



Your donations at work: Study seeks to predict NSAID efficacy for OMS patients

America’s opioid crisis has created an imperative in the OMS specialty to adopt pain management prescriptive strategies that minimize the risk of opioid addiction for patients. Researchers and practitioners have known for years NSAIDs offer effective pain relief for a significant proportion of third molar patients – the challenge is identifying which will convalesce successfully with non-narcotic pain medication and prescribing accordingly.

With funding from an OMS Foundation Clinical Research Support Grant, a cross-disciplinary team of OMSS and pharmacologists at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine and Perelman School of Medicine is working to refine the criteria for prescribing pain medications to eliminate the guesswork. Building on 20-plus years of research focused on the efficacy of NSAIDs for postsurgical pain, the team is intent on identifying reliable molecular markers that can predict – prior to surgery – which patients will likely need narcotics and which would successfully recover without them.

Katherine Theken, PharmD, PhD; Neeraj Panchal, DDS, MD, MA; and Steven Wang, DMD, MD, MPH; are continuing the work of Dr. Elliot V. Hersh, Professor of Pharmacology and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Penn and the team’s inspiration

and mentor. Dr. Hersh has been a principal investigator on more than 20 FDA, pivotal, randomized controlled clinical trials involving analgesic agents for postsurgical pain, contributing to Penn’s reputation as a center of excellence in pain management research. The Foundation recently issued the first of two annual payments of \$75,000 to fund the team’s study, “The mechanisms of variability in the analgesic response to ibuprofen following third molar extraction.”

By expanding the scope of previous investigations to include RNA sequencing, the team seeks to provide OMSS with reliable tools for accurate, personalized prescribing strategies.

“Our ultimate goal is to provide prescribers with reliable diagnostic tools to guide their decision-making,” Dr. Theken said. “Instead of automatically prescribing for a potential worst-case scenario, they can tailor a pain management strategy for that specific patient.”

The two-year study will enroll 80 patients undergoing third molar extraction at Penn surgical centers.

The validity of molecular predictors of responsiveness to ibuprofen, identified pre-surgery, will be evaluated during a seven-day follow-up period when the accuracy of personalized pain management will be tested in real time.

“It is estimated fewer than 15 percent of third molar patients require opioids to get through their postsurgical pain. If we can identify



From left: Dr. Steven Wang, Clinical Research Coordinator Stacey Secreto, Dr. Katherine Theken and Dr. Neeraj Panchal

the 85 percent who will demonstrate extremely favorable responses to non-addicting NSAIDs, we can reduce the unnecessary and excessive prescribing of opioids to a vulnerable adolescent/young adult population,” Dr. Hersh said in his endorsement of this study. ■



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Kudos to top dues statement donors





William C. Passolt, CPA
Chair, OMS Foundation

Four years ago, the OMS Foundation Directors convened a special session to discuss the organization's strengths and weaknesses and identify key goals for the next several years.

The Strategic Plan that evolved from this meeting identified objectives related to research and innovation, experiential education and strengthening the Foundation. In some cases, we renewed our commitment to past objectives. In others, we embraced new initiatives in response to input from our OMS donors. At the top of the new initiatives column was development of a Clinical Research Support Grant.

Foundation fulfills key initiative with new Clinical Research Support Grant

Our Committee on Research, chaired by Dr. Brent Ward, developed the parameters of this new grant. Plan A for its debut was closely tied to the April 2020 Clinical Trials Methods Course to generate interest and applications from conference participants. Unfortunately, the pandemic derailed Plan A. But by summer's end, the Committee had a small stack of applications for its review.

At our November 2020 meeting, the Board approved \$150,000, payable over a two-year period, to support the University of Pennsylvania's proposal, "The mechanisms of variability in the analgesic response to ibuprofen in third molar patients." In doing so, we are supporting the expansion of a promising investigation developed by Penn's unique team of experts in oral surgery and pharmacology. Its goal is to reliably predict which patients are most likely to successfully manage postsurgical pain without opioids. The

ultimate goal is to reduce the automatic prescription of potentially addictive painkillers, especially to vulnerable teenagers. The study is described in further detail in this newsletter. I encourage you to read it.

This grant, the largest in our portfolio, illustrates the Foundation's commitment to supporting translational research that delivers value to every OMS, along with the basic research needed to advance the specialty. It also represents, along with the introduction of the Foundation's Global Initiative for Volunteerism and Education, the achievement of a primary objective from our 2018 Strategic Plan.

In February 2021, our Directors reconvened to evaluate the 2018 Strategic Plan outcomes and update our objectives for the next three years. I would like to thank Dr. Mohammed Qaisi, Residency Program Director at Cook County Health, for sharing important takeaways

from the Cook County Health Symposium on The Future of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery last fall. Those insights enriched our discussions and inspired us to consider perspectives from every facet of the specialty. Our next Strategic Plan promises to be as ambitious as its predecessor.

Your financial support of the Foundation makes the realization of these programs possible. As the pandemic's impact recedes, I ask you to consider joining our growing roster of OMSFIRE (OMSs for Innovation, Research and Education) donors. OMSFIRE recognizes donors who commit to an annual gift of \$2,500, \$5,000 or \$10,000 to the Annual Fund for five years. If that's out of reach, please know every gift is appreciated.

It is our hope the Foundation's demonstrated commitment to responsive, responsible innovation will inspire every OMS to join with us in pursuit of the ultimate objective: a stronger specialty for all. ■



Debra M. Sacco, DMD, MD



David L. Basi, DMD, PhD

New Foundation Board members introduced

The OMS Foundation already is benefiting from the diverse perspectives and career experiences of its newest Directors, who joined the Board just in time to help update its Strategic Plan.

Debra M. Sacco, DMD, MD, was a full-time faculty member at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill before transitioning to private practice in 2001. Dr. Sacco serves as AAOMS District III Trustee, Chief OMS at Duke Regional Hospital and a reviewer for the North

Carolina Medical Board. She is an ABOMS Diplomate and served as an ABOMS examiner for five years.

David L. Basi, DMD, PhD, completed his OMS residency and PhD in oral biology at the University of Minnesota, where he was a tenured Associate Professor.

He also is an ABOMS Diplomate and divides his time between a clinical practice at the Boynton Dental Clinic at the University of Minnesota and a

private practice he shares with his wife, AAOMS member Julie Chavez, DDS.

Drs. Sacco and Basi fill the seats vacated by Drs. Douglas W. Fain and A. Thomas Indresano, who retired as Directors in 2020 but remain active in their support of the Foundation's mission.

Meet the Foundation Directors at OMSFoundation.org/About.

2020 OMS Foundation Board of Directors

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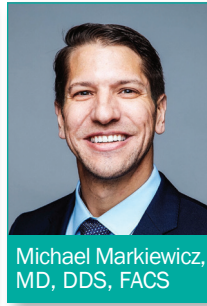
Student Research Training Award consistently attracts top talent to the specialty



Lauren Hum,
DDS



Brian Kinard,
MD, DMD



Michael Markiewicz,
MD, DDS, FACS

Dr. Lauren Hum arrived at Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) in 2012 with a solid plan.

“I fully intended to pursue pediatric dentistry,” she said. “I thought that was my calling.”

Today, Dr. Hum is within a year of completing a six-year OMS residency at Oregon Health & Science University and looking forward to a future very different from the one she envisioned.

Her career pivot was precipitated by a research project supported by an OMS Foundation Student Research Training Award (SRTA) that introduced her to Dr. Edward Lahey and OMS department faculty at HSDM.

“I’d done some undergrad research assisting my professors on their investigations, but none of those projects were mine,” she said. “For this project, I decided to pursue my interest in anesthesia. From there, all paths led to the OMS department.”

Dr. Lahey encouraged Dr. Hum to approach her questions prospectively and identified the Foundation’s SRTA as a funding source.

“The time I spent gathering data at the OMS clinic at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) provided me with extensive exposure to the OMS specialty,” Dr. Hum. “Seeing how the OMSs pursued clinical and scientific knowledge, pushed each other toward excellence and cared deeply for their patients – I found myself identifying them as ‘my people,’ and I wanted to become one of them.”

Her SRTA paid her travel expenses to Washington, D.C., to present an abstract at the 2015 AAOMS Annual Meeting. The experience was a powerful one.

“I’d found my career direction, she said. “I started to build my network, and I started looking for ways that I could help others like me. As a member of ROAAOMS’s Women in OMS Mentorship Program, I hope to inspire female dental students to pursue careers in OMS, just as I was inspired by

Drs. (Maria) Troulis, (Meredith) August and the other female residents at MGH.”

Dr. Hum’s SRTA experience is far from unique, as documented by a 2015 HSDM and MGH survey of Foundation program outcomes. The 26-year review showed 46 percent of HSDM students who participated in a SRTA-supported research project continued on to OMS residency, compared with 10 percent of HSDM students who did not participate in SRTA projects.

The award model – intensive research training and mentorship – also helped launch the careers of several OMS rising stars. Dr. Michael Markiewicz, Chair of the OMS Department at the University of Buffalo School of Dental Medicine, credits his experience as an awardee at HSDM with directing his career trajectory.

“I knew that I wanted a career in OMS and under Dr. (Thomas B.) Dodson’s mentorship, I learned a great deal about research methodology and publication,” he said. “It validated my affinity for research and academia and connected me to people who could help me realize my career goals. Now it’s my turn to encourage our dental students and OMS residents at Buffalo to pursue research and to mentor their progress. The SRTA is an important resource to support that effort.”

Dr. Brian Kinard also studied under Dr. Dodson at Harvard with support from a SRTA. Now

Assistant Professor at University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), Dr. Kinard will bring his award experience full circle in 2021 as director of a SRTA program, providing intensive research training and mentorship to five UAB dental students.

“I know from experience that their one-on-one relationships with an OMS faculty member will provide a wonderful introduction to the specialty,” he said. “If even a few of them choose OMS residency, we’ll have made a significant contribution to the future of the specialty.”

One SRTA (\$12,500) typically supports research training and mentorship for up to five hand-picked dental students for 12-18 months. [Donate today](#) to support this program’s continued success. Applications for [2022 awards](#) will be accepted April 15 to July 15, 2021. ■



Note: Multi-year projects such as this one depend on the consistent support of Annual Fund donors. Please consider supporting this and other Foundation programs with an OMSFIRE or other recurring gift. Thank you!

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.



2021 awards for research, education announced

The OMS Foundation Board of Directors approved a diverse array of programs for funding in 2021. These include:



Your donations at work

- Clinical Research Support Grant (two-year duration, \$150,000)
 - University of Pennsylvania
“Mechanisms of variability in the analgesic response to ibuprofen following third molar extraction”
 - Principal investigator: Katherine N. Theken, PharmD, PhD
 - Co-principal investigator: Neeraj Panchal, DDS, MD, MA
 - Co-principal investigator: Steven Wang, DMD, MD, MPH
 - Co-principal investigator: Elliot V. Hersh, DMD, MS, PhD
 - Co-principal investigator: Tilo Grosser, MD
- Research Support Grants (one-year duration, \$75,000 each)
 - Emory University (Stephen B. Milam Research Award recipient)
“Temporomandibular joint: total joint replacement and metal hypersensitivity”
 - Principal investigator: Gary Francis Bouloux, DDS, MD, MDSc, FACS
 - Co-principal investigator: Sarah Chisolm, MD
 - Co-principal investigator: Gary Warburton, DDS, MD
 - Co-principal investigator: Daniel Perez, DDS
 - Providence Portland Medical Center
“Ex-vivo tumor responses to immunotherapy and the association with clinical response: Developing personalized cancer immunotherapy using a tumor explant approach”
 - Principal investigator: Marcus Aaron Couey, DDS, MD
 - Co-principal investigator: R. Bryan Bell, DDS, MD, FACS
 - Co-principal investigator: Michael Gough, PhD
 - UCLA School of Dentistry
“Objective clinical, radiographic and biochemical parameters associated with treatment outcomes for patients with MRONJ”
 - Principal investigator: Tara Aghaloo, DDS, MD, PhD
 - Co-principal investigator: Sotirios Tetradis, DDS, PhD
 - AAOMS anesthesia simulation validation study (\$75,000)
 - Faculty Educator Development Awards (FEDA) (two, \$270,000)
 - Student Research Training Awards (two, \$25,000)
 - University of Alabama at Birmingham
 - Loma Linda University
 - Support of Clinical Trials Methods Course (\$30,000)
 - Support of Resident Transitions into Practice Conference (\$5,000)
 - Support of Principles of Head and Neck Oncology for the OMS (\$5,000)
 - Norma L. Kelly Resident Spouse Scholarships (nine, \$9,000)
 - Global Initiative for Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) stipends (10, \$25,000)

Applications for 2022 funding awards are due July 15 at [OMSFoundation.org](https://omsfoundation.org). Apply now for:

- Clinical Research Support Grant (two-year duration, \$150,000)*
- Research Support Grants (one-year duration, \$75,000)
- Student Research Training Awards (two-year duration, \$12,500)

*Consideration of applications for the 2022 Clinical Research Support Grant is limited to those addressing the safety of the OMS anesthesia delivery model.

A generous life culminates with legacy gift: Dr. George W. Oatis, Jr. (1938-2020)

Dr. George Oatis is remembered as a kind and generous man who filled his life with interesting people and pursuits.

As a teenager, he took his first flying lessons from Charles Lindbergh, taught friends to waterski and worked nights for a local dentist who taught him to make dental molds and sowed the seeds of a long and rewarding career in oral and maxillofacial surgery.

Dr. Oatis got his start in the U.S. Navy, serving as an OMS in Japan, California, Vietnam and finally Washington, D.C., where he was the White House dentist during Ronald Reagan’s presidency. He and his wife, Nini, eventually settled their family in California, where he maintained

a successful private practice and served as an ABOMS examiner and as President of both the Northern California Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons and CALAOMS.

An avid pilot for more than 61 years, Dr. Oatis owned several airplanes and transported medical teams to Mexico for Doctors Without Borders. He also loved to ski, golf and explore the world with his family from the deck of a cruise ship.

His friend Dr. Vincent Farhood remembers a good listener and an enthusiastic contributor to conversations about flying, politics, sailing, wine, the current state of the world and the OMS specialty. Dr. Oatis lost Nini in 2013 and eventually remarried.



George W. Oatis Jr., DDS

Elsie Oatis treasured his kindness, gentle soul and love of people, manifested by his devotion to his extended family and many lifelong friends.

Among countless other acts of generosity, Dr. Oatis included a \$25,000 gift to the OMS Foundation in his estate plan, helping sustain the specialty he loved. ■

Including a legacy gift in your estate plan is easier than you think. Email mdicarlo@omsfoundation.org to get your questions answered.

Research update: fighting dry mouth and COVID-19 with tissue-engineered salivary avatars

By Mary C. Farach-Carson, PhD, and Simon Young, DDS, MD, PhD



2019 Research Support Grant awardees: “Development of Surgically Implantable Minor Salivary Gland-Based Constructs for Treatment of Xerostomia”
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Dentistry

A major focus of the work in our labs is to isolate human stem/progenitor cells from minor glands for salivary tissue engineering and cell therapy applications. Millions of patients suffer from dry mouth caused by postsurgical radiation for head and neck cancers, gland loss due to injury or disease, aging and medications.

We work to create “avatars,” tissue-engineered, cell-based replacement tissue that will restore saliva production and provide a permanent cure. Our tissue source has traditionally been the major glands, parotid

primarily, from surgical patients. This project sought to determine if an equivalent and more available source could be obtained from minor salivary glands in the lips, easily extracted during common oral and maxillofacial surgical procedures.

COVID-19 halted all clinical research, including recruitment and enrollment for our IRB-approved protocols, from March 23 until May 7. We took advantage of the time to write a review article that was published in December. We were able to resume work (in shifts to reduce population

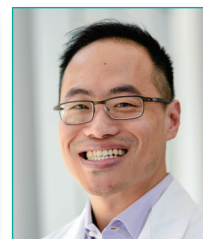
density) in May 2020. Our team persevered in spite of supply chain disruptions, manufacturing inconsistencies and personnel changes by sharing and borrowing from other labs. We were able to perform proof-of-concept experiments showing that minor salivary gland cells are likely to be a great new cell source for our efforts.

In a fortuitous twist, the pandemic also provided us an opportunity to use our tissue-engineered salivary “avatars” for new studies to research how SARS-CoV-2,

the virus that causes COVID-19, enters oral tissues, including salivary glands. Using salivary tissue “avatars,” we are using a SARS-CoV-2 pseudovirus with the spike protein to study infection of salivary glands that leads to presence of spreadable virus in saliva. We are preparing to seek funding to examine salivary gland infection with the new variants of SARS-CoV-2 to determine if a salivary route might explain part of the increase in infectivity that has been reported in the United Kingdom and South Africa variants. ■



Mary C. Farach-Carson, PhD



Simon Young, DDS, MD, PhD

Featured donor: Dr. Elizabeth (Libby) Kutcipal – ‘I’m doing what I can do right now’



Elizabeth Kutcipal, DDS

As a young, female OMS who lives on a houseboat and donates monthly to the OMS Foundation, Dr. Elizabeth “Libby” Kutcipal knows she is something of an anomaly.

Her housemate on Seattle’s Lake Union is a Husky rescue named Lolo who shares her affinity for the outdoors and the slightly unconventional vibe of her floating neighborhood.

“I’ve lived on the lake for 13 years – first, as a renter, then as a homeowner and eventually as a member of the Board of the Seattle Floating Homes Association,” Dr. Kutcipal said. “Getting involved is a good way to get to know people, and I feel like I’m part of the community here.”

The OMS practice she shares with Dr. John Tidwell is tucked into an old Scandinavian neighborhood northwest of Seattle. Their neighbors include the National Nordic Museum, and their patients occasionally include local fisherman.

“We’re invested in the neighborhood, and we feel like we belong here. That’s important to us,” she said.

Dr. Kutcipal also has served as President of the Washington State Society of Oral and Maxillofacial

Surgeons, is an AAOMS Delegate and serves on the AAOMS Special Committee on Virtual Meetings.

“I feel fortunate to be in a position to be able to give back as a good neighbor, a volunteer and now as a donor to the Foundation,” she said. “The next step is to become a mentor to a young OMS, as Dr. (Mark) Egbert was to me. That will be really satisfying.”

Dr. Kutcipal also is a passionate advocate for research.

“I believe for our specialty to claim to be the experts in anesthesia – or anything – we need to own that research,” she said. “We need data that we’ve generated backing up our decision-making and best practices. That’s what the Foundation does and, as soon as I was able, I added my support to that work with a monthly gift. It’s not a lot, and eventually it will be more, but it’s what I can do right now.” ■

NOTE: Your help is needed to keep oral and maxillofacial surgery at the forefront of the dental surgical specialties. Please *add your support to this important work* with a recurring monthly donation (of any size) to the OMS Foundation. Thank you!

Featured legacy donor: Dr. Karen Crowley

Dr. Karen Crowley recently amended her will to include a \$50,000 gift to the Foundation. "The profession of oral and maxillofacial surgery has been the dream of a lifetime for me," she said. "I hope that my legacy donation will help support the success of future generations of oral surgeons in this dynamic, forward-looking profession. I know my actions alone can't make that happen, but many of us working together can ensure the continuing vitality of oral and maxillofacial surgery. It gives me the greatest satisfaction to contribute to the ongoing growth of this wonderful specialty." ■



Karen Crowley, DDS



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Dues statement donors' support adds up over time

AAOMS's annual dues statement always features an opportunity to include a gift to the OMS Foundation with the dues payment. Although the current suggested donation (\$250) may seem modest, it adds up to a substantial source of revenue for the Foundation, which is grateful every time that box is checked.

Thank you to these loyal donors and every AAOMS member who "checks the box" to support the Foundation when they pay their AAOMS annual dues. Their gifts are deeply appreciated as they help sustain the Foundation's mission and programs.

The following 11 Foundation donors deserve a special "thank you" for including a contribution with their AAOMS dues every year for 20 years or more – with Drs. Brent Garrison and Jackrit Mongkollugsana reaching the 25-year mark:

25 years

Dr. Brent Garrison
Dr. Jackrit Mongkollugsana

24 years

Dr. James Cassidy

22 years

Dr. Lionel Bulford
Dr. John Monterubio
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20 years

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Debra M. Sacco, DMD, MD
AAOMS District III Trustee
OMS Foundation Director



"I was honored to be asked to be an OMSFIRE donor."

"As a Foundation Director, I recently helped update the Foundation's Strategic Plan, and my consistent support as an OMSFIRE donor will help fund those initiatives. My OMSFIRE gifts support OMS academicians, innovative education opportunities and clinically relevant research. I was honored to be asked to help our specialty continue to thrive."

– Debra M. Sacco, DMD, MD



Your five-year OMSFIRE commitment helps sustain multi-year programs such as Faculty Educator Development Awards, Clinical Research Support Grants and Student Research Training Awards. Enroll now to **DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!** U.S. Oral Surgery Management will match every gift to the Foundation received by June 30.



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