documentation for interpretations, when performed
- Continue to document clinically appropriate histories and exams

## *Yale ENT in the News*

**Dr. Yan Lee discusses the importance of the patient-physician relationship and an adaptable approach to ensuring a positive experience in her article published by KevinMD.com. Read more [here](#).**

# Publications

## **October - December 2020**

### **In Reference to Is Expecting the Emergency Department to Adhere to AAO-HNS Bell's Palsy Guidelines Unrealistic?**

Torabi SJ, Kasle DA, Hildrew D.

*Laryngoscope*. 2020 Dec 7.

[Read here>>>](#)

### **Results of COVID-minimal Surgical Pathway During Surge-phase of COVID-19 Pandemic.**

Boffa DJ, Judson BL, Billingsley KG, Del Rossi E, Hindinger K, Walters S, Ermer T, Ratner E, Mitchell MR, Laurans MS, Johnson DC, Yoo PS, Morton JM, Zurich HB, Davis K, Ahuja N.

*Ann Surg*. 2020 Dec.

[Read here>>>](#)

### **Laryngopharyngeal reflux: Comparing improvements in reflux symptom index with reflux finding score.**

Hutnik R, Zlatopolsky A, Mehraban-Far S, Alrassi J, McMillan N, Amadi C, Fujita K, Mortensen M.

*Am J Otolaryngol*. 2020 Nov-Dec.

[Read here>>>](#)

### **Telemedicine Practices of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons in the United States: The Effect of Novel Coronavirus-19.**

Salehi PP, Torabi SJ, Lee YH, Azizzadeh B.

*Facial Plast Surg Aesthet Med*. 2020 Nov/Dec.

[Read here>>>](#)

### **High-Volume Billing and Reimbursement Trends for Endoscopic Swallowing Studies in the Medicare Population.**

Kasle DA, Torabi SJ, Savoca EL, Lerner M, Manes RP.

*Dysphagia*. 2020 Nov 19.

[Read here>>>](#)

### **Revisiting the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group 1221 Hypothesis: Treatment for Stage III/IV HPV-Negative Oropharyngeal Cancer.**

Jacobs D, Torabi SJ, Park HS, Rahmati R, Young MR, Mehra S, Judson BL.

*Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg*. 2020 Nov 17.

[Read here>>>](#)

**Functional, Morphological, and Evolutionary Characterization of Hearing in Subterranean, Eusocial African Mole-Rats.**

Pyott SJ, van Tuinen M, Screven LA, Schrode KM, Bai JP, Barone CM, Price SD, Lysakowski A, Sanderford M, Kumar S, Santos-Sacchi J, Lauer AM, Park TJ.

*Cuu Biol.* 2020 Nov 16.

[Read here>>>](#)

**In Response to Telemedicine in Otorhinolaryngology Practice in Developing Nations.**

Singh AK, Kasle DA, Kohli N.

*Laryngoscope.* 2020 Nov 7.

[Read here>>>](#)

**Assessment of Age, Period, and Birth Cohort Effects and Trends in Merkel Cell Carcinoma Incidence in the United States.**

Jacobs D, Huang H, Olino K, Weiss S, Kluger H, Judson BL, Zhang Y.

*JAMA Dermatol.* 2020 Nov 4.

[Read here>>>](#)

**Sequencing of Sclerosing Microcystic Adenocarcinoma Identifies Mutational Burden and Somatic Variants Associated With Tumorigenesis.**

Jiang R, Marquez J, Tower JI, Jacobs D, Chen W, Mehra S, Prasad ML, Judson BL.

*Anticancer Res.* 2020 Nov.

[Read here>>>](#)

**State Medicaid expansion status, insurance coverage and stage at diagnosis in head and neck cancer patients.**

Osazuwa-Peters N, Barnes JM, Megwalu U, Adjei Boakye E, Johnston KJ, Gaubatz ME, Johnson KJ, Panth N, Sethi RKV, Varvares MA.

*Oral Oncol.* 2020 Nov.

[Read here>>>](#)

**COVID-19's Impact on the 2020-2021 Resident Match: A Survey of Otolaryngology Program Directors.**

Kasle DA, Torabi SJ, Izreig S, Rahmati RW, Manes RP.

*Ann Otol Rhinol Laryngol.* 2020 Oct 22.

[Read here>>>](#)

**Ideas and Innovations to Improve the Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Residency Application and Selection Process.**

Salehi PP, Heiser A, Salehi P, Manes RP, Judson BL, Azizzadeh B, Lee YH.

*Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg.* 2020 Oct 20.

[Read here>>>](#)

**Primary Treatment Selection for Clinically Node-Negative Merkel Cell Carcinoma of the Head and Neck.**

Jacobs D, Olino K, Park HS, Clune J, Cheraghlou S, Girardi M, Burtness B, Kluger H, Judson BL.

*Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg.* 2020 Oct 20.

[Read here>>>](#)

**The Submandibular Gland and The Aging Neck: A Longitudinal Volumetric Study.**

Sawan T, Tower JI, Gordon NA, Paskhover B.

*Aesthetic Plast Surg.* 2020 Oct 20.

[Read here>>>](#)

**Prediction of post-radiotherapy locoregional progression in HPV-associated oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma using machine-learning analysis of baseline PET/CT radiomics.**

Haider SP, Sharaf K, Zeevi T, Baumeister P, Reichel C, Forghani R, Kann BH, Petukhova A, Judson BL, Prasad ML, Liu C, Burtness B, Mahajan A, Payabvash S.

*Transl Oncol.* 2020 Oct 15.

[Read here>>>](#)

**The Potential for Telemedicine to Reduce Bias in Patients Seeking Facial Plastic Surgery.**

Salehi PP, Wong BJF, Azizzadeh B.

*Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg.* 2020 Oct 6.

[Read here>>>](#)

**Clinical characteristics and treatment-associated survival of head and neck Ewing sarcoma.**

Torabi SJ, Izreig S, Kasle DA, Benchetrit L, Salehi PP, Judson BL.

*Laryngoscope.* 2020 Oct.

[Read here>>>](#)

**SARS-CoV-2 pathophysiology and its clinical implications: An integrative overview of the pharmacotherapeutic management of COVID-19.**

Tsatsakis A, Calina D, Falzone L, Petrakis D, Mitrut R, Siokas V, Pennisi M, Lanza G, Libra M, Doukas SG, Doukas PG, Kavali L, Bukhari A, Gadiparthi C, Vageli DP, Kofteridis DP, Spandidos DA, Paoliello MMB, Aschner M, Docea AO.  
*Food Chem Toxicol.* 2020 Sep 30.

[Read here>>>](#)

### **Resumption of Otolaryngology Surgical Practice in the Setting of Regionally Receding COVID-19.**

Izreig S, Zogg CK, Kasle DA, Torabi SJ, Manes RP.  
*Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg.* 2020 Sep 22.

[Read here>>>](#)

### **A Review of Telemedicine Applications in Otorhinolaryngology: Considerations During the Coronavirus Disease of 2019 Pandemic.**

Singh AK, Kasle DA, Jiang R, Sukys J, Savoca EL, Z Lerner M, Kohli N.  
*Laryngoscope.* 2020 Sep 17.

[Read here>>>](#)

### **Hyperprogression of a Sinonasal Squamous Cell Carcinoma Following Programmed Cell Death Protein-1 Checkpoint Blockade.**

Izreig S, Alzahrani F, Earles J, Mehra S, Judson BL, Pan Z, Rahmati RW.  
*JAMA Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg.* 2020 Sep 17.

[Read here>>>](#)

### **Otolaryngology in the time of COVID: An overview of common open-source telemedicine platforms.**

Hildrew DM, Pang KCS, Faden D.  
*Laryngoscope Investig Otolaryngol.* 2020 Sep 11.

[Read here>>>](#)

### **Pediatric Otoplasty: Differences in Operative Time and Inpatient Stay Based on Surgical Specialty Training.**

Kafle S, Torabi SJ, Salehi PP, Lee YH.  
*J Craniofac Surg.* 2020 Sep 8.

[Read here>>>](#)

### **The temporal effects of topical NF- $\kappa$ B inhibition, in the in vivo prevention of bile-related oncogenic mRNA and miRNA phenotypes in murine hypopharyngeal mucosa: a preclinical model.**

Vageli DP, Kasle D, Doukas SG, Doukas PG, Sasaki CT.  
*Oncotarget.* 2020 Sep 1.

[Read here>>>](#)

**Stroke Code Presentations, Interventions, and Outcomes Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic.**

Jasne AS, Chojecka P, Maran I, Mageid R, Eldokmak M, Zhang Q, Nystrom K, Vlieks K, Askenase M, Petersen N, Falcone GJ, Wira CR 3rd, Lleva P, Zeevi N, Narula R, Amin H, Navaratnam D, Loomis C, Hwang DY, Schindler J, Hebert R, Matouk C, Krumholz HM, Spudich S, Sheth KN, Sansing LH, Sharma R.

*Stroke*. 2020 Sep.

[Read here>>>](#)

**Deep-Plane Approach to the Vertical Platysma Advancement: Technical Modifications and Nuances over 25 Years.**

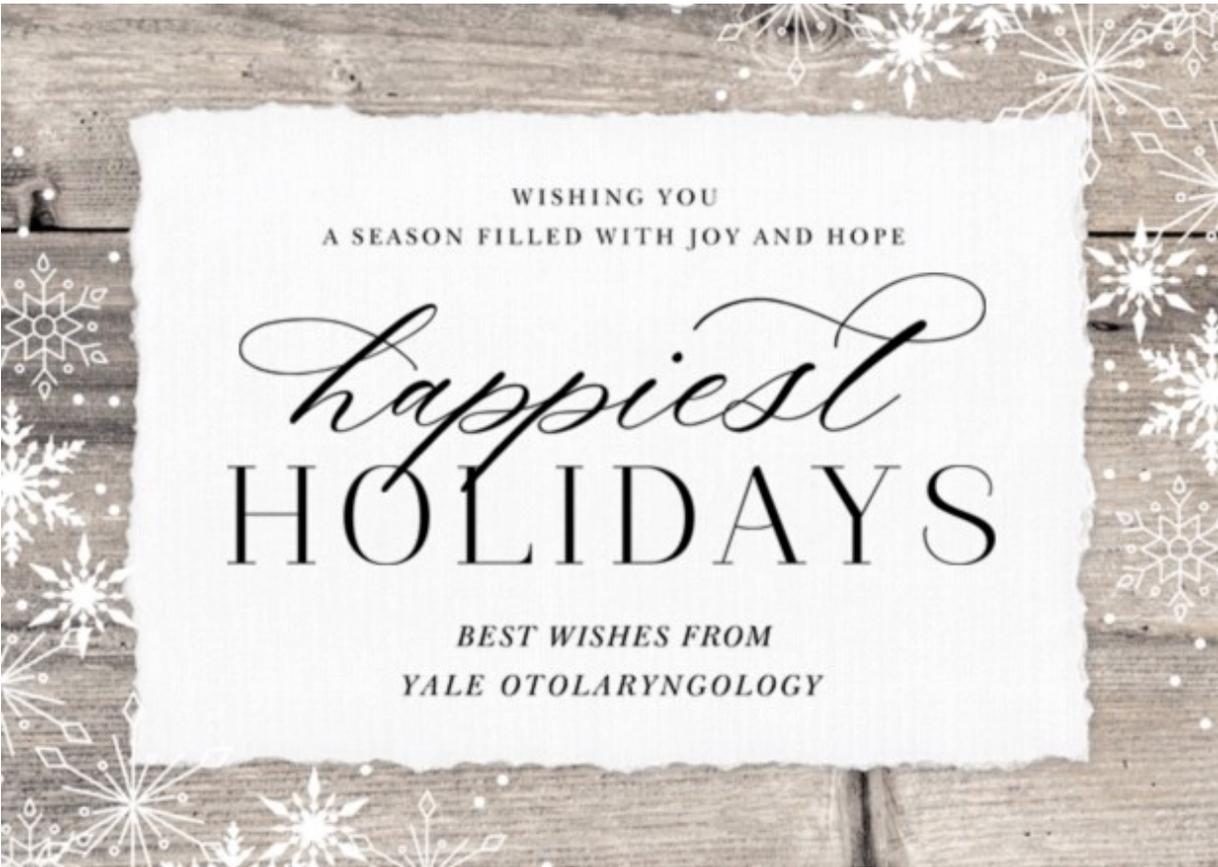
Gordon NA, Sawan TG.

*Facial Plast Surg*. 2020 Aug.

[Read here>>>](#)

*In Case You Missed It!*

***If you missed out on our past Yale  
AnnouncemENTs newsletter,  
[click here](#) to view!***



**NEW HAVEN COUNTY**

**Yale Physicians Building**  
**800 Howard Avenue, 4th Floor**  
**New Haven, CT 06519**

**Smilow Cancer Hospital**  
**35 Park Street, 4th Floor, New Haven, CT 06519**

**Yale New Haven Children's Hospital**

**FAIRFIELD COUNTY**

**Greenwich Hospital, Holly Hill Campus**  
**55 Holly Hill Lane, Suite 130**  
**Greenwich, CT 06830**

**Norwalk Pediatric Specialty Center**  
**747 Belden Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06850**

**Park Avenue Medical Center**

1 Park Street, 2nd Floor, New Haven, CT 06504

5520 Park Avenue, Trumbull, CT 06611

Veteran Affairs Medical Center

VA CT Healthcare

950 Campbell Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516

Yale Otolaryngology

2874 Main Street, 1st Floor, Stratford, CT 06614

### MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Old Saybrook Medical Center

633 Middlesex Turnpike, Old Saybrook, CT 06475



Share



Tweet



Forward

---

Yale

Yale ENT [Contact Email.](#)

Copyright © 2020 Yale University • All rights reserved



Facebook



Twitter

