



22

ANNUAL
REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



After the Iron Curtain fell in 1989, doctors in former Eastern Bloc countries found themselves struggling to care for patients amidst collapsed medical systems and economies. Many left for better opportunities elsewhere, creating a brain drain of physicians and jeopardizing the health of millions living in the newly independent states. To improve local healthcare and keep doctors in their home countries, the American Austrian Foundation (AAF) and the Open Society Foundations (OSF) teamed up with Weill Cornell Medicine to create what is known today as the Open Medical Institute (OMI). The program launched in 1993 in Salzburg, Austria, where doctors from Central and Eastern Europe took part in week-long seminars designed to give them the knowledge and skills needed to deliver high-quality care back home. Conducted by some of the most distinguished US and European clinicians in their fields, the OMI evolved and, over time, has extended opportunities to more than 26,300 fellow-physicians from 130 countries worldwide.

The migration of medical professionals, especially doctors and nurses, has become a major global concern. Acute shortages in the health workforce today represent a crisis that looks certain to worsen in the years ahead. In the past, the movement of health workers from poorer to richer countries was mainly driven by the political, economic, social, and professional circumstances of the individual. In recent years, however, the demand for health workers in many countries has greatly increased by changes in population dynamics and work ethics. In response, some of these countries are increasingly relying on imported labor, with damaging consequences for the healthcare systems in many developing countries, especially in the East and the South. For countries with few physicians, the loss of even a single doctor often has a major impact on the local healthcare service.

For more than two decades, the Open Medical Institute has been fully committed to addressing this global challenge, impacting the lives of thousands of doctors and their patients.

In 2022, we provided 40 seminars in Salzburg that allowed 1,286 doctors from 80 countries to learn firsthand from renowned experts in various specialties. The ratio of received applications (7,055) to granted fellowships (1,286) demonstrates the tremendous interest in the OMI programs. State-of-the-art continuing medical education is needed more than ever. We also significantly strengthened our second hub in Mexico alongside Alianza Médica para la Salud (AMSA) and offered 11 OMI MEX courses to 314 doctors from Latin America. Additionally, we developed an expansion plan for a third OMI hub located in Vietnam to serve physicians from Southeast Asia in the near future. All the OMI activities are coordinated out of the OMI headquarters in Salzburg.

The OMI’s success is based on a true team effort. In 2022, hundreds of enthusiastic faculty members volunteered their time and experience, committed coordinators in 28 countries promoted the programs locally, generous donors contributed financially or via in-kind donations, the dedicated OMI staff under the leadership of Stephanie Faschang ensured smooth operations, and, last but not least, devoted board members on both sides of the Atlantic shared their expertise to lead the organization. In this year’s annual report, we give them a voice to share their personal OMI stories.

We are truly grateful for your trust and support. Together, we make a difference!

Wolfgang Aulitzky, MD
CEO | Open Medical Institute

OMI SEMINARS

04 / 05

SHARING KNOWLEDGE TO IMPROVE HEALTHCARE WORLDWIDE



The OMI seminars are one-week courses in all areas of medicine that take place in picturesque Salzburg, Austria. Conducted by some of the most distinguished US and European clinicians in their fields, the seminars are a sought-after training ground for medical professionals from countries with underserved healthcare systems. Courses consist of state-of-the-art lectures, case presentations, workshops, and hands-on training. At Schloss Arenberg, faculty and fellows live together under one roof and meet in both formal and informal settings throughout the week.

This unique atmosphere is particularly conducive to open discussion, interaction, and networking, making learning an immersive and fun experience. Fellowships cover teaching materials, travel expenses, and full board. In 2022, 1,286 fellows from 80 countries took part in 40 week-long seminars designed to give them the knowledge they need to deliver high-quality care back home. 316 faculty members from leading institutions in the United States and Europe volunteered their time and expertise.

BONE AND JOINT SURGERY: HIP HIP HOORAY!

Drilling and hammering at Schloss Arenberg?! What sounded like a construction site was this year's group of 32 orthopedic surgeons improving their practical skills during an exciting hands-on workshop. Since 1994, the Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS), one of the leading musculoskeletal care providers in the world, has brought innovative knowledge to the OMI in Salzburg. Each year, an expert group provides a unique learning experience for orthopedic surgeons from around the world. In 2022, Dr. Mathias P. Bostrom served the program for the 15th time with a steadfast mission to give young fellows the knowledge and skills needed to significantly elevate the standard of patient care in their communities. The OMI is proud to be a global partner of HSS.

ONCOLOGY: ENHANCING CANCER CARE GLOBALLY

As one of the world's oldest and largest private cancer institutions, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) is committed to the prevention, treatment, and cure of cancer. MSKCC physicians have an extraordinary depth and breadth of experience in diagnosing and treating all forms of the disease, from the most common to the rarest. They are philanthropically minded and willing to share their expertise for the greater good. Every year, two MSKCC delegations travel to Salzburg to conduct two oncology seminars. During this year's courses, led by Dr. Hiram S. Cody III and Dr. Timothy Donahue, 64 participants from 31 different countries received insights into leading-edge diagnostic and treatment options for breast, gynecologic, and urologic cancers. In addition, a condensed version of the gynecologic cancer seminar took place in Mexico City for the first time in 2022. Dr. William P. Tew directed the course. The knowledge fellows gained during the MSKCC seminars has a profound impact on cancer treatment around the world.



Adult Medicine

- Anesthesiology and Intensive Care
- Bone and Joint Surgery
- Cardiac Surgery
- Cardiology
- Dermatology
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Family Medicine
- General Surgery
- Infectious Diseases
- Internal Medicine
- Lipid Metabolism and Atherosclerosis
- Maternal and Infant Health
- Neurology
- Neurosurgery (Spine)
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Oncology: Breast and Gynecologic Cancers
- Oncology: Uro-Oncology
- Ophthalmology
- Otolaryngology
- Otology and Temporal Bone Surgery
- Pathology
- Psychiatry
- Pulmonology
- Rehabilitation Medicine
- Urology

Pediatrics

- Pediatric Anesthesia and Critical Care
- Pediatric Emergency Medicine
- Pediatric Gastroenterology
- Pediatric Neurology
- Pediatric Orthopedics and Rheumatology
- Pediatric Pulmonology
- Pediatric Radiology

Palliative Care

- Palliative Care (ELNEC)
- Palliative Care in Neurology and Neuro-Oncology
- Pediatric Palliative Care (OSF)

OMI Leadership Program

- Access and Affordability of Diagnostics
- Economic Evaluation in Healthcare
- Medical Informatics
- Neurological and Sensory Disorders: Genes, Pathogenesis, and Innovative Therapies
- Public Health Law



PATHOLOGY: A POWER COUPLE TEACHES IN SALZBURG

Anatomic pathology plays a key role in patient care through disease diagnosis and management. For decades, Cleveland Clinic has delivered world-class, comprehensive, anatomic pathology and hematopathology services in addition to clinical laboratory testing across the world. Since 2007, the OMI has hosted an annual pathology course covering specific core areas. This year, Dr. Jesse McKenney led a seminar on diagnostic surgical pathology focusing on genitourinary, placental/perinatal, hepatobiliary, head-and-neck, breast, and medical renal pathology. The faculty provided an approach to solving common diagnostic problems that are encountered in routine practice, utilizing an extensive collection of photomicrographs and emphasizing relevance to clinical treatment. Dr. McKenney's wife, Dr. Amy McKenney, was part of the expert faculty. A specialist in placental, perinatal, and pediatric pathology at Cleveland Clinic, Amy is responsible for the pathologic evaluation of placentas as well as the review of cases sent in for expert consultation. How to describe this power couple in three words? Kind, modest, and brilliant. Amy's first love was ballet, she was a Joffrey ballet trainee in New York City before beginning her pathology career. During her fellowship at Stanford University, she met her future husband, Jesse. Amy balances her busy work schedule with raising their three kids, and occasionally gets to return to the ballet studio to choreograph for the City Ballet of Cleveland.

MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH: EVERY WOMAN, EVERY CHILD

Globally, every two minutes, a woman dies during pregnancy or childbirth. Each day, about 6,500 babies die in the first month of life. Despite global efforts to reduce mortality rates, mothers and newborns are still dying in appalling numbers. In 2020, the WHO reported 287,000 maternal deaths and 2.4 million infant deaths worldwide, mostly from preventable or treatable causes. An outsize proportion of these deaths occur in settings of conflict or displacement. Sub-Saharan Africa and Central and Southern Asia share the greatest burden of deaths. Irregular access to affordable, high-quality healthcare and services before, during, and after pregnancy impedes many countries from improving maternal and newborn survival. For more than 20 years, the OMI has been committed to providing scientific leadership in the promotion of maternal and infant health through seminars, observerships, and satellite symposia. Each year, doctors from less privileged regions of the world gather in Salzburg to learn from internationally renowned neonatologists and gynecologists, and present cases from their own clinical experience. Dr. Richard A. Polin from Columbia University is the program's mastermind. The 2022 maternal and infant health course marked his 25th trip to Salzburg, demonstrating his significant contribution to educating more than 1,000 doctors from all over the world. The OMI is grateful for Dr. Polin's sincere dedication and extraordinary engagement.

"Every child has a superhero. Since starting my neonatology education, I have read books and articles written by Dr. Polin and his team. I often find myself asking, 'What would Dr. Polin do?' Over the years, Dr. Polin has become my neonatology superhero. The maternal and infant health seminar in Salzburg provided me with the opportunity to meet him in person, hear him lecture, and discuss neonatology dilemmas. I hope Dr. Polin continues providing neonatology education online, in books, and in person as long as he can. Thank you, OMI, for this opportunity, and thank you, Dr. Polin, for your work."

KATARINA BOJANIC, MD
OMI FELLOW FROM CROATIA



OTOLOGY AND TEMPORAL BONE SURGERY: FELLOWS SHARPEN THEIR SKILLS

The Salzburg Weill Cornell Seminar in Otology and Temporal Bone Surgery is one of the OMI's flagship courses, led by Dr. Samuel H. Selesnick from Weill Cornell Medicine and Dr. Gerhard Rasp from the General Hospital of Salzburg. It offers a unique and integrated combination of didactic lectures and case discussions, as well as a hands-on dissection laboratory experience that is critical for safe and effective otologic surgery.

"Our fellows represent the current and next generation of providers delivering ear care to patients around the world. They often have not had the opportunity to receive this type of systematic and comprehensive educational exposure despite the tremendous need for their services in their home institutions. This program, therefore, offers a transformational experience. After completion, our fellows leave with a solid knowledge base, along with the tools necessary to effectively build their skills throughout their careers. The opportunity to contribute to this process as faculty members is highly rewarding, providing us a chance to both teach and learn, as well as meet motivated and dedicated colleagues from around the world. For educators committed to improving otologic healthcare, there is simply no better way to further global advances in our specialty."

NIKOLAS H. BLEVINS, MD
STANFORD UNIVERSITY

PEDIATRICS

A global pioneer in pediatric healthcare, the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) conducts a total of 18 OMI seminars over three years, covering all important aspects of pediatrics. CHOP combines its unique history as the first pediatric hospital in the United States with internationally recognized excellence, making this partnership an invaluable asset to the OMI program. CHOP experts who teach in Salzburg are passionate about pediatrics and motivated to make a difference in our world. In 2022, the OMI hosted seven pediatric seminars. Faculty from the Medical University of Graz and the Children's Hospital of Feldkirch joined the teaching effort. Recognizing the growing demand for online education, CHOP collaborated with the OMI to establish CHOP OPEN. The platform contains hundreds of lectures, across dozens of pediatric specialties, captured during the courses in Salzburg. The educational materials are freely available at www.chop.edu/open.

DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING:
A STORY OF EMPOWERMENT

The annual Salzburg Weill Cornell Seminar in Diagnostic Imaging hit its 27th anniversary this year. 36 radiologists from 28 different countries gathered at Schloss Arenberg for a profound knowledge update, including an ultrasound hands-on training. Initiated by the US course director Dr. David W. Trost, the OMI welcomed Dr. Petra Steyerova from the General University Hospital in Prague, Czech Republic as a faculty member. In 2012, Dr. Steyerova participated in an OMI radiology seminar as a fellow. Soon after, with the help of other OMI alumni, she organized multiple OMI satellite symposia in Kosovo. For Dr. Steyerova, it was always clear to serve her country as a doctor. However, the OMI showed her the importance of engaging in international clinical and scientific collaborations. Today, she is a leading radiologist, specializing in breast cancer imaging and peripheral nerve ultrasound, and is involved in clinics, research, and teaching, both domestically and abroad.

“In Eastern Europe, especially behind the former Iron Curtain, we were taught not to engage internationally, that the West was dangerous, and nobody would take us seriously. The OMI programs help us to see the value of international networking as well as the value of our work, which is constantly improving. The OMI has greatly supported me and many others in our career paths.”

PETRA STEYEROVA, MD
GENERAL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL IN PRAGUE

OMI OBSERVERSHIPS:
A GREAT WAY
TO LEARN

An OMI observership is a unique opportunity to learn about the Austrian healthcare system and gain valuable experience in a particular medical specialty. During the month-long placement, OMI fellows observe and learn from experienced healthcare professionals in a clinical setting. They gain insight into the day-to-day operations of clinical care, enhance their assessment and diagnostic skills, learn about new techniques and treatment options, attend grand rounds, and explore ongoing research activities. After they participate, they are well-equipped to disseminate the newly acquired knowledge and implement innovative technologies back home. This unparalleled exposure empowers participants and furthers their professional development.

To date, the OMI has granted 3,535 observerships to OMI fellows from 53 countries. In 2022, 82 doctors from 27 countries completed their clinical observerships at the General Hospital of Vienna (60), the General Hospital of Graz (15), and the General Hospital of Salzburg (7).

After attending two OMI seminars in 2018 and 2019, heart surgeon Dr. Otabek Tursunov from Tashkent, Uzbekistan returned for an observership in the Department of Cardiac Surgery at the General Hospital of Vienna in 2022, shadowing OMI faculty Dr. Marek P. Ehrlich.

“What an intense program! My mentor was very supportive, always ready to share his knowledge and experience. During daily morning rounds, the team met to discuss patient cases and upcoming surgeries. Following these meetings, which allowed me to learn how to approach difficult and complex cases, I spent most of my time in the operating theater observing various surgical procedures. I was excited to get to know new treatment options for heart valve diseases, such as minimally invasive surgery, transcatheter aortic valve implantation, and left ventricular assist device implantation. The cases in the hybrid surgery room were all new and challenging to me. After finishing the program, I returned to my hospital and began to apply the new practical skills and treatment protocols. Most importantly, we started to perform minimally invasive procedures. Today, I am still in touch with Dr. Ehrlich, and we are planning his visit to our department in the near future. My advice for future observers? Be efficient with your time in the hospital and do not hesitate to ask questions!”





OMI & INSTITUT PASTEUR: UNITED FOR GLOBAL HEALTH



Founded in 1887 in Paris, France, the Institut Pasteur is an internationally renowned center for biomedical research that stands out in many disciplines. By deciphering the fundamental mechanisms of living organisms, its researchers contribute to the advancement of knowledge that leads to cutting-edge medical applications, ultimately improving public health. Within its remit to improve healthcare globally, the Open Medical Institute aims to engage in partnerships that contribute to the advancement of global health. In 2017, the OMI joined forces with the Institut Pasteur to offer a seminar series addressing major global health challenges.

In 2022, based on a renewed six-year cooperation agreement that includes the second OMI hub in Mexico, the initial seminar series started to travel the globe. Three years after the launch of the vector-borne diseases course in Salzburg, the same event took place in Mexico City. Dr. Anna-Bella Failloux, entomologist and head of the arboviruses and insect vectors unit at the Institut Pasteur in Paris, along with her international team, traveled to Mexico to teach clinicians and researchers about vector-borne diseases that put the world at risk: Dengue, Chikungunya, Zika, Yellow Fever, Malaria, Chagas, and Wolbachia. Aiming to promote international exchange on sensory and neurological disorders, neuroscience expert Dr. Aziz El-Amraoui and his outstanding faculty led a week-long seminar for doctors and scientists in Salzburg.

Both the Institut Pasteur and the OMI greatly benefit from this partnership. The collaboration provides the Institut Pasteur with a unique training opportunity for scientists from more than 30 member institutions of the Pasteur Network.

"As a Research Director at the Institut Pasteur, I am proud to support the OMI in organizing their international courses in Salzburg and in Mexico. Louis Pasteur once said, **"Science knows no country, because knowledge belongs to humanity, and is the torch which illuminates the world"**, and this sentiment perfectly matches the mission of the OMI, which aims to provide practical medical education to attendees from all corners of the globe.

I strongly believe in the power of education to further our knowledge and improve patient care and outcomes. By sharing our knowledge and skills with attendees from diverse backgrounds, we can work together to tackle some of the most pressing healthcare challenges facing our world today, especially in the field of sensory disorders, which is my area of interest.

During my last visit to Salzburg, I had the pleasure of meeting faculty and attendees from 25 different countries. This experience allowed me to gain a newfound appreciation for the diversity of healthcare systems and cultures around the world. I learned from my peers, exchanged knowledge and skills, and formed lasting connections with new colleagues from various countries. Such experiences not only help one grow as a scientist but also broaden one's understanding of the world and its people. I am enthusiastic to support the OMI and I am keen to continue to volunteer my time and expertise to further the OMI's mission."

Aziz El-Amraoui, PhD
Institut Pasteur



OMI VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS: AMERICAN AUSTRIAN EXPERT EXCHANGE

In October 2022, Dr. Tanja Kraus, a pediatric orthopedic surgeon from the Medical University of Graz, was invited as a visiting professor to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). This visit has created a foundation for long-term friendship and collaboration, and future joint research initiatives have already been planned. Dr. Apurva S. Shah will travel to Graz in October 2023. We are proud to see such collaborations and friendships evolve through the OMI seminars.

Dr. Kraus reports: "In 2019, Dr. Apurva S. Shah, a hand surgeon at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and I teamed up to lead the Salzburg CHOP Seminar in Pediatric Orthopedics. Following two successful courses, I had the privilege to join him and his colleagues for a ten-day visiting professorship in Philadelphia in October. This was my first professional stay in the US and Dr. Shah and his family were kind enough to host me in their home. From the first moment, they made me feel welcome. My time at CHOP was very intense and insightful. I met with colleagues whom I knew from Salzburg, observed their working

methods, and had many interesting discussions. I got to know Dr. Shah's research team as well as Dr. John Flynn, the head of the department, who were all very kind and outgoing."

"Dr. Kraus presented lectures on Ponseti casting for clubfoot deformity and developmental dysplasia of the hip. Her expertise and impactful research on both topics generated thoughtful discussion and highlighted differences in the Austrian and American approaches to these common pediatric orthopedic conditions. She also observed clinic and surgery during her visit at CHOP with a focus on pediatric hip, lower extremity, and deformity correction", summarizes Dr. Shah.

"In my limited spare time, I squeezed in some sightseeing in Philadelphia. I visited the Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, and the wonderful old town. Dr. Shah and his family generously introduced me to the region, including a visit to the Longwood Gardens, the Mütter Museum, and the Barnes Foundation. What an unforgettable experience! I am very grateful to the OMI for this unique and enriching opportunity", says Dr. Kraus.



THE POWER OF MENTORING: OMI FELLOW INDUCTED INTO AAN

Mentoring is key to personal growth and professional development, providing support, guidance, and advice to help individuals navigate their career paths and achieve their goals. The Open Medical Institute offers a unique mentoring platform, enabling and encouraging mentors and mentees to connect, learn, and grow in a multitude of ways.

In 2011, Nicoleta Mitrea, a nurse from Brasov, Romania, joined the OMI's Palliative Care End of Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC) program. She was so excited to bring colleagues from Romania that she actively requested to travel to Salzburg by bus, to cut travel costs, so that more people could benefit from the course. Since then, she has returned another five times to the OMI to participate and later to teach in the ELNEC program.

Today, Nicoleta is the director of education and development at Hospice Casa Sperantei and an internationally recognized nursing leader in the development of palliative care within her country and throughout Eastern Europe. In October 2022, she was inducted into the very prestigious American Academy of Nursing (AAN) in Washington, DC, the highest recognition for

nurses worldwide. Nicoleta is the first nurse in Romania and the only nurse in Eastern Europe that has been accepted by the Academy.

Pam Malloy, past ELNEC director and OMI faculty, says: "I have known Nicoleta since 2009, when I traveled to Romania and witnessed her sacred work. She understood early in her practice that patient care would never improve without an educated workforce. To begin this educational journey, she identified 30 nursing leaders in practice, education, and research throughout Romania and invited them to attend an ELNEC train-the-trainer course. Because of her strong leadership, exceptional teaching abilities, and extraordinary networking among inter-professional healthcare providers throughout Eastern Europe and the European Union, Nicoleta quickly became the "go-to" person for all things related to hospice and palliative care. She led the way in working with an international team composed of nurses and physicians from not only Romania, but also Albania, Armenia, Greece, and Serbia to translate the ELNEC curriculum into six languages. Today, due to her tireless dedication, over 12,000 nurses, physicians, and other interdisciplinary palliative care team members have received ELNEC training."



30 YEARS OF SAVING CHILDREN'S LIVES IN SLOVAKIA

20 years ago, pediatrician Dr. Lubica Kovacikova attended her first OMI seminar in Salzburg. Today, she is the director of the Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit at the Pediatric Cardiac Center, National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases in Bratislava, Slovakia. Ongoing support through the Open Medical Institute and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia has enabled the center to make a powerful impact on progressing its life-saving work.

Established in 1992, the Pediatric Cardiac Center offers care for children with congenital and acquired heart conditions. It counts 800 admissions, 300 surgeries, and 8,500 outpatient visits annually. Since its inception 30 years ago, more than 9,200 surgeries and 9,300 catheterization procedures have been performed, saving thousands of children's lives in Slovakia.

The development of the center was initially supported by a five-year Project HOPE initiative funded by the US Agency for International Development. Medical expertise came from the Boston Children's Hospital. Later, Dr. Gil Wernovsky, a Project HOPE team member, joined the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the American-Slovak cooperation continued through the CHOP Cardiac Center.

Observerships for Slovak physicians and nurses at CHOP helped them implement changes in the pediatric cardiac programs, including cardiac computer tomography, cardiac magnetic resonance imaging, exercise training, simulation training, and neuro-cardiac care. Slovak attendance at the annual CHOP update conferences provided a continuous source of information on the latest innovations in the field. In addition, CHOP experts regularly traveled to Bratislava to offer clinical teaching and supervision. Simultaneously, doctors from the center met and exchanged with CHOP faculty at numerous OMI seminars in Salzburg and six local OMI satellite symposia. In 2012, during an OMI satellite symposium, CHOP faculty Dr. R. Lee Vogel initiated a video conferencing project. The US Embassy in Bratislava offered its video conference room and later donated the device to the center. Ever since, every two months, Slovak doctors present complex patient cases to CHOP experts. To date, more than 140 cases have been discussed during more than 50 video conferences. Over 40 CHOP faculty members participated actively in these transatlantic medical consultations. One-third of the cases recommended significant divergence from current diagnostic and therapeutic plans. The recommendations were fully or partially adopted in more than 90% of the cases.

OMI
FACTS & FIGURES

RECORDED LECTURES

15,850

40

OMI SEMINARS

810

OMI MEX SEMINARS

11

1,286

OMI FELLOWSHIPS

26,324

82

OMI OBSERVERSHIPS

3,535

FEMALE FELLOWS

56%

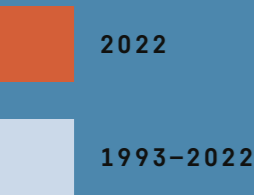
FACULTY MEMBERS

2,467

80

COUNTRIES

130





“Today was unforgettable! We performed operations on three cadavers. We were taught and guided in procedures such as TLIF, cervical decompression, and lateral mass screw insertion. For the first time I used neuronavigation to insert pedicle screws.”

SIMON BALOGUN, MD
OMI FELLOW FROM NIGERIA



“Looking back at the week I feel very thankful and privileged to have had such an educational and transformative experience. It positively formed not only my approach as a clinician, but it taught me to constantly look for ways to better our practice.”

SILVIA KMETONYOVA, MD
OMI FELLOW FROM CZECH REPUBLIC



“It was a great experience to share my work via a case presentation and to hear feedback from so many international doctors. That was truly an unusual opportunity.”

ZUZANA SULAVIKOVA, MD
OMI FELLOW FROM SLOVAKIA



“The simulation training in pediatric emergency medicine was the most thrilling and rewarding experience I have ever had in my entire medical training and career. The OMI gave me one of the most memorable weeks of my life: new mentors, new colleagues, new friends, and new perspectives.”

CHRISTIAN UMUHOZA, MD
OMI FELLOW FROM RWANDA



“My highlight was during lunch, where I was able to sit with the faculty and discuss interesting concepts of dyslipidaemias. Learning from these great doctors and human beings was such a privilege.”

RAFAEL ZUBIRAN, MD
OMI FELLOW FROM MEXICO

“Our class is diverse in origin and background: pediatricians, neonatologists, gynecologists, and nephrologists. It felt great to connect with doctors from all over the world and build a strong international network.”

SEMHAL GETACHEW TEKA, MD
OMI FELLOW FROM ETHIOPIA

VOICES OF OUR FELLOWS



“I am a gastrointestinal and colorectal surgeon. The peritoneal surface cancer lecture was invaluable for me as colorectal cancer diagnosed in the late stage and peritoneal metastasis are a severe problem in my country.”

KHALIUNAA BATTULGA, MD
OMI FELLOW FROM MONGOLIA



“I took part in an eye-opening workshop on difficult conversations. We did multiple role plays and I felt myself improving each time we practiced. I can’t wait to try to use all this knowledge back home and to share it with my colleagues.”

AHMED SHAWESH, MD
OMI FELLOW FROM QATAR



“My expectations of the seminar were not only met but exceeded. Listening to the lectures and being able to learn from the experts was amazing. I will implement all the knowledge acquired here in my practice. Meeting the other fellows and being able to exchange experiences and discuss with them is something that I will cherish forever.”

VANGJEL ZDRAVESKI, MD
OMI FELLOW FROM NORTH MACEDONIA



“The CRT implantation and IVS puncture training was very interesting to me, as I am currently specializing in arrhythmology and electrophysiology. I am not performing interventions yet, but will do so in the near future.

This training was more than helpful.”

HRIPSIME POGHOSYAN, MD
OMI FELLOW FROM ARMENIA



ROY M. GULICK, MD, MPH
WEILL CORNELL MEDICINE
OMI SEMINAR IN INFECTIOUS DISEASES

I am very enthusiastic about helping support the OMI’s mission to bring cutting-edge medical knowledge to young doctors in underserved parts of the world. Infectious diseases know no boundaries and readily circulate and affect people from around the world – infectious diseases truly are global diseases. Bringing and reviewing current medical knowledge helps these young doctors improve healthcare in their own countries. The opportunity to travel to Salzburg to host the week-long infectious diseases seminar is a wonderful opportunity not only to share a classroom with our young colleagues, but also to live together for a week. This unique feature facilitates not only formal classroom interactions, but also more casual hallway and mealtime conversations and discussions – the faculty really get to know the participants well! One notable feature of the program is the opportunity for the young doctors attending the seminar to present and discuss their own cases. Infectious diseases cases are always interesting, and this format allows us to hear about fascinating cases from around the world. I have also benefited from having my US and European colleagues serve as faculty and present at the seminar. While there are many common approaches to infectious diseases, there are often differences in strategies and this is a terrific opportunity to learn from each other. Another wonderful thing is the ability to establish relationships with the fellows that continue well after the seminar is over. I have kept in touch with some of the young doctors and often bump into them at international infectious disease meetings. It’s particularly gratifying to watch some of the OMI fellows grow and take on leadership positions in their own countries, or even serve on the regional or international level.

Since 1998, I have participated in seven OMI seminars. One may ask why I agreed to volunteer my time on so many occasions. The easy answer is that I enjoy teaching. However, after participating in my first course, I discovered that the value of the OMI went far beyond simply teaching. The greatest benefit of these seminars is the close, week-long proximity that occurs between the participating fellows and the physician instructors. During the entire week, in addition to course instruction and healthcare questions, it is encouraged that everyone interacts as much as possible, eat all meals together, socially mingle, and attempt to discuss non-healthcare-related topics. Initially, many of the fellows are somewhat reluctant to participate in conversation with their mentors. However, after a few short days, they quickly realize the importance of collaboration and give and take between students and teachers, and that their teachers welcome the opportunity for the students to bond with them. The collegial nature of healthcare is always stressed to the fellows. Friendships develop that last long after the completion of the seminar. In fact, on multiple occasions, fellows have asked, and been accepted, to travel to CHOP for a month to gain more experience in pediatric gastroenterology. Although I am the organizer and teacher, I always learn a great deal when attending these seminars. Whenever asked, I jump at the opportunity to be part of the OMI learning experience.



CHRIS A. LIACOURAS, MD
CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA
OMI SEMINAR IN PEDIATRIC GASTROENTEROLOGY



NIKOLAOS J. SKUBAS, MD, DSC, FASE, FACC
CLEVELAND CLINIC
OMI SEMINAR IN CARDIAC SURGERY

I consider the OMI a unique academy for physicians to exchange ideas and learn from each other. At the same time, it is a wake-up call, as I realize the gap between our and other, less fortunate countries and environments. Traveling to Salzburg is akin to discovering one's new siblings! I have never been happier to have such a family that grows every year! I am enriched by the fellows' experiences, who as young physicians, have amazing, incessant aspirations to learn and improve in their professions. It is such a great opportunity to interact with them and expose them to different approaches and perspectives when confronted with familiar medical issues. By sharing knowledge with those coming after us, I am paying forward my teachers and predecessors. Medicine unites us all as we strive to serve our patients and be kind to each other, regardless of borders, backgrounds, and beliefs. Volunteering for the OMI will keep making me a better person and physician. I have been fortunate to be an OMI faculty member and will continue to offer my time and efforts toward a global brain gain.

When I joined the OMI as a young neurologist in the mid-1990s, I was specifically interested in status epilepticus. I loved to give lectures and wanted to inspire participants from under-resourced parts of the world to share the same enthusiasm as I did for this special condition. Over the years, I have encountered many fellows from that time at international congresses. Once I was invited by a fellow to his home country, where he successfully started an epilepsy surgery program. He told me that the OMI seminar was a turning point in his career. He wanted to leave everything behind and immigrate to Canada, as he was so frustrated with the healthcare system in his country. After that week in Salzburg, he decided to return and implement what he learned back home. He is now the chair of a large neurology department, running a successful epilepsy program, has published several papers, and continues to send fellows to the OMI. The OMI programs are directed against brain drain. In other fellowship programs, brain drain is the rule and not the exception. Among many other OMI success stories, it was a very touching moment for me to hear that one week in Salzburg changed the life of a person, and has had a continued impact on others.



EUGEN TRINKA, MD, MSC, FRCP
CHRISTIAN DOPPLER UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL SALZBURG
OMI SEMINAR IN NEUROLOGY



WILLIAM P. TEW, MD
MEMORIAL SLOAN KETTERING CANCER CENTER
OMI SEMINAR IN ONCOLOGY: BREAST AND GYNECOLOGIC CANCERS

It has been an honor to volunteer at the OMI in both Salzburg and Mexico City over the last decade. As a medical oncologist with specialties in gynecologic malignancies as well as the care of older adults with cancer, the OMI has provided a world-class platform to teach and interact with physicians across the globe. My first experience with the OMI was in 2010, where we structured a week of learning on gynecologic malignancies including ovarian, endometrial, cervical, and breast cancer. On a personal level, I found the entire week to be exceptionally rewarding – sharing my knowledge and expertise with a group of physicians who I would otherwise be unlikely to interact with in New York. In addition, I really enjoyed working closely with my colleagues from New York in this environment, personal and professional bonds were strengthened beyond my expectations. We have built on this success and repeated our curriculum every three years in Salzburg. Each seminar improved in quality as well as the sophistication of the attendees. In 2022, we were honored to be the initial MSKCC course for OMI MEX. The physicians who attended were exceptionally bright, enthusiastic, and welcoming. As the OMI continues to broaden its footprint around the world, I will gladly continue to offer my time and commitment to its mission.



NANCY WEIGLE, MD
DUKE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER
OMI SEMINAR IN FAMILY MEDICINE

The decision to support the OMI is an easy one. It allows me to engage with fellow physicians from around the globe as we all strive to take better care of our patients. I am very fortunate that my Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at Duke University has a long tradition of working with the OMI over many decades. The main lesson I have learned through the OMI is that as physicians we are uniquely connected despite the many differences in our respective systems. When I return from a week away at the OMI, I am recharged. I am reminded of why I chose to become a physician and am inspired by the dedicated and gifted physicians I meet from around the world. Each time I return from the OMI, I return as a better physician.



GARY J. LELLI, JR., MD
WEILL CORNELL MEDICINE
OMI SEMINAR IN OPHTHALMOLOGY

Giving back and taking time to be grateful for what we have helps to define me. I cherish the time given towards the OMI's mission of improving global ophthalmic care and education while making lifelong colleagues across the globe. Over the years, I have been lucky enough to become friends and colleagues with hundreds of international ophthalmologists through this program. We share complicated cases and continue to learn and grow far past the week we spend in Salzburg. Of course, none of this is possible without an outstandingly organized, focused, mission-driven team at the OMI in Salzburg – we are truly grateful for their heroic efforts! The connections, mentorship, education, and cross-pollination of ideas make this volunteerism extremely important to me.



My experience teaching in Salzburg has been incredibly rewarding. I am inspired by the dedication and motivation of the fellows who participate. I recall one fellow who expressed her gratitude for the program through tears of joy after she passed the lipid specialist examination. She shared that it was an experience she would never forget. It's really an honor to be a part of something so formative and to participate as a faculty member after having had my own formative educational experience with the OMI. I participated in the Max Kade fellowship 20 years ago as a fourth-year medical student, which was my first learning opportunity outside the US. I have learned so much from the fellows who participate, from how different healthcare systems are organized to cultural norms and expectations around education. Despite our different cultural backgrounds, we share so much in common and have many of the same challenges as physicians.

JESSICA M. PENA, MD, MPH, FACC, FNLA
WEILL CORNELL MEDICINE
OMI SEMINAR IN LIPID METABOLISM AND ATHEROSCLEROSIS



I support the OMI and its mission year after year because I believe that equitable access to high-quality healthcare should be a basic human right for every person throughout the world. To reach this goal, we must be willing to freely share our expertise with all physicians so they can apply this knowledge in their own practice and enhance patient care at the local level across the globe. It is truly an honor to direct the internal medicine seminar in Salzburg, knowing that the shared expertise and knowledge have the potential to improve the healthcare of patients across the world.

KRISTIN M. BURKART, MD, MSC
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER
OMI SEMINAR IN INTERNAL MEDICINE

JASPAL R. SINGH, MD
WEILL CORNELL MEDICINE
OMI SEMINAR IN
REHABILITATION MEDICINE



Academic medicine provides faculty physicians with the opportunity to not only deliver cutting-edge clinical care to their patients, but also to get involved in research and scholarship activities, and most importantly to train the next generation of healthcare professionals. While this obligation is primarily delivered at our local institutions, being able to travel abroad and improve healthcare globally is what makes the OMI truly a remarkable collaboration. Every year that I have been invited to be part of a faculty group, it is a privilege to share knowledge and expertise with colleagues from around the world and I view this as an opportunity for me to also grow. From my first seminar in 2013 to my fifth in 2022, it has given me tremendous satisfaction to see the advances rehabilitation medicine physicians have accomplished in their home countries. Healthcare is not a privilege just for rich and developed countries, healthcare is a right and to better healthcare globally, it is imperative that we keep developing countries up to date on the latest innovations.



LOCAL COORDINATORS

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The OMI has an extensive partnership network and collaborates with institutions and individuals across the globe. The OMI local coordinators are actively engaged in promoting the OMI programs to local healthcare professionals and providing administrative and logistical support.

"My first encounter with the OMI was 20 years ago when my aunt, who is a radiologist, attended an OMI seminar. I remember how excited she was, her impressions, and her stories. I admire how the OMI has developed over time and how truly global the program has become, yet it has always kept its core mission and values. The OMI is a window to the world at large, to history and the future, to culture and science. Personally, I consider supporting the OMI as a local coordinator as a chance to bring positive change to people's lives in Armenia.

Fellows return from the seminars extremely motivated, which is contagious, especially when they start to promote the program among their colleagues and friends, and organize satellite symposia, bringing outstanding faculty that they met in Salzburg to Armenia.



Armenia has been undergoing a major transition over the past 35 years, and we still have a lot of work to do. We want to see our country thrive, but the reality is different. By taking initiative in one's education and attending OMI programs, healthcare leaders in Armenia are shaped. I believe that OMI alumni develop a shared vision of how things should work in healthcare, and when there is a large number of such people, change will happen.

My personal OMI highlight is the fantastic atmosphere that prevails at each seminar. International doctors, so different yet so similar in their goals, the marvelous interaction between faculty and fellows, and the thoughtful organization of every detail. Schloss Arenberg itself gives the feeling of "home" and the sense of belonging to so many of us."

ASTGHIK MARKOSYAN, MD, MSC, PHD
OMI LOCAL COORDINATOR FROM ARMENIA

For more than a decade, Pablo G. Legorreta's support and innovation have been key to the growth of the Open Medical Institute, particularly in the inception and implementation of OMI MEX. His commitment is deeply personal; here he shares his motivation to shepherd the OMI's continued success.

"I was introduced to Dr. Wolfgang Aulitzky and the Open Medical Institute in 2010 by the American Austrian Foundation's late chairman, Ambassador William vanden Heuvel. What the OMI had accomplished in Eastern and Central Europe since its founding in 1993 impressed me and I appreciated Wolfgang's vision about how to further internationalize and scale the OMI's expertise and network to prevent brain drain and expand brain gain in Mexico, and more broadly across Latin America.

I was born and educated in Mexico and have a strong connection to the country and its people. While Mexico has a universal healthcare system that entitles all citizens to medical care regardless of their ability to pay, and despite significant progress in expanding access to care over the last 20 years, many challenges remain. In an effort to address these challenges and to improve the quality of healthcare, my wife Almudena and I created and endowed a private foundation, Alianza Médica para la Salud (AMSA), to serve as the OMI's Mexican government-accredited local partner. AMSA started recruiting and sending physicians to the OMI seminars in Salzburg in 2011 and to underwrite a number of disease-specific medical seminars from 2018 onwards. As a board member of the Institut Pasteur (US Foundation), I was able to facilitate OMI Pasteur seminars on virology and contagious diseases. The seminars which are held in Austria, Mexico, and soon Vietnam combine the best of the OMI's collaborative and didactic teaching methods with Pasteur's topical expertise and on-the-ground knowledge.

The OMI's core principle of generational transfer where leading specialists so generously donate their time and know-how to ensure that future generations of doctors have the skills and knowledge necessary to provide quality care to patients is very much in line with my and my wife's belief about giving back. I am impressed by the faculty's ability to leverage the OMI framework and infrastructure to share its knowledge and skills. OMI faculty members, all leading specialists, who have acquired a wealth of knowledge in their field are the lifeblood of the OMI programs. Their willingness to pass knowledge on to younger, less experienced doctors from countries in transition is truly laudable but this is not a one-way road. It's been fulfilling to witness how faculty members who engage in teaching and training activities also benefit from the experience themselves, from developing their own skills, deepening their knowledge, and keeping up-to-date with relevant developments in the fellows' home countries.

Mexico – like all countries in transition – needs to be supported in its effort to provide quality healthcare to all its citizens. Having dedicated the last 30 years of my life to building and growing Royalty Pharma into a global leader in life sciences innovation, my involvement with the OMI has been an opportunity to contribute to the advancement of healthcare and medical knowledge beyond my own areas of activity. Partnering with the OMI and the AAF for over a decade by funding the continued education of over 700 Mexican physicians of diverse backgrounds who have participated in the OMI seminars in Salzburg and over 2,300 physicians and healthcare professionals who have participated in local activities has been deeply gratifying."

PABLO G. LEGORRETA
FOUNDER & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER | ROYALTY PHARMA
FOUNDER & HONORARY CHAIRMAN | ALIANZA MÉDICA PARA LA SALUD
BOARD MEMBER | AMERICAN AUSTRIAN FOUNDATION



OMI VOICES

DONORS



OMI MEX ¡HOLA DE MÉXICO!

The OMI is thrilled to have furthered its global expansion via Alianza Médica para la Salud (AMSA) and OMI MEX. The goal is to have the OMI curriculum travel the globe, with the same expert faculty who teach OMI seminars in Salzburg also lecturing in Mexico. The material presented in Mexico mirrors what was taught in Salzburg the year before. Throughout 2022, 11 OMI MEX seminars took place under the academic leadership of Weill Cornell Medicine, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Duke University, Columbia University, and the Institut Pasteur. What an incredible commitment from the OMI faculty, who are vital in the expansion of our program.

MEDICAL EDUCATION

Fostering the Next Generation of Medical Educators

Drs. Adelaide Barnes, Don Boyer, and Jay Mehta from the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia traveled to Mexico City in May to teach at the OMI MEX Seminar in Medical Education, which is part of the OMI leadership program. Through a mix of interactive lectures and case-based workshops, 30 Mexican fellows gained exposure and experience on topics such as characteristics of a good teacher, adult learning theories, instructional design, teaching on rounds, creating psychologically safe learning environments, providing optimal feedback, and working with the challenging learner. For the faculty, the fellows’ warmth, engagement, enthusiasm, and desire to excel as teachers made this one of the most rewarding teaching experiences they have ever had. The future of medical education in Mexico could not be brighter!

NEUROSURGERY

Learning from the Best

Top spine specialists Dr. Roger Härtl from Weill Cornell Medicine and Dr. Claudius Thomé from the Medical University of Innsbruck have taught together in Salzburg and Mexico City many times. In November, the dynamic duo led a three-day OMI MEX course sharing their knowledge and expertise with 26 fellows from Mexico City and surrounding areas. In 2022, Dr. Härtl was honored as the Humanitarian of the Year by the American Association of Neurological Surgeons. He was lauded for his life-saving work in Tanzania and his commitment to global neurosurgical education through the OMI seminars in Salzburg. Congratulations!



FAMILY MEDICINE

Providing Care for the Unique Health Needs of Older Adults

In 2022, the OMI launched a new family medicine curriculum. Designed as an age-related three-module program, this seminar series focuses on the needs of patients across the whole lifespan: maternal and child health, adult medicine, and geriatrics. In October, OMI faculty Drs. Teah M. Bayless, Jonathan E. Fischer, and John W. Ragsdale III from Duke University, a leader in family medicine and community health, taught the geriatrics module to a young and dedicated group of 28 Mexican doctors in Mexico City.

OMI MEX Seminars 2022

Diabetes
Family Medicine
General Pediatrics
Global Health: Vector-Borne Diseases
Maternal and Infant Health
Medical Education
Neonatology
Neurosurgery (Spine)
Oncology: Gynecologic Cancers
Pediatric Emergency Medicine
Urology



OMI WORLDWIDE



25TH ANNIVERSARY OF OMI AZERBAIJAN

Let's celebrate! In November 2022, the OMI Azerbaijan held a reception in Baku to commemorate its 25th anniversary. 60 Azerbaijanian doctors who attended OMI seminars in Salzburg joined the event, sharing memories, enjoying great food, and dancing the night away. To date, the OMI has trained 595 fellows and hosted 131 observers from Azerbaijan. Thanks to Bahar Haji-zada, the OMI local coordinator in Azerbaijan, for her support and leadership.

OMI ENT ALUMNI REUNION IN MILAN

40 OMI alumni of the Salzburg Weill Cornell Seminars in Otorhinolaryngology and Otology and Temporal Bone Surgery gathered during this year's European Congress of Otorhinolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery in Milan, Italy. The reunion was initiated by Dr. Cem Mecro, president of the congress and a longtime OMI faculty member. OMI faculty Dr. Michael G. Stewart (Weill Cornell Medicine) and Drs. Gerhard Rasp and Sebastian Roesch (General Hospital of Salzburg) were also in attendance. What a nice time together, reconnecting and reminiscing! The OMI is proud to see that so many of its ENT alumni have assumed leadership positions in their home countries.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN TRANSLATIONAL AND CLINICAL MEDICINE IN TBILISI

In May 2022, the First International Conference in Translational and Clinical Medicine took place in Tbilisi, Georgia. The OMI was delighted that several of the expert speakers were OMI alumni, including Dr. Nino Okribelashvili, vice-rector of the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, and Dr. Dimitri Kordzaia, dean of the faculty of medicine. Giorgi Kordzaia, the OMI local coordinator in Georgia, organized an OMI alumni reunion hosting Dr. Wolfgang Aulitzky. To date, 682 Georgian healthcare professionals have been trained by the OMI in Salzburg.

10TH KOSICE NEONATOLOGY CONFERENCE

In June 2022, former OMI Slovak fellow and faculty member Dr. Peter Krcho organized the 10th Kosice Neonatology Conference in Slovakia. The idea for the conference originated during an OMI seminar in Salzburg, where Dr. Krcho met OMI faculty member Dr. Steven M. Donn from the University of Michigan Medical Center, who has since lectured at all the Kosice conferences. This year the conference was organized in a hybrid form, with a total of 84 physicians from mainly Eastern Europe.



MUSIC FOR MEDICINE BENEFIT



The annual Music for Medicine Benefit took place on November 18, 2022, in New York City. Thomas J. McGrath, AAF chairman, and Daisy Soros, AAF board member and benefit chair, graciously welcomed our guests and introduced the program for the evening. Dr. Wolfgang Aulitzky, CEO of the Open Medical Institute, gave a presentation titled “OMI Makes a Difference: Success Stories”, including a comprehensive overview of the OMI expansion into Mexico and Vietnam.

Guests enjoyed a stirring concert given by members of the Vienna Philharmonic – Robert Bauerstatter (viola), Wolfgang Breinschmid (flute), Edison Pashko (cello), and Milan Šetena (violin). Their stellar performance included Ignaz Pleyel's Quartet No 2 in F Moll for Flute, Violin, Viola, and Violoncello and Opus 41 Allegro Andante con Variazioni, and Mozart's Divertimento in Es Dur for Violin, Viola, and Violoncello (KV 563

1. Satz: Allegro) and Quartet in D Dur for Flute, Violin, Viola, and Violoncello (KV 285 Allegro Adagio Rondeau).

The event saw the return of the live and silent auctions and a raffle for the first time since 2019, as well as a successful paddle raise. Over 200 guests, including AAF board members, OMI faculty and friends, as well as committed individuals from business, law, medicine, and the public service sector, shared a festive evening to kick off the holiday season.

The benefit was a resounding success, with all funds going towards the OMI seminars in Salzburg. We would like to thank all guests for spending the evening with us and for believing and investing in our mission to expand medical education beyond borders, and to the musicians of the Vienna Philharmonic for performing such a beautiful concert!



VIENNA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE GALA

This year's Vienna School of Medicine Gala took place on November 23, 2022, at the Van Swieten Saal of the Medical University of Vienna. The event focused on pulmonology and included a gala dinner, short lectures about innovations and contributions of Viennese physicians diagnosing and treating lung diseases, and the presentation of the 2022 OMI award to Dr. Petra Kohlberger from the Medical University of Vienna, who co-directs the Salzburg Weill Cornell Seminars in Obstetrics and Gynecology. The evening raised 60,000 Euro in support of the joint medical programs of the OMI, the Medical University of Vienna, and the Josephinum.



AWARDS

The International Salzburg Association (ISA) awarded the Wolfgang Schüssel Prize to Dr. Wolfgang Aulitzky in September 2022. This special honor is given to individuals with a strong connection to Salzburg for their extraordinary achievements in business, science, and culture. As stated by the ISA president and governor of Salzburg, Wilfried Haslauer, Dr. Aulitzky's life and accomplishments are the ultimate example of the award's criteria. The 20,000 Euro prize is usually awarded every two years.

In December 2022, Dr. Wolfgang Aulitzky was presented the Hippokrates Award by the Medical Chamber of Slovenia. During a celebratory ceremony in Ljubljana, president Dr. Bojana Beovic thanked Dr. Aulitzky for his tireless effort to provide medical education and training to doctors from all over the world, including Slovenia.



ARENBERG BENEFIT: MEDICINE FOR THE WORLD

What a lovely gathering! On August 18, 2022, the OMI hosted a benefit at Schloss Arenberg in Salzburg welcoming more than 100 guests. After the presentation of OMI success stories in Mexico, Mongolia, Slovakia, and Tanzania, members of the Vienna Philharmonic, including Daniel Froschauer (violin), Hannah Cho (violin), Sebastian Führlinger (viola), and Bernhard Hedenborg (violoncello), performed an impressive chamber music concert. The event continued with a walking luncheon and a guided tour through Georges Yammine's photo exhibition "Danse avec moi!". We are grateful to all who attended and contributed to the benefit, which raised 30,000 Euro. Proceeds were directed to the Heubach fellowship fund, which was created in memory of our longtime board member Dr. Rainer Heubach.



DONOR APPRECIATION DINNER

Great company, excellent food, elegant atmosphere... On November 30, 2022, the OMI hosted its first post-pandemic donor appreciation dinner at Schloss Arenberg in Salzburg. It was a wonderful night with friends to celebrate philanthropy. Alongside a lively, thrilling ambiance, guests enjoyed a delicious three-course meal, a classical music performance with a Latin twist by Matej Dzido, and heard how their contributions have made an impact on thousands of doctors worldwide. Faculty dinner hosts Waltraud and Josef Wöhrer and Anne and Georg Scheicher were presented with the 2022 OMI award to honor their generosity and hospitality. The award was donated and handed over by Andreas Rath, CEO of J. & L. Lobmeyr GmbH.



OMI FACULTY DINNERS

OMI FACULTY DINNER HOSTS 2022

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Futhaba Ishii and Martin Nüchtern | Christine und Eberhard Sasse | Anne and Georg Scheicher | Eva von Schilgen and Klaus Mathis | Michaela and Alfons Schneider | Monika and Gerbert Schwaighofer | Eva and Heinrich Spängler | Clair and Rainer Ullmann | Waltraud and Josef Wöhrer

We greatly appreciate the OMI's initiative to offer young physicians from underserved parts of the world the opportunity to receive thorough and state-of-the-art training in their respective areas. The pro bono work of the faculty deserves our full respect and gratitude. We see the faculty dinners as a small compensation for the great commitment and enthusiasm of the faculty by offering them our hospitality and providing local cuisine and insight into family life in Salzburg. We find it very enriching to meet faculty from different countries and spend an evening with them enjoying good conversation, exchanging ideas, and establishing new relationships.

MONIKA SCHWAIGHOFER
OMI FACULTY DINNER HOST





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OMI FINANCIAL REPORT 2022

OMI SEMINARS SALZBURG STIFTUNG DER AAF

Income	
Donations & Grants	2,030,824 USD
Public Subsidies	1,236,000 USD
Other Income	331,956 USD
Total OMI Seminars Income	3,598,780 USD
Expenses	
Overhead & Staff	467,868 USD
Seminars Expenses (Faculty & Fellows)	3,010,421 USD
Administrative Expenditure	185,815 USD
Total OMI Seminars Expenses	3,664,104 USD

OMI OBSERVERSHIPS & CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE VEREIN DER FREUNDE DER AAF

Income	
Donations & Grants	482,112 USD
Public Subsidies	25,944 USD
Other Income	178,241 USD
Total OMI Observerships Income	686,297 USD
Expenses	
Overhead & Staff	101,306 USD
Observerships & Travel Expenses	377,835 USD
Administrative Expenditure	139,832 USD
Total OMI Observerships Expenses	618,973 USD

This financial report represents income and expenses per December 31, 2022 (average exchange rate for 2022: 1 EUR = 1.2 USD). The OMI programs are organized by the American Austrian Foundation (AAF), the Salzburg Stiftung der AAF, and the Verein der Freunde der AAF. This financial report does not include the value of faculty time and other in-kind donations.

“Physicians worldwide, regardless of their nationality, strive to do what is best for their patients. The objective of the Open Medical Institute is to help physicians achieve their goals by providing free, state-of-the-art information and education in a neutral, non-threatening environment, which fosters the free exchange of ideas and experiences.”

GEORGE SOROS | OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS

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