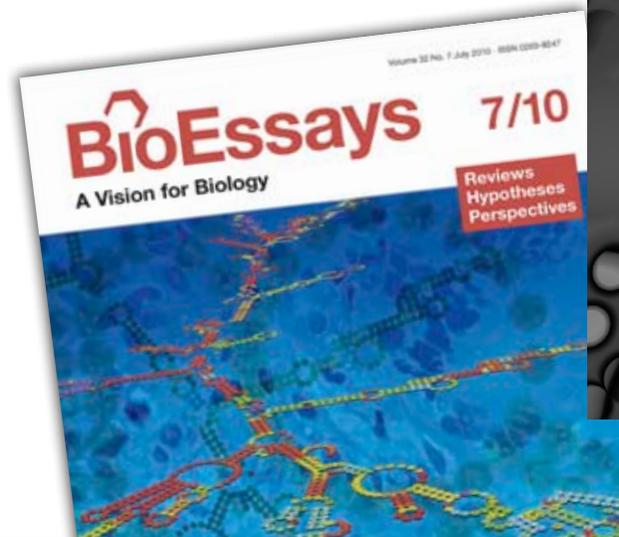


# “Non-coding RNAs: Meet Thy Masters”

The cover image depicts the secondary structure of the long non-coding RNA HOTAIR, which is implicated in gene regulation by epigenetic mechanisms (Image courtesy of Fabrício Costa, PhD).

In the July 2010 issue of *BioEssays*, Fabrício Costa, PhD reviews the already huge, but rapidly expanding, diversity of non-coding RNAs (ncRNAs). The review describes the most recent discoveries in the ncRNA field that implicate these molecules as key players in the epigenome. Costa's work is also featured on the cover of the journal issue. Costa is a Research scientist in the laboratory of Marcelo Bento Soares, PhD, Cancer Biology and Epigenomics Program.



## Profile:

# James W. Schroeder Jr., Md, Facs, Faap



photo: Children's Memorial Audio-Visual Department

James W. Schroeder Jr., MD, FACS, FAAP

James Schroeder is a pediatric otolaryngologist at Children's Memorial, Assistant professor of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery at the Feinberg School, and a member of the Clinical and Translational Research Program of the research center. He treats children with airway and sinus problems, and performs skull-based surgeries. His research interests include pediatric obstructive sleep apnea and feeding problems in children specifically related to congenital and acquired airway disorders.

He just completed the largest clinical study to date to evaluate the timing of the surgical repair of posterior laryngeal cleft with respect to how it affects swallowing. He is also studying a congenital condition called laryngomalacia, which results in breathing difficulties in infants, and can also cause abnormal swallowing mechanisms. In severe laryngomalacia, a corrective surgery called supraglottoplasty is the primary surgical intervention. The division recently completed a study that compares swallowing difficulties in infants before and after undergoing supraglottoplasty.

Jim runs the FEES (Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing), a multidisciplinary clinic with the Speech-Language Pathology team. Children's Memorial is home to the only pediatric FEES clinic in Chicago.

Recently, Jim was asked to become the director of clinical research for the Division of Pediatric Otolaryngology. He has hired a postdoctoral fellow and research associate to conduct research. All members of the division have academic interests; with the support of Surgeon-in-chief Marleta Reynolds, MD and Lauren Holinger, MD, head of Pediatric Otolaryngology, Jim hopes to build a robust research program and make research more accessible to a busy clinical staff.

Jim also directs the Pediatric Otolaryngology fellowship program. He is transitioning the program to accredited status with the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

Jim says he most appreciates the people with whom he works. He loves coming in every day because the division has a wonderful team that works hard, does a great job and provides fantastic support. Of the experience, he says, "I went into medicine to help people, and it's a privilege and honor to be part of the lives of the families who come to Children's Memorial Hospital."

In his free time, Jim enjoys running marathons, cooking and traveling. He visits friends in France several times a year.