



Your GIVE donations at work: 'This is what I trained for'

U.S. Navy LCDR Shelby Curtis, DMD, knew humanitarian service was a career priority even before she began her OMS residency at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. With support from the OMS Foundation, that aspiration was realized in May, when she joined Smiling Surgeons for a groundbreaking humanitarian trip to Malawi, Africa.

"I'd told Dr. Leonel Perez (Program Director at Walter Reed) – at length – how I wanted to start a humanitarian trip after residency," she recalls. "He trained me to be ready for this, and our team prepared for 11 months. But the plane ticket alone was \$2,200, and at the end of my residency – with moving expenses and graduation – the financial help was extremely valuable. I learned about Global Initiative for Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) in April, at the Middle Atlantic Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (MASOMS) meeting. But I never thought we'd be approved in time."

She and Tania C. Nkungula, DDS, founder of Smiling Surgeons and a Malawi native, submitted a GIVE application to the Foundation during the MASOMS meeting. To their relief, Dr. Curtis was approved for a \$2,500 GIVE stipend in a matter of weeks. "The GIVE stipend lessened the financial burden immensely," she said, "and allowed me to focus on the mission at hand."

That mission was formidable. Smiling Surgeons was the first OMS-led humanitarian team to travel to Malawi, an impoverished nation of 20 million people served by 53 dentists and one OMS. The most basic diagnostic equipment is perpetually in short supply, and the team's lengthy patient roster skewed toward cases that, though treatable in their early stages, were now catastrophically advanced and often complicated by the efforts of traditional healers. The team included six surgeons, healthcare support staff and a logistics team led by Justice Esme Chombo, Malawi's Ambassador to the United States.

Ambassador Chombo had struggled for years to effectively address her country's medical care crisis. Upon meeting Dr. Nkungula, "I knew I'd found someone who could connect us with strategic people who could offer help," she said. "When we received the GIVE funding, I began to feel that there was a higher purpose to this trip. I wanted to help these selfless people who were taking a chance, traveling to a country they'd never visited and giving so much. It was exciting and challenging, but I was determined that we would walk this walk together."

The team performed 25 major surgeries averaging five to six hours each, treating patients from Malawi and neighboring Mozambique.

Operatories, surgical supplies and recovery beds were scarce, but when Malawi's Minister of Health and the U.S. Ambassador to Malawi engaged with the team, Ambassador Chombo was as busy as the surgeons, championing better healthcare for her people.

For Dr. Curtis, the trip affirmed the commitment she'd made in her residency interview. "This is my career path; everything else will fit in around it," she said. "And I was prepared for everything – except the heartbreak. To have to turn away a patient we couldn't help was the worst. But the tears of joy when a patient with complications awoke and responded after her surgery will forever stay with me."

Drs. Nkungula and Curtis plan to return to Malawi annually. Now a GIVE donor, Dr. Nkungula looks forward to seeing firsthand the outcome of her donations, while offering OMS residents the chance to learn and serve with Smiling Surgeons – and GIVE.

Learn more and donate to GIVE at OMSFoundation.org/GIVE. ■



Contact us

info@omsfoundation.org • OMSFoundation.org • 847-233-4304



Brett Ferguson, DDS, FACS, Foundation Chair

In my experience, it's impossible to NOT be energized and inspired by the AAOMS Annual Meeting, and the 2023 meeting struck me as exceptional. The focus and decorum of the House of Delegates, the quality of the speakers and the energy radiated by the attendees resonated with me for weeks. I was consistently, acutely proud to be an AAOMS member and to see the OMS Foundation so engaged in support of my specialty.

We honored two of our finest OMSs – Drs. Victor L. Nannini and Charles R. Weber – at the Opening Ceremony for their roles in constructing and sustaining the upward trajectory the Foundation has enjoyed since 2018. That same evening, we recognized

Pride, purpose and dedication to the specialty define today's Foundation

Dr. Chi Viet's extensive contributions to our specialty's understanding and treatment of oral cancer, Dr. Cameron C. Lee's prowess as a resident researcher and *JOMS* author, four new Faculty Educator Development Award recipients and the (non-resident) research team whose paper ranked No. 1 in *JOMS* submissions in 2022. I expect it was as gratifying for Dr. Nannini and Dr. Weber as it was for me to catalog the Foundation's widespread support of the next generation of OMS superstars, and I was deeply touched to see Dr. David Stanton's family on stage for the presentation of the inaugural Dr. David Stanton Resident Research Award to Dr. Lee.

If you stopped by the OMS Foundation booth in San Diego, you know that we were BUSY. OMSNIC's 35th anniversary challenge inspired an outpouring of generosity – including 14 new OMSFIRE commitments – that will help sustain our research budget in the years ahead. The

timing couldn't be better, as our Committee on Research this summer was tasked with evaluating more than a dozen proposals for funding in 2024.

Dr. Louis Rafetto and I owe a big "thank you" to Drs. David Bitonti, Vickas Agarwal and Simon Young, who helped deliver updates to our colleagues in the military, ROAAOMS and academia, and to our fellow Directors for being present and available to answer your questions. I extend a warm welcome to our newest Director, Dr. Peter Vellis; I also am grateful to Dr. Rafetto for his exemplary service to the Foundation Board and to Dr. David Basi for embracing his new role as Vice Chair with enthusiasm.

As a Foundation Director, a Black OMS and a lifelong champion of diversity, I was proud to introduce Dr. Akin Cil as our featured speaker at the 2023 Faculty Lunch and Learn. Dr. Cil's success with improving diversity and enhancing inclusion in the University of Missouri at Kansas City's

orthopedic residency program offered both inspiration and action items for those of us working toward the same goals in oral and maxillofacial surgery. The Foundation is committed to helping OMS faculty address the issues and obstacles of modern-day academia; I welcome your suggestions for future presentation topics.

Whether or not you traveled to San Diego, I trust you can see the pride, purpose and dedication to the specialty that is driving today's OMS Foundation. It was not easily achieved, nor will it be easily sustained without your help. I invite you to learn more about our mission and the people who support it in this issue and to make a generous gift before Dec. 31 to qualify for OMS Partners LLC's gift-match. You have my word that your contribution will be carefully stewarded and judiciously invested to support, advance and protect the OMS specialty. And I hope to see you next September in Orlando. ■

Foundation Board welcomes Director-at-Large, new leadership

The OMS Foundation welcomed Peter A. Vellis, DDS, to its Board of Directors in September, filling a vacancy left by retiring Chair Louis K. Rafetto, DMD, MEd.

As a lifelong volunteer and philanthropist, military veteran, Beacon Oral Specialists partner and Charter OMSFIRE donor, Dr. Vellis brings a wealth of experience to his newest role as Director-at-Large of the OMS Foundation. Scan the QR code to read more about this loyal Foundation advocate.

Brett L. Ferguson, DDS, FACS, began his two-year term as Foundation Chair at the close of the AAOMS Annual Meeting, supported by Vice Chair David L. Basi, DMD, PhD, and Treasurer Jeffrey H. Wallen, DDS. Five Directors-at-Large, two AAOMS Trustees and a ROAAOMS Liaison round out the Foundation's 2023-24 Board of Directors. ■



OMS Foundation Directors and staff congratulate retiring Chair Dr. Louis K. Rafetto in San Diego

2023-24 OMS Foundation Board of Directors

Brett L. Ferguson, DDS, FACS, *Chair*
David L. Basi, DMD, PhD, *Vice Chair*
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ROAAOMS Liaison

Karin Wittich, CAE, *Executive Director*

‘Cooler Together’ promotion heats up September fundraising

The energy and excitement of the 2023 AAOMS Annual Meeting was palpable at the OMS Foundation booth, where more than 50 generous donors added their names to the Annual Meeting Donors poster.

Amplifying the buzz was a gift match challenge from OMSNIC, which commemorated its 35th anniversary of service to the OMS specialty with a promise to match every gift received by Sept. 30 up to \$35,000. In a cool twist, the OMSNIC challenge offered new OMSFIRE donors a chance to win a premium RTIC cooler.

A \$10,000 gift from the Massachusetts Society of OMS launched the campaign, and more than \$75,000 was raised.

Fourteen donors joined the OMSFIRE roster (and were entered into the drawing) in September, including:

Silver OMSFIRE

(\$5,000/year for five years):

- Dr. David Ludington
- Dr. Mark Roszkowski*

Bronze OMSFIRE

(\$2,500/year for five years):

- Dr. Ron Aronovich
- Dr. Jay Asdell
- Dr. Edmund Braly
- EverThrive OSC
- Dr. Adam Flack
- Dr. Matthew Fowlkes
- Dr. Earl Hasegawa
- Dr. Gregory Michaels
- National Society of OMS
- Dr. Constantine Simos
- Dr. Michael Turner
- Dr. Monte Zysset

*RTIC cooler drawing winner

The Foundation extends its gratitude to every donor who stopped by its booth, attended an event or donated remotely in September, and to OMSNIC for affirming that AAOMS, OMSNIC and the Foundation are, without question, “cooler together.” ■

Your donations at work: Kelly Scholarships

For nearly 30 years, the OMS Foundation Alliance has welcomed new families into the AAOMS community with hospitality and networking events at the AAOMS Annual Meetings, offering old and new friends the chance to connect, catch up and support the Foundation and each other. In collaboration with OMSNIC, the Foundation has awarded 67 Norma L. Kelly Resident Spouse Scholarships since 2008, helping to defray the travel costs for spouses of residents attending the Annual Meeting. ■



2023 Kelly Scholars Graham Keir, Amanda Pickard, April Bitner and Iva Dauti

Legacy giving sustains vision of Dr. R.V. Walker



The OMS Foundation welcomed seven new legacy donors to its R.V. Walker Society in 2023, while two long-standing Society members recently notified the Foundation of their increased commitments.

As legacy giving gains in popularity, this year’s new Walker Society members span the spectrum of AAOMS member demographics, including married couples, singles, faculty members, clinicians, retirees and AAOMS staff. Although their stories vary widely, they share a compelling desire to give back to the specialty through support of its Foundation. By including a gift to the Foundation in their estate plans, they help sustain Dr. Walker’s vision for a vibrant, responsive and solvent Foundation

to champion innovation and support OMS-specific research and education in perpetuity.

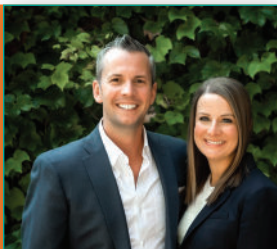
New legacy donors in 2023 include:

- Dr. Shelly Abramowicz and Mr. Garrett Land
- Dr. and Mrs. Matthew Fowlkes
- Dr. and Mrs. Richard W. Kinsey
- Dr. Greg and Mrs. Sara Ness
- Drs. Dean Tiboris and Mary Ballard
- Ms. Karin Wittich
- Dr. and Mrs. Mark D. Zajkowski

Upgraded legacy commitments were received from:

- Dr. Allen F. Fielding
- Dr. and Mrs. Victor L. Nannini

Walker Society members, OMSFIRE donors, Foundation volunteers and grant recipients were welcomed aboard the USS Midway during the 2023 Annual Meeting for a VIP reception featuring upscale California cuisine, live music and photo opportunities on the carrier’s hangar deck. Visit OMSFoundation.org/planned-giving to learn more about legacy giving options, and consult your financial advisers for guidance on including a gift to the Foundation in your estate plan. ■



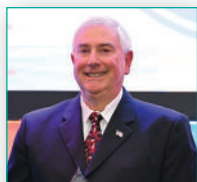
Drs. Dean Tiboris and Mary Ballard

Legacy gift “a great place to start”

“We feel so fortunate to be part of the OMS community and have been looking for opportunities to give back to the field that has provided us with such personal and professional enrichment. Supporting the Foundation seemed like a great place to start and we look forward to being able to give more in the years to come.”

— Drs. Dean Tiboris and Mary Ballard, Oak Creek, Wis.

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2023 OMS Foundation Awards, who were recognized onstage at the 2023 AAOMS Annual Meeting Opening Ceremony.



Charles R. Weber, DMD

Torch Award

The Foundation's most prestigious award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions and/or provided exemplary service to the OMS

Foundation. This year's winner is Charles R. Weber, DMD, for his contributions as an advocate, fundraiser and donor. In January 2022, Dr. Weber initiated and helped lead a tribute appeal honoring Dr. O. Ross and Sheryl Beirne, who had recently retired after decades of service to the Washington State Society of OMS and the University of Washington. The appeal raised more than \$105,000 for the Foundation in six weeks, and the team presented a ceremonial check to the Foundation at a retirement party for the Beirnes in October 2022.

Dr. and Mrs. Weber have donated annually to the Foundation for 22 years, and currently support its mission as Silver OMSFIRE donors and R.V. Walker Society members.



Chi Viet, DDS, MD, PhD, FACS

Research Recognition Award

This annual award recognizes those whose scientific contributions have led to a better understanding of

basic disease processes and improvement of care for patients with maxillofacial disorders. This year's recipient is Chi Viet, DDS, MD, PhD, FACS, Associate Professor in the Loma Linda University Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. The youngest researcher to be honored with this award, Dr. Viet was the recipient of the Foundation's Steven B. Milam Award

for outstanding research proposals in both 2011 and 2012. Multiple Research Support Grants from the Foundation and a Faculty Education Development Award (jointly funded by AAOMS and the Foundation) supported her early progress as a researcher. Since 2022, Dr. Viet has been awarded more than \$5 million from the National Institutes of Health for research related to oral cancer and mentorship of aspiring surgeon-scientists. Earlier this year, the American Society of Clinical Oncology showcased her work as a clinician and researcher at its annual meeting opening ceremony in Chicago.



Victor L. Nannini, DDS, FACS

Gerald E. Hanson Outstanding Service Award

Named for Dr. Gerald E. Hanson, who chaired the OMS Foundation from 2005 to 2007 and spearheaded an

innovative and successful annual giving campaign, the 2023 award recognizes Victor L. Nannini, DDS, FACS, for his service, advocacy and extraordinary stewardship of its mission. As an AAOMS Trustee, Dr. Nannini helped shepherd the Strategic Alliance between AAOMS and the Foundation, and he chaired the Foundation's Development Committee from 2017 to 2019. Dr. Nannini was a lead donor and champion of the Centennial Tree campaign, helping to raise \$1.4 million for the Foundation in 2018. He remained a steadfast advocate for the Foundation during his term as AAOMS President and he and his wife, Kathy, continue to generously support its mission as OMSFIRE donors and R.V. Walker Society members.



Cameron C. Lee, DMD, MD

Dr. David Stanton Resident Research Award

Honoring Dr. David Stanton, who passed in 2020 and taught, mentored and inspired students and colleagues at the

University of Pennsylvania for 24 years, this award recognizes the author(s) of the most outstanding resident research paper published in the *Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery* during the previous year. The *JOMS* editorial Board honored Cameron C. Lee, DMD, MD, author of "Orthognathic Surgery in Older Patients: Is Age Associated with Perioperative Complications?" The winning paper was written during his residency at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. Dr. Lee received complimentary registration to the Annual Meeting and a \$500 cash award. Mrs. Linda Stanton and her daughter, Kelsey, joined *JOMS* Editor-in-chief Dr. Thomas Dodson onstage for the presentation of the inaugural Dr. David Stanton Resident Research Award to Dr. Lee.

Daniel M. Laskin Award

In recognition of the most outstanding article published in the *Journal* in 2022, the *JOMS* Editorial Board honored the authors of "Most Facial Fractures Do Not Require Surgical Intervention," including:

- Felix Jose Amarista, DDS
- Edward Ellis III, DDS, MD
- Jason P. Jones, DDS, MD
- Mary Katherine Spinella, DMD, MD
- Megan A. Sullivan, DMD, MD



Laskin Award recipients

Thank you from Victor Nannini, DDS, FACS

I want to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude for the honor bestowed on me at the Annual Meeting in San Diego. It was my privilege during my time on the

AAOMS Board of Trustees to be a member of the Strategic Alliance Committee and the OMS Foundation Board that helped shape a much-improved relationship between both organizations. It is very gratifying to see that alliance continue to this day, and I look forward to the Foundation flourishing even more in years to come. I am humbled and honored

to be chosen for the 2023 Gerald E. Hanson Outstanding Service Award. It is certainly one of the highlights of my career.



Drs. Louis K. Rafetto and Victor L. Nannini

Alliance hits its stride in San Diego

The OMS Foundation Alliance celebrated its 29th year with good friends, California cuisine and high-impact fundraising in San Diego, Calif., raising over \$15,000 for the Foundation's Global Initiative for Volunteerism and Education (GIVE).

With financial support from OMSNIC, the Alliance also welcomed families of OMS residents to the AAOMS community, hosting four Norma L. Kelly Resident Spouse Scholarship winners: April Bitner of Iowa City, Iowa; Iva Dauti of Baltimore, Md.; Graham Keir of New York, N.Y.; and Amanda Pickard of Jacksonville, Fla. They were greeted as guests of honor at the Alliance's daily Health Walks along San Diego Bay, networking breakfasts in Seaport Village, and its Luncheon and FUNraiser for GIVE at the Brigantine Seafood & Oyster Bar.

Speaking to OMSs, residents, families, friends and corporate supporters at the

Sept. 21 Luncheon, Ashleigh Weyh, DMD, MD, MPH, shared captivating stories of her experience as a humanitarian healthcare volunteer during her senior year of residency. She concluded with a sincere thank-you to the Alliance, which helped cover her travel expenses to Cape Verde, Africa, through a \$2,500 GIVE stipend.

Thanks to generous gifts from Canfield Inc., OMSNIC, AAOMS, San Diego Health Walk registrants and Luncheon attendees, the Alliance funded six future GIVE stipends through its 2023 events. With leadership from Chair Stacy Erickson, this year's Alliance Committee included Vice Chair Olga Schwartz, Dr. Valerie Burks, Kos Lugakingira and Andrea Tate.

For more information about the Alliance and its initiatives, visit OMSFoundation.org/Alliance.

Your donations to GIVE support travel stipends for OMS residents serving with approved international humanitarian healthcare teams. Learn more and donate at OMSFoundation.org/GIVE.



Alliance Committee Andrea Tate, Olga Schwartz, Stacy Erickson, Kos Lugakingira, Dr. Valerie Burks



Friends reunite at the Luncheon and FUNraiser



Dr. Cyrus and Kate Kerawala



Good conversation at the Luncheon and FUNraiser



Dr. David Basi and Ms. Lynn Wilkinson

Faculty Lunch and Learn tackles DEI in Residency Programs

Following through on its commitment to deliver interesting, relevant and actionable content to OMS faculty, the OMS Foundation engaged University of Missouri – Kansas City Orthopedic Chair Akin Cil, MD, to speak at its Faculty Lunch and Learn at the 2023 AAOMS Annual Meeting.

Dr. Cil's success with improving diversity and enhancing inclusion and belonging in UMKC's orthopedic residency program informed a thought-provoking talk. He outlined a multiprong approach to advancing diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) by initiating a more holistic and inclusive process for recruiting and interviewing residency candidates and focusing on mentorship, leadership, team building and diverse role models. UMKC's progress toward graduating culturally competent, compassionate orthopedic surgeons who look like and understand the patients they treat offered inspiration and action items to OMS program directors pursuing those same objectives. ■

Volunteer Spotlight: Victor L. Nannini, DDS, FACS



Dr. Victor and Kathy Nannini

"Congratulations to my good friend and colleague, Vic Nannini, on receiving the OMS Foundation's Gerald E. Hanson Outstanding Service Award.

An exceptional leader, visionary and surgeon, Dr. Nannini's contributions as President of AAOMS, President of the New York State Society of OMS, Director of the OMS Foundation, Program Director at NUMC and champion of the specialty during Day on the Hill for more than 10 years are momentous.

The Hanson Award is fitting recognition of his unselfish contributions and service. Congratulations, Vic! Well deserved."

— Rawle Philbert, DDS, FACS
OMS Foundation Director-at-Large

Featured Corporate donor: One Rep, Inc.

“Since 1989, One Rep, Inc., has specialized in providing the highest level of service to its customers as a distributor of Criticare Technologies and MTI Surgical Equipment, resulting in steady annual growth and exceptional customer loyalty.

As a corporate OMSFIRE donor, we are proud to partner with the Foundation to advance patient care and safety with specialty-specific research and provide education opportunities for the next generation of OMSs. We encourage every business serving the OMS marketplace to do the same.”

– Mark Thrasher, President, One Rep, Inc.



“Some for now, and some for later”



OMSFIRE and legacy gifts combine to strengthen and sustain the specialty

“As OMSFIRE donors to the Foundation’s Annual Fund, we get to see our giving bear fruit in our lifetimes, and our R.V. Walker commitment supports research and education after we’re gone. None of this was complicated; the hardest part was getting around to it. But it sure feels good to give back when life has given us so much.”

– Drs. Brett Ferguson and Rita Burnett



R.V. Walker Society

Donors who include a legacy gift of \$25,000 or more in their estate plan are welcomed into the Foundation’s **R.V. Walker Society**. Visit OMSFoundation.org to learn more, and consult your legal and financial advisers to choose the best legacy giving option for you.



DONATE TODAY



OMSFIRE recognizes donors who commit to an annual gift to the Foundation of \$2,500, \$5,000, \$10,000 or \$20,000 for five years.



Every gift to the Annual Fund received by Dec. 31, including inaugural OMSFIRE gifts, 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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9700 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.
Rosemont, IL 60018
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