



Where practice meets science



Brent Ward, DDS, MD, FACS

By Dr. Brent Ward

As a learning strategy, “practice makes perfect” takes root early. Extensive research shows it to be as relevant for adult learners as it is for 5-year-olds. AAOMS’s Office-Based Emergency Airway Management (OBEAM) course offers oral and maxillofacial surgeons a realistic environment in which to practice their life-saving skills in airway management.

It stands to reason that in a complex, high-stakes scenario (such as an office-based anesthesia emergency), practicing these skills will increase the likelihood of positive outcomes in a real-life emergency. To replace that assumption with data, these questions must be asked: Can practice (in the form of simulated experiences) develop competence? Can that competence be measured in a repeatable and scientific way? Can we apply that measurement to validate our

specialty’s team-based in-office anesthesia delivery model? This is where practice meets science.

In the past two years, the OMS Foundation has invested heavily in clinical research to address these questions. OMSs at the University of Michigan and Pittsburgh’s Allegheny General Hospital are collaborating with anesthesiologists, simulation research experts and educators to develop, implement and measure the effectiveness of simulation training for anesthesia-related crisis management. They – along with AAOMS – are using state-of-the-art SimMan 3G manikins to simulate anesthesia emergencies with real-time vital signs, airway complications and verbal manakin feedback. Programmed to respond to the management strategies of the team, these life-size manikins are the closest replication of a typical OMS patient available in 2023. The outcomes of these studies will support AAOMS’s National Simulation Program and other competency-based training programs.

Offering more than a hyper-realistic practice environment for crisis management skills, the simulators and researchers also collect data to assess the competence of the participant. Using these data, these studies seek to prove that standardized simulation training consistently leads to competence,

and that the measurement of a competent surgeon is valid, repeatable and applicable as one piece of data in assessing the global expertise of the OMS specialty.

Imagine bringing an entire team to a realistic simulation training incorporating validated metrics for competence (such as AAOMS’s Office-Based Crisis Management simulation training module). Halfway through a biopsy, the “patient” crashes. With practice, the OMS and his/her team appropriately manage the emergency, demonstrating competence that is verified by data that have been collected. These certifications of competence attest to the safety of the OMS specialty’s team-based anesthesia delivery model, and each trained team represents a brighter future for the specialty and its patients.

These projects, supported by OMSFIRE and other gifts to the Annual Fund, exemplify the Foundation’s commitment to invest in projects that support AAOMS’s education goals, impact the everyday practice of oral and maxillofacial surgery and help secure its future. They represent the ultimate goal of the Foundation: to find and fund ground-breaking research in which practice meets science. ■



Louis K. Rafetto, DMD, MEd, Foundation Chair

Listening to Paul Schwartz’s inaugural address in New Orleans, I was inspired by his commitment to support innovation. “Our specialty – through research and in practice – must stay abreast of the innovative, state-of-the-art trends in simulation, robotics and artificial intelligence. The future holds so many opportunities for the specialty if we explore, develop and embrace innovative techniques, treatments and ideas.”

Yes. Exactly. Count me in. But exactly how does embracing research and innovation fit into our daily routines and clinical practice? Personally, I struggle to find time to “stay abreast,” never mind “explore and develop.” Then I remember that, as Foundation donors,

Advancing innovation – in between patients

we ARE helping to realize our President’s vision. In fact, we are a driving force for innovation in our specialty.

Your donations are supporting the development and validation of a state-of-the-art anesthesia simulation training curriculum, and a concurrent project that is collecting data to prove its effectiveness. You are underwriting the integration of AI into our surgical decision-making processes via a program that will allow ready access to relevant data from cases similar to yours. You are helping to advance our understanding of cancer as well as how virtual surgical planning can deliver better outcomes for orthognathic procedures and free flap reconstruction.

You helped 10 residents attend the recent CSIOMS, the veritable epicenter of innovation in our specialty. In a note thanking the Foundation for his travel scholarship, Dr. Ramtin Dastgir wrote, “This was the most valuable and informative seminar I have ever attended. Never have I been so deeply immersed in a novel learning environment

and gained so much new knowledge.” So, take a bow. You ARE making it happen – without having to reschedule a single patient.

If you’re an OMSFIRE donor, you get extra credit for helping to create a stable, predictable income stream that is supporting multiple \$150,000 clinical research grants, plus multiple training/mentorship programs for promising OMS residency candidates. If you’re an OMSFIRE donor and a legacy donor, you’re in elite company. Brett Ferguson calls it the “some for now, some for later plan” for sustaining the Foundation’s mission, and insists that the hardest part is getting around to it.

If you’re not an OMSFIRE donor, or you haven’t gotten around to adding a gift to the Foundation in your will, I would like to respectfully ask “Why not?” and encourage you to reconsider your position before August. An OMSFIRE or Walker Society ribbon on your Annual Meeting badge comes with an invitation to our R.V. Walker Donor Recognition Reception aboard the USS

Midway. It’s a fun gathering of fine people, and you’ll fit right in.

Even better, you’ll have the satisfaction of knowing that you’re helping to realize Dr. Schwartz’s vision to explore, develop and embrace innovation in the OMS specialty. I think I speak for us both when I say “Well done.” ■



Double your impact with a gift to the Foundation May 1 to June 30!

Scan the QR code or visit OMSFoundation.org/Donate, then choose “monthly” or “annual” giving options for OMSFIRE. Every gift to the Annual Fund (including inaugural OMSFIRE gifts) will be matched by USOSM up to \$25,000.



Back row from left: Drs. Rawle Philbert, Robert Clark, James Baker, Louis Rafetto, Debra Sacco, David Basi and Gary Bouloux

Front row: Dr. Martin Eichner (far left), Ms. Karin Wittich (second from left) and Brett Ferguson (far right)

Not pictured: Dr. Jasjit Dillon

Also pictured: Foundation Development Director Ms. Mary DiCarlo (front row center) and Foundation ROAAOMS Liaison Dr. Artem Krutyansky (front row second from right)

2023 OMS Foundation Board of Directors

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Contact us

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Mark your calendar!

OMS Foundation Activities at the 2023 AAOMS Annual Meeting

The OMS Foundation looks forward to welcoming AAOMS members, families and friends to the 2023 AAOMS Annual Meeting. Here's where to find the Foundation during the meeting:

- **Visit the OMS Foundation Booth**
 - Sept. 18 to 20 in the House of Delegates lobby
 - Sept. 21 to 23 in Exhibit Hall Booth 733
- **Poster Session/Wine & Cheese Reception**
 - Thursday, Sept. 21, 1:30 to 3 p.m.
- **Faculty Lunch and Learn "Improving DEI in Your Residency Program"**
 - Friday, Sept. 22, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., San Diego Convention Center
 - **Speaker:** Akin Cil, MD, Rex L. Diveley Professor and Chair Department of Orthopedic Surgery at the University of Missouri-Kansas City
- **R.V. Walker Donor Recognition Reception (by invitation)**
 - Friday, Sept. 22, 6 to 7 p.m. on the deck of the USS Midway

OMS Foundation Alliance Events at the 2023 AAOMS Annual Meeting

All Alliance events support the Global Initiative for Volunteerism and Education (GIVE)

- **2023 Alliance Luncheon and FUNraiser for GIVE**
 - Thursday, Sept. 21, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
 - **Speaker:** 2023 Global Initiative for Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) awardee
 - Register by Sept. 1 for early-bird pricing at OMSFoundation.org/alliance-events
- **Alliance Daily Health Walks**
 - Sept. 20 to 22, 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.
 - Depart from Hilton San Diego Bayfront
 - Off-site registration option: Walk at a time/place of your choosing
 - Register at OMSFoundation.org/alliance-events
- **OMS Foundation Alliance Networking Breakfasts**
 - Sept. 20 to 22, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.
 - Health Walk participants are invited to enjoy complimentary breakfast at a local restaurant

Alabama Society honors Dr. Arrasmith with \$100,000 in tribute gifts

At its Annual Meeting in March, the Alabama Society of OMS (ALSOMS) surprised Dr. Warren Arrasmith – one of its most revered members – with a heartfelt tribute that will resonate beyond the state's borders and far into the future. In the span of a weekend, the Society members committed to \$90,000 in gifts to the OMS Foundation in honor of Dr. Arrasmith. By month's end, ALSOMS had reached its target of \$100,000, including six new OMSFIRE gifts that will help support the Foundation's mission through 2027.

Dr. Arrasmith's contributions to the state and national OMS community have been extensively recognized by his colleagues. A past president of both the Alabama and Southeastern societies of OMS, he was

honored with the Southeastern Society's Lifetime Achievement Award at its 2021 meeting. Previous accolades included AAOMS's Daniel M. Laskin Award for Outstanding Predoctoral Educator and the University of Alabama-Birmingham President's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Dr. Michael Koslin, a longtime friend and colleague, spoke for many at the ALSOMS meeting when he expressed his admiration for Dr. Arrasmith's warmth, intellect and dedication to the AAOMS and UAB communities. His unscripted testimonial inspired an outpouring of donations in Dr. Arrasmith's honor to one of his most cherished charities, the OMS Foundation.



Warren Arrasmith, DDS

Dr. Debra Sacco, AAOMS District III Trustee, had this to say: "This is great news but should be no surprise. The Alabama Society members are among the best of the best. I am so glad to hear that they chose to honor such an accomplished and very special man in such an appropriate way." ■



Dr. Michael G. and Rochelle Koslin

Featured donors: Dr. Michael G. and Rochelle Koslin

"In his (nearly) five decades as an oral surgeon, Warren Arrasmith has been a leader, a mentor, a cherished friend and a trusted confidant to nearly every OMS and aspiring OMS in Alabama. He understands that the success of our specialty relies on its commitment to innovation – supported by research – as the basis for our patient care. Warren has been a donor to the OMS Foundation for more than 30 years; it's our pleasure to recognize his many contributions to the specialty we both love with a gift in his honor to the Foundation." — Michael G. Koslin, DMD

Are you a legacy donor candidate?

You've always been the one people counted on. Your life is a testament to your vision, hard work and devotion to your loved ones, your specialty and your community. You're grateful for the opportunities that have helped you succeed, and "giving back" is a cornerstone of your personal culture. Your annual gifts to the OMS Foundation have helped sustain the research and education programs that keep oral and maxillofacial surgery at the forefront of the dental specialties.

You would like to do more.

Including a gift to the Foundation in your estate plan allows you to make a significant – even transformational – gift with minimal impact on your current cash flow or your provisions for your loved ones. Popular options include a bequest in your will, transfer of ownership of a life insurance policy you no longer need or naming the Foundation as a beneficiary of a retirement account. Strategic philanthropists structure their estate plans to donate to charity assets

that, if left to their heirs, would be subject to substantial taxation.

Your commitment to a legacy gift valued at \$25,000 or more entitles you to membership in the R.V. Walker Society, an honor reserved for the visionaries of our specialty. What better way to say "thank you" to the specialty that has given you so much?

Talk to your financial advisor about including the Foundation in your estate plan, then email mdicarlo@omsfoundation.org to be welcomed into the R.V. Walker Society. ■



Committees keep the OMS Foundation moving forward

Along with its hard-working Directors, the OMS Foundation is grateful for the many volunteers who contribute their time and expertise on behalf of the Foundation throughout the year. Through their work on OMS Foundation committees and their immeasurable value as guest presenters, they use their skills and charisma to help continue the Foundation's work of investing in the future of the specialty.

Members of the **Alliance Committee** endeavor to accomplish two overarching goals: raising funds for the Foundation's Global Initiative for Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) resident scholarships and welcoming new resident families into the AAOMS community.

- Mrs. Stacy Erickson, Chair
- Mrs. Olga Schwartz, Vice Chair
- Dr. Valerie Burks
- Mrs. Kos Lugakingira
- Mrs. Page Rollert
- Mrs. Andrea Tate
- Debra Sacco, DMD, MD, Board Liaison

Providing life-changing and career-affirming opportunities abroad to OMS Residents, the Foundation appreciates the work done by its **Committee on Humanitarian Programs**.

- Thomas P. Williams, DDS, MD, FACS, Chair
- David E. Frost, DDS, MS
- Lawrence T. Herman, DMD, MD
- Louis K. Rafetto, DMD, MEd
- Sanford Ratner, DDS, FACS

Charged with identifying innovative, clinically relevant research that will advance the specialty, the **Committee on Research** draws from the expertise and experience of its members.

- Brent Ward, DDS, MD, Chair
- Tara Aghaloo, DDS, MD, PhD
- Scott Boyd, DDS, PhD

- David L. Basi, DMD, PhD
- Regina Landesberg, DMD, PhD
- Jasjit K. Dillon, DDS, MBBS, FDSRCS, FACS, Board Liaison
- Gary Bouloux, DDS, MD, FRACDS, FRACDS(OMS), FRCS(Eng), FACS, Board Liaison

Presenters:

Many OMS Foundation donors volunteered in 2022-23 to present OMS Foundation updates at local and regional society meetings, district caucuses and Annual Meeting sessions:

- Dr. James Baker (Oklahoma Society of OMS and District V Caucus)
- Dr. Michael Barbick (Florida Society of OMS)
- Dr. David Basi (Minnesota Society of OMS)
- Dr. Scott Bauer (Mississippi Society of OMS)
- Dr. David Beanland (Massachusetts Society of OMS)
- Capt. David Bitonti (Military and Tri-Services)
- Dr. Gary Bouloux (Georgia Society of OMS and District III Caucus)
- Dr. Richard Burton (Iowa Society of OMS)
- Dr. Claudine Cafferata (New York Society of OMS)
- Dr. Jasjit Dillon (Washington State Society of OMS and District VI Caucus)
- Dr. Thomas Dodson (Washington State Society of OMS)
- Dr. Erik Evans (Ohio Society of OMS)
- Dr. Brett Ferguson (District V Caucus)
- Dr. Robert Guyette (Arizona Society of OMS)
- Dr. Andrew Heise (Pennsylvania Society of OMS)
- Mr. Hank Holderfield (Tennessee Society of OMS)

- Dr. Ann Holzhauer (South Carolina Society of OMS)
- Dr. Bruce Huberman (New Jersey Society of OMS)
- Dr. Daniel Meara (Massachusetts Society of OMS)
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- Dr. Kevin Patterson (Colorado Society of OMS)
- Dr. Mohammed Qaisi (Illinois Society of OMS)
- Dr. Dipa Patel (Virginia Society of OMS)
- Dr. Louis Rafetto (District II Caucus)
- Dr. Andrew Read-Fuller (Faculty Section Annual Meeting)
- Dr. John Rydlewicz (Wisconsin Society of OMS and District IV Caucus)
- Dr. David Shafer (Connecticut Society of OMS)
- Dr. John Shea (Tennessee Society of OMS)
- Dr. Julie Ann Smith (Oregon Society of OMS)
- Dr. W. Frederick Stephens (California and Utah Associations of OMS)
- Dr. Howard Strauss (Massachusetts Society of OMS)
- Dr. Joe Van Sickels (Kentucky Society of OMS)
- Dr. Peter Vellis (Connecticut and Massachusetts Societies of OMS)
- Dr. Peter Waite (Alabama Society of OMS)
- Dr. Jeffrey Wallen (South Carolina Society of OMS)
- Dr. Ashleigh Weyh (ROAAOMS)
- Dr. Cynthia Winne (District I Caucus)



Dr. Zurayk with a patient in Bolivia

Healing the Children with GIVE

As a dental student and OMS resident, some of Dr. Leena Zurayk's most gratifying moments

would have been out of reach if not for a Global Initiative for Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) stipend from the OMS Foundation. The \$2,500 GIVE stipend removed the financial hurdles of international travel, allowing Dr. Zurayk to focus on providing care to a community in need.

She and Dr. Gaal joined a team of surgeons, nurses, speech and language pathologists and anesthesiologists – led by Emory University OMS Chair Dr. Steven Roser – in Santa Cruz for a fast-paced week in January. Some 130 patients were triaged on Day 1. The team completed 74 procedures in five days, with Bolivian oral surgeons working alongside the visiting OMSs while multiple local medical students observed.

Outside of the OR, the team's surgeons and anesthesiologists presented lectures on cleft care and pediatric anesthesiology to the local medical students, residents and internists.

Dr. Zurayk credits a local surgeon, Dr. Gissa Nunez Balderrama, with teaching her how to repair a cleft palate. By week's end, she was versed in unilateral and bilateral cleft lip repair, lip adhesion and cleft palate repair. She was also inspired by Dr. Balderrama's commitment to establish – with support from Healing the Children, Rotary International and the local medical community – a comprehensive cleft care center in Santa Cruz.

"My experience with Healing the Children showed me how surgical outreach programs confront the problems of poverty, healthcare personnel shortages and large patient populations," she said. "I am grateful to the OMS Foundation for the opportunity to expand my surgical skills and for inspiring me to look for ways to give back to my local and international communities." ■

occurred while working as a local volunteer providing care to those without healthcare access.

So when Dr. Austin Gaal, her colleague at Harborview Medical Center, offered an invitation to travel to Bolivia with Healing the Children, Dr. Zurayk recognized her next-level service opportunity. The combination of community service and immersive instruction in cleft repair from internationally renowned surgeons felt like the opportunity of a lifetime – one that



Dr. Joshua Everts

Featured donor: Dr. Joshua Everts

"It is an honor and a privilege to call Dr. Warren Arrasmith my friend and colleague. He was a valuable mentor during my residency at UAB, welcoming me into the OMS community and inviting me to sit side-by-side with him in his leadership roles at AAOMS. Following his lead (and with his guidance and support), I have participated in AAOMS Day on the Hill, House of Delegates and various AAOMS Committees. As he predicted, I have found 'giving back' to my specialty rewarding beyond my expectations.

"Another important lesson Dr. Arrasmith taught me is that education and research are the bedrock of our specialty. While I do not have the ability to participate in research at this point in my career, I highly value the work being done by others to advance our specialty. I am happy to partner with the Foundation as an OMSFIRE donor to support research that directly affects my practice of oral surgery every day.

"Everyone who knows Warren knows that he cares deeply and serves faithfully in all areas of our national and local OMS community. He represents all that is good and noble about our specialty, and I am proud to donate to the OMS Foundation in his name." — *Joshua Everts, DDS, MD, FACS*

Volunteer Spotlight

The OMS Foundation recently welcomed two Texans to its Alliance Committee: Dr. Valerie Burks and Mrs. Andrea Tate. They join a seasoned team of volunteers – all AAOMS spouses – dedicated to welcoming new families to the OMS specialty and raising money for GIVE (Global Initiative for Volunteerism and Education).

A Texas native and graduate of Southwestern University, Valerie Burks earned her DDS and met her husband, Matthew Burks, DDS, MD, at Texas A&M's Baylor College of Dentistry. She attended the 2018 AAOMS Annual Meeting as a recipient of a Norma L. Kelly Resident Spouse Scholarship, and the support and camaraderie she experienced there sparked her interest in giving back to the OMS Foundation. As an Alliance Committee member, she said she hopes to help the Foundation advance the specialty she and Matthew hold dear. In her spare time, Valerie enjoys hiking, tennis and family time with their two young children, Catherine and Thomas.

Andrea Tate hails from Nacogdoches, in the Piney Woods of East Texas. She met her husband, Gregory Tate, DDS, MD, at Texas A&M University; they have been married for 34



Valerie Burks, DDS

Andrea Tate

years and are parents of Travis, Connor and Jackson. Andrea enjoys traveling, weekends at the lake, serving on the school board of St. Boniface Catholic High School and supporting various ministries at her church. A regular attendee of Alliance social events at the AAOMS Annual Meeting, she forged many friendships and came to admire the Alliance's mission. Already an OMSFIRE and Alliance donor, she welcomed the opportunity to join the Alliance Committee and help new AAOMS families build connections within the community. ■

Featured Corporate donor: Practice Quotient

“The evolution of cutting-edge best-care practices for OMSs is grounded in research conducted by dedicated and qualified scientists. The Foundation’s support for research and education helps sustain the high standards of the OMS specialty, ensuring that its patients have access to the highest level of care available. Practice Quotient is honored to support those efforts as an OMSFIRE Corporate Donor.”



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The Connecticut Society of OMS is proud to support the OMS Foundation as a Bronze OMSFIRE Society

“In many ways, the OMS Foundation's critical work is an extension of the Connecticut Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, Inc.'s own mission, which is why our Board of Directors unanimously agreed to become an OMSFIRE Society donor in 2022. Supporting the Foundation is the most impactful thing we can do as oral and maxillofacial surgeons to advance our specialty that, in turn, benefits our patients.”

– Mark Fletcher, DMD, MD, FACS, President, Connecticut Society of OMS



U.S. Oral Surgery Management

DONATE NOW to double your impact! Every gift received between May 1 and June 30 – including inaugural OMSFIRE gifts – will be matched by USOSM, up to a total of \$25,000.



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Investing in innovation.
Advancing the specialty.



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