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ANNUAL  
REPORT

# MEDICAL EDUCATION BEYOND BORDERS

2020 has been a year like no other. The world faced an enormous healthcare challenge, profoundly impacting the lives of us all. As COVID-19 has shown, pandemics do not respect national boundaries. Only a united front can solve such a crisis, and for that we need well-trained healthcare professionals all over the world. It is in our best interests to educate, equip, and empower physicians worldwide, which is exactly what the Open Medical Institute (OMI) is doing.

## OMI ADAPTS TO COVID-19

The year 2020 began with in-person seminars, but the outbreak and rapid spread of COVID-19 changed everything. How does a global organization renowned for convening healthcare professionals from around the world continue to operate when we cannot meet in person? At the height of the international lockdown, the OMI adapted its educational approach by creating a highly innovative webinar series called OMIinars, which were taught by leading American and European physicians. By the fall, the OMI progressed to hybrids, a combination of remote and in-person seminars. Throughout the winter, OMIinars were conducted again, while Austria endured another strict lockdown. They were not only an excellent way to bridge the gap caused by the pandemic, but also provided the opportunity for COVID-19 specialists to share their knowledge with our community. Through all seasons, hundreds of faculty members and fellows from around the world connected across borders and time zones, exchanging knowledge and expertise in important areas of medicine. Despite a challenging year, the OMI successfully fulfilled its mission of spreading knowledge worldwide.

## OMI DIGITAL MAKEOVER

The OMI boosted its digital presence by launching a new website, developing an up-to-date application platform and database, as well as redesigning its e-learning platform.

## ANNIVERSARIES AROUND THE GLOBE

In autumn, the Salzburg Stiftung der American Austrian Foundation celebrated its 25th anniversary and published a jubilee book entitled *Schloss Arenberg: Medicine for the World*. 2020 also marked the 10th anniversary of Alianza Médica para la Salud (AMSA), the OMI's partner foundation in Mexico.

## MUSIC FOR MEDICINE 2.0

The annual AAF/OMI benefit concert was held virtually, featuring members of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, pianist Yefim Bronfman, and Anthony Fauci, MD as the event's keynote speaker. Viewed by more than 2,000 people from 80 countries, it was the most successful benefit thus far, raising a total of \$735,000.

**24**  
SEMINARS  
AND OMINARS

**666**  
FELLOWSHIPS

**62**  
COUNTRIES

**187**  
FACULTY  
VOLUNTEERS

**22**  
OBSERVER-  
SHIPS