



**Douglas B. Chepeha, MD, MSPH, FACS,**

Douglas B. Chepeha, MD, MSPH, FACS, FRCS(C) is an Associate Professor and Director of Microvascular Surgery in the Department of Otolaryngology at the University of Michigan. He attended the University of Alberta, in his hometown for undergraduate, medical school and postgraduate preliminary general surgery. During medical school he rotated at Northwestern University with George Sisson and The University of Toronto with Patrick Gullane. Dr. Sisson left a lasting impression about the importance of surgical staging and the central role of the head and neck surgeon for oncology patients. Dr. Gullane was an inspired teacher; the highlight of the teaching was during his clinics where far ranging facets of head and neck cancer were discussed. While in a preliminary General Surgery residency, he was accepted into the Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Program at the University of British Columbia by PJ Doyle who was program director and chair. During his residency, he received outstanding academic mentorship and clinical teaching; free tissue transfer and multidisciplinary head and neck care were at the core of the curriculum. After residency, he pursued fellowship training in microsurgical reconstruction and surgical oncology with Ralph Gilbert at The University of Toronto. Here he received mentorship and training in surgical excellence and critical thinking that was second to none. This was followed by a 2 year Advanced Training Council Surgical Oncology Fellowship directed by Ramon Esclamado and Gregory Wolf at the University of Michigan where he also obtained a Masters of Science in Public Health.

Since this time he has remained at the University of Michigan where he is presently the director of the surgical oncology fellowship and co-director of the research committee and tissue core. The vibrant head and neck oncology program at the University of Michigan encompasses more than 25 individuals. The engagement of nursing, speech pathology, residents and fellows in this mission makes the translational research effort operational. This rich multidisciplinary environment is directed toward solving the questions relating to individualized care, based on tumor marker expression. His career has benefited from exhaustive tissue collection and close collaboration in the execution of innovative clinical trials. His research interests relate to clinical and translational questions in head and neck oncology. He has particular interest in clinical trials, neck dissection, tumor response, molecular epidemiology, and reconstructive surgery. His most satisfying efforts are with his fellows who have developed a discipline for excellent care of each patient, a value he has passed down from his teachers.