34 fellows from 25 countries

12 faculty members from the USA, Austria, Germany, Italy, and Switzerland

19 didactic lectures

33 fellows’ case presentations

7 excellent case presentations

1 cadaver lab training at PMU Salzburg in collaboration with Medtronic and Zeiss
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<th>Time</th>
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<td>Introduction and Pre-Seminar Test</td>
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<td>09:00</td>
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<td>Spinal Surgery and Evidence-Based Outcomes</td>
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<td>COFFEE BREAK</td>
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<td>Basic Instrumentation Techniques</td>
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<td>Degenerative Spinal Disease - Lumbar Workshop Fellows’ Case Presentations</td>
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<td>Management of Cervical Trauma - OC to Subaxial</td>
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<td>Management of Thoracolumbar Trauma</td>
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<td>OMI Presentation</td>
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<td>FACULTY MEETING TO REVIEW THE WEEK</td>
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<td>WELCOME RECEPTION &amp; DINNER</td>
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<td>O-Arm Spinal 3D Navigation Microscope Lumbar Decompression Microscope and Cervical Decompression and Fusion</td>
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<td>Anterior and Lateral Approaches to the Spine</td>
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<td>Video MIS Cases</td>
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<td>Basics of Adult Deformity Correction</td>
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<td>Post-Seminar Test Evaluation &amp; Discussion</td>
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<td>21:00</td>
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<td>CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT</td>
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Roger Härtl, MD
(Course Director)

Hansen-MacDonald Professor of Neurological Surgery
Director of Neurosurgery Spine, Weill Cornell Medicine
Director, Weill Cornell Medicine Center for Comprehensive Spine Care
Co-Director, New York Presbyterian Och Spine
Founder, Weill Cornell Global Neurosurgery Initiative in Tanzania
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USA

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Roger Härtl, MD is the Hansen-MacDonald Professor of Neurological Surgery and Director of Neurosurgery Spine at the Weill Cornell Brain and Spine Center in New York. In addition, he is the Founder and Director of the Weill Cornell Medicine Center for Comprehensive Spine Care as well as Weill Cornell's Global Neurosurgery Initiative in Tanzania. He is also the Co-Director of Och Spine at New York Presbyterian Hospital. He also serves as the official neurosurgeon for the New York Giants Football Team. Dr. Härtl's clinical interest focuses on simple and complex spine surgery for degenerative conditions, tumors, and trauma as well as biological approaches for disc repair and regeneration. He is a world-renowned pioneer and leader in minimally invasive spinal surgery and computer-assisted spinal navigation surgery and augmented reality. He is actively involved in improving neurological care in emerging countries as the leader of Weill Cornell's Global Neurosurgery Initiative in Tanzania. In order to achieve the very best in patient outcomes, Dr. Härtl's practice emphasizes an interdisciplinary approach to spinal disease. He collaborates closely with other specialists such as neurologists, pain specialists, sports medicine doctors and physical therapists. His patients come from all over the globe and include many physicians, surgeons, and even other neurological spine surgeons. He has been repeatedly named to the lists of New York Super Doctors, America's Top Surgeons, and America's Best Doctors, and has been included on the list of New York’s Best Doctors in New York magazine. He has authored more than 250 scholarly articles in peer-reviewed journals and is the editor of four books on minimally invasive spinal surgery and biological disc repair and regeneration. He is the 2022 recipient of the AANS Humanitarian Award, one of the highest honors bestowed by the American Association of Neurological Surgeons. Dr. Härtl has provided commentary for numerous television shows on ABC, NBC, and CBS in addition to national radio shows. His expertise has been sought through interviews in the New York Times, The New York Post, The New York Daily News, and other media outlets.
Claudius Thomé, MD
(Co-Course Director)

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Claudius Thomé, MD completed his medical education at the Ludwig-Maximilian-Universitaet Munich, Germany and at Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford/Ca., USA followed by his residency in the Department of Neurosurgery, University of Heidelberg, Campus Mannheim (Chairman: Prof. Dr. P. Schmiedek) (1995-2001). He completed several fellowships: 2nd Institute of Physiology, University of Heidelberg; Dept. of Orthopedics, Klinikum Karlsbad-Langensteinbach; Department of Neurosurgery, Barrow Neurological Institute, Phoenix, USA; and, Department of Neurosurgery, Mayfield Clinic, University of Cincinnati, USA. His thesis was entitled “Evidence-based spine surgery: Evaluation of new surgical techniques using randomized studies” (2005). Dr. Thomé’s surgical specialties are: cerebrovascular surgery, skull base surgery and complex spine surgery, and his main research fields are: cerebrovascular diseases, neuromonitoring in brain injury (TBI, SAH) as well as evidence-based and minimally invasive spine surgery and regenerative medicine in spinal disease. After his position as Professor and Vice-Chairman at the Dept. of Neurosurgery, University of Heidelberg, Campus Mannheim from 2007 to 2009, he was appointed Full Professor and Chairman of the Dept. of Neurosurgery, Medical University Innsbruck, Austria in 2010. Dr. Thomé has served several years as Chairman of the Spine Section of the German Society of Neurosurgery and as Past-President of the Austrian Spine Society, as Past-President of the Austrian Society of Surgery and as Past-President of the Austrian Society of Neurosurgery. Dr. Thomé’s commitments in the societies focus on education as recent Chairman of the Training Committee of the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies, as Past-Education Officer of AOSpine Europe and as Past-Member of the education committee of the German Spine Society and the Spine Society of Europe. He currently serves as Scientific Liaison Chair of the EANS.
Massimo Balsano, MD

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Italy

Email: massimo.balsano@gmail.com

Massimo Balsano, MD is an orthopedic spinal surgeon. He was born in Padova, Italy and graduated from University of Padova in 1983, the second oldest Italian University and a leader in the field of Italian medicine. Dr. Balsano continued to complete his residency at the Orthopedic School of Padova, where he focused on spinal pathologies. Dr. Balsano’s area of interest is spinal deformities and traumatology. After becoming an assistant physician in the Scoliosis Section of the University of Padova’s Orthopedic Clinic in 1989, he began performing surgery, specializing in different spinal pathologies, which included adult and child deformities, failed-back syndrome, and herniated disc and traumatology. Dr. Balsano completed another residency at the Minnesota Spine Foundation of Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1994. He also has spent time at various other institutions within the United States and Europe, including the Spine Institute for Special Surgery of Louisville, Kentucky; the Atlantic Orthopaedic Specialists of Virginia Beach, Virginia; the Spine Centre of Karlsruhe-Langensteinbach, Germany; and the Hospital Pitie'Salpetriere of Paris, France. Since 2000, Dr. Balsano has been Chief of the Orthopedic Department of the Hospital of Thiene (Vicenza), Italy. In 2003, he was also appointed Chief of another orthopedic hospital in Schio, Vicenza, Italy, which, in February 2005 started its Regional Spinal Surgery Department, becoming the first Italian hospital in the north-east to have a spinal center. He has also been appointed Professor of Spinal Pathology at the University of Verona. Dr. Balsano has presented many publications at important international and national spinal pathology meetings and is a peer reviewer of many spinal journals, such as European Spine Journal, Spine Deformity Journal, Journal of Orthopedic Surgery, Journal, and Journal of Orthopedics and Traumatology. He’s actually the President of ISASS (International Society for Advanced Spine Surgery). In 2010, Dr. Balsano was chosen as the Spine Center and Fellowship officer of AOSpine Europe Board. In his time as a physician, Dr. Balsano has performed an estimated 10000 spinal surgical operations, including deformities, degenerative conditions, cervical pathologies, traumatology, and cervical and lumbar herniated discs. His main interests lie in spinal deformities, degenerative conditions of the spine and minimal invasive spinal surgery.
Harry H. Gebhard, MD

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Harry H. Gebhard, MD is an orthopedic and trauma surgeon who specialized in spine care. He grew up in southern Germany and graduated from Medical School in Munich. He underwent residency training at the Universities of Munich and Tuebingen, accompanied by a two-year Neurosurgery Fellowship at Cornell University in New York. Dr. Gebhard’s research interests include, amongst others, tissue-engineering, clinical studies and patient registries. During his Fellowship in the U.S., a tissue-engineered composite disc was developed and successfully tested in vivo. Outcome data from broad registries will hopefully lead to a sufficient quality insurance of therapeutic procedures and a better understanding of conventional and interventional modalities. He was therefore acknowledged with numerous distinguished awards in his field and has published significant science in top ranked peer reviewed journals over the years. Dr. Gebhard is heavily involved in educational programs ever since he was a student. This lead to online learning tools early on, e.g. in radiology, and surgical training courses on specimen as well as latest patient simulators in trauma and spine care. Dr. Gebhard is currently working in Switzerland, heading the spine team and in order to develop an interdisciplinary spine clinic in three Hospitals. He also was involved in the inauguration of the first AOSpine Past Fellow Alumni Association and is currently chairing the referring steering committee. Its intention is to enhance mentoring and to encourage young motivated spine therapists to actively advance their field.
Sebastian Hartmann, MD, PhD

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Sebastian Hartmann, MD, PhD serves as faculty with a focus on spine in the spine center (WIK) Sanatorium Kettenbrücke Innsbruck. Since med school and during his residency starting in 2011 his research interests include biomechanical investigations of the cervical spine with special focus on corpectomy procedures as well as clinical studies on instrumented and complex spine surgery. In 2016 he finished his PhD thesis “Biomechanical testing of circumferential instrumentation after multilevel cervical corpectomy” and also completed his board examination. With a grant award of the Austrian Spine Society he realized a fellowship at the Ilizarov Spine Center in Kurgan/Russia. Dr. Hartmann was appointed associate professor in 2018 and started as attending in the Dept. of Neurosurgery at the Medical University Innsbruck. Dr Hartmann obtained grants from the Austrian Spine Society, the Tyrolean Research Grant (TWF), the German Society of Neurosurgery (DGNC) and the Medical Research Fund of Tirol (MFF). His special interests include deformity surgery, spinal tumor surgery and minimally invasive techniques. Dr. Hartmann lives in Silz near Innsbruck with his wife Stefanie, and their three children.
Ibrahim Hussain, MD is neurosurgeon with specialization in minimally invasive and complex reconstructive spine surgery. He received his BA from Rutgers University and his MD from Rutgers-New Jersey Medical School. He completed his residency in neurological surgery at the combined NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center program. This was followed by a minimally invasive and complex spine fellowship at the University of Miami and Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, Florida, where he gained further expertise in the management of traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries. Dr. Hussain is prolific researcher and has co-authored more than 30 book chapters and 90 peer-reviewed manuscripts. He has been an invited speaker, moderator, and panelist at more than 40 national and international, and he has won multiple awards from the American Association of Neurologic Surgeons (AANS) and Congress of Neurologic Surgeons Section on Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves. In 2022, he was named as one of four AO Spine North America Young Investigator Grant Award recipients. His research interests include acellular and stem-cell based therapies for disc regeneration and repair for cervical and lumbar disc disease, clinical outcomes from minimally invasive surgical techniques and technologies, including the identification of patient-centric and radiographic factors associated with surgical success and failures, and spinal oncology research, particularly in patients with metastatic spine disease, to develop comprehensive oncologic surgical/radiation treatment plans and scoring systems aiding in surgical decision making. Dr. Hussain also serves as a consultant to various spinal instrumentation, technology, and bioengineering companies to help develop next generation products for intraoperative use.
Lawrence G. Lenke, MD

Surgeon-in-Chief
Och Spine Hospital at New York-Presbyterian/Allen
Professor of Orthopedic Surgery (in Neurological Surgery)
Chief of Spinal Surgery
Chief of Spinal Deformity Surgery
Co-Director, Adult and Pediatric Comprehensive Spine Surgery Fellowship
Columbia University
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Lawrence G. Lenke, MD is one of the world's foremost leaders in spinal deformity surgery. His world-renowned practice is devoted exclusively to spinal deformity surgery with an emphasis on complex reconstructive surgery in both children and adults for the treatment of various spinal deformities such as scoliosis, kyphosis, flatback syndrome, and other major spinal imbalances, as well as spondylolisthesis. He is generally regarded as the premier spinal deformity surgeon in the world, having developed the classification system for Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis (AIS), to which his name is now attached. After receiving his undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame and his MD from Northwestern University Medical School, Dr. Lenke completed his internship and residency training in Orthopedic Surgery at Barnes-Jewish Hospital/Washington University School of Medicine. While at Washington University, he also completed his fellowship training in pediatric and adult orthopedic spine surgery. Dr. Lenke has been listed in America's Top Doctors for the past 10 years and Best Doctors in America the past 15 years. Dr. Lenke was honored with the North American Spine Society’s 2013 Leon Wiltse Award for excellence in leadership and/or clinical research in spine care. Also in 2013, Dr. Lenke was listed in Orthopedics This Week as one of “The Top 28 Spine Surgeons in North America.” He served as president of the Scoliosis Research Society 2010-2011, the oldest and most prestigious spine society in the world; its single focus is the advancement of care in patients with spinal deformity. As a reflection of his preeminent surgical skills, he has hosted over 700 spinal surgeons from around the globe to observe his surgeries in the past 15 years. Dr. Lenke's prolific academic career includes writing over 590 published peer-reviewed manuscripts, editing five textbooks on Spinal Surgery, writing more than 125 textbook chapters, chairing over 125 Spinal Surgery meetings and having been an invited Visiting Professor domestically and internationally more than 125 times.
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Lynn McGrath, MD is an award-winning neurosurgeon specializing in minimally invasive and complex spine surgery. He is trained in both traditional open as well as minimally invasive and endoscopic spine surgical techniques. In addition, Dr. McGrath is internationally renowned as an innovator working to develop diagnostic tools using artificial intelligence, work for which he was named the Congress of Neurological Surgeons “Innovator of the Year” in 2019. An acclaimed speaker and educator, Dr. McGrath has given more than 30 invited lectures around the world about advanced minimally invasive spine surgery techniques, neurosurgical applications of machine learning, and cutting-edge diagnostic methods for concussion and traumatic brain injury. Dr. McGrath received his BA from Dartmouth College and his MD from the University of Central Florida. He then completed his residency in neurological surgery at the University of Washington, followed by a fellowship in which he trained in minimally invasive and complex spine surgery under Dr. Roger Härtl at Weill Cornell Medicine. Dr. McGrath’s research is focused on the development of next-generation smartphone-based machine learning tools for the diagnosis of concussion, TBI, and neurodegenerative conditions such as Alzheimer’s disease. His work in pupillometry led to the development of PupilScreen which in 2017 was named one of GE’s “5 Coolest Things on Earth This Week.” He has been named Innovator of the Year twice — in 2019 by the Congress of Neurological Surgeons and in 2018 by Seattle Health. In 2017 he won the Best Presentation Award from the Washington State Association of Neurological Surgery. Dr. McGrath is also actively working on developing and publishing on the adoption and utilization of cutting-edge endoscopic and minimally invasive spine surgical techniques for complex patients, high performance individuals, and athletes.
Bernhard Meyer, MD was born in 1962 and trained in Italy and the US as well as his native Germany before starting his internship in Neurosurgery at the University of Tubingen. He completed his residency in 1995 within the Neurosurgical Department at the University of Bonn, where he stayed for over ten years, ending his time there as Associate Professor. In 2006, he was appointed Full Professor of Neurosurgery and Chairman of the Neurosurgical Department at the Technical University of Munich. In addition to his role as Chair of the EANS Spine Section, Bernhard holds a number of other positions with scientific societies. He is currently President of the Germany Academy of Neurosurgery (DANC) and Vice President of the International Group for the Advancement of Spinal Surgery (IGASS). He also sits on the editorial board or acts as reviewer for over 20 Journals. In addition to Spinal Neurosurgery, his clinical/scientific interests include Neurooncology and the Neurovascular field.
K. Daniel Riew, MD

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K. Daniel Riew, MD is an expert in cervical spine disorders and is one of only 2-3 spine surgeons in the world to limit his practice entirely to the cervical spine. For over 20 years Dr. Riew has been named to the lists of America’s Top Doctors, Best Doctors in America, New York SuperDoctors, and Top 25 Spine Surgeons in North America. Dr. Riew received his undergraduate degree from Harvard and his MD from Case Western Reserve School of Medicine. He completed his first residency, in Internal Medicine, at New York Presbyterian / Weill Cornell Medical Center, then a second residency in orthopedic surgery at George Washington University Hospital. He did a research fellowship in cardiology and biomechanics, prior to switching to Orthopedics, and completed a spine surgery fellowship with the renowned cervical spine surgeon, the late Henry Bohlman. He has served as President of the Cervical Spine Research Society and as Chairman of the Board of AOSpine International. He spent 20 years at Washington University Medical Center in St. Louis, where he was the Mildred Simon Distinguished Professor of Orthopedic Surgery and Chief of the Cervical Spine Service, until taking a position at New York Presbyterian Och Spine Hospital / Columbia University in 2015, as Director of Cervical Spine Surgery, Co-chief of the Spine Division of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery and Co-director of the Adult and Pediatric Comprehensive Spine Fellowship. In 2020, as part of the New York Presbyterian / Och Spine Hospital expansion to Weill Cornell, he also joined the Neurosurgery department of Weill Cornell Medical School moving his practice to Weill Cornell, while still maintaining his appointment at Columbia. Dr. Riew is widely published, with more than 300 peer-reviewed journal articles to his credit.
Dexter Sun, MD, PhD, FAAN

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Dexter Sun, MD, PhD, FAAN obtained his MD degree from Zhejiang Medical College (now School of Medicine, Zhejiang University) in Hangzhou, China. After that Dr. Sun moved to the U.S. in 1984 and went on to receive his PhD in Molecular Neurobiology from University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1991. As an outstanding graduate, he was invited to give a scientific talk in Europe and won a Young Scientist Award from the International Society of Neurochemistry. He subsequently completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Rockefeller University in New York, an institution known internationally for its advanced Biology research. Dr. Sun entered the clinical field in 1993 and successfully finished his Neurology Residency at New York Presbyterian Hospital, Weill Cornell Medical Center, and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York. His Neuromuscular Disorder subspecialty was concluded at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School. Twenty-four years ago, Dr. Sun joined the Clinical Faculty and became a Clinical Professor of Neurology at Weill Cornell Medical College, affiliated with both New York Presbyterian Hospital and Hospital for Special Surgery. He remains an active professor at the Medical College, instructing medical students and overseeing Neurology residents. He is serving as a board member (board fellow) of trustees at Weill Cornell Medical College. Dr. Sun is the very few neurologists who is specialized spine neurology. Dr. Sun has exceptional rich experience and knowledge in spine neurology by working closely with spine surgeons at spine centers at New York Presbyterian Hospital-Weill Medical Center and Hospital For Special Surgery. He has been delivering the lectures in spine neurology, and training neurologists and spine surgeons around world. Dr. Sun is an American Board-certified Neurologist and Electromyographer; life member of America’s Registry of Outstanding Professionals; Fellow of many medical associations including the American Academy of Neurology and the American Academy of Neuromuscular and Electrodagnostic Medicine, etc. He has also served as the President of the American Association of Chinese Physicians and the Co-Chairman of the National Republican-Medical Advisory. He has been awarded numerous honors such as America’s Best Physicians rated by National Consumer Advisory Board; America’s Top Physicians by Consumers’ Research Council of America; and Best Doctors by Castle Connolly and New York Magazine, just to name a few.
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Michael S. Virk, MD, PhD is a highly respected and widely published neurosurgeon with specialty training in minimally invasive and complex surgery for a wide variety of spine conditions. He specializes in advanced, state-of-the-art minimally invasive techniques using intraoperative, computer-assisted navigation as well as spinal endoscopy, and in open surgical strategies for patients who will benefit most from these. Dr. Virk earned his MD and PhD degrees at Oregon Health Sciences University College of Medicine. He completed his residency in neurological surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian Weill Cornell, and completed a post-doctoral fellowship in the Rockefeller University laboratory of Nobel laureate Dr. Paul Greengard. Dr. Virk then completed a Minimally Invasive and Complex Spine Fellowship at the University of California at San Francisco. Dr. Virk’s ultimate treatment goal is to help patients regain function to the greatest extent possible, with minimal pain and short hospital stays, so that they can return to enjoying their lives.
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"As physicians privileged to work at an academic institution in North America, I have always felt that it is our responsibility to teach and train surgeons from less developed regions. The OMI has a perfect set up and approach to efficiently train the future leaders in medicine. It's been one of the highlights of my career to come to Salzburg and contribute to the OMI's mission and success."

Roger Härtl, MD
Neurosurgery (Spine)
OMI VOICES

The Neurosurgery (spine) wet lab at the PMU was unlike any other I have attended. This was my first time using an O-Arm Spinal 3D Navigation. I also practiced microscope lumbar decompression. Another first! To have the opportunity to get into the minds of world-renowned experts and understand their step by step thought processes was extraordinary.

Munshamba Lumwembe, MD
OMI fellow from Zambia

How the faculty shared their own experiences and their remarkable professional values was something that continually amazed me. They taught through their own cases with humility and explained their own learning curve and mistakes, which is an extraordinary trait of a true expert. I really appreciated their input.

Michel Mandragnin Soto, MD
OMI fellow from Mexico

Attending this course was very beneficial for me. It was a great experience to interact with some of the best neurosurgeons in the world. I will share the latest updates and insights with my colleagues, and I am sure that the newfound knowledge will positively impact patient care.

Jakub Spora, MD
OMI fellow from Slovakia
THANKS TO

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