



Your donations at work

Clinical Research update: Predicting NSAID efficacy for OMS patients



Katherine Theken,
PharmD, PhD

Researchers and practitioners have known for years NSAIDs offer effective pain relief for a significant proportion of third molar patients – the challenge lies in identifying which patients will convalesce successfully with non-narcotic pain medication and prescribe accordingly.

With funding from a two-year Clinical Research Support Grant from the OMS Foundation, a team of OMSs and pharmacologists at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Dental Medicine and Perelman School of Medicine is working to identify reliable molecular markers that can predict – prior to surgery – which patients will likely need narcotics and which would successfully recover without them.

Principal Investigator Katherine Theken, PharmD, PhD – and co-PIs Neeraj Panchal, DDS, MD, MA, and Steven Wang, DMD, MD, MPH – completed enrollment of 85-plus third molar patients in February. Next, 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.

“As has been shown in prior studies, most patients have had excellent pain relief with the combination of ibuprofen plus acetaminophen after surgery,” said Dr. Theken. “Only 19 percent of our patients requested opioids in the first week after third molar extraction, using a median of three oxycodone pills. Laboratory analyses will help us understand why those patients

required opioids, while the majority of patients did not, so we can begin to develop a reliable tool for personalized pain management strategies. As a bonus, several undergraduate and DMD students who have assisted with the project have gained hands-on experience in clinical and laboratory research.”



New Clinical Research: Anesthesia simulation training curriculum in development

The OMS Foundation recently awarded a two-year Clinical Research Support Grant to the University of Michigan to develop and validate an anesthesia simulation training curriculum for OMSs (AST-OMS).

Principal Investigator Sharon Aronovich, DMD – and Co-PIs Brent B. Ward, DDS, MD, Deborah M. Rooney, PhD, and Gerardo Romeo, DDS, MD, MBA – are working to help office-based anesthesia teams achieve mastery in the management of uncommon anesthetic events, build task-specific skills, enhance team communication and leadership, identify crisis management resources, and increase confidence while reducing anxiety-associated errors in judgment.

The team proposes that science-supported simulation training in the office-based team model would be synergistic with AAOMS's Office-Based Emergency Airway Management (OBEAM) module, along with changes in anesthesia training standards and discussions related to development of competencies for team members. To that end, they propose developing and validating an anesthesia simulation program for OMS residents using the team model of office-based anesthesia that will then be applicable to the private practice setting. ■

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Louis K. Rafetto, DMD,
OMS Foundation Chair

While perfect timing may not always be my strongest point, I can't help thinking that right now might be the best possible time to be in a leadership position at the OMS Foundation. There is so much to be excited about, and so many reasons to feel optimistic about the future.

Five years ago, our Directors were drawing up the blueprint for a new Clinical Research Support Grant. Valued at \$150,000 over two years, it was slated to be the largest grant in our portfolio and a significant investment. We expected to award the

You are changing the landscape of OMS

first one in 2020 and disburse subsequent grants every two years as resources allowed.

The front page of this issue of the TORCH features an update on that first grant, describing real progress toward creation of reliable tools for personalized pain management. Sharing the front page is a description of a second Clinical Research Grant awarded in 2021 to the University of Michigan to develop and validate an anesthesia simulation training program for OMS residents that could then be made available to the private practitioner. On our website, you'll find a request for Clinical Research proposals (to be awarded in 2022) addressing either dental implants or anesthesia safety.

Three Clinical Research Support Grants awarded in three years was not the scenario we envisioned in 2017. What changed?

You did. Your OMSFIRE commitments created a solid, stable platform capable of sustaining major investments in research. Your recurring gifts, your generous support of our mid-year and year-end appeals, your donations from Donor Advised Funds, IRA disbursements and AAOMS dues statements, and every first gift made by a proud new oral and maxillofacial surgeon have collectively changed the landscape for the Foundation and the specialty.

We're hopeful that this year's Clinical Trials Methods Course will provide inspiration, training and mentorship to the next generation of OMS researchers, and that our Committee on Research will be rewarded with a sheaf of solid research proposals in 2022. We're equally hopeful that the faculty at our training institutions will be inspired to mentor promising dental students and welcome

them to our wonderful specialty, with financial support from a Student Research Training Award from the Foundation.

Working together, we will continue to identify and address our specialty's most pressing issues so that we can collectively reap the benefits of that collaboration. I'm unashamedly optimistic about our future and invite you to join me in helping to strengthen the specialty we love. If you're waiting for the right moment to make your 2022 donation, this is a good one. If you're considering adding your name to our OMSFIRE roster, go for it. If you're wondering how to show your appreciation to a colleague or mentor, consider a tribute gift. Every gift received by June 30 will be matched (up to \$35,000) by USOSM, and every gift is deeply appreciated.

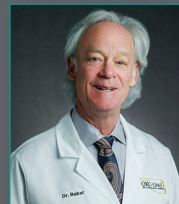
Thank you! ■



Back row from left: Drs. David Basi, Gary Bouloux, Brett Ferguson, Robert Clark, James Baker, Debra Sacco and Thomas William

Front row from left: Ms. Karin Wittich, Drs. Ashleigh Weyh, Louis Rafetto, Jasjit Dillon and Martin Eichner

Welcome Dr. James A. Baker



James A. Baker, DDS

The OMSF Foundation welcomes James A. Baker, DDS, to its Board to fulfill the term of Dale Misiak, DMD.

Dr. Baker has been a practicing OMS in Oklahoma City since 1979. He was Chairman and Residency Director of the University of Oklahoma Department of OMS in 1991-92 and has served as an associate clinical professor there since 1994. Dr. Baker has been honored to serve as a past president of the Oklahoma Society of OMS and the Oklahoma Society of Dental Anesthesiology. He is chair emeritus of OMS Partners, LLC, and has served as chair of the Section of OMS at St. Anthony's Hospital and Deaconess Hospital, and department chair at INTEGRIS Baptist Hospital, all located in Oklahoma City.

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WSSOMS pays tribute to its retiring 'first couple' with gifts, testimonials



Dr. O. Ross and Sheryl Beirne

In a specialty that has never lacked for "giants," Dr. O. Ross Beirne continues to stand out from the crowd.

After 40-plus years spent training, mentoring and inspiring OMSs in California and Washington, Dr. Beirne applied in 2021 for AAOMS retired fellow status. His wife, Sheryl, handed over the reins of the Washington State Society of OMS after serving for decades as its Executive Director. The Beirnes were secure in their legacies, evidenced daily in the strength, dynamism and integrity of the OMS community in Washington and the many University of Washington grads

now practicing oral and maxillofacial surgery in communities across the U.S. A retirement party was scheduled with cake, cocktails and speeches.

But the Society was not satisfied with an average send-off for this extraordinary couple. Instead, in a remarkable display of grass-roots fundraising, Drs. Jasjit Dillon, Thomas Dodson, Patricia Kelly and Charles Weber spearheaded an undercover fundraising appeal that raised more than \$100,000 in gifts to the OMS Foundation in just six weeks, a tribute to Dr. and Mrs. Beirne that would extend their legacy far beyond the parameters of the Pacific Northwest.

Many of the donations arrived with testimonials like this one from Akashdeep Villing, DDS: "Dr. Beirne's fingerprints remain on my everyday practice. From his infinite anesthesia pearls to the subtle surgical techniques we absorbed in his presence, his impact on my career has been profound."

Dr. Dodson's career was launched under Dr. Beirne's guidance at the University of California San Francisco, and the two kept

close even when they were working on opposite sides of the country. He recalled how Dr. Beirne's encyclopedic command of scientific knowledge caught many residents off guard. "He is neither pedantic nor intimidating," Dr. Dodson said. "Rather, he is the quintessential teacher who shares knowledge generously and shows a true love for educating the next generation of oral and maxillofacial surgeons. I was honored to succeed him as Chair of the OMS Department at UW."

Dr. Dodson credits Sheryl Beirne with fostering a tightknit and self-supporting community at WSSOMS. "Together, the Beirnes have been the first couple of our Seattle OMS community. They are our North Star. That the community has rallied to express their gratitude through support of the OMS Foundation is a testament to the way they are esteemed, and a nod to Dr. Beirne's commitment to the future of our specialty."

Find other testimonials to the Beirnes throughout this issue and consider making a tribute gift of your own to honor a colleague or mentor at OMSFoundation.org/Donate.

Experience New Orleans with the Alliance!

The 2022 Alliance Luncheon and FUNraiser for GIVE will be held at GW Fins seafood restaurant, whose Executive Chef Michael Nelson has been nominated for 2022 Best Chef of the South award by the James Beard Foundation. The Sept. 15 event will feature a talk by Bob Breck, New Orleans' favorite meteorologist and hurricane expert, as well as a firsthand account of the humanitarian healthcare experience of a recent recipient of a Global Initiative for Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) award. Seating is limited. Register by Sept. 1 at OMSFoundation.org/alliance-events to receive early-bird pricing.

Join the Alliance for its daily Health Walks – offering an opportunity to explore the city with friends and colleagues. Health Walks for GIVE will be held at 7:30 a.m. Sept. 14 to 16.

Can't be there in person? Sign up to participate off-site by walking at a convenient time and place near home. Registration is free at OMSFoundation.org/alliance-events. Donations from the 2022 Alliance events support GIVE. ■



DID YOU KNOW?

The OMS Foundation Alliance welcomes **every spouse/family member** of Foundation donors into its vibrant community with no membership fee. Learn more at OMSFoundation.org/Alliance.



2022 awards for research, education announced



Your donations at work

The OMS Foundation Board of Directors approved an array of programs for funding in 2022. These include:

- Clinical Research Support Grant (two-year duration, \$150,000)
 - University of Michigan – “Development and validation of an Anesthesia Simulation Training curriculum for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons”
 - Principal investigator: Sharon Aronovich, DMD
 - Co-principal investigators: Gerardo Romeo, DDS, MD, MBA; Deborah M. Rooney, PhD; Brent B. Ward, DDS, MD;
- Research Support Grants (one-year duration, \$75,000 each)
 - Texas A&M University (Stephen B. Milam Research Award recipient) – “Analysis and quantification of orbital fractures to aid surgical decision making: An artificial intelligence-based approach”
 - Principal investigator: Yedeh Ying, DMD, MD
 - Co-principal investigators: Hope M. Amm, PhD; Christopher Willey, MD, PhD
 - University of Cincinnati – “Immune Correlations of Neck Infections with Clinical Outcomes”
 - Principal investigator: Andrew Read-Fuller, DDS, MD, MS
 - Co-principal investigators: Babak Namazi, PhD, MS; Matthew J. Kesterke, PhD, MA; Madhu Nair, DMD, PhD, MS; Likith Reddy, DDS, MD; Ganesh Sankaranarayanan, PhD, MS
 - University of Alabama at Birmingham – “Advanced Three-dimensional Bioprinting of Patient-Derived Models for Head and Neck Cancer”
 - Principal investigator: Deepak Krishnan, DDS
 - Co-principal investigator: Charles C. Caldwell, PhD
- 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 at \$1,000 each)
- Global Initiative for Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) stipends (10 at \$2,500 each) ■

Applications for 2023 funding awards are due Aug. 31 at [OMSFoundation.org](https://www.omsfoundation.org). Apply now for:

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

*Consideration of applications for the 2023 Clinical Research Support Grant is limited to those addressing either dental implants or anesthesia/patient safety.

Meet the next generation of OMSs

Ten dental students at Loma Linda University and the University of Alabama at Birmingham are receiving research training and mentorship from OMS faculty, funded by Student Research Training Awards from the OMS Foundation. A 2015 survey of program outcomes conducted by the Harvard School of Dental Medicine (HSDM) and Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) showed 46 percent of HSDM students who participated in a research project supported by the Student Research Training Awards continued on to OMS residency, compared with 10 percent of HSDM students who did not.

Zachary Peacock, DMD, MD, an Associate Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at MGH, is a champion of the program. “This award is instrumental to the future of our specialty,” he said. “Introducing students to research is critically important to the students themselves, the academic institutions and the advancement of OMS. With the help of the Student Research Training Awards, talented student-researchers are groomed to enter and ultimately lead the OMS specialty.” ■



Conner Nielsen

Conner Nielsen

- Loma Linda University School of Dentistry
- Class of 2022
- 2020-21 Student Research Training Award participant

“I have been pursuing the specialty since day one of dental school. As a Student Research Training Award recipient, I’ve had the chance to interact directly with patients and participate in the research process. I’ve gained insights into patient motivation and treatment acceptance as well as the nitty gritty work of research. This experience has only increased my interest in OMS as a career. Thank you for making it possible!”



Caleb Braun

Caleb Braun

- University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry
- Class of 2024
- 2020-21 Student Research Training Award participant

“In addition to guiding my research, my OMS faculty mentors have shared their experiences, provided shadowing opportunities and encouraged my interest in a career in OMS. My student research training has given me confidence in – and a community of support for – my decision to apply for OMS residency after dental school. Thank you for this opportunity!”



Volunteer Spotlight: Dr. Brent Ward



Brent Ward, DDS,
MD, FACS

Dr. Brent Ward, Chair of the OMS Foundation’s Committee on Research since 2019, is clearly in his element at the epicenter of the Foundation. “Research has always been a major focus of my career,” he said. “As a surgeon, I try to optimize the care I deliver to each of my patients. As a researcher, the data I generate optimizes the care of ALL patients – mine, yours, everyone’s. It’s inspiring to be able to influence how we, as a specialty, treat our patients.”

Dr. Ward received a FEDA grant in 2004 and considers the award one of the specialty’s most impactful. “FEDA delivers far more than a financial incentive to stay in academia,” he said. “The application process, especially if you apply more than once, helps applicants stand out from the crowd. And that stamp of approval from AAOMS and the Foundation can help open doors to speaking opportunities and committee appointments. People who matter start to know your name.”

As Chair of AAOMS’s Committee on Education and Training, Dr. Ward was an architect of the award’s recently updated application and review process.

“I applied my experience as a research reviewer for the Foundation to strengthen the FEDA review process,” he said. The result is a more robust program and a steady stream of high-caliber applicants.

He sees a dual purpose in the Foundation’s grant-making capacity: to support quality research that’s important to the specialty and to support promising researchers navigating the difficult early stages of their careers. “Not every project is destined to advance to the next level of

funding but, as reviewers, we may see that potential in the researcher,” he said. “Our investment in a researcher greatly increases his or her chances of getting the attention of a major funding source. We saw that happen with Drs. Simon Young and Chi Viet, whose work has evolved considerably since the first projects we funded and who recently obtained major funding from the NIH.”

From his vantage point at the Foundation, Dr. Ward has been able to see a silver lining to the shutdowns associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. “It gave people time to think, to reset and become more thoughtful about their research,” he said. “The Foundation received close to 20 applications for funding in 2020; our challenge is to sustain that productivity in a post-pandemic world. The more research we generate, the faster we will move from anecdotal evidence to scientifically reliable data to support our decision-making. For our donors, that will be money well-spent.”

Brent Ward, DDS, MD, FACS, is the Chalmers J. Lyons Endowed Professor and Chair of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery/ Hospital Dentistry at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry and is the Section Head within the Department of Surgery at Michigan Medicine. In addition to the OMS Foundation Committee on Research, he also chairs the AAOMS Committee on Education and Training, serves as a Section Editor for JOMS and is a member of AAOMS’s Committee on Oral, Head and Neck Oncologic and Reconstructive Surgery. He lives in Ann Arbor, Mich., with his wife Jana. Of their six children, four are practicing or pursuing careers in healthcare. ■



David Ludwig, DDS, MD

Featured donor: David Ludwig, DDS, MD

“I was lucky to have been trained by someone as skilled and knowledgeable as Dr. Beirne; this becomes more apparent each day that I am in practice. His ‘Kahoot’ interactive quiz sessions were legendary, his teaching by the Socratic method cemented countless medical and surgical considerations, his anesthesia expertise emphasized safe patient care, and his personality made students, residents, staff and patients adore him. I am forever thankful for Dr. Beirne.”



Peter Gauger, DDS

Featured donor: Peter Gauger, DDS

“It was a known fact among the residents that Dr. Beirne’s depth of knowledge was beyond what we mortals could try to attain. If you knew how the drug worked, he knew the pH of the binding site. If you knew the side effects, he knew the journal, issue and author who first reported the complication. There were times when I’d question how much of this knowledge would actually stick around. But last month – 10 years removed from residency – I found myself at a CE course on diabetes. When the speaker started discussing GLP-1 agonists, I immediately recalled the mechanism of action and the fact that it was discovered in Gila monster saliva. Dr. Beirne is the best!”

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"It is more important than ever to invest in the future, and the OMS Foundation is our platform to do that. We're proud to partner with the Foundation as an OMSFIRE Donor to help protect and advance the OMS specialty."

Hamp Bailey, President
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"We're paying it forward."

"Our inaugural OMSFIRE gift is made in tribute to Dr. Ross and Sheryl Beirne, to recognize their many contributions to the specialty. Each of us has an obligation to support education and research, to improve patient outcomes and create opportunities for future oral and maxillofacial surgeons. We invite our friends and colleagues to join us in generously supporting the Foundation in 2022."

- Dr. Charles and Karen Weber, Lacey, Wash.



2022
Silver Donor



**Dr. Charles
and Karen Weber**

Feeling grateful? Honor a colleague or mentor with a tribute gift of your own at [OMSFoundation.org/Donate](https://www.omsfoundation.org/Donate)

DONATE NOW to double your impact! Every gift received by June 30 will be matched by USOSM up to a total of **\$35,000**



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Investing in
innovation.
Advancing the
specialty.



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