

Advancing the specialty through collaboration

From her earliest days as a dental student at the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Shelly Abramowicz was attracted to the multi-disciplinary aspect of oral and maxillofacial surgery with its opportunities to collaborate with and learn from other specialists. Those opportunities, coupled with support from the OMS Foundation, eventually led her to Emory University School of Medicine, where she is an Associate Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics in the OMS Division and Chief of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

"I've always liked being part of a team and formulating a plan together," she said. "As a resident under Dr. Frank Dolwick at University of Florida's Department of OMS, we were expected to be contributors to the specialty's knowledge bank, and I decided to focus on pediatric OMS."

In 2009, while an attending surgeon at Boston Children's Hospital and a member of the faculty at the Harvard School of Dental Medicine, Dr. Abramowicz received a Faculty Educator Development Award (FEDA) from AAOMS and the Foundation. The award funded her investigation of temporomandibular joints in children with juvenile idiopathic arthritis and validated her aspirations to contribute to the specialty's knowledge of pediatric OMS issues as a clinician, an academician and a researcher.

"FEDA offers reassurance to young surgeons in academia that their contributions are valuable and appreciated and opens the door to crucial opportunities that shape their careers. It certainly did that for me," she said.

Dr. Leonard Kaban, Harvard's OMS Chief at the time and an internationally recognized authority in the field of craniofacial deformities in children, mentored Dr. Abramowicz during this critical developmental stage of her career.

"Dr. Kaban taught me how to approach a problem with the goal of learning from the process of seeking a solution," she said, "even if we didn't necessarily find the solution itself."

After joining the faculty of Emory University School of Medicine's OMS Division in 2013, she collaborated with Dr. Steven Goudy, Director of Pediatric Otolaryngology at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and an Emory faculty member, to investigate how Jagged1 dysfunction mediates the development of maxillary hypoplasia. Their proposal was selected for a Research Support Grant by the OMS Foundation, and Dr. Abramowicz was a first-place poster winner at the 2016 AAOMS Annual Meeting.

Her affinity for collaboration continues to shape her career and her personal life. At Emory, her team's collaborative spirit continually inspires her.



Dr. Shelly Abramowicz

"They are always available to offer advice and guidance and to share their expertise," she said. "It's understood that we're working together to advance patient care, and the underlying culture goes beyond collaboration to embrace kindness."

As Dr. Abramowicz's horizons expand, so does her sense of responsibility for shaping the future of her specialty. Inspired by Dr. Steven Roser, Chief of the OMS Division at Emory, she is working to integrate the pediatric OMS experience for residents.

"The shortage of pediatric OMS specialists in hospitals means that issues that would best be addressed by an OMS are instead referred to another surgical specialty. That needs to change," she said.

A Foundation donor since 2009, Dr. Abramowicz is an enthusiastic champion of its mission.

"My support of the Foundation is one more reason for me to feel good about what I do every day," she said. "We're working together to build our specialty's future." ■

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William C. Passolt, CPA
Chair, OMS Foundation

Thanksgiving is a favorite time of the year for me. Reflecting on what I am thankful for this year, the list is surprisingly long. Topping that list is the vibrancy the OMS Foundation has shown under difficult conditions.

Our new OMSFIRE (OMS for Innovative Research and Education) initiative, introduced in January, is a good example. OMSFIRE recognizes five-year giving commitments of \$2,500 or more per year. As of Oct. 1 – even with a midyear “compassionate pause” in fundraising – 55 OMSs, practices and societies made OMSFIRE commitments with a combined total of \$1.1 million plus over five years.

OMSFIRE was a logical next step for the Foundation’s

There’s much to be thankful for

growing recurring giving program. Many donors appreciate the simplicity of a “set it and forget it” giving model, and OMSFIRE offers additional recognition and some fun swag at the higher giving levels.

But our strength is derived from a diverse donor base, and we are fortunate to have a loyal roster of generous donors whose recurring gifts – large and small – arrive every month (even during a pandemic). That roster includes AAOMS officers and Trustees, educators, Foundation Directors, researchers, practicing and retired OMSs and even a few new OMSs. Their loyalty has sustained our mission during these difficult times, and we are pleased to recognize them in this issue.

We also were reminded this year to celebrate the life and vision of the late Dr. John S. Bond, whose legacy commitment to the Foundation in 2000 secured his place in its Robert V. Walker Society and ensured he would be remembered with gratitude. Even as we mourn the loss of a well-liked and respected colleague, his parting gift to

the specialty he loved will help educate its future leaders. Please be sure to read Dr. Mary Delsol Dobon’s touching tribute to Dr. Bond, her mentor and friend, in this newsletter and consider following Dr. Bond’s excellent example by including a gift to the Foundation in your own estate plan.

The Foundation’s Alliance – in keeping with its 27-year commitment to fellowship, philanthropy and fun – gracefully pivoted to the cloud to deliver its signature social events during the Virtual AAOMS Annual Meeting. Proceeds from the successful Alliance Virtual ‘FUN’draiser and ‘Together in Spirit’ Coast-to-coast Health Walk will support Global Initiative for Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) stipends when international travel restrictions are relaxed.

While many of 2020’s programs and educational opportunities (including GIVE) were deferred by the pandemic, we were excited to see a surge of interest in our funding opportunities for 2021. We remain committed to supporting innovative,

important and relevant projects that will advance the specialty and secure its position at the forefront of the dental surgical specialties.

I thank everyone who participated in our mission by contributing to or applying for funding from the Foundation in 2020. I am grateful to the Alliance for its commitment to graciously welcoming OMS family members and friends to our community. I am indebted to the Foundation’s staff for their outstanding work this year. I offer my deepest thanks to our 2020 Directors – Drs. Louis K. Rafetto, Robert S. Clark, Douglas W. Fain, Brett L. Ferguson, A. Thomas Indresano, Dale J. Misiek, J. David Morrison, W. Frederick Stephens and Thomas P. Williams – and Dr. Brent Ward, Chair of our Committee on Research. I am constantly inspired by their leadership and commitment to the Foundation.

Finally, I offer you my best wishes for a happy Thanksgiving, a joyous holiday season and a healthy and prosperous 2021. ■

Special thanks to 2020 Foundation Alliance supporters



Dr. Bill Frantzich
Dr. Larry & Carol Nissen
Dr. James & Angie Henderson



Thank you to everyone who supported the 2020 Virtual ‘FUN’draiser and Health Walk for GIVE! More than \$9,000 was raised to fund travel stipends for residents serving with humanitarian healthcare teams. Bravo!



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OMSFIRE recognizes 5-year commitments from individuals, practices, societies, companies

OMSFIRE (OMSs for Innovation, Research and Education) recognizes donors who commit to a recurring gift to the OMS Foundation of \$2,500 or more per year for five years, payable in monthly or annual installments. Many of the Foundation's existing recurring donors upgraded their commitments to become OMSFIRE donors in 2020. They were joined by a host of others ready to "stand up for the specialty" with an OMSFIRE commitment.

Despite 2020's mid-year fundraising pause, OMSFIRE commitments through the third quarter exceeded \$225,000, promising more than \$1.1 million to support the Foundation's mission and programs by 2024.

Treloar & Heisel, Inc., was the first of several generous lead OMSFIRE donors, announcing a platinum-level gift of \$100,000 payable in five annual installments. Dr. and Mrs. Victor Nannini and Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Klemmedson committed early to gold-level (\$50,000) OMSFIRE gifts. They were later joined by Dr. and Mrs. Don Tillery Jr. and the Colorado Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. Platinum and gold OMSFIRE donors are

recognized with a gold lapel pin in the shape of the Foundation torch. Silver (\$25,000) OMSFIRE donors receive an OMSFIRE tie or scarf in recognition of their generosity.

The Boards of AAOMS and the Foundation stepped up quickly to support the new appeal as did several members of the OMSNIC Board. Rhode Island was the first of the OMS societies to commit to OMSFIRE, pledging \$12,500 over five years to earn bronze-level recognition.

"The RIAOMS is proud to be an OMSFIRE Society donor," Society President Dr. Frank Paletta said. "The Foundation enhances and supports our wonderful specialty by funding research and education with the ultimate purpose of improved patient care. Our Society shares this goal, and it was an easy choice to become a recurring donor."

The Foundation extends its sincere thanks to its inaugural OMSFIRE donors. (as of Oct. 10, 2020)

Platinum (\$100,000)
Treloar & Heisel, Inc.

Gold (\$50,000)

Colorado Society of OMS
Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Klemmedson
Dr. and Mrs. Victor L. Nannini
Dr. and Mrs. Don E. Tillery Jr.

Silver (\$25,000)

Dr. Guillermo E. Chacon
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Bronze (\$12,500)

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A round of applause for recent Major Donors

The Foundation gratefully recognizes the generous support of its recent Major Donors, whose extraordinary generosity and loyalty have helped sustain its mission and programs "through thick and thin."

Dr. Colin and Susan Bell (\$100,000, 2019)

Dr. James and Lori Swift (\$100,000, 2018)

Oral Surgery Associates and Dental Implant Centers (\$50,000, 2017)

OMSNIC agents (\$50,000, 2016)

Dr. James and Angie Henderson (\$25,000, 2017)

Dr. Kathy Banks (\$25,000, 2016)

Dr. Gary Bouloux (\$25,000, 2016)

Dr. Kayvon Haghigi (\$25,000, 2016)

Dr. Manolis G. Manolakakis (\$25,000, 2016)

Dr. Victor and Kathy Nannini (\$25,000, 2016)

New Jersey Society of OMS (\$25,000, 2016)

Dr. Vincent Perciaccante (\$25,000, 2016)

DID YOU KNOW?

The OMS Foundation Alliance welcomes every spouse/family member of OMS Foundation donors into its vibrant community with no membership fee. Learn more at [OMSFoundation.org/Alliance](https://www.OMSFoundation.org/Alliance).



Foundation salutes its 2020 award winners

Although onstage recognition at the AAOMS Annual Meeting was not an option this year, the OMS Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2020 awards. These honorees have helped advance the specialty through their support of the Foundation's mission.



Eric Geist, DDS, FACS

Torch Award: Eric Geist, DDS, FACS

The Foundation's most prestigious award recognizes individuals or organizations who have provided exceptional service to the

Foundation. Dr. Geist served as a Director of the Foundation from 2016-2018 and its Vice Chair in 2017-18. He is a member of the Robert V. Walker Society, a generous contributor to the Annual Fund and a tireless advocate for the Foundation's mission. He championed the Foundation while serving the specialty as President of AAOMS and District III Trustee, President of ABOMS and President of the Southeastern and Louisiana Societies of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.

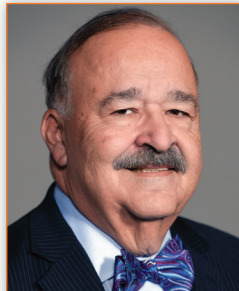


Scott Boyd, DDS, PhD

Research Recognition Award: Scott Boyd, DDS, PhD

Dr. Boyd is Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Retired Faculty, Vanderbilt University

Medical Center, having chaired the school's Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery from 1997-2007. Since 2008, he has focused his attention exclusively on multi-disciplinary clinical research related to the diagnosis and management of obstructive sleep apnea with funding from the OMS Foundation and the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences at NIH. His team's findings have been extensively published in major medical journals and were recognized with the Foundation's Daniel M. Laskin Award for the most outstanding article published in the *Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery* in 2013 and 2019.



A. Thomas Indresano,
DMD, FACS

Gerald E. Hanson Outstanding Service Award: A. Thomas Indresano, DMD, FACS

This award recognizes outstanding champions and advocates

whose support for the Foundation demonstrates extraordinary stewardship. A lifelong educator, mentor and leader, Dr. Indresano served as a Foundation Director in 1992-94 and 2010-12. As an AAOMS Trustee and newly retired from the OMS department chairmanship at the University of the Pacific School of Dentistry, he helped craft and implement the Foundation's Strategic Alliance with AAOMS. At the end of his term as AAOMS President in 2019, Dr. Indresano rejoined the Foundation Board for a third time and announced, with his wife Rita, a \$100,000 legacy gift to the Foundation. Dr. and Mrs. Indresano are consistently generous supporters of the Foundation's annual campaigns, most recently contributing a gold leaf to the Centennial Tree and committing \$25,000 to OMSFIRE in 2020.

Dr. Amin supports 'big picture' with OMSFIRE gift

Dr. Dina Amin is a "big picture" person. Educated with a DDS and as an OMS in Saudi Arabia, her holistic approach to life and medicine led her to the United States for advanced training. To her surprise, it also led to a promising career at one of the OMS specialty's premier U.S. research hospitals.

"I would never have dreamed that I would land here," she said from Emory University, where she is Assistant Professor of Surgery and Director of the OMS Outpatient Clinic at Grady Memorial Hospital.

But gaps in her skillset hampered her work as a maxillofacial trauma surgeon in Saudi Arabia, prompting her to look abroad to further her education. As a fellow at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Dr. Amin studied craniomaxillofacial surgery and obstructive sleep apnea surgery under Dr. Peter Waite. A second UAB fellowship

under Dr. Anthony Morlandt focused on oral cancer ablation and microvascular reconstructive surgery.

Dr. Amin's work with Drs. Waite and Morlandt reinforced her conviction that the highest level of care is achieved by treating the patient as a whole and addressing the multiple layers of need precipitated by trauma or illness. For an oral cancer patient, she said she believes that requires following the patient through every stage - from diagnosis through surgery, reconstruction and, ultimately, functional rehabilitation.

"That's how we can put the pieces back together," she said, "to make the patient whole again."

Her training ultimately led to a position on the faculty at Emory, where she feels "blessed and privileged" to work with an inspiring and supportive team of OMSs.

Following Dr. Steven Roser's example, she hopes eventually to serve with a humanitarian healthcare team, where "giving back" often delivers life-changing outcomes for communities in need.

In the meantime, inspired by her Emory colleagues' generosity, she has committed to a five-year, \$2,500 annual gift to the OMS Foundation, qualifying for recognition as a bronze OMSFIRE donor.

"Here was something I could do right now," she said. "As an educator, I see firsthand the value of the Foundation's investments in the specialty. Our future depends on research, and I feel a responsibility to support that as a donor."



Dr. Dina Amin

Recurring donors provide philanthropic lifeline during pandemic

Monthly donors – such as Drs. Roger Badwal, Omel Cardenas, Jerry Halpern, Elizabeth Kutcipal and Gayle Miranda – are among the OMS Foundation’s “backstage heroes” whose status rocketed to “MVP” when COVID-19 shut down OMS practices across the country earlier this year.

Donations to the Foundation plummeted as the specialty hunkered down. But the steadfast support of recurring monthly and annual donors helped sustain the Foundation

during a nearly five-month “compassionate pause” in fundraising, offering a stable revenue source at a time when stability was in short supply.

While Drs. Cardenas and Kutcipal initiated their monthly commitments just last year, Drs. Badwal, Halpern and Miranda have supported the Foundation with monthly gifts since 2012. The Foundation extends its sincere thanks to these generous recurring donors whose loyalty provided a lifeline during this difficult time.

Bronze-level recurring donors

Dr. Jay A. Bergamini
Dr. Steven L. Fletcher
Dr. and Mrs. Gary T. Patterson
Dr. Gregory A. Santarelli
Dr. and Mrs. Stanley D. Satterfield
Dr. Heath M. Stewart Jr.

Recurring donors

Dr. Kathy A. Banks
Dr. Brian F. Bovino
Dr. James M. Boyle III
Dr. Andrea B. Burke
Dr. Omel G. Cardenas
Dr. Ira D. Cheifetz
Dr. Stephanie J. Drew

Dr. Joshua E. Everts
Dr. Joel M. Friedman
Dr. Jerry L. Halpern
Dr. Donald P. Holzhauer
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Dr. Bruno W. Kuloba
Dr. Elizabeth A. Kutcipal
Dr. and Mrs. Jeffery A. McFadden
Dr. Pushkar Mehra
Dr. Joseph L. Miller
Dr. Gayle T. Miranda
Dr. Richard A. Mufson
Dr. and Mrs. Gregory M. Ness
Dr. Andrew M. Read-Fuller
Dr. Timothy R. Schmakel
Dr. Gregory S. Tate

“Simply put, the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Foundation is the future of our great specialty. We should all recognize that our excellent educational backgrounds combined with our fervent desire to improve patient outcomes has led to our current status as the leaders in surgical care of the oro-facial complex. These attributes are precisely the focus of support and promotion by our Foundation. The initiatives formulated by our Foundation have resulted in the development of state-of-the-art educational resources and surgical innovations that continue to advance our specialty.”

– Eric Geist, DDS, FACS



Gilbert “Gil” Triplett,
DDS, PhD

Donor’s generosity is a fitting tribute

In 45-plus years as an OMS, R. Gilbert “Gil” Triplett, DDS, PhD, has made significant and wide-ranging contributions to the specialty as a military surgeon, a researcher and an educator.

But a conversation with him is more likely to focus on his kids, his residents at Texas A&M College of Dentistry and his abiding regard for the late R.V. Walker than any of his personal accomplishments.

Dr. Triplett, in a fitting tribute to his friend and mentor, recently increased his commitment to the OMS Foundation’s R.V. Walker Society to \$50,000.

“R.V. inspired all of us, including me, with his leadership and generosity,” Dr. Triplett said. “It was his style to listen, to get along and to encourage compassion and collaboration in everyone he met.”

Similar to Dr. Walker, Dr. Triplett has devoted his professional life to training and mentoring the next generation of OMSs. Twenty-two years ago, the Texas A&M College of Dentistry honored him with its Regents Professor Service Award for a career of exemplary service. In 2014, he received the OMS Foundation’s Research Recognition Award, honoring outstanding research contributions to the specialty.

Either award, or any of the many others he has received, could have constituted a capstone to a productive career. Instead, he recently stepped up to reprise his role as Chair of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery during the college’s search for a successor.

“I have no specific plans to retire,” he said. “There are some things I still want to accomplish before that happens.”

Serving as OMS Program Director to multiple generations of residents has kept Dr. Triplett forward-focused and hopeful for the future.

“The scope of our specialty has exploded with the introduction of dual-degree programs,” he said. “The expansion of research and education opportunities for oral surgeons has resulted in huge improvements in our capacity to care for our patients.

“The big challenge before us is to prove conclusively with data that our single-provider anesthesia model is safe, just as we did with the (AAOMS) Third Molar Study. Through my support of the Foundation, I’m supporting the continued growth of our specialty. I think that R.V. would have approved.” ■

A tribute to Dr. John Sullivan Bond (1946-2020)

By Dr. Mary Delsol Dobon

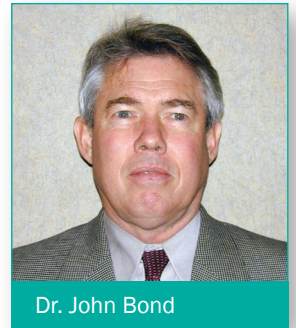
A bright light in the specialty of oral and maxillofacial surgery was dimmed with the passing of Dr. John S. Bond.

Dr. Bond served the specialty as a longtime AAOMS Delegate, a member of numerous AAOMS Committees and President of both the California Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons and the Western Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. He was a generous donor to the OMS Foundation's annual appeals and REAP campaign and was welcomed into its

R.V. Walker Society in 2000. He championed the Foundation as an Ambassador and advocate for many years, and his final gift of \$25,000 was made from his estate in August 2020.

Dr. Bond was a proud veteran of the U.S. Navy, a community leader and a tireless champion for the Los Gatos Lions Club, among other nonprofit organizations. While he gave generously of his time and treasure to causes close to his heart, he remained first and foremost a family man. Dr. Bond was devoted to his wife, Diana, two children and five grandchildren.

To the tremendous benefit of those who knew him, he considered his OMS colleagues his second family. He will be remembered as one who worked tirelessly to ensure the specialty he loved would remain strong and vibrant for future generations of surgeons. ■



Dr. John Bond



We're investing in our specialty's future

“Our specialty can grow only if each and every one of us invests in its future. New England Oral Surgery Associates, LLC, is proud and honored to partner with the OMS Foundation as an OMSFIRE donor to improve the quality and safety of patient care.”

– Peter A. Vellis, DDS • David Beanland, DMD, MD
New England Oral Surgery Associates, LLC



Your gift to the OMS Foundation supports innovative research, education opportunities for residents and a strong academic sector. **Donate now to DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!** Every gift to the Annual Fund received by Dec. 31 will be matched by OMS Partners, LLC, up to a total of \$25,000.



OMSFoundation.org/Donate

Investing in innovation.
Advancing the specialty.



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