

Letters to George



Dr. Wolfgang Schüssel



Lieber George Soros,

Dear George,

zu Ihrem Geburtstag möchte ich Ihnen persönlich, aber auch im Namen meines Landes herzliche Glückwünsche aussprechen. Sie haben als wahrer Philanthrop für Demokratie, Freiheit und Menschenrechte mit Ihrer Foundation dafür gesorgt, dass die Länder Mittel- und Osteuropa nach der Wende 1989 kein „Zwischeneuropa“ wurden, sondern heute fest in der westlichen Hemisphäre verankert sind. Zudem haben Sie mit dem Open Medical Institute (OMI), einer Kooperation mit dem AAF und Ihrer Open Society Foundation fast 20.000 jungen Ärzten aus Mittel- und Osteuropa eine fundierte medizinische Ausbildung ermöglicht, die das Gesundheitssystem in ihrer Heimat wesentlich und nachhaltig verbessert hat.

Ich bin stolz, als Außenminister und Regierungschef Österreichs mit unsrem Freund Wolfgang Aulitzky diese Initiative mit Ihnen ermöglicht zu haben.

Von Herzen wünsche ich Ihnen Gesundheit, Lebensfreude und viele Freunde. (Seien Sie nur manchmal ein bisschen milder mit unserer Europäischen Union!)

Ihr

*Yours truly
Wolfgang Schüssel*



Dear George,

We have all to be very grateful that you are living such a long time – and you have to do it even longer!

Why? Because you supported very important activities for a „better world“! You were able to make money – congratulations! – but you are using it for important ideas: I met you first more than 30 years ago when you tried to build up what was later called Central European University! You supported the Institute for the Humanities (IWM) in Vienna, many activities for building a Civil Society in the Balkans and – last but not least-the Open Medical Institute of the AAF. Your idea to push governments to contribute by the system of matching funds is working in favour of the humanities in the world. For example the Open Medical Institute trained over 18000 medical doctors and gave over 22 000 grants ... Great! We need you for the future of our world!

Thanks

Erhard Busek



AAF Trustees and Officers

Amb. William J. vanden Heuvel*, Chairman
Thomas J. McGrath*, President
Stephen M. Harnik, Esq., Secretary
Karl-Heinz Faber*, Treasurer
Katharine Elitz-Aulitzky, Executive Director
Stephen M. Altschuler, M.D.

Gerhard R. Andlinger
Wolfgang Aulitzky, M.D.*, Medical Director
Amb. William C. Eacho III

Thomas Fahey, Jr., M.D.
Antonio M. Gotto, Jr., M.D., D.Phil.
Marifé Hernández

Michael I. Koch
Pablo Legorreta
Amb. Susan R. McCaw

Gregor Medinger*
Elisabeth Muhr*
Ashley von Perfall
Zev Rosenwaks, M.D.
Peter N. Schlegel, M.D.
Cynthia D. Sculco, R.N., Ed.D.

Gerhard Seebacher
Daisy Soros
Michael G. Stewart, M.D., Medical Co-Director
Donald G. Tober

Robert Wessely
Nancy G. Wolf, M.D., Ph.D., Medical Co-Director
*Member of Executive Committee

Honorary Trustees

Hon. W. L. Lyons Brown, Jr.
Peggy Sanford Carlin
Hon. Kathryn Walt Hall
Hon. Ronald S. Lauder
Willibald Nagler, M.D.

Salzburg Stiftung Officers

Count Johannes von Moy, Chairman
Dipl. Ing. Christian Struber, Vice-Chairman
Dr. Rudolf Aichinger, President
Wolfgang Aulitzky, M.D., President
Thomas J. McGrath, President
Heinrich Spängler, President

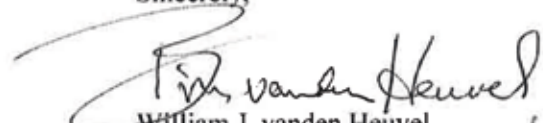
www.aaf-online.org

September 30, 2015

Dear George:

I have had the privilege of participating in many philanthropic ventures but I never cease to marvel at the concept and success of the Open Medical Program which you pioneered. To my observation, it has changed and elevated medical practice in Central and Eastern Europe in a way that is miraculous. With almost 20,000 graduates of the program, it has clearly established itself as one of the most important medical programs in the world. I have had the privilege to be its Chairman for the last decade but my job primarily has been to observe the extraordinary leadership you have given to this project. You have done many things in a brilliant lifetime and you have never allowed controversy to interfere with what you believe has to be done. I wish the world would know more about the Open Medical Program because if it did it would understand that you are the greatest philanthropist of our time, a man of vision, but more than that, a leader who knows how to get things done. I join your countless friends in saluting you on this important birthday, hoping for many more to come, and always admiring and appreciative of what you brought about for the Open Medical Institute.

Sincerely,


William J. vanden Heuvel





Weill Cornell Medical College

**NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital
Weill Cornell Medical Center**

Michael G. Stewart, MD, MPH

Professor and Chairman, Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery
Vice Dean of the Medical College
E. Darracott Vaughan Jr., M.D. Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs
Weill Cornell Medical College

Otolaryngologist-in-Chief
NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital
Weill Cornell Medical Center

Weill Cornell Medical College
1305 York Avenue, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10021

T: 646.962.4777
F: 646.962.0388

August 27, 2015

George Soros
c/o American Austrian Foundation

Dear Mr. Soros,

I am writing to thank you for your incredible and consistent support of the incredible Open Medical Institute program of the American Austrian Foundation, which would never have started 20 years ago without you.

I have been a Course Director for Otolaryngology for about 10 years now, and I am also honored to serve on the AAF Board, and as co-medical director with Wolfgang Aulitzky. I have also participated in several Satellite Seminars, and have hosted several former Fellows in New York. During this time I have had the privilege of seeing several aspects of how the OMI program has positively impacted the world.

First, many Fellows immediately re-apply to return for a future seminar, which tells you how popular and well-done they are. Now, almost everyone that attends a seminar has had it recommended to them by a happy colleague. In addition, I have recognized many Fellows at international meetings, and they have told me that they would not have had the courage to attend an international meeting – until they attended a Salzburg seminar and met the faculty, and saw what was possible. Similarly, many Fellows have submitted research or case reports to prestigious English-language journals for consideration, which they had never tried before. At least 2 Fellows have related to me that they used to see New York City in the movies and consider it a dream to visit, and now they are themselves learning in a top NYC Hospital, and they cannot believe it has happened.

Of course, I also hear many stories about the positive impacts of their training on the care of their patients in their countries, and also on very positive impacts on the health systems in those countries.

And finally, the positive impact is not only on the Fellows that attend. The American and Austrian faculty are very moved by the richness of the experience, and for many it is a career highlight which they talk about for years. It is a wonderful exposure to “comparative health systems,” and they actually learn more about their own health system when they have the opportunity to interact with doctors working in different systems.

They certainly appreciate what they have even more, but they see the flaws and benefits of different care delivery models and different academic models. Even though it takes them away from home and their practice for a week, they always hope to be invited back. And every time, several new connections are made, which remain rewarding to them.

I am sure that you realize the positive impact that the OMI program has had – and also how critical your support has been. However, the breadth and depth of the impact is difficult to imagine, multiplied over many weeks, many years, and many, many Fellows.

It is a real pleasure for me to be able to thank you personally. You have made an incalculable impact on the health of the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Stewart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Stewart" clearly distinguishable.

Michael G. Stewart, MD, MPH



AAF Trustees and Officers
Amb. William J. vanden Heuvel*, Chairman
Thomas J. McGrath*, President
Stephen M. Harnik, Esq., Secretary
Karl-Heinz Faber*, Treasurer
Katharine Eltz-Aulitzky, Executive Director
Stephen M. Altschuler, M.D.
Gerhard R. Andlinger
Wolfgang Aulitzky, M.D.*, Medical Director
Amb. William C. Eacho III
Thomas Fahey, Jr., M.D.
Antonio M. Gotto, Jr., M.D., D.Phil.
Marifé Hernández
Michael I. Koch
Pablo Legorreta
Amb. Susan R. McCaw
Gregor Medinger*
Elisabeth Muhr*
Ashley von Perfall
Zev Rosenwaks, M.D.
Peter N. Schlegel, M.D.
Cynthia D. Sculco, R.N., Ed.D.
Gerhard Seebacher
Daisy Soros
Michael G. Stewart, M.D., Medical Co-Director
Donald G. Tober
Robert Wessely
Nancy G. Wolf, M.D., Ph.D., Medical Co-Director
*Member of Executive Committee

Honorary Trustees
Hon. W. L. Lyons Brown, Jr.
Peggy Sanford Carlin
Hon. Kathryn Walt Hall
Hon. Ronald S. Lauder
Willibald Nagler, M.D.

Salzburg Stiftung Officers
Count Johannes von Moy, Chairman
Dipl. Ing. Christian Struber, Vice-Chairman
Dr. Rudolf Aichinger, President
Wolfgang Aulitzky, M.D., President
Thomas J. McGrath, President
Heinrich Spängler, President

www.aaf-online.org

Mr. George Soros

September 30, 2015

Dear George,

Twenty two years ago we talked for the first time about a program to open the medical establishment and support young physicians in Central and Eastern Europe in their efforts to gain access to new treatment protocols and clinical skills.

In the meantime, we have trained more than 17,000 young, English-speaking physicians who caught the virus and are sharing their knowledge with colleagues at home. The program has had a tremendous impact on thousands of doctors, patients and their healthcare systems.

On the occasion of your 85th birthday I would like to express my profound gratitude for your vision and ongoing support. I often think of our conversation where you urged me to "think big". I have continually tried to do so, and could convince many of my colleagues to do the same. Taking into consideration that each doctor treats at least 1000 patients per year, this program has improved outcomes for millions of patients, and as a result benefitted their families, employers and countries.

I hope you are proud of what you helped us achieve, but there is still much to do!

I wish you continued good health and many more birthdays!

Sincerely,

Wolfgang

and thank you for everything
Wolfgang



Von: President Austrian Marshallplan Foundation [<mailto:president@marshallplan.at>]
Betreff: Congratulations and Support

Dear George,

It is with a great sense of admiration, that I congratulate you on this very special day of yours!

Your long and outstanding dedication to improve the lot of so many people in some of the most difficult parts of our globe is an extraordinary example of civic leadership in the cause of democracy, human rights and fairness for all.

I fondly remember your crucial support in the Balkans in my capacities as EU Special Envoy for Kosovo and then UN High Representative in Bosnia.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend you on your continued support of the Open Medical Institute - OMI – which, under the leadership of Wolfgang Aulitzky, is so successfully engaged in yet another long-term endeavor. This is the kind of project that in times of conflict and duress is more important than ever.

Wherever I can be of assistance, do not hesitate to call on me.

Please accept my heartfelt thanks and my best wishes,

Yours

Wolfgang

Ambassador ret. Dr. Wolfgang Petritsch
President

Austrian Marshallplan Foundation
Walcherstrasse 11A, 1020 Vienna, Austria

president@marshallplan.at
office@marshallplan.at



Dear Mr. Soros,

Teaching in Salzburg on behalf of the Open Medical Institute, that has been so generously supported by you is unique in various ways:

- unique regarding the location in the beautiful Schloss Arenberg,
- unique with regard to the tight and intense schedule that allows for a huge knowledge transfer in just one week, and most importantly
- unique by giving a young and interested audience mostly from countries with social and economic disadvantages a chance to get a glimpse at and an idea of state of the art diagnostic and therapeutic modalities in a wide variety of clinical specialties.

As a Leonardo da Vinci awardee for training excellence in cardiothoracic Surgery I feel honored and privileged to be part of such an outstanding mission.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alfred Kocher

Alfred Kocher, MD
Prof. of Surgery
Dept. of Cardiac Surgery
Medical University Vienna
Phone: +43 1 40400 56200
Fax: +43 1 40400 56400



Von: „Bomback, Andrew S.“ <asb68@cumc.columbia.edu>
Datum: 24. August 2015 15:08:09 MESZ
An: „vienna.office@americanaustrianfoundation.org“
<vienna.office@americanaustrianfoundation.org>
Betreff: letter to george

Dear Mr. Soros,

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to participate in a summer internal medicine seminar via the American Austrian Foundation. The week I spent teaching other physicians at Schloss Arenberg was an unforgettable experience. I met some truly incredible physicians and learned about their practices in regions far different from where I practice. The give-and-take among doctors in such a beautiful setting was a true privilege.

Thank you for sponsoring and encouraging continued medical education of physicians around the world.

Sincerely,

Andrew Bomback, MD, MPH

Columbia University Medical Center
Division of Nephrology



Dear Mr. Soros,

Since the very beginning when I started to work as the Co-Course-Director for Obstetrics and Gynecology and teach for AAF I really was deeply impressed and enthusiastic about the concept of this institution.

It means great honour for me to contribute to the realisation of this outstanding concept.

Every year my work in Salzburg gives me the opportunity to train doctor students from the Eastern part of Europe as well as from medically underdeveloped countries all over the world.

I must say it's always a feeling like coming home when I see the enthusiasm and joy from the participants and how much they are appreciating the privilege of being part of the AAF-family. Besides, these courses are contributing to a better understanding for people from other cultures and different points of view for medicine.

Especially the social events in the evening when talking and singing together sometimes lead to a deep friendship and thus leading to a perfect co-working, where borders do not have any chance to interfere.

Last but not least I want to thank the Open Medical Institute for supporting my guest lectures at Cornell University in N.Y. It was a special experience for me to face this deep interest and intellectual curiosity when I gave my talks at different places in N.Y.

I want to thank you, Mr. Soros, for your unbelievable generosity which helps to make this world to be a better place.

Christian Dadak

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Vienna General Hospital - Medical University Department
of Basic and Advanced International Postgradual Education
Head: Christian Dadak, MD
Währinger Gürtel 18-20
1090 Vienna, Austria
phone: +43 1 40400/29100
fax: +43 1 40400 27750
e-mail: christian.dadak@meduniwien.ac.at





ENGLEWOOD
HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER

ARYEH SHANDER, M.D., FCCM, FCCP, CHIEF
DEPARTMENT OF ANESTHESIOLOGY
CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE, PAIN MANAGEMENT
AND HYPERBARIC MEDICINE

CLINICAL PROFESSOR OF ANESTHESIOLOGY,
MEDICINE AND SURGERY
MOUNT SINAI SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL, NEW YORK

8/25/15

Dear Mr. Soros:

I want to wish you a hearty congratulation on reaching your 85th birthday. I have no doubt that you must have a long list of things to celebrate but I wanted to inform you of one endeavor you ought to be extremely proud of, that is, the American Austrian Foundation.

I have only participated in two outstanding events and you can see how memorable they were to be writing this letter thanking you for the vision and support of this program. This is the ultimate in learning. Bringing faculty and student together for a week. By midweek, it is hard to tell the students from the teachers, a tribute to the fantastic exchange that one could possibly experience.

This outstanding program extends from the academic exchanges to practical implementation of the learning into clinical practice. Both Students and teachers are heavily committed to making this experience not only educational but one that can improve the care people receive as patients. Your vision and support not only help this program evolve and enhance learning but through the extension above, you have helped the ailing through your philanthropic generosity. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Best regards,

Aryeh Shander, MD, FCCM, FCCP





COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
College of Physicians
and Surgeons

In affiliation with
New York-Presbyterian Hospital

Andrew Eisenberger, M.D.
Division of Hematology/Oncology
Herbert Irving Pavilion
161 Ft. Washington Avenue, 10th Fl.
New York, NY 10032
212.305.0527 Tel
212.305.0178 Fax

Sept. 22, 2015

Dear Mr. Soros,

On the occasion of your upcoming 85th birthday, I offer my modest thanks for the opportunities to teach my fellow physicians at the Open Medical Institute in Salzburg. As a chain is only as strong as its weakest link, I have sought to share my knowledge with colleagues and students as a cornerstone of my career. In Salzburg I spent nearly a week being peppered with medical questions - it was exhilarating. The Institute undoubtedly fulfills the mission you established for it. Thank you for being forward thinking and magnanimous.

Andrew Eisenberger



Medical Clinic
Prof. Dr. med. Felix Sennhauser

Office
Susanne Opitz
Phone +41 44 266 7330
Fax +41 44 266 7163
E-mail susanne.opitz@kispi.uzh

Children's Hospital Zurich, Neurology, Steinwiesstrasse 75, 8032 Zurich

Mr. George Soros
- The American Austrian Foundation -

Zurich, 25th August, 2015/OPISU

Dear Mr. Soros

I have recently learned that you will celebrate your 85th birthday in very near future. Therefore I want to take the opportunity and thank you personally for your generous support of the American Austrian Foundation.

I have had the pleasure to be a member of the Faculty for Education in Child Neurology back in 2008 and 2013. I can reassure you about the deep impact of this philanthropic programme and the enthusiasm of the attending fellows.

For your birthday I wish you good luck, health to you and your family and great celebrations.

Best regards



Prof. Dr. med. Barbara Plecko
Head of Child Neurology





The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

34th Street and Civic Center Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19104-4399

CAROL A. FORD, M.D.

Chief, Craig-Dalsimer Division of Adolescent Medicine

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Phone: 215-590-6864

Fax: 215-590-4708

September 30, 2015

Dear Mr. Soros,

I recently had the opportunity to join The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia faculty at the OMI - Salzburg Medical Seminars. My contribution was to discuss adolescent health and medicine with an extraordinary group of physicians from Europe, Africa, and South America. I used this as an opportunity to highlight the World Health Organization's emerging agenda to increase awareness of the health needs of young people between the ages of 10 and 20, and how healthcare professionals can work within the context of their professional, cultural, and political landscapes to better meet these needs.

Over the course of a week, in addition to providing lectures, I had multiple opportunities to learn from attendees about the context of adolescent health within the countries in which they practice medicine. This was very clearly a rich bi-directional learning experience, for which I am thankful. My hope is that this sparked change across the world, and will ultimately lead to improvement in the health and well-being of many young people across the globe.

As I reviewed the history of the OMI-Medical Seminars and its many years of work, I am sure that my story is just one among so many. I am sure that this accumulated impact has made a difference in the world. Congratulations.

Best wishes on your birthday!

Carol A. Ford MD

Professor of Pediatrics, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine
Chief, Craig-Dalsimer Division of Adolescent Medicine at CHOP
Orton Jackson Endowed Chair in Adolescent Medicine
Immediate Past-President, Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine
The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
fordc@email.chop.edu







Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

September 17, 2015

Dear Mr. Soros,

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! And thank you so much for all your support over the years to the Open Medical Institute in Salzburg. I am fortunate to have been invited twice to participate in the teaching programs, once at the old castle by the lake, and once in the new castle on the other side of the river.

The teaching experience for me was unique, because I learned much more from my students than I think they learned from me. Spending a week with gifted young doctors who have such a different background and practice environment than we have in New York really opened my mind to the many issues with health care delivery around the world.

I was also able to bring my mom, who is about 5 years older than you, on the first trip. It was her only trip ever to Europe, she a great fan of "The Sound of Music", and the week was perfect, from the weather to the mountains to the music we heard in the churches for the music festival.

My very best wishes for a wonderful celebration and a healthy year to come.

Sincerely,

Beryl McCormick MD, FACR, FASTRO
External Beam Service Chief

Beryl McCormick, MD

Beryl McCormick, M.D. FACR, FASTRO

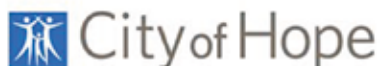
EBRT Chief & Clinical Director

1275 York Avenue, Box 22, New York, NY 10065 T 212.639.6828 F 212.639.2417

www.mskcc.org

NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center





1500 East Duarte Road
Duarte, CA 91010-3000
Phone: (626) 256-4673
Fax: (626) 301-8941

September 3, 2015

Dear Mr. Soros,

I want to add my thanks to you for your support of the Open Medical Institute on behalf of our project, the End of Life Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC). ELNEC is a collaboration between the City of Hope National Medical Center in California and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. Though your generosity, ELNEC has hosted 6 training programs in Austria including 209 nurses and physicians from 22 Eastern European countries, for training in palliative care.

We have also had the opportunity to visit our trainees in their countries following the training to witness the impact of these courses. Our participants have gone back into their communities to advance pain relief, create hospice and palliative care programs, increase access to medications and provide care to the most vulnerable people in these very underserved areas.

The staff and facilities in Salzburg have provided an outstanding environment for our courses and support of these professionals.

We are so honored to have had the opportunity to meet these very committed nurses and physicians from Eastern Europe and to witness their dedication to the seriously ill and dying. Your dedication to them has touched thousands of lives and we are so grateful to have had this opportunity to participate in your work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betty Ferrell PhD, FAAN".

Betty R. Ferrell, PhD, RN, MA, FAAN, FPCN, CHPN
Professor
Principal Investigator, ELNEC Project





COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

*College of Physicians
and Surgeons*

Department of Medicine
Division of Infectious Diseases
630 West 168th Street
P&S Box 82
New York, NY 10032
212.305.7185 Tel
212.305.7290 Fax

www.cumc.columbia.edu

Dear Mr. Soros:

I have now had the amazing opportunity of teaching in the Columbia Internal Medicine Seminar in Salzburg on two different occasions. The seminar has offered an amazing opportunity to meet physicians from all over the world and to hear of their challenges and struggles trying to provide top quality medical care in settings that often offer limited support and education.

Improvements in healthcare often come incrementally, with dedication and perseverance. Your support of this program has truly changed healthcare the world over. Thank you for your longstanding support of this wonderful program.

Sincerely,

Ellen Morrison, MD, MPH

Columbia University Medical Center



Dear Mr. Soros,

First I would like to wish you a very happy birthday.

I would like to thank you for having supported this wonderful OMI program. I had the opportunity to teach in Salzburg in summer 2015 and to enjoy the lively atmosphere at Schloss Arenberg, meet people from around the world and live and work together in such a wonderful setting. We had the opportunity to attend the 20th anniversary of the Salzburg Stiftung of the American Austrian Foundation and learned about your important contribution to all those activities.

Congratulation to have succeeded to make such a difference!

Claudia Klier

Associate professor of child and adolescent psychiatry, Medical University of Vienna.
claudia klier, m.d., associate professor of child & adolescent psychiatry, department of pediatrics
and adolescent medicine, medical university of vienna,
waehringer guertel 18-20, 1090 vienna, austria, ph. +43-699-1010-3344
claudia.klier@meduniwien.ac.at, www.meduniwien.ac.at/kinderklinik



Dear Mr. Soros,

I am Cristina Mussini, an Italian professor of Infectious diseases. I had the privilege to give lessons twice (in 2 different years) at the Salzburg Course. I was deeply touched by the enthusiasm and the willingness to learn of the participants. The vast majority of them came from countries with low training opportunities, for this reason they were really grateful to all of us and so to you. I think that funding these courses is a great way to spend money, not only to increase the knowledge of doctors, but also for the friendship among people from different countries. Finally, I think that giving the faculty and the students the opportunity to meet local people in their own houses is original and gives the program a family taste.

For all these reasons I thank you very much for your support and I wish you a Happy Birthday.

Sincerely

Cristina

Prof. Cristina Mussini, MD
Infectious Diseases Clinics
University Hospital
via del Pozzo, 71
41124 Modena, Italy
phone +39 059 422.2466
fax +39 059 422.2604
cristina.mussini@unimore.it





Weill Cornell Medical College

**NewYork-Presbyterian
Weill Cornell Medical Center**

Frank A. Chervenak, M.D.
Given Foundation Professor and Chairman
Obstetrician and Gynecologist In-Chief
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

525 East 68th Street, J-130
New York, NY 10065

Telephone: 212-746-3012
Fax: 212-746-8727
E-mail: fac2001@med.cornell.edu

August 24, 2015

Dear Mr Soros:

It has been my pleasure and privilege to work with the American Austrian Foundation with its global education efforts for over twenty years. My faculty and I have greatly enjoyed working with brilliant young minds from Eastern Europe and throughout the world. It is wonderful to see some of them rise to positions of leadership in their respective countries. Happy Happy Birthday! You have truly done something beautiful and made the world a better place!

Best wishes always,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. Chervenak".

Frank A. Chervenak, M.D.
Given Foundation Professor and Chairman
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
New York Weill Cornell Medical Center



“Dear Mr. Soros”

Some years ago I was for the first time invited from the American Austrian Foundation to give lectures in my special field and from this time on I am regularly in Salzburg to held lectures in your foundation together with colleagues from Cornell University to young doctors nearly of all over the world. It is fantastic to work with these young doctors and discuss the different health systems of their countries. It is also a great honor and very interesting to teach together with colleagues from the States and spent also time after the lectures together in discussion.

I want to thank you for making this coming together possible, to give this fantastic idea all the possibilities and wish you all the best for the next years. We will try to do our best to carry on your ideas in future.

Many many thanks for all you have done and happy birthday to you
Franz Fischl

Best regards
Franz Fischl
Prof. Dr. Franz Fischl <franz.fischl@meduniwien.ac.at>



Dear Mr. Soros,

On the occasion of your 85th birthday I would like to send you my best wishes. When I participated at the first Salzburg Seminar in 2001, I realized that different worlds were coming together at one place for a couple of days: the US American medicine, the Eastern European doctors, local European faculty members, all together in a fantastic castle. This peculiar experience cannot be found at any of the many medical conventions in the world.

Franz Kainberger

Dr. Franz Kainberger, Associate Professor of Radiology
Division of Neuro- and Musculoskeletal Radiology
Department of Biomedical Imaging and Image-Guided Therapy, Medical University of Vienna
AKH, Waehringer Guertel 18-20, A-1090 Vienna/Austria
phone: +43 1 40400 58030, fax: +43 1 40400 3777
email: franz.kainberger@billrothhaus.at
web: [http://radiodiagnostik.meduniwien.ac.at/allgemeine-informationen/klinikleitung/
franz-kainberger/](http://radiodiagnostik.meduniwien.ac.at/allgemeine-informationen/klinikleitung/franz-kainberger/)

Gesellschaft der Ärzte in Wien (College of Physicians in Vienna)
Frankgasse 8, A-1090 Vienna/Austria
phone: +43 1 4054777
www.billrothhaus.at



Dear Mr. Soros!

Some years ago I have been invited to join the Open Medical Institute as a lecturer. I have experienced a very exciting teaching environment in Salzburg. I would like to thank you for the options presented to all the participants during all these years and I hope the Institute is available for many many further years also as an outstanding example of philanthropy.

Happy Birthday and kind regards from Vienna

Univ. Prof. Dr. Heinz Strohmer

BESTE HILFE.
Kinderwunschzentrum
Goldenes Kreuz
A-1090 Wien, Lazarettgasse 16–18
Tel: +43-(0)1-40 111 – 5400
Fax: +43-(0)1-40 111 – 5401
www.kinderwunschzentrum.at



Dear Mr. Soros

We got this present called life.

God gives us a gift of 846000 seconds every day.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your precious input into this world – using those precious seconds, lots of those to make a difference in people's life.

And what can be more important than investing, supporting, adopting this program of education?

Yes, it is my honor and pleasure to thank you – you who've made a difference in people's life and bless you for many more healthy and happy years.

Spending the week teaching in Salzburg in the PME program was an exceptional experience. It was special as it gave me the honor to get to know the youngsters who are interested in science and knowledge, sit with them not only during educational hours but also during leisure time and discuss life and academics with no barriers between us. Thus they felt much „safer“ asking question, bringing ideas, being curious and I was blessed to learn from them.

br

Idit

Idit Matot M.D
Professor & Chair
Division of Anesthesiology & Critical Care & Pain
Tel Aviv Medical Center
Tel Aviv University, Israel
iditm@tlvmc.gov.il



Dear Mr. Soros,

I wanted to write this letter to let you know what an honor it was to teach at the Salzburg Medical Seminars, the Open Medical Institute, a program of the American Austrian Foundation. I am a Neurological surgeon in Philadelphia and was impressed with the world class faculty lead by Roger Hartl, Chief of Spinal Surgery at the Weill Cornell Brain & Spine Center. However what was even more engaging was the dedication and devotion of the student physicians. I am fortunate to teach all over the world and have to commend you for leading this endeavor. The physicians I encountered during this time had great respect and appreciation for this world class organization. Not only do I thank you as an education and as a student since I also learned a great deal in these courses.

Sincerely,

James S Harrop, MD

Professor Departments of Neurological and Orthopedic Surgery
Director, Division of Spine and Peripheral Nerve Surgery
Thomas Jefferson University
Philadelphia PA 19107
215-955-7959 (office)
215-380-9355 (cell)



Dear Mr. Soros

It was with great pleasure that I was invited to be part of the faculty in Salzburg this year. I was one of three tutors working in hands on training. I must say that the location and facilities provided were first class. We had the use of state of the art equipment including 3D laparoscopy, flexible ureteroscopy and tissue models for transurethral resection. As a first time faculty member I was impressed! What a wonderful opportunity for residents and a great setting to teach and make new friends.

Happy birthday and thank you.

Best wishes

John Beatty

Consultant Urological Surgeon
University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, UK



Dear Mr. Soros,

As a member of the faculty for the Salzburg Seminars in Infectious Diseases in 2000 and 2005, I am writing to express my gratitude to you for your support of this vital program, and to wish you a happy 85th birthday celebration.

As I have shared with the bright and earnest young physicians at these seminars, in my opinion, there has never been a more exciting and challenging time to be practicing the art and science of medicine. Hippocrates described the challenge before us in his work Aphorisms, "Life is short, art long, opportunity fleeting, experience misleading, judgement difficult. The physician must not only be prepared to do what is right himself, but also to help the patient, the attendants, and externals cooperate." If our profession's mission is to optimize health, then participation in the pursuit of social justice must be considered at least as important as skillful employment of diagnostic tests, pharmaceuticals, and therapeutic procedures. As Margaret Mead reminds us, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

I look forward to the opportunity to continue to work with the American Austrian Foundation to fulfill its vision and goals.

Sincere thanks and warm wishes for good health and much joy,

Joe Cervia

Joseph S. Cervia, MD, MBA, FACP, FAAP, FIDSA, AAVIVS
Regional Medical Director,
HealthCare Partners, IPA
HealthCare Partners, Management Services Organization;
Clinical Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics,
Hofstra-North Shore/LIJ School of Medicine



August 25, 2015

Dear Mr. Soros,

It is an honor and privilege to have this occasion to offer you best wishes for your 85th birthday!

While recognizing this significant milestone, I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my personal gratitude for your many gifts and contributions to the Open Medical Institute.

The Duke Seminars in Family Medicine with AAF began back in 1995, and have remained enormously popular and valuable to all attendees and faculty. Over the past 20 years, these seminars have helped shape the training of about 800 primary care docs – guiding, teaching, and motivating with educational models and practices that they can use in their home countries. These experiences have also helped us appreciate the value of the work of our colleagues across Europe, and helped us, and them, see the value and importance of their work.

Of the many professional activities in which I have been engaged over the last three decades, the medical seminars of the American Austrian Foundation have been the most forward thinking and influential. Thank you for your support of these superb programs.

Best wishes and many thanks.

Kind Regards,



Lloyd Michener, MD

Professor and Chairman
Department of Community & Family Medicine
Duke University Medical Center





Weill Cornell Medical College

**New York-Presbyterian
Weill Cornell Medical Center**

Joseph L. Jorizzo, M.D.
Professor of Clinical Dermatology
Department of Dermatology

Telephone: 646-962-9253
Fax: 646-962-0033
E-mail: joj9026@med.cornell.edu

Weill Cornell Medical College
1305 York Avenue, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10021

Dear Mr. Soros,

I am a dermatology professor at the Weill Cornell Medical College. I have had the great honor and privilege to have been invited by Dr. Richard Granstein to participate in the Dermatology section of The Open Medical Institute. A program of the American Austrian Foundation, Salzburg program for many of the past 8 years. This is a spectacularly successful program that impresses, surprises, and rewards me each time. The attendees are so passionate and hungry for knowledge. They leave with a newly discovered link to lifelong learning in dermatology.

Thank you so much for this wonderful gift of shared learning!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Jorizzo".

Joseph Jorizzo, MD



Kathleen M. Loomes, M.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Pediatrics
Perelman School of Medicine at the
University of Pennsylvania
Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology &
Nutrition

Abramson Research Center 902B
3615 Civic Center Blvd.
Philadelphia, PA 19104-4318
Tel. (267) 426-7223
FAX (267) 426-7814
loomes@email.chop.edu

September 15, 2015

Dear Mr. Soros,

On the occasion of your birthday, I would like to thank you for your generosity and ongoing support of the Salzburg Seminars!

As a member of the GI Division at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, I have had the privilege of participating in the Salzburg Seminars on 3 occasions (2002, 2004, 2010). Each time, it was a truly unforgettable experience! We had the opportunity to interact with pediatric gastroenterologists from all over the world, forming lasting relationships that we still maintain to this day. Many of the Salzburg Seminar participants have visited our hospital here in Philadelphia, continuing the collaborative relationships and expanding the bi-directional learning to other members of our Division.

Thank you again for supporting this unique and incredibly important program, which has expanded knowledge and formed lasting collaborations. Your work has truly improved care and bettered the lives of children across the world.

Sincerely yours,

Kathleen Loomes MD

Kathleen M. Loomes, MD



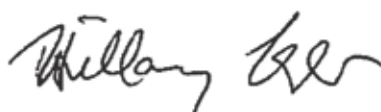
Division of Developmental and
Behavioral Pediatrics
3550 Market Street
3rd Floor
Philadelphia, Pa. 19104
www.chop.edu

September 15, 2015

Dear Mr. George Soros,

I am writing to you following Rosh HaShanah services so it is a fitting time to reflect on wishes and hopes for the New Year and to remember the history of the Jewish people in Eastern Europe. Now the communities in Eastern Europe are again experiencing upheaval and dislocation as people become refugees seeking a better life. I know that you have done much to improve the lives of those living in Eastern Europe. I was privileged to teach in 2009 and 2012 at the Open Medical Institute week-long workshops sponsored by the American-Austrian Foundation at Schloss Arenberg in Salzburg. I work at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and I am trained as a developmental pediatrician. Our course was on Child Development and Behavior. Your vision in developing and supporting this program for sharing medical knowledge has had a profound impact on so many physicians and clinicians who continue to participate in these courses. I was very excited to be part of the course and I value the friendship and insights from the doctors I met who are working in countries that are slowly trying to rebuild their infrastructure and help their people. I believe that increasing cross-cultural exchanges and sharing our knowledge are paths to peace. The seeds of peace that you have planted will grow and bloom for the future generations.

With all best wishes for health and contentment,



Hillary Kruger, MD



The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

34th Street and Civic Center Blvd, Philadelphia, PA 19104-4399

(215) 590-1000 • FAX (215) 590-4454

Division of Emergency Medicine

James M Callahan, MD
Division Chief (Interim)
Director, Emergency Medical Services

Jane Lavelle, MD
Medical Director
Associate Division Chief

Kathy N Shaw, MD, MSCE
Associate Chair for Quality and Patient Safety
Department of Pediatrics

Mercedes Blackstone, MD
Associate Director, Education

Aaron Chen, MD
Director, Bedside Ultrasound and
PEM Ultrasound Fellowship

Keri Cohn, MD, DTMH
Director, PEM Global Health Fellowship

Angela Ellison, MD, MSCE
Associate Director, Research

Joel Fein, MD, MPH
Director, Advocacy and Health Policy

Stacy Gordon, MD
Director, Urgent Care

Mark D. Joffe, MD
Director, Section of Community PEM

Megan Lavoie, MD
Co-Director, PEM Fellowship

Mina M'Farrej, MD
Director, Extended Care Unit

Cynthia Mollen, MD, MSCE
Director, Section of Research

Kevin Osterhout, MD, MSCE
Medical Director, Poison Control Center
Director, Section of Clinical Toxicology

Jill Posner, MD, MSCE
Director, Medical Education

Richard Scarfone, MD
Director, Emergency Preparedness
Co-Director, PEM Fellowship

Nicholas Tzouras, MD
Director, Section of Transport

Joseph Zorc, MD, MSCE
Director, Emergency Information Systems

Attending Staff

Ruth Abaya, MD

Frances Balasubramanian, MD, PhD

Jill Baren, MD, MBE

Robert Belfer, MD

Whitney V. Cabey, MD

Eva Delgado, MD

Jeanine Del Pizzo, MD

Karen DiPasquale, DO

Aaron Donoghue, MD, MSCE

Dennis Durbin, MD, MSCE

Marleeny Franco, MD

Eron Friedlaender, MD, MPH

Payal Gala, MD

Frederick Henzler, MD

Heather House, MD

Naomi Hughes, MD

Cynthia Jacobstein, MD, MSCE

Tiffany Johnson, MD

Megan Lavoie, MD

Ronald Marchese, MD

Manoj Mital, MD, MRCP (UK)

Ashley Murray, MD

Sage Myers, MD, MSCE

Frances Nadel, MD, MSCE

Jeffrey Seiden, MD

Ellen Szydlowski, MD

Khoo-Yen Tay, MD

Parag Vora, MD

Archana Verma, MD

T. Bram Welch-Horne, MD

Lauren Zalus, MD

Research Faculty

Kristy Arbogast, PhD

Nancy Kassam-Adams, PhD

Research Fellows

Jeremy Esposito, MD

Brandon Ku, MD

Katharine Long, MD

Megan Mickle, MD

Margaret Samuels-Kalow, MD

Christopher Valente, MD

Alexandra Vinograd, MD

Brandon Calderon

Director, Administration

20 September 2015

Dear Mr. Soros:

On behalf of *all* of the members of the Division of Emergency Medicine at The Children's Hospital Of Philadelphia, we would like to offer our congratulations on this milestone in your life. We thank you sincerely for your formative and unwavering support for the post-graduate medical education programs of the Open Medical Institute of the American Austrian Foundation. Members of our division have been honored to take part in these important seminars for more than fifteen years. We are proud to have had the amazing opportunity to work with colleagues from Europe, Asia, Latin American and Africa both in Salzburg and at Satellite Seminars on more than twenty occasions. We have also been fortunate enough to host fellows from the AAF here in Philadelphia.


As physicians who care for children and as teachers who strive to improve care for all children, we are thrilled to have played a small part in the success of this wonderful program. Our greatest satisfaction as teachers is that we may have helped a child half way around the world from our home here in Philadelphia. However, what we have gained from our involvement is so much more.

Every time our faculty members participate in these courses they return home with a sense of having learned so much more than they taught. The dedicated colleagues from other countries whom we spend time with at the seminars teach us so much about what truly are the most important parts of medicine. Compassion for others, dedication to patients, commitment to lifelong learning and willingness to share knowledge are but a few of the lessons we learn each time we travel to Salzburg.

While in Salzburg, we live and work with many amazing colleagues who are kind, warm, dedicated and caring. We are so fortunate to have met so many amazing people. We may all be from different backgrounds and nations but we learn that the most significant parts of the practice of medicine are not very different and the aspirations and dreams we all share are really the same.

Please accept our gratitude for your vision, commitment, generosity and unwavering dedication to this important program. You have provided wonderful opportunities for both the fellows who participate in these seminars and fellowships as well as for those of us lucky enough to have served as faculty members over the years. The Open Medical Institute has made a difference in so many lives including our own. Please accept our admiration and our thanks.

Sincerely yours,



James M. Callahan, MD
Interim Chief,
Division of Emergency Medicine
Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
Perelman School of Medicine



Kathy N. Shaw, MD, MSCE
Associate Chair for Quality and Safety,
Department of Pediatrics
Professor of Pediatrics
Perelman School of Medicine

Affiliated with the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania







Weill Cornell Medical College

New York - Presbyterian Hospital
Weill Cornell Medical Center

Jim Cheung, MD, FACC
Director, Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology Training Program
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Cardiac Electrophysiology Laboratory
Division of Cardiology
Department of Medicine

520 East 70th Street
Starr Pavilion, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10021

Telephone: 212-746-2158
Facsimile: 212-746-8451

August 27, 2015

Dear Mr. Soros:

I wish you a happy and healthy 85th birthday and I hope that this letter finds you well!

I write this letter to personally thank you for the profound impact that you have had on medical education on a global scale through the vision and generosity that you provide through the Open Medical Institute. Since 2011, I have been a faculty member of the Weill Cornell – Salzburg Medical Seminars. Each year, I have been impressed by the depth of the talent and drive of the physicians who come from all corners of the globe to take part in this program and learn from each other. No matter how many times I saw it, I was always inspired every time a seminar participant got up to present an interesting clinical case that teaches us not only about medicine but also about the shared goals of humanity. It is impossible not to be touched by moments such as those that I have seen of physicians coming from formerly warring countries bonding together through a collective love of medicine and life. While it is a cliché now to say that we live in a small world in an era of globalization, it is remarkable to recognize the tremendous foresight in recognizing this fact back in 1993 when the Open Medical Institute was first founded.

It has been a tremendous personal privilege for me to have been a part of this collective effort and it is an honor for me to pay tribute to your legacy as embodied by the Open Medical Institute.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Cheung". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jim Cheung, MD, FACC, FHRS
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Weill Cornell Medical College





DEPARTEMENT OF ANESTHESIOLOGY, CRITICAL CARE AND PAIN MEDICINE
SALZBURG GENERAL HOSPITAL, PARACELSUS MEDICAL UNIVERSITY
CHAIRMAN: PETER GERNER, M. D.

Mr. George Soros

phone: +43 (0)662 4482-2701
fax: +43 (0)662 4482-2780
e-mail: p.gerner1@salk.at

Salzburg, 09/20/2015

Dear Mr. Soros,

My name is Peter Gerner. I am a staff Anesthesiologist and an Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School/Brigham & Women's Hospital. I am also Chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology, Critical Care and Pain Medicine at Salzburg General Hospital in Austria.

I have spent the last four years together with Hugh C. Hemmings, the Course Director of the Weill Cornell Anesthesiology Seminar, which takes place at the Schloss Arenberg in Salzburg. Each time again I enjoy giving talks in front of the very international audience. However, most of all, I appreciate the intercultural exchange that occurs and the given possibility to learn from each other. I also perceive the students at the Seminar to be extremely interested in the topics and thankful to have such a great possibility at the Schloss Arenberg. Without you, all this would not be possible. I therefore wholeheartedly support your saying and also want to extend a thank you for all your efforts in the matter. Through this, you have enabled a large number of physicians to broaden their mind.

"Physicians worldwide, regardless of their nationality, strive to do what is best for their patients.

The objective of the Salzburg Medical Seminars is to help physicians achieve their goals by providing free, state of the art information and education in a neutral non-threatening environment."

- George Soros, February 1997

Wishing you a Happy Birthday and all the best,

Peter Gerner



Universitätsklinik für Frauenheilkunde
Vorstand: o. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Peter Husslein
KLINISCHE ABTEILUNG FÜR GEBURTSHILFE UND FETO-MATERNALE MEDIZIN
Leitung: o. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Peter Husslein
Währinger Gürtel 18-20 A-1090 Wien
Email: peter.husslein@meduniwien.ac.at Tel.: 0043 1 40 400-2821 Fax: 0043 1 40 400-2862

Dear Mr. Soros!

As one of the organizers of the Salzburg Seminars I thank you wholeheartedly for your initiative that helps not only the transfer of medical knowledge but also promotes a more thorough understanding of people of different parts of the world that has become so small in the last decades.

With your generous support you increased knowledge and helped to initiate friendship.

Many thanks



o.Univ.Prof.Dr.Peter Husslein

Chief of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
at the Vienna Medical University

Vienna, August 2015



*Hamid Bassiri, M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Perelman School of Medicine
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
3014 Colket Translational Research Bldg.
3501 Civic Center Blvd.
Email: bassiri@email.chop.edu
Phone: (267) 425-2133
Fax: (215) 590-3770*

September 20th 2015

Dear Mr. Soros,

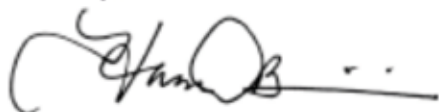
I am writing you today for two reasons.

The first is to wish you an absolutely joyous birthday! I hope that the upcoming year brings you nothing but health, happiness, and continued success.

The second reason for writing you is to express my sincere gratitude for your vision and commitment towards the OMI/AAF. I was fortunate enough to have been chosen to teach a week-long seminar series for the OMI in Salzburg on Pediatric Infectious Diseases in June 2014. As a junior faculty member at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, I was honored to have been tapped for this task. Despite the numerous hours that I spent preparing my slides and lectures, I can retrospectively aver that this experience was one of my most joyous and rewarding since becoming a faculty member. I have always deemed it a pleasure and a primary personal objective to help teach the art and skill of healing to others. While this happens organically when I interact with medical students residents and fellows during clinical service time, the OMI experience allowed me to fulfill this teaching objective to an audience that I would never have been able to access, if it were not for your generosity. Additionally, the opportunity to establish new colleagues in distant countries has been incredibly rewarding. I can only wish that others could learn from your commitment and through their own philanthropy spread the power to heal all across the globe.

Once again thank you very very much and Happy Birthday!

Sincerely,



Hamid Bassiri, M.D., Ph.D.





Kishwer S. Nehal, M.D.
Director, Mohs Micrographic and
Dermatologic Laser Surgery

September 11, 2015

Dear Mr. Soros,

I was first invited to Salzburg Seminar in 2010. Although I do a lot of teaching at the medical student, resident and fellow level; I had no idea what to expect. The Salzburg Seminar turned out to be one of the most rewarding experiences that I have had to date. The dermatology attendees were unbelievably attentive, engaged and inquired with great questions. It was amazing to be a part of such a great program. In addition, the ability to converse and share idea over meals in the beautiful Salzburg setting was unparalleled.

Thank you again for your fabulous work,

Kishwer Nehal

*Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
16 E 60st, New York, New York 10022
Telephone 646.888.6019 • Fax 646.227.7274*

NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center





COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER

Department of OB/GYN
Division of MFM
622 West 168th St, PH-16
New York, NY 10032

September 1, 2015

George Soros
The Open Medical Institute
American Austrian Foundation

Dear Mr. Soros,

I would like personally thank you for your generous contributions to the Open Medical Institute – your time, your ideas, and your financial backing. It is clear that this program would not have gotten off the ground without your leadership and commitment.

Over the years, I have been fortunate to have participated in several Perinatal-Neonatal Conferences in Salzburg and each time, I am amazed at the number of participants being offered this opportunity and the quality of the educational experience. I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching these young doctors from around the world and have remained in contact with many of them through email and social media. Your dedication to this program has really made a difference – to both physicians and patients.

I would like to wish you a very happy 85th birthday – you should be proud of all that you have accomplished for the American Austrian Foundation. We thank you!

Sincerely,

Lynn L. Simpson, M.D.
Hillary Rodham Clinton Professor of Women's Health
Director, Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine
Chief of Obstetrics



Dear Mr. Soros,

In a world where own profit, benefit and egoism is becoming the main focus in life, your Open medical institute reflects exactly and gladly the opposite. It gives so many enthusiastic young doctors a chance to get better in their medical field and gives us teachers the possibility to give our knowledge on to other colleagues.

It is every year a pleasure for me to give talks in a beautiful environment, get the interaction with the students and teach them state of the art surgical procedures.

I congratulate you on your continuous effort to provide education for a lot of young and eager doctors.

teaching in Salzburg on behalf of the Open Medical Institute, that has been so generously supported by you is unique in various ways:

unique regarding the location in the beautiful Schloß Ahrenberg,

unique with regard to the tight and intense schedule that allows for a huge knowledge transfer in just one week, and most importantly

unique by giving a young and interested audience mostly from countries with social and economic disadvantages a chance to get a glimpse at and

an idea of state of the art diagnostic and therapeutic modalities in a wide variety of clinical specialities.

Univ. Prof. Dr. Marek Ehrlich

Director Aneurysm Program
Dept. Cardiac Surgery
Univ. of Vienna Hospital
Währinger Gürtel 18-20
1090 Vienna, Austria
marek.ehrlich@meduniwien.ac.at



Dear Mr. Soros,

I want to thank you for offering the opportunity to allow palliative care to be talked within the Salzburg Center. I was fortunate to be among one of the first groups to teach palliative care here. As you may be aware this was the first program in Salzburg which offered education to nursing professionals. We have been able to offer this program multiple times with interdisciplinary teams to improve the care given within numerous countries for patients dying of too many illnesses. I think the impact of this program will reach and improve thousands of patient's and family's lives. The impact as with all education should be ongoing!

The stories I've heard from those who have attended have been dramatic. They talk about improved pain and symptom management, updating assessment techniques and supportive those who have lost their loved ones. Without your support of this program I truly believe thousands of individual's would have suffered their final days. Thanks again and happy birthday!

Sincerely,

Patrick Coyne

Director of Palliative Care
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, South Carolina



Dear Mr Soros:

It is November, 2014, the weather is nippy in Salzburg. The grand room has high ceilings and large windows, looking out onto the beautiful rolling lawns and sculptures beautifully placed on the grounds of the Schloss which houses the Open Medical Institute.

Thirty or so people sit in a circle telling one another stories. One of them a 27 year-old Roma man, a doctor.

He tells the story of how when a Roma patient was sick in the hospital where he worked, the parking lot filled with her family members, eating hamburgers on the trunks of their cars, making noise while waiting to hear news of their loved one. He heard the other non-roma doctors complaining, saying how „difficult these Roma are, we must get them out of the parking lot!„

Faced with these comments he doesn't know what to say. Should he explain that in the Roma community a family member being ill is something that the whole family cares about and feels, and that is a wonderful value, or should he try to assimilate with his medical colleagues?

When he finally says to his colleagues „I am Roma you know“ they answer „but you are a good Roma, not like these others.“

This story is told during a seminar for which I am a faculty member, designed to investigate how we might transform the narratives about Roma Healthcare in Eastern Europe.

I come to the conference as a doctor, a psychiatrist, a storyteller, a narratively trained practitioner and someone who has worked with many groups of grantees through the Open Society Foundations. I come to this seminar about Roma health with skills and the memory of many stories I have heard over the years, from remarkable people who if not for your funding would never have been heard by anybody.

I have had the privilege of hearing the stories of amazing women leaders with HIV in Africa, with sex workers who shared their stories of pain and desperation and yet never lost their dignity; with recipients of oral substitution therapy (Methadone and Suboxone) who tell of seeing life in color again, and not in black and white as they did on Heroin. I remember their stories, and the stories of their parents and their doctors who all came to Trakai to talk and listen to one another and to learn. I come with the stories of the extraordinary people with intellectual disabilities whom I met in Croatia, who are now living in the community, having full and complicated lives after years in Dickensian institutions.



Fortified with such stories last year, we created a magical week at the Open Medical Institute. We heard stories about being Roma, working with Roma, teaching Roma medical students, as well as stories of being non-Roma, of assumptions and learning how to stand with our Roma colleagues. We taught people ways to advocate for themselves. Having heard the wonderful results of this seminar in people's lives, I return to the Schloss this November, with OSF staff and a new group of faculty to teach a new group of doctors about narrative medicine, going even deeper in our attempt to transform narratives about the Roma.

I know that the faculty and students alike will be welcomed and nurtured by Dr Wolfgang Aulitzky and his staff, who provide such a safe and structured container so that learning can really happen. I feel privileged and grateful to be able to participate in this work, which I know makes a difference in the lives of all the students and all the teachers.

Thank you for your generosity and vision and for the ways in which your work has given me courage to be more fully myself as a teacher and guide for the amazing students and grantees whose lives you touch and whose courage knows no bounds.

Happy Birthday Mr Soros!!

With gratitude and respect,

Paul Browde, M.D

Psychiatrist/ Encounter Centered Couples Therapist

Faculty, Narrative Medicine Masters Program
Columbia University
Founder Narativ inc. (www.narativ.com)
865 West End Avenue #1A
New York, NY 10025
phone: 212 678-0221
fax: 212 678-7121



Dear Mr. Soros

I am working in neonatal intensive care in Kosice Slovakia last 25 years. We are concentrating the most complicated cases from the region of Eastern Slovakia of the newborns from 500 to 5000 g usually just after delivery. Last 20 years I have a very close collaboration with my menthors in neonatology Prof. Richard Polin, Prof. Steven Donn and lot of others I met in Salzburg. This collaboration and possibility to consult the cases and also the knowledge what we learn in Salzburg saved lot of small babies and created a possibility to live them a healthy life.

I would like to wish you lot of health, love and energy for your 85th birthday. Thanks for the lot of friendship, support and help we received from Open Medical Institute in Salzburg.

Attaching three pictures, the small premie from july 2008, then little bigger and a nice, healthy girl from yesterday in age of 7 years. It is the same baby. She is holding a small bouquet of flowers, it is for you .

Peter KRCHO, MD, PhD

Head of the Clinic
Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
Košice
Slovakia





Frances Payne Bolton
School of Nursing
Case Western Reserve University
10900 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44106-4904
TEL: 216.368.4700
FAX: 216.368.3542
fpb.case.edu

September 16, 2015

Dear Mr. Soros,

Happy 85th Birthday! What a lovely occasion to send you best wishes and thank you for all you have done to make the world a better place.

I especially want to thank you for your support and commitment to improving physician and nursing knowledge in areas of the world in need of your help. As a faculty member of the End of Life Care Nursing Education Consortium (ELNEC), I have had the privilege of teaching palliative care twice to health care professionals from Eastern Europe. The most recent seminar was last week and the work that is being done is inspiring.

With your support, the American Austrian Fellows have become leaders in their countries and have improved palliative and end-of-life care for their patients and families. May have worked tirelessly to legalize prescription opioids, like oral morphine, for persons with cancer. This has had a huge impact on decreasing need-less suffering in Eastern Europe.

Thank you for all you have done to improve care in challenged regions of the world. I hope all the peace you have given to others because of your support returns to you a thousand-fold.

Happy Birthday Mr. Soros!

Sincerely,

Polly Mazanec, PhD, ACNP-BC, AOCN, ACHPN, FPCN
Adjunct Assistant Professor, FPB School of Nursing



August 30, 2015

Dear Mr. Soros:

I would like to express my gratitude for the great gift you have given. I am an American orthopedic surgeon who travelled to Austria for the seminar. It was an unbelievable experience. As an academic one of the joys of my profession is teaching. The group that was assembled was phenomenal and the discussions were educational for me as well. In summary, it was an outstanding opportunity to give back to the medical community at large and it would not have been possible without your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MD' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal stroke.

Mark Drakos, MD





Hasbro Children's Hospital

The Pediatric Division of Rhode Island Hospital

A Lifespan Partner



BROWN
Alpert Medical School

20 September 2015

Dear Mr. Soros:

I have had the absolute pleasure to teach at two Austria American Foundation conferences, and I feel extremely fortunate and proud to have participated in such an amazing program. I wanted to thank you for your overwhelming generosity. It is with your support that the AAF has provided quality courses for thousands of very grateful physicians who have then applied that knowledge to their local institutions in order to improve and sustain the health of their patients. This incredible endeavor has only been possible with support from individuals like yourself. The courses have by far been the most rewarding teaching experience in which I have ever partaken, and it has been an honor to contribute with such impact on this collective group of participants.

You have many grateful professors and fellows from the courses who have greatly benefited from your philanthropy. All the best wishes for a very happy and healthy birthday and thank you again for your longstanding support.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Zonfrillo, MD, MSCE
Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine and Pediatrics
Hasbro Children's Hospital
Alpert Medical School of Brown University
Providence, RI, USA





The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia®

Stephen Ludwig, M.D.

Professor of Pediatrics, Department of Pediatrics
Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania
Senior Advisor for Medical Education
Designated Institutional Official
John H. and Hortense Cassell Jensen Endowed Chair
The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

215-590-2162
F 215-590-2180

September 10, 2015

Dear Mr. Soros:

On behalf of my colleagues from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia I am writing to wish you a most happy birthday and a fervent wish for many years to come. I want to express my deepest appreciation for your support of the American Austrian Foundation – Open Medical Institute. Participation in the Salzburg Seminars and Satellite Symposia has been a very rewarding experience. We hope that we have transmitted as much information, technical skill and physician attitudinal change as we have learned. It has been truly enriching.

We at CHOP have a deep appreciation for the need for global health. It is a term based on our belief that the health of children across the world is critical to improving the continued existence of our world as we know it. Therefore, this outcome is the responsibility of every pediatrician, department of pediatrics and pediatric governing body. We take this responsibility very seriously and the AAF-OMI has allowed us a venue to act on our beliefs.

Again our best wishes for a happy and health birthday and our eternal debt of gratitude for all you have done.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Ludwig'.

Stephen Ludwig, MD

Professor of Pediatrics

Medical Director of International Medical education



September 14, 2015

Dear Mr. Soros,

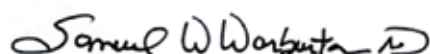
I want to thank you for your many years of support of the American Austrian Foundation. I had the honor and pleasure to serve as faculty at the Family Medicine/Primary Care week in Salzburg, Austria on three occasions in 2006, 2007 and 2008. The students from Eastern Europe were bright, engaged, and very excited to be in Austria. It did take some of them a day or two to understand that we wanted discussion and that it was acceptable to challenge the 'professor.' As their understanding of our teaching methods improved, the sessions got better and better. By the end of the week, everyone was most disappointed to see the week end.

I also had the opportunity to provide a 2 day satellite workshop in St. Petersburg, Russia. That was an interesting experience. We had much less contact with the physicians and the leaders of the workshop were frankly less interested in an international dialog than I imagined before the visit. The workshop in Russia gave me a small glimpse of care in the Soviet Union and from that standpoint, the workshop was probably of greater benefit to me than to the Russian doctors.

My experience as faculty in Salzburg taught me that primary care and health care problems in the US are quite different than problems in Austria and eastern European countries. While my reading had already illuminated this fact, it was quite startling to discuss medical care and health care issues directly with providers in other countries with fewer resources than the US. The magnitude of the differences was certainly more striking after personal discussion.

Thank you, again, for your generous support of the AAF. Your encouragement of a dialog between countries and a sharing of experiences has, I'm certain, made health care better in many countries.

Sincerely,



Samuel W. Warburton, MD
Professor Emeritus





Weill Cornell Medical College

**NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital
Weill Cornell Medical Center**

Samuel H. Selesnick, M.D., FACS
Professor and Vice Chairman
Department of Otorhinolaryngology

Director of Otology, Neurotology and Skull Base Surgery
New York Presbyterian Hospital
Weill Cornell Medical Center

Weill Cornell Medical College
1305 York Avenue, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10021

Telephone: 646-962-3277
Fax: 646-962-0030
Website: cornellphysicians.com/samuelselesnick/

September 1, 2015

George Soros
1060 Fifth Avenue
New York NY 10128

Dear Mr. Soros:

It is my pleasure to wish you a happy 85th birthday and to thank you for your generosity and philanthropy that you have shown to the physicians that have been educated by the Open Medical Institute of the American Austrian Foundation. I have been a faculty member at seminars in Salzburg for over twenty years. I am now the course director for a temporal bone surgery course soon to have its 3rd seminar. This course is particularly innovative in that it includes the established seminar format but also expands into the anatomy laboratory so that fellows can hone their skills in microsurgery of the skull base.

As a faculty member of the Weill Cornell Salzburg seminars, I know I speak for us all when I say you have made an important difference in the lives of individual physicians but also to the communities whom they treat.

With warmest personal regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S. Selesnick", written over a horizontal line.

Samuel H. Selesnick, M.D.
SHS/dg





COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER

*Ronald Wapner, M.D.
Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology
Vice Chair of Research
Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology
622 West 168th Street, PH 16-66D
New York, NY 10032
212.305.1521 Tel
212.342.5337 Fax
www.columbiaobgyn.edu*

Dear Mr. Soros:

Happy Birthday!

Even though I've never met you before, I've been a faculty member for the high-risk pregnancy sessions at the Open Medical Institute Salzburg Medical Seminars for many years. Annually, I teach several courses to physicians at national and international levels. Out of all of these this courses, this program routinely gives me the most satisfaction in educating physicians from developing countries with progressive information. This work has a major impact on global healthcare. The Salzburg Medical Seminars courses are always my most appreciated and well attended. Your work has made a huge difference to me and around the world.

I've routinely been invited by Dr. Rich Polin to participate in the Salzburg Medical Seminars. He has done an excellent job running the seminars for all these years.

Thank you,

Ronald Wapner, MD





Weill Cornell Medical College

— NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital
— Weill Cornell Medical Center

William J. Ledger, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.
Professor and Chairman Emeritus
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Telephone: 212-746-3010
Fax: 212-746-0283
E-mail: wjledger@med.cornell.edu

525 East 68th Street, Suite J-130
New York, NY 10065

August 24, 2015

Dear Mr. Soros,

My participation in the Open Medical Institute began in the early 1990's when I was the Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University. I have continued with these teaching assignments after stepping down as Chairman in 1999.

These teaching sessions have been a stimulating intellectual experience for me. The students arrive in Salzburg eager to learn, they quickly become engrossed in the curriculum, and by the end of the week lifelong bonds have been formed. Many of them later come to Weill Cornell to do research in the immunology division of our department under the direction of Steve Witkin, Ph.D., the William J Ledger Professor of Infectious Disease and Immunology.

Students have learned from me new aspects of infectious disease prevention and treatment, and I have gained from them a better understanding of the trials and tribulations of the boots-on-the-ground medical doctors facing obstacles in their attempts to provide the best care for women. Both students and teachers open up lines of communication and maintain them after they've returned home.

For me, this has been the most exciting academic assignment that I have had in an career that spans over 50 years. My gratitude to you for providing me with this opportunity knows no bounds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William J. Ledger".

William J. Ledger

WJL/af





Weill Cornell Medical College

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital
Weill Cornell Medical Center

Richard Lee, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Urology and Healthcare Policy & Research

James Buchanan Brady Foundation
Department of Urology
Iris Cantor Men's Health Center
425 East 61st Street, 12th Floor
New York, NY 10065

Office: 646 962-4811

Fax: 646 962-0140

E-mail: ril9010@med.cornell.edu

September 17, 2015

Dear Mr. Soros,

Please allow me to take a moment to express my gratitude for your support for the Open Medical Institute/American Austrian Foundation. Your energy and your vision have made a major change in the world. The faculty and the students that your generous support has allowed to come together has created a real opportunity for collaboration between physicians spanning the globe and allowed for an exchange of ideas that would otherwise not have been possible. We are forever grateful for your contribution and know that it will have a lasting impact and significance.

With gratitude,

Richard Lee

Digitally signed by Richard Lee
DN: cn=Richard Lee, o=Weill Cornell Medical
College, ou, email=ril9010@med.cornell.edu, c=US
Date: 2015.09.17 00:11:59 -04'00'

Richard Lee, MD MBA





Weill Cornell Medical College

**NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital
Weill Cornell Medical Center**

Roy M. Gulick, MD, MPH
Gladys and Roland Harriman Professor of Medicine
Chief, Division of Infectious Diseases

212-746-6320
212-746-8675 Fax

Weill Medical College of Cornell University
1300 York Avenue, Box 125
New York, NY 10065

September 20, 2015

Mr. George Soros
Open Society Foundations

Dear Mr. Soros,

I am writing this letter to express my profound gratitude for your generous and long-lasting support of the Salzburg Medical Seminars of the Open Medical Institute of the American Austrian Foundation. As Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City, I have been fortunate to participate as a faculty member and then as chairman of the annual week-long course in infectious diseases for participants from Eastern Europe, Central Asia and more recently, Africa and Central America.

Infectious diseases know no country border and in this age of frequent international travel, can become a global issue very quickly as evidenced by the recent ebola virus outbreak. Over the last 15 years, we have trained (and learned from) our infectious diseases colleagues on subjects as diverse as tuberculosis and other drug-resistant bacteria, parasitic diseases, fungal diseases, and diseases of immunocompromised hosts (including HIV, cancer, and organ transplant patients). We've also tackled outbreak investigations, clinical trials, and public health.

With your ongoing support, the seminars not only provide cutting-edge infectious diseases diagnostic and treatment information and strategies to our participants, but open a whole referral and information network that lasts over years and even decades. I routinely have email discussions with past participants and this leads to bringing us together as global colleagues.

Once again, thanks for supporting this extraordinary program and all the best for your birthday!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. M. Gulick".

Roy M. Gulick, MD
Professor of Medicine
Chief, Division of Infectious Diseases



Dear Mr. Soros,

I would like to wish you a heartfelt happy birthday!

I wanted to thank you for your support of the American Austrian Foundation. In February 2014, I had the great fortune of coming to Salzburg as one of the Faculty from The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia to teach the Allergy and Immunology course. I thoroughly enjoyed my time in Salzburg where I was able to interact with physicians from all over the globe. It was certainly a humbling experience to be able to impart our knowledge and practices to the physicians, as well as hear about their experiences and resources available to treat their patients. Not only did I enjoy the interactions thoroughly, but I also did learn a lot from the attendees.

The conference was so beautifully well run and I am so thankful for such a wonderful experience. It was certainly a highlight of my academic medicine career.

I am thankful for your vision and philanthropy to continue such a wonderful program and organization. These types of endeavors would not be possible without the generosity from individuals such as yourself.

I wish you the best with your birthday and I hope to meet you one day.

Many thanks again for all that you have done.
Rushani Saltzman

Rushani Weerasooriya Saltzman MD
Attending Physician
Division of Allergy & Immunology
The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia



Dear Mr. Soros,

Happy birthday! I hope it will be a blessed year.

I write to thank you for supporting the American Austrian Foundation. I am an ophthalmologist at Weill Cornell specializing in rare diseases that most doctors will not get any formal training in. Through the foundation we were able to reach many doctors who have remained in touch and asked for help in treating their patients and learned via the process beyond the week of teaching. More importantly one doctor from Belgrade came and did formal training with me and has just recently returned and will soon be the uveitis specialist for the entire country. She will have a meaningful long-term impact to be sure.

I think on your birthday it would be nice to know all the positive impacts you have made on the lives of others.

Thank you again for your support.

Sarju Patel MD MPH MSc

Director of Uveitis and Ocular Immunology
Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology
Weill Cornell Medical College



**THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
OF PHILADELPHIA**

Division of Endocrinology
34th and Civic Center Blvd.
Philadelphia, PA 19104
Phone: 1-215-590-3174
Fax: 1-215-590-3053

August 24, 2015

Dear Mr. Soros:

I am a pediatric endocrinologist who had the pleasure to teach at the Salzburg CHOP Seminar in Pediatric Endocrinology in 2011. It was a wonderful experience. The students were among the most enthusiastic that I have ever met. It was so gratifying to be able to teach them about my specialty and know that they would bring what they learned back to their patients, providing them with better care. All of the students leave with the faculty's email addresses so that they can continue to ask questions even after the seminar is over.

I made a connection with one of the students who was able to come to my hospital and do an observership for one month. She received a small stipend from the American-Austrian Foundation to cover the cost of registering for this observership without which she would not have been able to participate in the program. And this summer, I visited her and another student that I met at the seminar while I was travelling in Prague. The benefits of the Salzburg Medical Seminars are far reaching.

Thank you for your support of these seminars without which these opportunities for students and faculty would not exist.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Wilma C. Rossi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Wilma" being more prominent.

Wilma C. Rossi, M.D.

Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine
Division of Endocrinology
The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia





VŠEOBECNÁ FAKULTNÍ NEMOCNICE V PRAZE
UROLOGICKÁ KLINIKA

128 08 Praha 2, Ke Karlovu 6, Tel.: 224 967 888, Fax: 224 967 102

přednosta: prof. MUDr. TOMÁŠ HANUŠ, DrSc.
tomas.hanus@lfl.cuni.cz

Dear Mr. Soros:

Let me take this opportunity to express to you great thanks for your kind and generous support of Salzburg seminars that are helping many young doctors to enhance their knowledge in their field of expertise and also start creating international contacts and friendship among colleagues from different countries. I had privilege to be invited as a speaker on the field of pediatric urology and could appreciate very much the working and very friendly atmosphere during the meeting. Also young colleagues from our country – fellows in pediatric urology – had opportunity to participate at Salzburg seminars and gained a very good scientific and social experience.

On occasion of your life jubilee, let me wish you good luck and good health for coming years and thank you again for your entire endeavor you made for doctors and their patients.

30th of August 2015

Radim Kočvara, M.D. Assoc. Prof.
Charles University 1st Medical School
General Teaching Hospital in Praha
Czech Republic





Weill Cornell Medical College

Robert Kim, M.D., F.A.C.C.
Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine
Director of Consultative Cardiology
Associate Program Director, Cardiovascular Diseases Fellowship
Department of Medicine
Weill Cornell Medical College
520 E. 70th Street, Starr-437A
New York, NY 10021

Telephone: 646-962-5558
Fax: 212-746-2685
Email: rjk9003@med.cornell.edu

May 1, 2015

Dear Mr. Soros,

I am so thrilled to have this opportunity to thank you for your generosity, dedication, and vision in supporting the Salzburg Medical Seminars and the Open Medical Institute. I have been participating in the seminars in Cardiology since I was first invited in 2007 by my Program Director, mentor, and founding member of the series, Dr. Stephen Scheidt. Dr. Scheidt and Dr. Wolfgang Aulitsky's original seminar series, borne out of a love for medicine, for collegiality, and for sharing that most precious of resources – knowledge – has resulted in an enduring tradition of remarkable experiences for a tremendous number of physicians both internationally and in the U.S., and is one that I truly believe is without equal in the modern medical world.

Being able to participate in these seminars has been a deeply humbling and enriching experience for me as they have given me so much appreciation for the commonality of the physician's struggle to provide the best possible care for patients, no matter the place, system, or prevailing government. My parents emigrated from Korea to the U.S. and then Canada in the late '60s and early '70s and I was born and raised in a rural town of 4,200 people in Ontario, Canada. I did not leave until I had the chance to go to the U.S. for college and I have been eternally grateful for the opportunities I have been given ever since, but I do feel a kindred spirit with many of the physicians who attend the Salzburg seminars and are able to espouse some of the benefits and drawbacks of a single payer healthcare system in their home countries.

In addition to the medical knowledge that is shared and discussed at the seminars, it has been amazing to see how this microcosm of European society can at times transcend the geopolitics of the moment. Last year we were somewhat anxious about how the Ukrainian and Russian physicians would interact, but our anxieties were laid to rest the first night at the dinner tables when they sat together and discussed matters medical and non-medical alike with no hint of tension. As I understand it, this has been replicated innumerable times over the course of the seminar's history, with old "adversaries" coming together to form new friendships in the welcoming and comfortable environment provided by the American Austrian Foundation.

Of course, one of the singular events that will forever be imprinted in my memory is the year the roof of Schloss Arenberg caught on fire, in April 2009. I had brought along my wife and our 6 month-old son to the seminar series for the first time and after our first day, on a pleasant walk back from a delightful lunch in town, my wife kept remarking about smoke she thought was coming from the direction of the Schloss. I reassured her that this was impossible and it was only when we reached the base of the street leading up to the Schloss and encountered a policeman

blocking our passage that I had to admit, she was quite right! But for me, what could have been a complete disaster instead highlighted what makes this series so special. Fortunately, everyone was safe and accounted for, and after regrouping the next day the attendees all agreed that in spite of this terrible accident, they wanted to continue with the series and to continue the learning and sharing experience they had originally come for. This commitment, along with the extraordinary work of the members of the Schloss and the American Austrian Foundation, Dr. Aulitsky, Dr. Stein (the course director at the time), and Drs. Bruckner and Yannis from Medtronic, made the seminar possible that year and ultimately, very few participants ended up losing their passports and needing to visit their embassies for replacements. The generosity of the members of the AAF in attending to the needs of the participants and the faculty was inspiring, and the quick thinking and improvisational planning of the members of the Schloss and leadership was exceptional.

As I prepare to return to Salzburg again this year, I am once again humbled and amazed at how something so complex and so audacious can occur week after week, month after month, and year after year, with such precision and such success. No words could ever describe the enormous impact this series has had on so many physicians from all over the world. But perhaps befitting the small origins of something so grand, the only words that seem appropriate are: Thank You.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert J. Kim". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Robert J. Kim, M.D.



Dear Mr. Soros

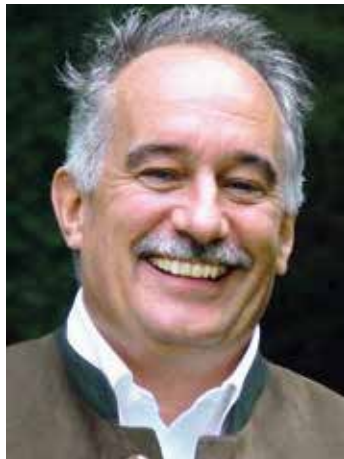
On this special day, I wish you all the very best, all the joy you can ever have today, tomorrow and the days to come! May you have a fantastic birthday and many more to come ... HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!

Thank you so much for awarding the open medical faculty in Salzburg. The grant is a tremendous help, and I am truly grateful for your support.

I had the pleasure to give lecture 2 years ago and was so happy to see so many peers from all over the world with a comprehensive discussion, which helps not only the physician, but more the patients.

Best regards

Fuat H. Saner
Professor for Critical Care



Dear Mr. Soros

I had the honor to attend several seminars in the field of Urology at the Open Medical Institute organized by the American Austrian Foundation as tutor and teacher. This was based on my positions in the European Association of Urology, namely the European School of Urology and the EAU-Section of Uro-technology.

During all my stays in the Arenberg Castle, I was impressed by the perfect organization of the courses. However, even more important was the activity and quality of both, faculty and delegates. It might be important to note, that one meets a lot of the course participants later on during Meeting of the EAU (ie. Annual Meeting, Regional Meetings).

Therefore, I have to congratulate the Medical director of the Open Medical Institute for all his achievements which definitively represent an important step to spreading knowledge and making friends both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

Your money is really in good hands!

Yours sincerely

Professor Dr. med. Dr. h.c. Jens Rassweiler

Chairman EAU-section of Urotechnology
Klinikdirektor Urologie

SLK-Kliniken Heilbronn GmbH
Am Gesundbrunnen 20-26
74078 Heilbronn

Telefon: +49 7131 49 2400
Fax: +49 7131 49 2429
E-Mail: jens.rassweiler@slk-kliniken.de
Internet: www.slk-kliniken.de

www.urologie-heilbronn.de



August 24, 2015

Dear Mr. Soros,

I would like to extend my profound gratitude for your support of the Open Medical Institute of the American Austrian Foundation. I serve as one of the course directors for the pathology course. Pathology is one of the unheralded, behind the scenes aspect of medicine but is critically important in patient care. Pathologists ultimately provide the diagnosis on which surgeons, oncologists, and other clinicians depend to guide treatment for their patients. Any time a patient has a biopsy for a diagnosis or a surgery for a neoplasm, there is a pathologist who impacts that patient's care. These efforts have a tremendous effect on the education of the physicians at the seminars and ultimately the patients in the physicians' home countries.

For my part, I would tell you that it is the most gratifying teaching experience of my career. I have lectured all over the United States at medical conferences and other universities. Yet by far, my teaching at the Open Medical Institute is the work of which I am most proud. The participants are hungry for the knowledge and the format is a benefit to their learning. The ability of the faculty to interact with the participants and for them to interact with each other on a day to day basis during the course and after hours at the conference center is invaluable. I still keep in touch with former students who attended the seminars in Salzburg. I know for a fact that the program is very effective and raises the level of medical knowledge in the countries where the attendees are from. I also know that the attendees form bonds with each other and continue their interactions beyond the time at the conference center. Similarly, I have separately lectured at the institutions of my former students and have helped sponsor some of them to come to the Cleveland Clinic for additional training.

So, thank you. Your generous support has made an important impact on the lives of thousands of patients around the world. This is tremendous work made possible by your generosity.

Sincerely,



Steven D. Billings, MD
Professor of Pathology
Cleveland Clinic



Dear Mr. Soros,

It is a great honor for me to have the opportunity to send you a bundle of wishes and greetings for your 85th anniversary. I want to use this opportunity to send you my gratitude for supporting American Austrian Foundation and especially its medical program. I do not know you in person but you are so familiar to me. First time I received support from Soros Foundation was in 2003. I was resident in Ob & Gyn and I did not have enough money to travel for professional purposes. You gave me the possibility to participate in Salzburg Seminar and to spend one month in AKH in Vienna. I cannot forget that training, because I celebrated my birthday while I was in Austria. I learned the new prenatal Down Syndrome evaluation for pregnant women. I applied it for the first time in Albania. We started to test women for Down Syndrome, counseling couples and I can say that we diagnosed many cases. I received many thanks from couples for this special and difficult diagnose but I think that all those thanks are directed to American Austrian Foundation and to you that gave me the possibility to implement new techniques and to improve prenatal diagnoses in Albania.

By telling my professional story, I want to send you once more my sincere wishes for your anniversary and hope to see you in your 100th anniversary as active and important as you are now, not only for the people you help directly but for all the rest of people that receive this help through us. Although indirectly, you save the lives of many children and adults around the world.

Happy birthday and best wishes

Robert Qirko, MD

Tirana University Hospital „Queen Geraldine“
Albania



Dear Mr. Soros,

Happy Birthday!

I would like to thank you for your efforts in creating bridges via AAF Medical program for the doctors in Central and Eastern Europe and in the former Soviet republics.

I have had a long-term relationship with AAF. It was my luck when in 1997 I was chosen for the AAF program in Bone and Joint Surgery. Since that time I have gone through two internship (Observership) programs, one in Korneuburg and the other in Vienna, specializing in Hand Surgery.

During the seminar I forged a professional friendship with Dr. Edward Athanesian (of Armenian decent), also, a faculty member of the Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS). This friendship was the start of a professional collaboration and also the bridge for “second opinion” options for patients in Armenia diagnosed with hand tumors. At the time, I was an assistant professor in the Department of Plastic Surgery. Today, as I was going through my memories from 2001, I realized the impact that training had on my own career.

“I began my Hand Surgery course in Vienna having as instructor, Dr. Hnitringer, the renowned hand surgeon in Austria. The 7-day 8 hours/day course gave us an opportunity to listen to a 2- hour lecture accompanied by video demonstration, followed by a 6-hour hands on operation on the cadaver hand. Throughout the course, we had the opportunity to experience some 40 operations. Most of them were very useful as we learned a few technical tricks which a surgeon adopts during his/her professional career. This kind of useful knowledge is not shared by doctors in Armenia, basically for lack of information.

Gustav Klimt art in the Belvedere is something incredible. JUDI and KISS, something I cannot describe, you need to see ... Pathology Museum of Vienna University with a large collection of the different exponents.”

The second seminar in Bone and Joint surgery was in 2011 (14 years later). I came to Salzburg in my position as Vice-Dean of Postgraduate education in Yerevan State Medical University.

During these 14 years we were able to make some changes in our Health Care System in Armenia, care that was based on our Salzburg Experience via the NGO called “Fund For Armenia Relief.” Beginning in 2003, the FAR Fellowship Alumni Association (FARFAA) began the Salzburg International Medical Seminars with local coordination in Armenia. In 2005, FARFAA with FAR financing started the Continuing Medical Education (CME) Program for Armenian provincial physicians, while also integrating the Salzburg program. Salzburg fellows served as mentors to doctors from Armenia’s regional hospitals and polyclinics. Each year, more and more fellows join the CME program as trainers. The program’s objective is to train the best of the best in Salzburg who will then continue to help their colleagues, just as their American and Austrian colleagues helped them.



Since 1997, more than 800 doctors from Armenia, i.e. almost 10 % of all Armenian doctors, have benefited from Medical Seminars and Observerships organized by the OMI. The program is very successful in Armenia and the number of applications for Seminars and Observerships, especially in the medical fields that deal with non-communicable diseases like cancer and cardiovascular diseases has increased steadily over the last years. Doctors in Armenia have been very supportive of the program and consider the OMI program as an important asset to their medical education. In addition to this positive feedback, the community of Armenian OMI fellows overextended themselves to come to the support of the AAF after a fire at Schloss Arenberg had destroyed the building in April 2009. After learning about the fire and its aftermath, Dr. Bella Grigoryan a country coordinator organized a benefit concert in Armenia to raise funds to contribute to rebuilding Schloss Arenberg. As a result, in the newly renovated Schloss is a lounge on the top floor for fellows to congregate, known as the "Armenia Lounge".

Last but not least, in my current position as medical education manager, I would also like to emphasize the importance of the following seminars which I attended: (1) Medical Education in 2012, and (2) Medical Leadership. This type of seminars are very helpful to doctors who are starting their career as managers. Thus, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Wolfgang Aulitzky who had this vision to appropriate changes in the Curricula of OPEN MEDICAL INSTITUTE

Mr. Soros, you are the Main Engineer of the process of building these bridges and we are humbled to serve as co-workers.

Once again, a very happy birthday to you, and thank you for your abundant spirit!

Gevorg Yaghjyan MD

National Competitiveness Foundation of Armenia
5 Mher Mkrtchyan Street, suite 821
Yerevan 0010, Armenia
Tel: +374 10 58 35 21, +374 10 58 91 93, Ext. 110
gevorg.yaghjyan@cf.am
www.cf.am



Dear Mr. Soros,

Let the new year of your life bring in loads of happiness and wonderful memories in your life. I wish you a very Happy Birthday. May God bless you with his care and warmth.

I would like to thank you for such fantastic events in my life as AAF activities! It is very hard and grandiose job to collaborate people from different country and help them to become good specialist. It is really great work!

My story with AAF started in 2010, when I was chosen for Diagnostic Radiology Seminar in Salzburg and Observership in Vienna. A lot of doctors dream about it for years! I participated in 1 seminar (Diagnostic Radiology) and 4 Observership programs (Diagnostic Radiology).

All programs were interesting and exciting with various types of issues which were presented and discussed. They were organized in excellent manner with proper time management. The Mentor and faculty were knowledgeable and enthusiastic. They were open to any questions and showed interest to fellows/ observers suggestions.

I consider this program also as a great opportunity to get in touch with Austrian culture and educational system. Last but not least, I am very curious about different approaches to the Radiology at the foreign university.

This program give a chance to all doctors to deepen knowledge in the inspiring, creative, and cosmopolite environment in the one of the Austrian Hospital. Moreover, I am confident that new experience would be extremely valuable both for doctor and population in general.

I am also very excited from friendly atmosphere of Schloss Arenberg where took place Salzburg Medical Education Seminar. It was really great and unforgettable place. I am also very proud, because there is a small part of Armenia there – Armenian Lounge. Every evening a lot of participants spent good time there ... Now, I am pretty sure that all dreams come true!

Thanks a lot again and Happy Birthday!

Dr. Marina Aloyan

Yerevan State Medical University of Mkhithar Heratci
AGBU-YSMU Levon & Claudia Nazarian Radiology Center
Yerevan, Armenia



Dear Mr. George Soros!

Today I am very happy that I am having honor and opportunity to congratulate You on the occasion of your 85th Year Anniversary and wish You all the best in the life. You are the man who presents many doctors around world like me very beautiful and useful moments of life which make their life more fruitful and various.

I would like you to know that firstly my participation in the Medical Programs in 1998 which organized by American Austrian Foundation made great changes in my life. I am always proud to note that I was participating in the Salzburg Medical Seminars. I'm sure it contributed to my selection by international experts for different activities and work in the public health reform program in the Azerbaijan.

Thanks to the friendly atmosphere, knowledge and skills that I have gained from these seminars, I improved as an expert and personality, that helped me continue to work and participate in different programs and projects in my country and help in the development Medical Education generally.

My letter may be small, but respect for what makes the American Austrian Foundation, which you are supporting occupies a very important place in my heart. I wish you good health and long life to continue to do good deeds.

Thank you so much!

Matanat Garakhanova

Assistant Professor, Azerbaijan State Advance Training Institute for Doctors,
Pediatric department Division of neonatology
Alumni of the AAF Medical Programs – 1998, 2003, 2004
Member of the OMC – Azerbaijan



Dear Mr. Soros,

My name is Nadir Zeynalov, I am a doctor (surgeon) from Baku, Azerbaijan. I work for Azerbaijan Medical University. In 2013 I participated at AAF Medical Program's Trauma and Emergency Surgery seminar in Salzburg. I would like to share my impressions from that week.

I found myself in an amazingly warm and friendly environment in Schloss Arenberg. We had seminars on various important problems of emergency surgery. As a practical surgeon with 14 year experience in emergency medicine I thought I knew a lot, but was surprised by information I've got from lectures of faculty from America and Austria. I realized that approach to the same problem is exactly not the same in different countries. Moreover, some ideas I had before were reflected in what I heard from our faculty. I still recall those lectures from time to time to find a solution for some complicated cases. I took a lot both as a practicing surgeon and university faculty.

Another point I would like to emphasize is the exchange of knowledge and experience of doctors from many countries. For a week we became one big family together with our hosts from AAF Medical Program. Many of my colleagues were from post-soviet and post-socialistic countries, and it was very interesting to learn about problems and achievements of their healthcare systems. I found many similarities in problems I'd been thinking to be typical only to my country.

After the return I made a report about the seminar in my Department of Surgery. Everybody was very interested and I answered many questions. Sometimes now my colleagues still refer to information I've delivered from Salzburg, saying: "Do you remember what Dr. Zeynalov told from Salzburg seminar about this pathology ..."

Two of my colleagues were encouraged by this and also visited OMI seminars in Salzburg.

All the time I've been in Salzburg I've been feeling a big gratitude to people who did it real to bring doctors from different countries of the world to the same place and combine a professional update with emotional unity creating a virtual "medical family" with unforgettable warm environment. Among those people I would like to mention You, Mr. Soros, as one of the main reasons that AAF program exists, and prof. Wolfgang Aulitzky, whose close involvement and supervision made our seminar a brilliant example of exchange of medical knowledge. In his speech at the farewell dinner prof. Aulitzky underlined Your, Mr. Soros contribution to AAF programs, and we all understood it would be probably not possible to have such a sustainable program without your help and support.

Now remembering those days I feel myself a part of the history of Salzburg seminars, and feel myself a part of big family spread all over the world whose paternal house is Schloss Arenberg. Writing this letter I would like to express my big gratitude to You, Mr. Soros for supporting this family and wish You a robust health and many years of happy life.

N.A.Zeynalov, MD, PhD

Associate professor
I Department of Surgical Diseases
Azerbaijan Medical University



Dear Mr. Soros,

First of all, I would like to state that I highly appreciate your support of AAF programs. These programs have significantly helped me personally in becoming a well-educated pediatrician. Since I first heard about this program in 2010, I have attended 4 seminars and 2 observerships. The seminars and observerships have benefited my professional development in a crucial way.

I would like to share a medical case from my own practice. In January 2015 I saw a patient and it was quite difficult for me to understand what was going on with this one-year-old boy. This patient was observed by different doctors, have received treatment in several hospitals, all in different cities and also abroad, but nobody could understand what was going on with that child.

I decided to write to pediatricians whom I knew from Salzburg seminars, I have received multiple replies for my e-mail from a few of them and finally a reply from Prof. Dr. James Callahan from CHOP, who helped me to provide a correct diagnosis for this patient. Currently, child's family is very happy, child receives a proper treatment, he is growing well and his parents think of me as the best doctor in the world. During my second observership in July 2015 I also discussed this patient with several doctors from Graz Medical University, since the boy needed a special nutrition and a genetic test, which we do not have in our country. Doctors from Graz Medical University provided me with special nutrition that boy need free of charge. I can tell with the full assurance that both specialists and patients benefit from this program.

After attending 4 seminars I have become a very good lector and often receive invitations to conduct lectures in different pediatric topics in various cities and regions of Azerbaijan.

Thank you very much for all your efforts to make this program a very unique opportunity for doctors from different countries to develop professionally.

With best regards,

Nigar Hajiyeva, MD, PhD

Associate Professor of Pediatric
Pediatric Department,
Azerbaijan State Advanced
Training Institute for Doctors



Dear Mr. Soros,

I am Mushfig Orujov, MD, PhD in Medicine, Associate Professor of Azerbaijan Medical University. I am Open Medical Institute Alumni, was participating in the Salzburg Cleveland Pathology Seminar in 2014 year.

We had very interesting and useful lectures during seminar which organized by Professors from Cleveland Clinic and Vienna Medical University. It is very honorable for me that my Case Report Presentation was selected as one of the Excellent Case Report and was added into the OMI Case Library.

I very like the Salzburg, city of Mozart. I enjoyed the Schloss Arenberg where all conditions at the high level.

The American Austrian Medical Programs are very great chance for young specialists to improve their theoretical knowledge and practical skills, to make new contacts and find new friends.

I would like to thank you for supporting these Programs!

Happy Birthday, dear Mr. Soros!

Best regards,
Mushfig Orujov, MD, PhD

Azerbaijan Medical University Department of Pathology
Baku, Azerbaijan



Dear Mr Soros,

I have been lucky enough to be accepted to participate in 2 of AAF Cardiac Surgery seminars in Salzburg. The experience has been with me for many years and up until now, when i'm a fully qualified heart surgeon, i'm truly grateful for the days spent learning.

There are two seminars held in one time-frame in Salzburg- the one taught by the specialists from Austria and the US, and the other one held during lunch breaks and breakfasts between fellow colleagues/participants. Austria and US give us the state-of-the-art with new and fancy, often extremely expensive methods and during the lunch-break seminars the participants from poorer countries try to figure out the way how these things could be integrated in our programs, with fewer costs but without losing the quality.

Friends are made. Connections are established. Medicine is pushed forwards with the help of these seminars. Thank you and have a happy birthday!

R. Ermel
Cardiac surgeon

Estonia
Alumna of AAF/OMI Cardiac Surgery seminars in 2011; 2013



Dear Mr. Soros,

I have had great opportunity to join AAF Salzburg seminars in Neurology two times. Both times the course was absolutely in highest level – 5 days very good lectures, discussions and case presentations with colleagues all over the world. I received a lot of new ideas and knowledges for my everyday work as a neurologist in North Estonia Medical Centre. I would like to express my deepest gratitude for your support for the Salzburg seminars in medicine.

I wish you all the best!

Sincerely,

Dr. Maris Heinsoo

North Estonia Medical Centre

Tallinn

Estonia



Dear Mr Soros,

I finished my medical studies at the end of Soviet times. All of my training originates from that time. Contemporary international medical speciality trainings, that have expenses covered, are usually only for young doctors. It is correct, because young people are still learning their profession.

Particularly for that reason are the AAF Salzburg seminars very unique and thankworthy undertakings, because both older and younger medical practitioners have equal opportunities to participate in these seminars. From the organizational part, it is difficult to find an equal to it - the task of the participant is to only compliment him/her, all the everyday matters are already taken care of.

All the presentations and distributed materials are high standard. The assessment of knowledge in the beginning and end of the course is good: it makes the participant more active, which is opposite to what may happen in comfortable situations.

During the course, there were opportunities to talk to medical practitioners from the same specialty and get new and remaining contacts.

For my specialty it gave me a strong push towards further development in my country.

Dr Maie Jürisson

Pediatric Dermatologist

Tallinn Childrens Hospital Outpatient Department



Dear Mr.Soros,

I have a great pleasure of having got notice that You have reached such a golden age.

I keep thinking that You are one of the greatest examples of our era who has contributed personal wealth and energy by benefitting for the people of less developed countries. You have lead many Eastern European people to happier and more fulfilling lives and made world a better place for them.

I had an inspiring experience at Salzburg seminar in spring 2006 with all the highest rank lecturers. As being an eye background specialist I am very grateful to prof. Susan Binder enlightening us in the innovative optic nerve sheathotomy, the information I shared with my colleagues back at home.

I wish You to be enjoying a good, healthy and joyful life and many happy returns of the Day!

With best regards, Tiina Mäuring , AAF Alumni of 2006, an ophthalmologist from Estonia, Tartu University Eye Clinic



Dear Mr. Soros!

I had got happy opportunity to visit Salzburg early in the beginning of my radiologist career when I only perceived the framework of my profession.

Thanks to your financial support I had found a chance to be introduced to many interesting specialists and a possibility to report my ideas to the concerned audience.

Acquired knowledge and communication of experience helped me very much to select the ultimate field of my activity and to become currently a demanded professional.

I want to express my sincere appreciation and heartfelt gratitude for your help and joy of commerce with you.

I wish you to be healthy and happy in your life.

Let your kindness and generosity return to you hundredfold.

Sincerely yours

Ionella Rebane, radiologist

Tallinn Children's Hospital



Dear Mr. Soros!

Let me thank you so much for the kind opportunity to visit Salzburg course dedicated to medical education. The course gave me a great update of the topic and a possibility to meet professionals. Being involved into the education in everyday work at the Tartu University the course helped me to acquire new knowledge which can be used at home institution.

I wish you happiness and many healthy years!

Sincerely yours,

Professor Mai Rosenberg

Tartu University, Faculty of Medicine



Dear Mr. Soros,

I have had the honor to participate twice in the Salzburg seminar of continuing education in the field of orthopedics.

The cases presented by me were chosen among the best on both occasions.

I made many contacts with colleagues with whom I communicate continuously.

This was an excellent training course and I really enjoyed it!

I feel that I can and dare much more than before training.

I believe that today many of my patients have received high quality of contemporary treatment.

Thank you very much!

Andres Savel

Orthopaedist from Estonia





Almaty, September 14th, 2015

Dear Mr. Soros,

First of all on behalf of Kazakhstan Nephrology Association I would like to congratulate you and all members of, let me say, our American Austrian Foundation with your 85-th birthday! Thank you very much for all support you've done for our education. As you know, Kazakhstan like other post-Soviet countries is in transition as well as Kazakhstan's Medical Practice: that's why your support was very important for all of us, Kazakhstani professionals in medical science! Thanks to your support, thanks to American Austrian Foundations Medical Educational Programs I had attended very useful courses: useful for me as well as for my patients too! So I can say that thanks to you we have saved many patients, many kidneys, many lives!

I wish you all the best: be healthy and happy ... because you made so many people healthy and happy too!

Prof. med. Dr. Kairat Kabulbayev

Secretary General of Kazakhstan Nephrology Association



Dear Mr. Soros

I wish Happy Birthday to you.

I would like to thank you for such fantastic events in my life as AAF activities! I have long-term relationship with AAF. It was my luck when in 1999 I was chosen for AAF program in cardiology/pulmonology. Since that time I have undergone through 2 internship programs (Cardiology and Public Health) and 2 seminars (Medical Quality and Safety and Medical Leadership).

All programs were interesting and exciting with various types of issues which were presented and discussed. But it should be emphasized that internship program in Public Health and 2 Salzburg CHOP seminars: (1) Medical Quality & Safety, 2013 and (2) Medical leadership, 2014 were the most useful AAF activities for me. From my point of view these activities have fulfilled all requirements of High Quality Learning activity:

- They were organized in excellent manner with proper time management
- Their contents were evidence-based and very useful
- The value of received knowledge was prominent
- The learning style was modern and pleasant
- The Mentor and faculty were knowledgeable and enthusiastic
- The Mentor and faculty were open to any questions and showed interest to fellows/ internes suggestions

It was the outcome of the seminar in Medical Quality & Safety that the First Courses in Patient Safety was conducted in Georgia. Among other modern resources the course curriculum was based on were scientific information and learning methodology of Salzburg Seminar.

We hope that we will have future collaboration. The OMI Visiting Professorship in Tbilisi (in Quality and safety) will be one of the examples of it. This activity will become the starting point of modern movement for Georgian Medical Society toward to Quality and Safety.

In October I will have one more chance to take part in Salzburg Medical Education Seminar and sense the friendly atmosphere of Schloss Arenberg.

On behalf of me and other fellows I would like to thank you a Wolfgang Aulitzky for everything you have done for us.

I am pretty sure that you are the people who change the world and who are the drivers of progress.

Dr. Eka Ruhhadze

Assistant Professor
D. Tvildiani Medical University
JSC Curatio MAQS – Medical Alliance for Quality and Safety
Tbilisi, Georgia



Dear Mr. Soros

I sincerely congratulate you the anniversary with best wishes!

Mr. Soros, You are a great person, born to do great things in this world and I am sure you will be able to perform kind affairs healthy and happy for many more years. One of your kind things that alluded to me and I am very grateful to you for this is my relationship with AAF. I am a doctor from Tbilisi (Georgia), with the help of AAF and You I could come to Austria; it was very important event for me in my professional as well as personal development.

I'll never forget the emotions, meetings and cordial relations between the American and Austrian counterparts, whose high professionalism was and will be a great stimulus and motivation for me. Also will always remember the beautiful city of Salzburg with wonderful days spent there; And it's all thanks to you Mr. Soros;

Once again many thanks and long life to you Mr. Soros
Sincerely,

Dr. Ekaterine Labadze

Doctor Therapeutics; Gastroenterologist, Clinic "Citymed"



Dear Mr Soros,

I am very glad at the opportunity to congratulate you on your 85th birthday! Thanks to your generous support, I had a chance to attend the most deserving Salzburg Medical Seminars (2014) and become an alumna of the Open Medical Institute. These seminars became an important landmark in my career as they enriched my professional experience and provided me with valuable input for future development.

Apart from purely professional aspects, my visit to Austria had significant social and cultural benefits as well. OMI gave me a chance to see the beautiful city of Salzburg, enjoy its sights and most importantly, meet my colleagues.

I am very grateful for this opportunity to you personally and also to the whole OMI staff.

May I wish you good health and long and happy life! May we all feel your support for many many years!

Gratefully yours,

Dr. Sophie Tatishvili

Cardiologist, LTD Medical Centre „Junona“
Tbilisi, Georgia



from: Anna Dr Kiss-Szőke <kissszoke@gmail.com>

date: Wed, Sep 2, 2015 at 12:05 AM

Kedves Soros Úr!

Egyike vagyok azon orvosoknak, akiknek volt szerencsájük részt venni a Salzburgi Szemináriumok egyikén és ez úton mondanék köszönetet, hogy ezt lehetővé tette, valamint szívesen megosztanék néhány gondolatot, ami t ennek emléke hív elő bennem.

2014 őszén, az Open Medical Institute, American Austrian Foundation programjának keretén belül a pszichoterápiákkal foglalkozó pszichiátriai szemináriumon vehettem részt (nyaralásom alatt beszerzett lábtörésemet követő 6.-ik héten ;-). Eleinte kételkedtem, hogy mit fognak itt újat tanítani nekem, aki már jó pár éve azért a szakmában dolgozom, olvasok szakirodalmat és igyekszem rendszeresen továbbképezni magam. Különben is, itt élek Európa közepén, egy olyan országban, amit nem neveznék elmaradottnak, az orvostudománya tekintetében egyáltalán nem (OK, némi eszközhiány, meg néhol túlzott autoriter működésmód a rendszeren belül azért nem kizárt). És mégis. A tanfolyam oly módon volt összeállítva, hogy sokkal többet kaptunk, mint egy szokásos továbbképzésen. Olyan módszerekről halhattunk részletesen, amelyek éppen csak kialakulóban vannak, az Egyesült Államokban már kiterjedtebben használják, jó öreg kontinensünkön és főleg itthon, Magyarországon, csak épp keresi a helyét, gyakorlati oldalról itt találkozhattam velük először. A részletekkel nem untatnám, de ami igazán megfogott, az a Mindfulness módszere volt. A keleti meditációs alapok s a nyugati, asszertívebb gyógyító technikák ötvözéseként kialakult MBSR (Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction) stresszoldásra, fájdalomcsökkentésre, az MBCT (Mindfulness Based Cognitive Training) pedig visszatérő depressziók kezelésére alkalmas. Hazatérve találtam egy Budapesten induló csoportot ahol Oxfordi oktatóktól folytathattam a módszer tanulását, s így haladok a cél felé, hogy a meditáció és a nyugati, bizonyítékokon alapuló orvoslás egyesülésének eredményével minél több beteg embernek tudjak segíteni, visszaadni a hitét saját magában, gyógyulásában és abban, hogy megvannak a módszerei saját tüneteinek a kézben tartására. (választhatja azon túl a szenvedést és választhatja azt, hogy tesz valamit önmagáért, hogy ne legyen olyan kibírhatatlanul erős fájdalma, vagy hogy a reális szintig növekedjen az önbizalma.)

Egy másik feldolgozott és, kényes jellege miatt, ritkán terítékre kerülő téma „mit kezdhet”, „hova fordulhat”, „hogyan éli meg”, „hogyan dolgozza fel” a terapeuta betege öngyilkosságát?) által elindított gondolat egy kiégés-megelőző protokoll bevezetését ihlette, bár ez még nem készült el teljesen, mert közben más feladatokkal bíztak meg, a Szegedi Tudományegyetem Pszichiátriai Klinika járóbetegellátásának vezetésével. Így, most, a tornyosuló adminisztratív problémákkal küzdök és a munka delegálásának „művészetét” tanulom (erre nincs valami jó kis tanfolyam? ;-).



A harmadik, ez már valóban személyes aspektusa a salzburgi szemináriumnak, az az élmény, hogy olyan emberekkel lehetett formális és informális körülmények között beszélgetni, akikkel volt közös érdeklődési területünk (valamiért mindenki a pszichiátriát választotta a hétköznapi élet eltöltésére és náluk volt a „kulcs” (avagy az íróasztal fiókos oldalán ültek - rossz nyelvek szerint csak ez a különbség a pszichiáter és betegek között), de nagyon-nagyon különböző körülmények, lehetőségek között élünk. S épp ez a diverzitás adta egy adott ponton azt a felismerést, hogy ez itt egy olyan csapat, ami a világot meg tudná váltani, ha arra a célra tereltek volna össze minket. Annyira különbözőek voltunk, hogy a Föld bármely pontján vígan elboldogultunk volna. Nem kerülhettünk volna olyan helyzetbe, amit valaki vagy valakik a csoportból ne tudtak volna megoldani. Nagyon jó érzés egy ilyen „csapatnak” a része lenni. Életreszóló... Bár valójában csak egy hétre szólt. Most visszaolvasva, ezek nem nagy dolgok. Mégis saját erőmből nem jutottam volna hozzá. Soha.

Nagyon köszönöm.

85. születésnapja alkalmából kívánok sok örömet és boldogságot, jó egészséget (bölcsülő életkorban járó édesanyám szerint ez a legfontosabb), a mindennapi reggelekhez kíváncsiságot, a délutánokhoz, estékhez melegséget és megelégedettséget, hálával és köszönettel, (szentimentális stílusért elnézést kérve,)

Kiss-Szőke Anna

Faculty of Medicine
Department of Psychiatry
University of Szeged

Szeged, 2015.08.31.



from: Szabo Eva <szaboeva1978@yahoo.com>

date: Sat, Aug 29, 2015 at 10:36 PM

Dear Mr Soros,

Let me wish You a very happy Birthday!

And on the occasion of this, I would like to say thank You for Your support of the AAF programs.

The opportunity to take part in a Salzburg Seminarium as a young paediatrician made me much more self-confident during my work than I was before, because I got know several up-to-date informations about the neonatology there. And I got the opportunity to get know wonderful professors, namely Professor Richard A. Polin and Professor Friedrich Reiterer, as well. Who – thanks to the AAF – I could invite to Budapest some years later. And on this way I was able to introduce them and their knowledge to lots of hungarian and some slovakian colleagues. That Satellite Symposium is one of those things, I am really proud of, in my life.

I wish You good health and all the best in Your life!

Yours faithfully,

Eva Szabo, MD

pediatrician (and already neonatologist as well)
Department of Pediatrics
University of Szeged
Szeged, Hungary



from: Judit Kálmán <kalmanj87@gmail.com>

date: Sun, Aug 30, 2015 at 1:37 PM

Dear Mr. Soros,

first of all I would like to say special thanks for the possibility to take part in Temporal bone surgery seminar supported by your association. The work of the whole organisation is outstanding, and is without precedent in Europe, as far as I know.

However I am not a specialized ENT doctor yet – I am still doing my resident years in Hungary, it was a great opportunity to get acquainted with the basis of the state-of-the-art middle ear surgery. The lecturers from the USA, France and Austria were one-and- all excellent, their presentations were didactic, emphasising their own „tips and tricks” to ease our learning phase in the everyday.

To become aware of the surgical secrets of such highly acknowledged professors – would not be able without such a face-to-face education program.

On the other side, for me, who lives in Central-Europe (in Hungary), to have conversations with other fellows from all over the world (Africa, Far-East, South-Europe) was so fabulous! The accessibility of diagnostic procedures and surgical intervention throughout the world ranges between an extremely wide spectrum, which I would never thought before.

Let me say an example. A North-African fellow presented a case of a child with a 10 cm long nail driven in his external auditory canal, and he struggled, as the doctor of the patient, to get a simple MRI to decide the carotid artery injury at all! While in the dissection chamber in Salzburg the supply of burrs, micro-sickles and scissors, middle ear implants seemed unfailing. It is so poignant, that there is absolutely no even- chance in getting the appropriate therapy for a disease as a patient in different part of the world.

The value of this fellowship lies in giving the chance at least for the doctors, to get the same knowledge in a small slice of ENT to bridge this financial and economical rift into the world.

Yours sincerely,

Judit Kálmán

Department of Otolaryngology
Bajcsy-Zsilinszky Hospital
Budapest





UNIVERSITY OF PECS
Medicak School
Department of Paediatrics

Dear Mr. Soros,

31 Aug, 2015

Many years ago I was able to participate in a course in Salzburg organized for pediatric neurologists. It was a great personal and professional experience. I remember the friendly lecturers and their high-quality presentations. Lots of friendships were bound and since then we always greet each other with a great pleasure at different paediatric neurologic meetings. What I really remember how minimal free time we got in Salzburg! At the last evening of the course with my Hungarian colleague I visited the famous Marionette Theater of Salzburg. We looked at the Magic Flute of Mozart. I see before my eyes Peter Ustinov and the wonderful puppets, the nice colourful feather costumes of Papageno and Papagena.

Meanwhile I became the President of the Hungarian Paediatric Neurologic Society. On the occasion of your 85th birthday I wish you good health and thank your grandious support!



Katalin Hollody MD, PhD
President of the Hungarian Paediatric Neurology Society

Adresse: H-7623 Pécs, József A. u. 7.
Tel: +36-72-535-900 Fax: +36-72-535-971 E-mail: katalin.hollody@aok.pte.hu



from: Noemi Szell <noemiszell@gmail.com>

date: Sun, Sep 6, 2015 at 10:29 AM

Dear Mr. Soros!

It an honour to me to great you on your 85th Birthday! I learned about it from Dr. Aulitzky, as I was a participant in AAF program last year in Salzburg. It was a very special experience, for which I owe every organizer and supporter a great thank you. What I am even more grateful to you that I can't express is that I was among the first Hungarian high school students to participate in a students' exchange program when I was 16. I stayed at St. Paul's School, New Hampshire for an academic year in 1993-94.

It has such a great impact on my life that one can not express in words! I wish you good health and much honour in your future life!!

Faithfully: Noémi Széll M.D. from Hungary

Debrecen Kenezy Korhaz Debrecen Department of Ophthalmology



from: Réka Kovács <kovrekus@gmail.com>

date: Sun, Sep 6, 2015 at 9:59 PM

Dear Mr Soros,

I had an opportunity to take part in the AAF Medical Seminar in Salzburg, and I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude! I had a very good time there, I met excellent professors and lecturers and I learned very much from them!

Since then I am in touch with one of the professors from the Columbia University, New York. If I have any medical questions, I can write him and he answers as soon as he can.

With the AAF's support we had an opportunity to organise a Satellite Symposia in 2014 in Budapest, almost with 100 participants!

Thank you for it!

I wish you a Happy Birthday and a good health!

Reka Kovacs from Budapest

Department of Pediatrics
Heim Pal Children's Hospital



Tisztelt Soros Úr!

Nagy öröm számomra, hogy levelemmel 85. születésnapján felköszönthetem és külön boldogság, hogy mindezt csodálatos magyar anyanyelvünkön tehetem.

Az Ön által támogatott American Austrian Foundation és a szervezésükben zajló AAF Medical Programokon való részvételeim jelentős mértékben hozzájárultak szakmai karrierem előremozdításához. 2003 és 2010 között összesen hét alkalommal volt módom részt venni a salzburgi és bécsi urológiai továbbképzéseiken, amik szakmai fontosságuk mellett csodálatos kapcsolatokkal és kulturális élményekkel is megajándékoztak.

Talán ezek a tapasztalatok is hozzájárultak ahhoz, hogy fiatalon (44 éves vagyok) olyan szakmai karriert értem el, amit orvosi pályája elején mindenki csak álmodik. Ez év júliusától a Szegedi Tudományegyetem, Általános Orvosi Kar, Urológiai Klinikájának igazgatója lettem, folyamatban van a Magyar Tudományos Akadémia doktora pályázatom elbírálása és több szakmai szervezet vezetőségébe választottak be.

Mindezek mellett két Gyermekekkel csodálatos családi életem is megadatott. Hálás soraimmal kívánok Önnek jó egészséget, erőt, boldogságot és további hosszú életet!

Tisztelettel:

Bajory Zoltán

Zoltán Bajory M.D., Ph.D.
chairman
Department of Urology
University of Szeged
6725 Szeged Kálvária sgt. 57.
Hungary
Email: bajory.zoltan@med.u-szeged.hu
Tel.: +36-70-942-0429
Fax: +36-62-561-301



Dear Mr. Georg Soros,

I am a doctor from Kazakhstan, pediatric neurologist. It is a very interesting and quite important field in medicine. I can confirm that during my professional life you're influencing were big. I have been a participant at Salzburg seminars several times and can say that it gave me a lot of new knowledge in my specialty. Also it helped me change a mind regarding organization and providing professional care to my patients according to international standards. Meetings with international world recognized specialists who were lecturers at the courses gave me opportunities establish a cooperation with them and improve care for children. Also it was a very important to learn at Salzburg seminars who to read, how to write and present a topics. This knowledge is very valuable for integration to international professional society.

Let me take a liberty and write you a letter with my deep sincerity and allow expressing to you the words of gratitude for a contribution to development of medicine in developing countries.

Also I would like congratulate You and say that You are a great example of humanity and a very wisdom person who spend a part of life for creation a new future.

Dr. Altynshash Jaxybayeva

Pediatric Neurologist
National Research Center for Mother and Child Health
Astana, Kazakhstan

16/09/2015/



**To: Mr George Soros,
Chairman of "Soros Fund Management"**

Dear Mr Soros!

I am writing this letter to express my profound respect and sincere gratitude for your landmark mission in this World. Since my school days, I could see the great impact of Soros Foundation, in regards of small things or big deals. "Small thing" was the first free internet access in the public library in my city in early 90th, and it was the most amazing thing for that young people who used it, sponsored by Soros Foundation. "Big deals" meant the destiny for that people who could use the international educational programs, sponsored by Soros Foundation.

In summer of 2014, I was happy to join the Salzburg Medical Seminars, postgraduate medical education program of the Open Medical Institute, the American Austrian Foundation, which based on support of Soros Foundation since its establishment. I found these seminars as a great possibility for doctors like me to obtain information about new technologies in medicine and general surgery from whole the World, through the lectures of high-level faculty members involved in Salzburg Medical Seminars. Of course, these seminars are only one from many examples of the great and sincere facility.

Indeed, most of the fellows of Soros Foundation in the World appreciates its colossal role. Thanks cannot convey the gratitude we feel. I believe there are new frontiers in the future for Soros Foundation!

Very sincerely,
Nariman Sadykov, PhD, MD
Senior researcher
Syzganovs' National Scientific Center of Surgery,
Almaty, the Republic of Kazakhstan
+77017885143
nsadykov@gmail.com

September 14, 2015





Dear, Mr Soros!

My name is Razumov Sergey. I am a doctor from Kazakhstan. I tender my congratulations with your birthday. I am very happy to have this opportunity. I have been attended to Salzburg Medical Seminars 3 times. My first seminar was in 1999, it was – “General pediatrics in review”. That period was very difficult for medicine in my country. We broke our old system, but have not built a new one. We had very big deficiency of medications, equipment, and of course information. So knowledge's, that I received in Salzburg change my opinion about some pediatric pathology treatment. I can say more, this information gave me possibility to save lives for some of my patients.

My second visit to Salzburg was in 2004, “Pediatric emergency care”. Due to that seminar I have really improved my theoretical knowledges and practical skills. And when I came back to my hospital I have changed emergency strategy in my unit at first, and sometimes later in my hospital. Moreover, I have very active used new information during my lessons with the students in the medical university, as a result at the end of 2004 y. I became the best teacher in my fields.

During 12 last years I have been working as associated professor on the Anesthesiology and Intensive care faculty, Medical university Astana and as doctor of department of an Anesthesiology and Intensive care of the Children's municipal hospital №2. Since 2007 I am an independent expert of Kazakhstan Health Ministry. And I can say that all my career steps were connected with my participation in Salzburg educational programs.

In the march of 2013 y. I have visited Salzburg again. It was seminar – “Pediatric anesthesiology and critical care”. And now I try again to improve care for our little patients, but not only in my hospital, but in hole country.

Salzburg Medical Seminars – is really great achievement of you and your team.

I wish to thank you for this program, for opportunity to receive knowledges, for chance to meet very interesting smart people, and as a consequence of this for opportunity to be of benefit to my little patients.

I wish you're a good health, many happy returns od the day and a lot of new great ideas!

With expressions of the highest esteem,

Razumov S. Associate Professor

Astana Medical University
Astana City Children Hospital 2
Department of Anesthesiology



Dear Mr. Soros

On behalf of the fellow participants in the AAF activities from Kosovo we wish you a Happy Birthday.

Kosovar doctors who for decades had limited access into the international educational programs, after the war are fortunate to be included in the AAF programs. Salzburg seminars were the first window opened for the excellent international educational programs where Kosovar doctors had opportunity to receive evidence based medical knowledge in the modern style by prominent and excellent Austrian and US faculties.

The excellent internship opportunities helped our doctors to feel, be trained and be the part of the advanced medical professionalisms.

Additionally, two satellite symposiums organized in Kosovo with Austrian and US faculties were the excellent events to hear the advanced procedures by the big local professional audience and for the exchange of experiences.

All AAF activities implemented in Kosovo as in many other countries, with endless support from Prof Aulitzky and his wonderful AAF team, as one of your accomplishments, comfort you to celebrate as you are the handlers of the change and progress in the world.

Sincerely yours,

Bujar Gjiko M.D.

Kosova Open Medical Club KOMC
AAF local coordinator for Kosovo



Dear Mr. Soros,

I attended the Salzburg Medical Seminars International in 2002 and participated in an OMI Observership in Salzburg, Austria in 2010. It opened me a world of up-to-date medical information and education. I boost my career after the seminar and observership.

I am a Pediatrician. In 2002, I worked at the National Center for Mother and Child Health Care as a staff physician. After attendance of the Salzburg seminar, I moved as a director of Medical Center for children at risk. I have been working as an Expert at the Ministry of Health in the field of children's health since 2010. In addition, now I am a lecturer at the Republican Healthcare Promotion Center and a head of Palliative care project.

In 2004 I became a Coordinator of the Salzburg Medical Seminars International program in Kyrgyzstan. It was a new, responsible and very interesting activity for me. Since then, I have helped my colleagues to attend the Salzburg seminars. I can see how changing their worldview after participating in the seminars. I experienced it too. The seminars have changed our traditional medical approaches. We have gained strong desire to work harder in our fields, share new knowledge, experience and establish long term collaborations with colleagues from Austria, USA and other countries. From 2007 to 2013 we held five Satellite Symposia in our country having invited great professionals from the best medical centers of USA and Austria. This was really amazing opportunity for us to meet and discuss the specific cases, practical nuances with the faculty members. It became a real base for thinking and going forward.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to You for supporting such important activities in the field of improving health care in our country and all over the world. I would like to thank all AAF and OMI team members for their excellent work!

Sincerely,

Dr. Asanalieva Lola, MD, PhD

Program Coordinator for Kyrgyzstan,
SMSI fellow 2002,
Observership 2010



Dear Mr. Soros!

It was few years ago. My fellows were discussing about their participating in Salzburg Medical Seminars. I was so excited. I've tried to apply to this program. Unfortunately, my English was not so good. I decided to solve this problem. I was attending language course during the next two years. Then I tried to apply again. So, it was successful attempt. I remember my first taking part in Salzburg Seminars like it was few days ago despite it was on May 2007. Lectures were so interesting. Faculties explained all materials very well. Knowledge collected in this seminar are very useful for my everyday work process yet. Then I participated on one month observership on May 2010 and Medical Seminars one more time on November 2013.

So, owing to Salzburg Medical Seminars I improve my English, I have gained new friends from different countries, my professional level up, and my mind changed in a reason to understanding my environment.

I would like to say a lot of thanks to all AAF and OMI team members, officers, faculties and coordinators, technical personnel for so amazing organization of seminars!

Bakytbek Imanov, MD, PhD

Cardiologist, senior researcher,
Ultrasound department,
National Center of Cardiology and Internal Medicine,
Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek
SMSI fellow 2007, 2013; internship 2010



Dear Mr. Soros!

The Fate gave me a chance with the help of OMC in Kyrgyzstan to attend Salzburg seminar on Neonatology and met world leaders in the perinatal and neonatal medicine.

And then to lead to our country the titanium of neonatology as Richard Polin and the director of Perinatal Center at Columbia University as Linn Simpson. At the beginning, our doctors from the most remote corners of the country did not realize the importance of these scientists in the world, but in two days of personally meetings, they understood, that they had never meet someone like them.

Once again, fate gave me the chance to take part in training in one of the best university hospitals in the world - The University Hospital in Graz (Austria). Where I was again convinced of the innovative technologies in neonatal practice, the provision of quality health services, training of students, residents and training doctors in a new vision and also creating effective standards of care. After this trip my inner world, attitude to people, patients and my family has changed.

Upon returning we have trained all our medical staff and nurses on international trainings with the support of ordinary people and international donors, we have written clinical protocols and constantly updating them as new evidence. Also we always visit distant regions of the country to provide practical help and try to attache doctors and nurses to the achievements in modern medicine.

I think that with your support, many lives of newborn children were saved in Kyrgyzstan. These young people will build a bright future in the world, to which each of us is committed. This certainly has your invaluable service, with deep appreciation and gratitude to You, Neonatologists of Kyrgyzstan.

Sagynbu Abduvalieva, MD

Head of newborns pathology and premature babies department,
National Centre for Mother and Child Healthcare,
Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek
SMSI fellow 2008, Internship 2013



Dear Mr. Soros,

do accept my congratulations on your Great Day!

I probably am one of the oldest of the alumni congratulating you. The first seminar I attended as far back as 1995; one more afterwards in the 2012. Three observerships (2000, 2007 and 2012) are also on my account.

All my success has been related to medicine, medicine's organization, medical education in my country – Latvia:

- head of the Anesthesia and intensive care department in municipal hospital (till 2010), head of Emergency clinic of the university hospital (2010–2014), arch-physician of Emergency services of the same hospital since 2014;
- vice-president of national society of Anesthetists and Intensivists (2003–2009), representative of national group at European Society of Anaesthesiology (2002 – 2006), representative of national society at the Section and Board of European Union of Medicine Specialists (UEMS) (2004–2012);
- trainer of undergraduate students and residents at all times, co-author of two textbooks, the third one is in process.

I am proud of being still tightly connected with the Foundation – I am the national coordinator for my country and I am happy to serve the idea of spreading the best knowledge in countries in transition like mine.

Dr. Peteris TOMINS

Rīgas Austrumu KUS virsārsts neatliekamās medicīnas jautājumos
Hipokrāta ielā 2, Rīgā, LV-1038
Amerikas - Austrijas fonda koordinators Latvijā
Tel. +371-67042839
Fax +371-67041005
peteris.tomins@aslimnica.lv
www.aslimnica.lv

August 31, 2015.



Dear Mr. Soros,

I am very grateful to you personally and to entire AAF Medical Programs team for the possibility attend Salzburg cardiology course in year 1993.

That course had a huge impact on my knowledge in cardiology at that time and impact on my later carrier in cardiology in my native country Lithuania.

I am very happy that numerous colleagues from post communistic countries have had an opportunity to get updated and get in touch with professors form Cornell University.

At that time it was like a dream for all of us – participants of Salzburg Seminars in Cardiology, moderated by memorable Dr. Scheidt!

All the best on behalve of Lithuania's cardiologist!

Ausra Kavoliuniene

Ausra Kavoliuniene, MD, PhD, FESC
Professor of Medicine, Lithuanian Health Science University
Head of WG Myocardial and pericardial diseases at
Lithuanian Society of Cardiology
ausra.kavoliuniene@lsmuni.lt
www.lsmuni.lt



Dear Mr. Soros,

It is a great pleasure for me to express You my personal thanks for Your continuing support and generosity that enables many of doctors all over the world and me between them to attend medical seminars held in Salzburg.

I am an anaesthesiologist and had a pleasure even twice to participate in Salzburg medical seminars. The first time was at the start of my career in 1996, the experience I will hardly forget...This was the first time when I could meet colleagues from Europe and United States. It was an incredible experience to be able to attend the top quality lecturers and especially talk to them personally during the whole week! I took home not only direct professional knowledge but also admired lecturing skills of the faculty.

My second time was in 2014 Seminar Pediatric Emergency Medicine. The field in which I lacked specific training, and that I had an opportunity to get during the course. Simulation sessions were incredibly helpful, and now I feel much stronger dealing with children. Back home I shared my knowledge with my colleagues and hope this will help to keep the high standard of care in my hospital. Wishing You good health and long years I say thank you very much for Your generosity and Your care for all the sick people.

Sincerely

Dr. Danguole C. Rugyte

Associate Professor
Lithuanian University of Health Sciences
Kaunas Clinics Department of Anesthesiology
Kaunas, Lithuania



Dear Mr. Soros,

My experience with the Salzburg Seminars began in 2011, when I attended a seminar about medical education. I derived so much benefit from the meetings and enjoyed my time there so much that when I had another opportunity to attend in 2013, I jumped at the chance. The teachers, the lectures, the atmosphere of the seminars, the accommodation, food, and the concert: everything was organized with care and professionalism. Although the schedule of the seminars was very intense, the professionalism and enthusiasm of the lecturers, interesting topics, discussions, and interactivity made the time fly by. I learned a lot during these one-week seminars. To be honest, the Salzburg Seminars in Medical Education are the most useful training sessions I have ever attended in my career.

After having had such rewarding experiences at these seminars in Salzburg, I helped to organize two satellites of the Salzburg Seminars at the Faculty of Medicine of Vilnius University in 2013 and 2015. These seminars have been instrumental in bringing new ideas and the latest innovations in teaching medical students to Vilnius University. My colleagues and I were inspired by the seminars, and I hope and believe that the benefits of these lectures were and will continue to be felt by both professors and students.

It is important to add that a further advantage of these seminars is the possibility to widen our circle of contacts in the field of medicine and academia. These contacts can develop and have developed into study opportunities for gifted students, joint research, and friendship.

On behalf of Vilnius University and myself, I would like to thank you for providing the opportunity for so many positive things to happen in connection with the Salzburg Seminars.

Sincerely,

Vaiva Hendrixson

Vice Dean, Assoc. Professor
Faculty of Medicine, Vilnius University
Lithuania



Dear Mr. Soros!

On behalf of the medical scientists of Sumy (Ukraine) we congratulate You on Your birthday and wish You good health and wisdom!

The wisdom gives You the opportunity to realize their most exciting projects in various spheres of economy and scientific fields.

Wisdom, multiplied by the realization of plans and courage innovation ideas – that's what we all need to learn from You.

And health is also useful – need energy for new ideas.

Also, thank You for supporting Ukraine in this difficult time in the global arena – Your opinions are listened to everything – we can see and appreciate.

Let us strive together to stability and prosperity – the path is thorny, but very interesting!

Taking this opportunity, allow me to thank you for the wonderful opportunity to visit for the first time in Europe – in Austria at workshops of Open Medical Institute. That visit was the trigger for professional development at the very beginning of my career, opening the door to Europe. In 2012 I visited Salzburg as an assistant of the department of Sumy State University, which gave me new ideas for future research. Defended his doctoral thesis in 2014, winning several individual research grants, visiting five countries in Europe and dealing with European colleagues, I work as a professor, deputy director for science. And I'm happy to have the opportunity to develop professionally in the name of my motherland – Ukraine.

Kind regards,



Nadiia Demikhova

nadezhda-sumy@mail.ru
Sumy State University
www.sumdu.edu.ua



Dear Mr. Soros,

When I first found out about the OMI in 1999 it was a difficult time for me and Russian doctors. I had no possibility to contact foreign colleagues or clinics or attend international conferences. At first I was sure this is next “advertising campaign“. I was really surprised when I was invited for an interview.

Even until the plane landed in Salzburg I was not sure that it is reality and Alpine Dream has begun.

Only now I understand how important the details are to the educational process: castle in old town, spirit of Mozart and Paracelsus in narrow streets.

We were four young orthopedic surgeons at the beginning of our careers from cities far from each other: Saint-Petersburg, Novosibirsk, Kazan, and Nizhny Novgorod. For most of us it was the first time abroad and it was one of the key milestones in our professional lives. Years later we are still close friends and remember all the details of our first meeting.

I am now head of the department of foot and ankle surgery, neuroorthopedics and skeletal dysplasias at the leading Russian institution for pediatric orthopedics. Several times a year I participate in international meetings, but every time I remember my first step into this world.

I remember brilliant Russell Windsor, academic Mathias Bostrom, and excellent Ulrich Dorn. I keep in my heart my internship mentors: fantastic Professor Gerhard Steinwender from Graz and one of the best teachers in my life – Professor Franz Grill from Vienna. With their help I became a member of the European Paediatric Orthopedic Society.

If I have a severe case I often consult with my OMI colleagues. We have common papers published in international journals, and I hope this work will grow.

Many people asked me: WHY? Why wealthy and successful Europeans and Americans invited you and young unknown doctors like you, paid money, delivered lectures trying to explain the things which seemed impossible to be introduced in our daily practice. At that time I could not answer this question clearly, but I was sure it was not just an attempt to spend unnecessary money. Now, almost ten years after Salzburg I can explain it.

The only way to change practices is by sharing knowledge. The moment I felt a lack of cooperation from my colleagues to accept new methods and commonly accepted practices which I learned in European clinics and meetings I decided to spread knowledge among local colleagues and with help from OMI organized two satellite symposia. Now I understand how important it is to share knowledge and spread ideas.

Vladimir Kenis
Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon,
St. Petersburg, Russia





Mexico City September 2015

Dear Mr. Soros:

I really appreciate the support regarding the health necessities in developing world, the postgraduate medical education program enable us to work at a higher efficiency level, and facilitate our health systems in the future.

I am very grateful for the opportunity of sharing experiences and learning from the best in their fields. Dr. Amos Grunebaun and Dr. Frank Chervenak visited Mexico because that great coincidence and now they are active members of our national Congress narrowing the medical practice in our countries.

Thank you very much for being there with your support Mr. Soros.

Salvador Espino y Sosa MD

Medicina Materno Fetal
Ginecología y Obstetricia
Masters in Medical Science
Masters in Medical Education
National Institute of Genomics

OMI FELLOW
OB/GYN MARCH 2011





Mexico City September 15, 2015

Dear Mr. Soros

I am very grateful for your support towards this foundation, without it I would have never travelled to Salzburg and had gotten to meet such wonderful people, including but not limited to the teachers, the staff at the Schloss and my fellow classmates. Coming back to Mexico having seen and experienced this kind of teaching is a once in a lifetime achievement.

Thank you and Happy Birthday

Dra. Sofia Valanci Aroesty

Cirugía gastrointestinal,
laparoscopica, hernias

ABC MEDICAL CENTER, MEXICO CITY
OMI FELLOW
SURGERY JUNE 2014





Mexico City September 2015

Dear Mr. Soros:

My name is Orlando Tamariz-Cruz. I'm a physician working at the Instituto Nacional de Pediatría (National Institute of Pediatrics) in Mexico City.

I had the honor to attend to the massive bleeding seminar in 2013 sponsored by the AAF/OMI.

With pride I can say, the experience gave me the opportunity to change medical concepts and practices in my country, with an important benefit to my society. It also made me possible to invite professors from Europe, who have been able to share their experiences with us in Mexico. All of this could not have been possible without your support to this great European-American project.

Thank you for your support to the medical profession, and I wish the best to you and your family.

Respectfully.

Orlando Tamariz-Cruz, MD.

PEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGIST
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PEDIATRICS

OMI FELLOW BY INVITATION
SEVERE BLEEDING MANAGEMENT
FEBRUARY 2014





Mexico City September, 2015

Dear Mr. George Soros

First of all I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy Birthday, hoping you enjoy your day as much as possible and wishing you a life full of blessings.

I would like to share with you my experience during the seminar in Salzburg in which I had the opportunity to attend in 2014. The seminar definitely met my expectations, being able to meet specialists from USA and Austria was a paramount to my medical practice. It was such an experience in certain way to compare how medicine works in different countries, and learn new techniques, habits and health systems.

Having the chance to display and receive feedback from the presentation of clinical cases with leading specialists was a unique experience because it helps us to recognize strengths and weaknesses, besides being able to recognize if there are any areas of opportunity.

The topics discussed at the seminar were issues of high academic standards, and certainly it was something I shared with my colleagues when I came back to my country. Nevertheless it is worth to mention that I am very proud that even though we (Mexico) are a developing country we are highly updated with medical information and we can develop in the medical field without any problems.

Overall it was a unique experience that I will always remember.

It is wonderful that still there are people like you worried about medical training all over the world, trying to help and improve practice. It is really a blessing having the chance to meet people like you.

Thank you very much for the cause you support and your help.

Sincerely yours,

Graciela Norén Madrigal

Obstetrics and Gynecology
ABC Medical Center
Mexico city.

OMI FELLOW
OB/GYN AUGUST 2014





September 15, 2015

Dear Mr Soros:

It is a pleasure for me being able to greet and thank you for the opportunity that has been given to me to attend this course in Salzburg, which has changed in many aspects the way I see medicine.

To visit this beautiful place and being able to travel, has helped me to see that one has no barriers to proceed further, that there are more things that one has to fight for and that the barrier that separates us from our dreams is the mind, nothing is really imposible.

The opportunity of this course of medicine with the newest technology and specialists in each field, has helped me to continue studying each day more and put all my effort to be one day like them, and it has helped me to acquire knowledge of the latest technologies and offer this knowledge to my patients, which have a great suffering due to his illness, and thanks to this course I can acquire the knowledge to help them and offer them a better quality of life. Some patients do not have the economic resource and I tried to help them in altruistic way without expecting anything in return nothing as well as you have helped me, because at the end I think that is a help string, where I have received lots of help from you an it is my turn to help patients who need it most.

The presented cases and topics in the course, have helped me to continue with the desire to carry out clinical research, even this year I've started with projects of original research, always with the motivation to return them beyond that in my country and to have the opportunity to share some day in another course that you can attend.

The experience with my classmates, was very pleasant and unforgettable, because in addition to share medical knowledge we share ideas, experiences and friendship.

Felipe Padilla Vazquez

Natonal Institute of Neurology and Neurosurgery

OMI FELLOW
NEUROSURGERY SEMINAR
SEPTEMBER 2015





Dear Mr. Soros,

My name is Fabiola, I am Mexican, and I am a pediatric cardiologist. I had the opportunity to participate in this beautiful program of the American Austrian Foundation. The Open Medical Institute.

I think that it is a unique opportunity in the world, we had the opportunity to learn the topics of our profession, share experiences of colleagues from different parts of Europe, but we also take home the great lesson of share with others our Knowledge.

I infinitely thank the support given not only to me, also to a thousands of physicians who every day do the best to help the sick childrens and adults.

People like you are unique in this world, people who care for others and show their generosity to people who need help, thank you for your contributions that allowed to me and to a thousands of doctors to help and save lives.

Me and my Mexican patients, who are now at home with his parents enjoying his life and love, we infinitely grateful for your support to this foundation that makes a tremendous work to improve the health of patients in many parts of the world.

Fabiola Perez

National Institute of Pediatrics

OMI FELLOW
CARDIAC IMAGING
DECEMBER 2010
PEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGY FACULTY
SATELLITE SYMPOSIUM MEXICO
SEPTEMBER 2014







Mexico City, September 18th, 2015.

Dear Mr Soros:

First of all, congratulations! I am so glad you are celebrating your birthday, God bless you and your family.

Second, I want to say that I am very thankful with you for what you have done for doctors worldwide in such a beautiful place as Salzburg. You have had a great impact on our lives through your vision and philanthropy.

I enjoyed so much Salzburg because I had the opportunity to learn so many things and to talk to other Infectious Physicians about interesting topics. I am sure that everyone that gets there, comes back amazed of such opportunity, a really incredible experience.

Hoping you to have a wonderful birthday, full of blessings.

Truly gratefully,

Valeria Gómez Toscano MD

Pediatric Infectious Diseases
National Institute of Pediatrics

OMI FELLOW
INFECTIOUS DISEASES
SEPTEMBER 2014





University Clinic of Cardiology,
Clinical Center Mother Theresa,
Mother Theresa street nr 17,
Skopje, R. of Macedonia

Dear Mr. Soros,

I have heard for this program that supports young specialist way back in the late nineties. It was quite difficult to get in the program and to enjoy the benefits of learning and expanding professional knowledge from the best English speaking lecturers.

The moment that the on-line platform was uploaded, The Program, and The Foundation became accessible to everyone. The moment that I applied and attended my first SMSI Seminar in Cardiac imaging, I also applied for National Coordinator. I so a great potential of the educational varieties that are offered to the doctors through this program, and I felt need to make visible American-Austrian Foundation to my colleges accross the Country.

Needless to say that all that started with your visionary approach to establish a unique organization of this kind, that year by year spreads not only across Europe, but across continents also. All of that would not be possible without a vision, that YOU had Mr. Soros, and for that I thank you.

I would like to wish you a very happy 85th birthday, please, enable us to write the same letters for your 95th birthday while in the meantime, we may enjoy the fruits of your unselfish support of this program, and to the doctors all around the world.

Sincerely

Marija Vavlukis, MD, PhD

University Clinic of Cardiology,
ICCU Head of department
Docent at University Ss' Cyril and Methodius



Mexico City, September 22nd, 2015

Dear Mr. Soros:

My name is Gerardo Garcia. I am a 38 year-old ophthalmologist and retina specialist from Mexico City, and I was fortunate enough to be sponsored by AMSA and the AAF to spend a week in Salzburg during the spring of 2012 for a seminar in Ophthalmology hosted by Drs. Binder and Rosenkranz.

I would really like to let you know what a life-changing experience these seminars are. And I am not just referring to the scientific content (which is top of the line, by the way), but to the opportunity to meet faculty and colleagues from so many different cultures. It has definitely broadened my perspective regarding the teaching and practice of ophthalmology worldwide.

I am aware that the AAF is focused in physicians from Eastern Europe and Asia, but I am sure that Latin America is a really fertile ground to put this model in practice, since there are some (or a lot of) countries where the process of teaching medicine and its specialties is really limited, either due to the lack of resources, or worse, due to the lack of will to teach by physicians that are already established. Surprisingly to me, the colleagues from Eastern Europe and Asia that I met in Salzburg told me that they faced the same difficulties back home, even though our cultures are rather different. In Mexico, AMSA is pushing really hard trying to spread the AAF's message and culture throughout the country, and has done a wonderful job so far. I think replicating the model in Latin America is a goal well worth pursuing; there is certainly a lot of need, but also an unparalleled passion to drive things forward in order to make a change.

I am told that this year you commemorate your 85th birthday, and I just want to say THANK YOU. I could not think of a better gift than knowing that countless patients have been and will be benefiting from this foundation's worthy cause of spreading medical knowledge wherever is needed, and being part of it.

Congratulations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'G' followed by a series of loops and a final downward stroke.

Gerardo Garcia, MD





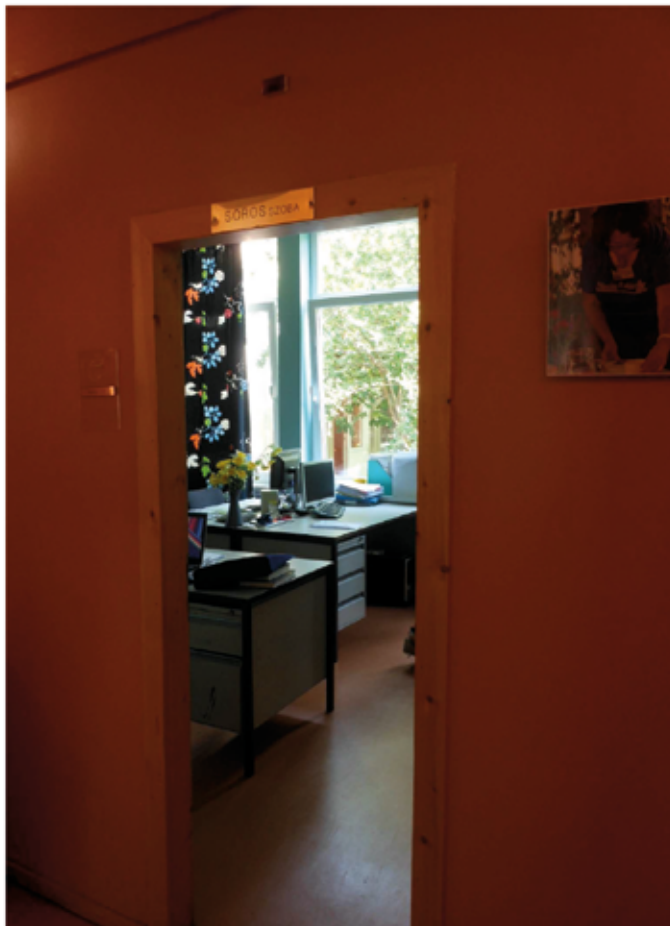
Magyar Hospice Alapítvány

1032 Budapest, Kenyeres u. 18-22. • +36 1 250 5513 • info@hospicehaz.hu • www.hospicehaz.hu

Dear Mr. Soros,

Your 85th birthday is a unique day for expressing our honors for your generous support you had given for the development of the Hungarian hospice movement in the last decades.

As the director of Hungarian Hospice Foundation I would like to thank you that you contributed to the establishment of the Hungarian end-of-life care; the resources of the tenders of Open Society Institute and the Foundation of Open Society Institute have opened the possibility for us to help the CEE/FS countries' health professionals to start with their own hospice movement, their own professional end-of-life care system, and the lobby activities for effective symptom management for all cancer patients in the terminal phase of their illness.



The members of our multidisciplinary team, and also me, working day-by-day with dying people and their families for 25 years, all have learnt and are experiencing time and again that the support we have got is not "just" money: it means less suffering, more valuable last days, more effective symptom control, and thus relief for the dying patients and also for their loved ones.

As we wanted to find a way for always bearing in mind how much our patient have got from you, we have named a room of Budapest Hospice House after Gyorgy Soros, as early as 2005.





Magyar Hospice Alapítvány

1032 Budapest, Kenyeres u. 18-22. • +36 1 250 5513 • info@hospicehaz.hu • www.hospicehaz.hu

Please let me wish you a very happy 85th birthday; and joy, love, and happiness for your coming years.

Sincerely yours

Katalin Muszbek, MD

Psychiatrist
Director of Hungarian Hospice Foundation

Budapest, August 31, 2015





Dear Mr. Soros,

Happy Birthday! I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your support in my professional career. As I am always grateful to my teachers and mentors, I feel similar gratitude towards you.

As a young medical doctor from Slovakia I was able to get essential training provided by Salzburg Medical Seminar. Prior to that, thanks to generous support from Sandor Marai Fund I could present my research findings at an international medical conference. Well, the rest of my career took a somewhat unusual, by no means unique turn. After finishing Ivy League education in the United States, I became a molecular genetic pathologist, currently practicing in the U.S.

While I became very successful in my career, none of it came easy, having also some additional hurdles as national minority (language, etc.). However, thanks to your support, too, I learned that being a minority is just a mathematical disadvantage, never an intellectual handicap.

Dear Mr. Soros, God bless you! Isten eltesse!

Sincerely yours,

Zoltan Gombos, MD, PhD
Lafayette, LA; formerly Dunajska Streda, Slovakia



Dear Mr. Soros!

My name is Larysa Sydorchuk and currently I am the head of the Family Medicine Department of the Bucovinian State Medical University in Chernivtsi, Ukraine.

I have started my participation in OMI/AAF programs in now faraway year 2003 as a young physician at the start of my medical, academic, and scientific career. Salzburg Medical Seminar in Family Medicine gave me strong push forward and in right direction. Not only gaining of knowledge of medicine but improvement of my language skills, extensive growth of my competence and getting new friends not only among my fellow colleagues, but also among faculty, such as Prof. Manfred Maier from the Medical University Vienna.

The seminar was designed with the goal of teaching the participants techniques to improve medical knowledge in their respective home countries, accomplished through lectures, workshops, and role playing. The lectures covered a wide range of topics related to all medical problems. The workshops – included a small group training and provided participants with the tools to improve their techniques and competence in the field. The faculty stimulated participants to ask many questions and express ideas from their home countries, and share common problems they face in their medical practice. The open dialogue created an environment perfect for learning, which in this case, was also a lesson itself.

After returning to home countries, the „virus“ of knowledge and self-improvement became to spread in the respective countries of all participants. Moreover, not surprisingly, our improvement saved hundreds of lives through changing our approaches and tactics. Knowledge and experience obtained in Salzburg has a character of expansion through other specialists.

Participating in Salzburg family Medicine seminar significantly influenced my personal career. I started my dissertation study after Salzburg and succeeded five years later. Next year I became professor at the department of Family Medicine in my University.

In the year 2009, I was selected for the Observership in Vienna. It was a real wonderful time. Not only improvement as a doctor and specialist, but change of my global outlook, my view on different subjects and situations, frequently not directly related to my job functions. And I got a lot of new ideas, inspirations and friends. And again professor Maier organized the training process in the best possible manner. I have participated in different activities throughout whole Vienna and even more. We travelled outside to cooperate with rural area physicians! After spending the time together in and out of the activities, the participants from many countries and faculty clearly were leaving Vienna as good friends.



I became professor of Family Medicine and started to lead family Medicine department just few years after the Observership. My cooperation with OMI became to flourish. Professor Maier gave number of lectures online for the GP's in our region. Thus, the contingent of specialists getting advantage of OMI/AAF medical programs expanded in geometrical progression.

A month ago I returned to the place where everything starts twelve years ago. I returned to Salzburg. In addition, it was again like for the first time! Fresh and vivid, seminar influenced me with the same power and warmth. Again I met new friends, we established contacts and again we found more is connecting us than separating. Dear Mr. Soros! Let God bless you and your efforts of making world better. You do not even expect how many people were saved during these years due to your sponsorship of the OMI/AAF medical programs! Thousands of doctors not only directly improved their clinical practices but spread their skills and experiences through their colleagues. Not to forget the medical education for educators programs. Millions of thanks to you. Wishes of hundreds of years. Wishes of tons of health. Without you, all this may stop and people in many countries will suffer.

Sincerely,

Larysa Sydorchuk MD, PhD, DSc

Decision Chief
Bukovinian State Medical University
Chernivtsi, Ukraine



Dear Mr. Soros!

It's a great honor for me to write this letter.

I'm writing to you from Odessa - the city, which is situated on the coast of the Black Sea in Ukraine. May be you have never been in my city but thanks to you I visited exiting, beautiful Salzburg and Vienna, got acquainted to many remarkable, interesting and cool dermatologists all around the world. Some of them became later my close friends and still inspired me. Thanks to you I met the most famous scientists in the field of dermatology from around the world, I heard theirs lectures, I learned and began to apply international standards in the treatment of skin diseases. I remember a cozy autumn Salzburg in the old castle, where we listened to interesting lectures, shared with guys and teachers with experience in treatment around the world. ... And in the evenings we listened to classical music, sang Ukrainian songs and danced Latina dances!

I remember the magnificent Vienna, which I fell in love forever, remarkable clinical rounds of professor Stingl at the Immunological department of General Hospital and extremely informative days with professor Tanev in the PUVA department.

Already there I interested in vitiligo treatment, then developed this issue in my clinic. Now I study using of cell technology in the treatment of this disease, and I'm a speaker at international congresses and symposiums. I became Michael Hornstein Memorial Scholarship winner in 2013. This year I've got a travel grant for 4th Munich International Summer Academy of Practical Dermatology and made a presentation there.

All of this happened to me later, but this happy story began in 2012 when I first visited Salzburg medial seminar and Observership in a year.

All of this happened to me thanks to your help, Mr. Soros! So, thank you very much and happy Birthday! I wish you strong health. You really change people's fates, I think it's most precious thing in life.

I have a lot of plans, I want to study further because the doctor is learning all his life. I want to help people like you do. I want to visit other countries and may be, one day, say it to you in personal: Happy Birthday, Mr Soros!

Best regards,

Dr. Kateryna Karpenko, MD

Dermatology Department
Ukrainian Institute of Plastic and Cosmetic Surgery VIRTUS
Sudostroitel'naya street, 1
65010 Odessa
Ukraine
cell: +380 50 3363028
tel.: +380 48 7481616
fax: +380 48 7465544
Katerina@karpenko.od.ua

Participant of Salzburg Weill Cornell Seminar in Dermatology, Weill Cornell Medical College, Open Medical Institute, 2012. Observer of Observership in Dermatology & Infectious diseases at the Medical University of Vienna – The General Hospital Vienna (AKH), 2013.



Dear Mr. Soros,

I am very happy to have this great opportunity to congratulate you on your Birthday and to express at the same time my gratitude for the possibility to participate in the AAF program. In 2014 I participated in the AAF program “Internal medicine” and I can say without any doubts that it was a very important period of my studies. The first time I heard about this program was when I was a student. At that time I couldn't even imagine that I would participate once during 5 years in such a program and that I could spend a whole week with world-famous doctors.

During my residency I participated in different European medical conferences where I presented the results of my work and at the same time could listen to lectures of famous professors. But the AAF program is another type of studying. A small amount of people lives and studies together for a whole week and becomes really friends as all have basically the same interests and are incited to cooperate for further investigations. I can say that after participation in the AAF program I became more self-assured in presenting my results. In this program I learned to give a conference talk (before I did only posters). I learned to ask any question about something unclear to me without being afraid that I look stupid and the audience could smile. I learned that there are no stupid questions but only stupid answers. I remember the interest with which I listened to lectures about clinical cases. After the AAF program on internal medicine I worked in the therapeutic department. Once a patient with weight loss, diabetes and a productive cough was admitted. Antibiotics were not effective and the main suspicion with such patients is cancer. But it's difficult to tell a patient that he has cancer, especially if he has big family and big plans for the future. Before giving such a severe diagnosis it is necessary to exclude everything. But you can exclude only those diseases you know. I can't tell when exactly I remembered that I have already heard about a similar clinical case. I couldn't tell immediately what the diagnosis was but I knew where to look it up as I had the copies of all lectures of the AAF program, and finally I found the correct diagnosis in this copies. It was mucormycosis – a very rare and severe disease. Later the diagnosis I gave got confirmed by the pathologist. I was very proud of myself that I was able to make the correct diagnosis.

Without your help and your support the visiting of such courses would simply have been impossible. Thanks to the AAF program I found new friends, important contacts and gained new knowledge which I could bring to my colleagues and students. Thank you so much, dear Mr. Sorros, that you help young people in beginning their professional career and in believing in themselves.

Antonina Antonenko

MD, PhD-student at the department of Internal Medicine №3
Bogomolets National Medical University (Kiev, Ukraine)





National Institute of Cardiovascular Disease
Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit
Limbova 1, 833 51 Bratislava
Director: Ľubica Kováčiková, MD, PhD, Assoc. Prof.
Tel: 00421/2/ 59371 729 Fax: 00421/2/ 547 923 17



September 8, 2015

Dear Mr. Soros,

I am Dr. Lubica Kovacikova and I am an attendee of several Salzburg seminars, the first one in 2003 in Pediatric Cardiology. This letter is to thank you on the occasion of your special birthday for your extraordinary support of the medical programs at the American Austrian Foundation. The AAF programs represent an invaluable means of education for the medical staff at the Pediatric Cardiac Center, National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases, Bratislava, Slovakia.

So far, 16 physicians and 2 nurses from our Pediatric Cardiac Center have attended 24 Salzburg Medical Seminars - in Pediatric Cardiology, Pediatric Emergency Care, Anesthesiology and Critical Care, Cardiac Surgery, Cardiac Imaging, Palliative Care, and Medical Leadership. One colleague has participated in an observership at Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Vienna General Hospital (AKH).

In 2009, we organized the first satellite symposium in collaboration with Dr. Chen from Columbia University, New York and Dr. Stein from Innsbruck. The main topic was "Adults with congenital heart disease".

In December 2012, the second satellite symposium was organized in Bratislava with the faculty from Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP): Dr. Lee Vogel and Dr. Paul Stephens.

At that time US Embassy Bratislava offered the technical equipment for videoconferences for Slovak institutions. At the satellite symposium, we proposed cooperation with CHOP in the form of videoconferences to Dr. Vogel. The project was approved by CHOP and started in February 2013 under the directory of Dr. Vogel. Through videoconferences, patients with complex diagnoses have been consulted. The experts give their opinion on the patient management and share their experience with us. Depending on the topic, videoconferences have a multidisciplinary character. In addition to Pediatric Cardiac Center staff, colleagues from Pediatric Pulmonology, Neonatology, General Pediatric Surgery, Adult Cardiology, and National Transplantation Program have participated.

Furthermore, the „Exercise testing training program“ was discussed during the second satellite symposium in 2012. Dr. Paul Stephens gave us lectures on the importance of exercise testing in Pediatric cardiology. US Embassy Bratislava and Fulbright commission offered support for the educational program. During a two-week stay in April 2015, Dr. Michael McBride, the expert from CHOP trained the staff of Pediatric Cardiac Center in exercise training and delivered several lectures to adult cardiologists, pediatricians, and medical students.

At the third Satellite symposium in Pediatric Cardiology in March 2015 we again had a pleasure to have faculty from CHOP - Dr. Shobha Natarajan and Dr. Chitra Ravishankar. The main topics of the symposium were “New trends in Echocardiography, Fetal cardiology, Cardiovascular risk assessment and Management of patients with heart failure and single ventricle physiology”.

We thank you, Mr. Soros for your support of the American-Austrian Foundation that provides education “without borders”. Such education helps us to provide a better care for our patients and create professional relationships with medical experts from the USA and Austrian faculty members.

Sincerely,

Lubica Kovacikova, MD, PhD,

Associate Professor, Pediatrics
Director, Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit
National Institute of Cardiovascular Disease
Limbova 1
833 51 Bratislava, Slovakia
Email: mudr.kovacikovalubica@gmail.com
Tel: ++421-2-59371 729
Fax: ++421-2-54792 317



Dear Mr. Soros

It was a great honor for me to meet you during your visit to Kazakhstan, Nazarbayev University. For me it was revelation, with all your merits and position in the society, you remain open, responsive person with a kind heart. We all know how much you do for the advancement of medicine and really appreciate it.

For me personally, was a great help in the work of visiting training seminars in Salzburg, organized American-Austrian Foundation. And I know I'm not alone. I want to say that it helped me to update and improve many measures of medical activity specifically in my work. I am a good doctor, but I understand that you have contributed to my professional development.

On the day of your anniversary, I wish health to you and your family and every success in your business. So there are still a lot of people around the world with much gratitude and warmth in the heart talked about you.
Thank you and May God bless you

Sincerely yours,

Vitaliy Sazonov, MD

Deputy Chief of Service
National Research Center of Mother and
Child Health Department of Anesthesiology
Astana, Kazakhstan



Dear Mr Soros,

As a participant of Zalzburg seminar in Psychiatry and Psychotherapy in 1996, I take an opportunity to thank for your support on the occasion of your great anniversary.

It was a special hystorical moment of demolition of the iron curtain and reunion of the split world. However, none of the doctors from impoverished side could not afford even to step into formerly forbidden area without your support that enabled to bring the people from different sides together. We enjoyed scientific content and the manner the seminar was held.

Although later on I strayed to other field of medicine, every flashback to the seminar and reminescence of brilliant professors we met are so inspiring up to now.

I wish you a good health and all success in your endeavour to improve humanity. I hope your example lures more followers to adhere to philanthropy.

Kind regards,

Skirmantas Kuraitis

MD, Internal Medicine
Lithuania

Thank you!

Open Medical Institute

A Program of The American Austrian Foundation
150 East 42nd Street
New York, N.Y., USA

Schloss Arenberg
Arenbergstrasse 10
5020 Salzburg, Austria