Alumni – Ifeanyi Otolaryngology

Audio	Video
[Silence]	Dark blue background with animated blocks. L S U Health Shreveport Foundation logo is at the bottom center of the screen. White text in center of screen: Otolaryngology (E N T)
[Dr. Ifeanyi] Chuka Ifeanyi. I graduated from L S U H S C in Shreveport in May of 2009. I am an ear, nose and throat physician at Highland Clinic, which is a multi-specialty clinic here in Shreveport. We have about 35 physicians and another 15 or so mid-level providers.	Dark complected man with short dark hair and long sideburns. He is in an office, sitting in front of a window on his right side and a bookcase on his left. He is wearing a white doctors coat over a black scrub top. Text: Chuka Ifeanyi, M D Otolaryngology Highland Clinic E N T
[Silence]	Dark blue background with animated blocks. L S U Health Shreveport Foundation logo is at the bottom center of the screen. White text above it reads: Why did you chose Otolaryngology

Audio	Video
[Dr. Ifeanyi] So I- going into medical school, I thought I was going to be a pediatrician. I had spent some time with a pediatrician while I was in college. And it was kind of one of those deals where you, you know, enjoyed the first thing you were exposed to. And then I got to L S U Medical Center and I got exposed to more things. And as I progressed into my, you know, second and into the third year, I started kind of thinking more of surgical subspecialties. And so I thought about orthopedic surgery, neurosurgery for a long time, E N T and once I got to my E N T residency, oh sorry, E N T rotation, which was towards the end of my third year, It just it just really clicked. I just enjoyed the anatomy, I enjoyed the surgeries. The residents there at the time were great and very engaging with the students. And I think one of the cases that I did that really kind of locked me in was a perodid-ectomy. We had a patient who had a perodid tumor and, you know, I did that case with a a guy who's now practicing the Dallas area. And it was just it was just great case, great anatomy, you know, And so that kind of locked things in for me. And so, you know, I felt like E N T was the best fit for me personally.	Dr. Ifeanyi on camera
[Silence]	Dark blue background with animated blocks. L S U Health Shreveport Foundation logo is at the bottom center of the screen. White text above it reads: Where did you do your residency?

Audio	Video
[Dr. Ifeanyi] I did my residency at the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics. And I that is, you know, one of the you know, the reason I kind of wanted to go there was it's a very good program, one of the best in the country, consistently rated as one of the best in the country. And you know, it was a little bit different, you know, environment, you know, growing up in Louisiana- I grew up in Ruston- is a little bit different. You know, going up to the Midwest was a lot colder, but I had good training there. I enjoyed my time there and I always knew that I'd want to come back and practice in Louisiana. And so that's part of the reason why I wanted to kind of, you know, go off to another place. I think it's good experience, you know, different places and, you know, get get out of your home base for a little bit. And so I did that for five years. And then, you know, I always knew that I want to come back. So after I was done, you know, came back to Louisiana in 2014, I started my practice here.	Dr. Ifeanyi on camera
[Silence]	Dark blue background with animated blocks. L S U Health Shreveport Foundation logo is at the bottom center of the screen. White text above it reads: What do you enjoy most about Otolaryngology
[Dr. Ifeanyi] I enjoy the patient relationships. You know, now that I've been in practice for six years now, I've had some time to develop some, you know, good relationships with several patients. So some patients that I see on a regular basis. And that's that's the most fun. You know, they know me. I know them, you know, And I also enjoy when, you know, you you develop a relationship with them and they trust you. And so then they send their, you know, their spouse or their grandkids or something like that. And so that's a lot of fun when you get to even see, you know, the family members or close friends of patients that you've seen before. It just shows that, you know, you're able to develop some some trust with them. And I enjoy that part of my practice.	Dr. Ifeanyi on camera

Audio	Video
[Silence]	Dark blue background with animated blocks. L S U Health Shreveport Foundation logo is at the bottom center of the screen. White text above it reads: What is the hardest thing about Otolaryngology?
[Dr. Ifeanyi] You know, the probably the hardest thing every now- and so I'm in general practice. And so you know, we don't - One of the things that we deal with in E N T from time to time, maybe not as much as if I was in, you know, in a head, head and neck cancer specialist. But every now and then, we're called upon to, you know, make a cancer diagnosis. A lot of times that's a little bit difficult. You can just, you know, when, you know, faced with that situation and you give them the diagnosis. So it's it's hard to see the look in their eyes when you tell them that you have cancer, you know. So those are some of the harder moments I have in my practice. But, you know, you always want to make sure that, you know, that that they understand that, you know, we've got the diagnosis. You know, it's unfortunate, but, you know, you're going to go forward with that and give them the best possible treatment. And so that's probably the hardest situation that we have in our practice is, you know, dealing with those type of situations.	Dr. Ifeanyi on camera
[Silence]	Dark blue background with animated blocks. L S U Health Shreveport Foundation logo is at the bottom center of the screen. White text above it reads: Are there certain personality traits that fit your specialty?

Audio	Video
[Dr. Ifeanyi] So, you know, in E N T, I think I would I would, you know, kind of consider E N T along with, you know, a lot of other, you know, surgical subspecialties. You have to, you know, be able to, you know, enjoy, you know, the patient interactions. There are some specialties in medicine where, you know, maybe and everybody's different. Maybe some people don't necessarily want to have a lot of close patient interaction. So they might choose something like pathology or radiology or something like that where you don't necessarily talk to patients one on one on a daily basis. So I think, you know, in terms of, you know, the personality traits, you just have to be able to or you should be able or want to, you know, have direct patient contact and be able to develop rapport with patients, you know, in general. And so I think that's important for somebody who wants to do E N T.	Dr. Ifeanyi on camera
[Silence]	Dark blue background with animated blocks. L S U Health Shreveport Foundation logo is at the bottom center of the screen. White text above it reads: How is your work life balance?

Audio	Video
[Dr. Ifeanyi] That's that's important. You know what I've kind of seen, you know, even just with colleagues, you know, and and, you know, my practice in particular, too, is that, you know, right at the beginning, you know, when you're trying to build a practice and I'm still I'm six years in, so I'm still, you know, building up, building up things. But, you know, you you want to that's important. But in my experience, you know, kind of in the beginning, I spend a little bit more time on the career side just trying to get my get, you know, build up my practice and really get some of the providers and that in there in the area to kind of, you know, know that I'm here and you know that I do the best I can for my patients. But, you know, it's it's important to keep that personal life, you know, as as things have kind of progressed and my practice has kind of grown, have kind of, you know, taken some more time to, you know, some personal time to make sure that you're not, you know, wearing yourself down so that, you know, because it's just a long haul, you know, you want to have a nice, long practice and you don't want to kind of burn yourself out right at the beginning. And so it's important to keep that and everybody's different. But I think that's something that's important to you know, kind of find out what works best for you.	Dr. Ifeanyi on camera
[Silence]	Dark blue background with animated blocks. L S U Health Shreveport Foundation logo is at the bottom center of the screen. White text above it reads: How do you handle work stress?

Audio	Video
[Dr. Ifeanyi] You know, that's another situation where, you know, everybody, everybody's different. My my personality, you know, some people are more they'll, you know, kind of talk through things and, you know, and, you know, maybe with their spouses or colleagues, I, I tend to internalize it whether it's a good or a bad thing. But my you know, if I have a stressful case or a stressful patient, you know, situation that's coming up, my my approach to it is just to kind of engulf myself in that if if it's a case that I've seen, you know, maybe prior in residency, I'll go back and look through, you know, what exactly my attendings, how they approach it or read the latest literature on it. You know, So that's my, you know, approach is, you know, everybody's different. I don't have any kind of specific thing that I would I would tell somebody to do in terms of that. But, you know, just find out, you know, what how how you like to manage. And my my approach is just to really just kind of, you know, hit it head on and, you know, try to just, you know, kind of prepare myself for, you know, doing the best I can with the particular situation.	Dr. Ifeanyi on camera
[Silence]	Dark blue background with animated blocks. L S U Health Shreveport Foundation logo is at the bottom center of the screen. White text above it reads: What do you wish you had known before choosing your specialty?

Audio	Video
[Dr. Ifeanyi] For the medical students going into it, I would I would encourage them to, you know, kind of early on into their residency is to just kind of keep your eye out and kind of make a decision on, you know, where you want to go. There's a lot of path you can take in E N T. So I'm a gen- I'm a general E N T. So, you know, I kind of do a little bit of everything in E N T. But, you know, there's some people who want to, you know pick a- do a fellowship and pick a specific area in E N T whether it be laryngology, where you work with, do a lot of things with voice disorders or head and neck cancer going into E N T that's kind of what I thought I was going to end up doing. Those are the cases that, you know, the medical students really get involved in the big head and neck cancer cases. And so if you choose E N T, a lot of times people going into residency, that's what they want to do. You know, early on in my, you know, residency, I kind of realized that, you know, maybe, you know, that wasn't specifically what I wanted to do, you know, And so I kind of changed gears. But, you know, I would encourage anybody going into E N T early to kind of look out for what they want to do, whether it's general E N T, Laryngology, head and neck cancer, neuro-otology. If you want to focus specifically on the ears, pediatric E N T, sinus rhinology, find out what interests you and start working towards that goal. You know, if you want to do a fellowship, you want to kind of figure that out early so you can kind of start, you know, making your path towards that. You know, that would be the main thing. I would I would encourage people who were going into E N T, you know, within that, you know, by your second year or so, kind of decide what path you want to take and just kind of make progressive steps towards that.	Dr. Ifeanyi on camera
[Silence]	Dark blue background with animated blocks. L S U Health Shreveport Foundation logo is at the bottom center of the screen. White text above it reads: What advice to you have for medical students interested in Otolaryngology?

Audio	Video
[Dr. Ifeanyi] With the E N T, you know, you want to it's a it's a competitive field. And so, you know, you want to make sure that you're, you know, keeping your marks up and you do you score well on your boards. And that's an important thing to to keep out. But, you know, with with E N T, you know, really with any surgical subspecialty, I mean, it's it's it's, you know, five years of, you know, pretty pretty, you know, early morning news and, you know, things like that. And hard work, especially in the surgical side of it. And so you just want to make sure that that's going to, you know, kind of fit your personality is that, you know, it's a any kind of surgical subspecialty is going to be some you know, some, you know, grueling days. But, you know, if you if if that's what you want to do and you want to kind of get to the other end of it and, you know, practice in that specialty, then it's, you know, then then every day you just kind of remind yourself that, you know, this is a means to an end. You know, you're kind of working towards that goal. And, you know, I don't have any regrets. I think I chose, you know, I'm happy where I am. And you know what I ended up choosing to do there some times during residency where you might, you know, question that. But, you know, you just want to make sure that it's what you want to do before you pick that. And I'm happy I made that decision.	Dr. Ifeanyi on camera
[Silence]	Dark blue background with animated blocks. L S U Health Shreveport Foundation logo is at the top center of the screen. Text in gold and white font reads: Special thanks to Doctor Chuka Ifeanyi, Otolaryngology, L S U Class of 2009, Highland Clinic E N T, 14 55 East Berk Kouns Industrial Loop, Suite 2 oh 6, Shreveport Louisiana 7 1 1 0 5