

2026 OMS Foundation support for the specialty

The OMS Foundation is proud to support the specialty through a wide range of awards, grants and scholarships offered in 2026. These programs are designed to recognize excellence, foster leadership, advance research and support the educational and professional growth of oral and maxillofacial surgeons at every stage of their careers. The opportunities outlined below represent just one part of the Foundation's broader commitment to serving the OMS specialty through philanthropy, innovation and long-term investment in its future.

- **Clinical Research Support Grants** further the development of scientific investigators committed to addressing clinical problems related to the OMS specialty, foster inter-professional research collaborations that facilitate advances in clinical research and encourage promising lines of patient oriented and outcome-oriented research consistent with research priorities established by the specialty. Grants are awarded in the amount of \$150,000 paid over two years. Applications accepted April 15 to Aug. 31.
- **NEW Dr. Ramon L. Ruiz Endowed Fellowship in Cleft and Craniofacial Surgery** supports a young oral and maxillofacial surgeon who shares Dr. Ruiz's passion for treating cleft lips and palates, craniosynostosis and complex craniofacial deformities. This fellowship is \$75,000. Applications are currently being accepted.
- **Faculty Education Development Awards (FEDA)** encourage oral and maxillofacial surgeons to choose a career in academia within the specialty of oral and maxillofacial surgery. The award is for full-time faculty for up to seven years to continue a career in academia. Applications are accepted via AAOMS.
- **Global Initiative for Volunteers and Education (GIVE)** provides reimbursement for up to \$2,500 in documented travel expenses to residents serving with experienced OMS teams to deliver humanitarian healthcare to communities in need around the world. Applications are received and reviewed quarterly.

- **NEW Leadership Education Advancement and Development (LEAD) Award** provides a \$75,000 grant to support full-time OMS faculty who have dedicated at least 10 years to academia. This award is intended for faculty seeking to pursue advanced degrees, certificate programs or specialized courses that will enhance their academic expertise and expand their qualifications for career advancement. Applications are being accepted now.
- **Norma L. Kelly Resident Spouse Scholarship** reimburses travel expenses up to \$1,000 for spouses accompanying residents to the AAOMS Annual Meeting. The OMS Foundation Alliance is proud to partner with OMSNIC to be the exclusive sponsor of these scholarships. Applications accepted April 15 to June 1.
- **Research Support Grants** further the development of scientific investigators committed to problems related to oral and maxillofacial surgery. Each grant is \$100,000 for two years. Applications accepted April 15 to Aug. 31.
- **Student Research Training Awards** provides \$12,500 over two years to dental education programs offering research opportunities. Its objective is to attract highly qualified health profession students to OMS research and practice.

Additional details, eligibility requirements and application deadlines for all OMS Foundation awards, grants and scholarship are available at [OMSFoundation.org](https://omsfoundation.org). Interested applicants and supporters are encouraged to visit the website to learn more about these opportunities and how the foundation continues to serve and strengthen the OMS specialty. ■

Learn more about OMS Foundation grants and scholarship at [OMSFoundation.org](https://omsfoundation.org)



OMS Foundation
9700 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.
Rosemont, IL 60018
[OMSFoundation.org](https://omsfoundation.org)

DONATE TODAY

Double your impact!

Every gift received by June 30 will be matched by U.S. Oral Surgery Management (USOSM), up to a total of \$35,000.

Donate Online – scan the QR code or visit [OMSFoundation.org/Donate](https://omsfoundation.org/Donate).



Investing in innovation.
Advancing the specialty.

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SPRING 2026



Research in action: Strengthening anesthesia safety in the era of recreational marijuana use

As recreational marijuana use continues to rise across the United States, oral and maxillofacial surgeons are increasingly caring for patients who report cannabis use. With this shift comes an important clinical question: Does recreational marijuana use affect anesthetic requirements or vital signs during intravenous sedation?

Thanks to donor support, the OMS Foundation is helping answer that question.

In 2024, the OMS Foundation awarded Pooja Gangwani, DDS, a Clinical Research Grant to advance patient safety and improve clinical decision-making in oral and maxillofacial surgery. Dr. Gangwani, a full-time faculty member at the Temple University Kornberg School of Dentistry in Philadelphia, Pa., is leading a prospective cohort study titled: *"Marijuana, Anesthetic Requirements, and Vital Signs: Is Recreational Marijuana Use Associated with Changes in Vital Signs or Anesthetic Requirements During Intravenous Sedation?"*

Addressing a growing clinical challenge

Marijuana is now one of the most commonly used substances among adults in the United States. As legalization expands, OMS practices are seeing more patients who regularly use cannabis. Yet, limited prospective data exists to guide anesthetic management for these individuals.

Dr. Gangwani's study seeks to determine whether recreational marijuana use is associated with difference in anesthetic medication requirements – including midazolam, fentanyl, propofol, ketamine and dexmedetomidine – as well as changes in vital signs such as heart rate, blood pressure, respiratory rate and oxygen saturation during intravenous sedation.

By systematically evaluating these variables in patients undergoing ambulatory OMS procedures, her research aims to provide evidence-based guidance that enhances patient safety and supports sound anesthetic planning.

A strong academic environment

Dr. Gangwani conducts her research within a highly supportive academic setting. At Temple University, she practices in a fully equipped sedation center with four functioning operatories and a strong patient volume that supports study recruitment. The Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery maintains an active residency program and a collaborative clinical infrastructure that strengthens both education and research.

As a surgeon who administers anesthesia daily, Dr. Gangwani is uniquely positioned to implement standardized protocols, monitor physiologic responses and collect high-quality data within a controlled academic environment.

The power of philanthropy

For academic surgeons balancing clinical care, teaching and scholarships, dedicated research funding can make all the difference.

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David L. Basi, DMD, PhD
OMS Foundation Chair

Message from the Chair

Advancing safety and confidence in office-based anesthesia: The ASTOMS initiative

Numerous studies show that this model has an excellent safety record and high patient satisfaction. Office-based anesthesia is also a cost-effective and time-efficient means of delivering care, allowing OMSs to treat patients, including those with dental anxiety, in a safe environment. However, rare but publicized adverse events have drawn criticism. The ASTOMS initiative addresses these concerns through simulation-based education, a training method proven to improve crisis management, communication, leadership and response to high-stakes anesthetic events. Investigators aimed to develop a comprehensive anesthesia simulation training curriculum tailored to the OMS office-based anesthesia environment.

“With enrollment and data collection complete, I am deeply grateful to the OMS Foundation for funding this project, and to my University of Michigan colleagues for their expertise in validation science, anesthesia and simulation education,” said Sharon (Ron) Aronovich, DMD, Clinical Associate Professor at University of Michigan Health. “The success of

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Dr. Gangwani shared:

me renewed confidence to continue contributing to clinical research despite the daily demands of academic practice.”

“Conducting this research with the Foundation’s support has been deeply fulfilling and rewarding, and I am truly grateful for this meaningful investment. Their dedication to early-career faculty and investigators fuels translational and clinical research, thereby strengthening the evidence base in our specialty and ultimately helping improve the care we provide to our patients.”

Your impact at work

This study is a powerful example of how donor generosity translates directly

this study was truly a team effort, made possible by our dedicated support staff and all participants. Feedback from trainees and community oral and maxillofacial surgeons confirms that this simulation training is a highly effective method for honing skills in managing office-based anesthesia emergencies, regardless of a provider’s prior experience. As we prepare to publish our findings, it is clear that this training is a vital tool for improving safety in all aspects of OMS care.”

The project’s goals were threefold: to create a simulation program that develops emergency response skills in office-based anesthesia, to collect and evaluate performance data in a simulated setting and to assess the impact of simulation training on private practice OMSs’ self-efficacy and skill acquisition. The curriculum was designed using a team-based framework that mirrors real-world OMS practice, reinforcing collaboration and communication among all members of the anesthesia team. ■

into improved patient care. By funding rigorous, prospective clinical research, the OMS Foundation is strengthening the evidence that guides anesthesia management in everyday practice.

Because of donations made to the OMS Foundation, critical questions are being asked, data are being generated and patient safety continues to advance.

Together, institutional support, clinical infrastructure and donor-funded research investment provide a robust foundation for advancing evidence-based anesthesia care within oral and maxillofacial surgery. ■

Giving made easy – A simple way to make a lasting impact

Supporting the future of oral and maxillofacial surgery doesn’t have to be complicated. For many donors, the most meaningful impact comes not from a single large gift, but from steady, ongoing support that builds momentum over time. That’s the idea behind monthly giving and the OMS Foundation – and the inspiration for the Torch Bearer Program.

Torch Bearers are committed supporters who choose to give monthly at the \$100, \$250 or \$500 level – providing reliable funding that advances research, education, scholarships and innovation across the OMS specialty. These monthly gifts help the Foundation plan ahead, respond to emerging needs and invest confidently in programs that strengthen the profession today and for generations to come.

For those who have already fulfilled their annual or monthly OMSFIRE commitment, the Torch Bearer Program offers a meaningful way to stay engaged and continue supporting the Foundation through the year. It’s an easy and impactful option for donors who want to extend their involvement and maintain a steady connection to the mission.

As a thank you for this ongoing commitment, Torch Bearers receive exclusive, high-quality OMS Foundation branded gear, with incentive options aligned to each monthly giving level. A member of the OMS Foundation staff will reach out to coordinate items selected, including size and color when applicable with delivery typically within six to eight weeks.



Monthly giving is also one of the most convenient ways to support the OMS Foundation. Gifts are automatically processed each month, and donors remain in full control – contributions can be adjusted, paused or canceled at any time. While individual monthly gifts may feel modest, together they create a powerful and sustained source of funding that fuels progress and ensures continued support for the OMS specialty.

Whether you choose to become a monthly Torch Bearer or simply set up a monthly gift at the level that works for you, monthly giving is a simple, flexible and meaningful way to make a lasting impact – one month at a time.

Visit [OMSFoundation.org](https://www.omsfoundation.org) to become a monthly donor and help carry the mission of the OMS Foundation forward. ■

“The future of oral and maxillofacial surgery depends on consistent support and shared commitment. I invite you to join me and my fellow Torch Bearers as a monthly donor to the OMS Foundation. Together, our ongoing support fuels education, research and innovation that strengthens our speciality today and for generations to come.”
– Dr. Peter Vellis

Inaugural Torch Bearers

Dr. David Basi

Dr. Tylor Gauger

Dr. Elizabeth Kutcipal

Dr. Victor Nannini

Dr. Gregory Ness

Dr. John Rydlewicz

Dr. Michael Safian

Dr. R. Gilbert Triplett

Dr. Peter Vellis

**Torch Bearers receive OMS Foundation-branded items as part of their monthly commitment. Fair market value of these goods and services will be reflected in the donor’s year-end charitable donation statement.*

Mark your calendar! OMS Foundation activities at AAOMS Annual Meeting

The OMS Foundation will welcome AAOMS members, families and friends to the AAOMS Annual Meeting in Seattle, Wash. Here’s where to engage with the Foundation during the meeting:

OMS Foundation Booth*

- Sept. 28 to 29 in the House of Delegates lobby
- Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 and 2 in the Member Pavilion Booth #4

*Visit the OMS Foundation on-site and get your pair of Souvenir Seattle Socks



Poster Session Wine and Cheese Reception

- Oct. 1, 2:30 to 4 p.m. in the Exhibit Hall

Donor Recognition Reception

- Oct. 2, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Hyatt Regency Seattle

Join the OMS Foundation Alliance in Seattle

The Alliance is a vibrant community of spouses, family members and friends of oral and maxillofacial surgeons who come together in support of the specialty. If your spouse or guests are joining you in Seattle, please invite them to take part in these special activities. Alliance events offer a wonderful opportunity to connect with other OMS families, build lasting friendships, enjoy the city and make a difference – all while supporting the future of oral and maxillofacial surgery.



2025 Health Walk

Mark your calendar for the following events:

- **Luncheon and FUNraiser – Oct. 1:** A highlight of the meeting! This luncheon welcomes new OMS families, reconnects longtime friends and combines fellowship, food and fun.
- **Health Walks – Sept. 30 to Oct. 2:** Start your day with a Health Walk around Seattle. It’s a scenic, social way to explore Seattle and meet other attendees.
- **Networking Breakfast:** Health Walk participants can enjoy a complimentary breakfast on Sept. 30 and Oct. 2 (no breakfast on Oct. 1 because of the luncheon).

Registration is required for all these events. For details on the times and locations, visit [OMSFoundation.org/Alliance-Events](https://www.omsfoundation.org/Alliance-Events).

Travel scholarships open to resident spouses

The OMS Foundation Alliance is accepting applications for the 2026 Norma L. Kelly Resident Spouse Scholarships. These scholarships offer up to \$1,000 to offset the travel expenses of spouses of OMS residents attending the 2026 AAOMS Annual Meeting in Seattle, Wash. Applications are open from April 15 to June 30.

Learn more and apply at [OMSFoundation.org](https://www.omsfoundation.org). Questions? info@omsfoundation.org.



Alliance Committee welcomes new members

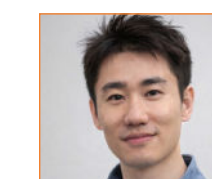
The OMS Foundation Alliance Committee welcomes Adam Hockaday and Louie Song as the newest members of the Alliance Committee.



Adam Hockaday

Adam is a Doctor of Physical Therapy who represents the evolving future of collaborative, patient-centered pain management. Trained at Duke University, he developed an early interest in temporomandibular joint

dysfunction and has since committed his professional growth to advancing evidence-based care for patients living with orofacial pain. With growing research supporting team-based approaches to pain management, Adam is especially motivated to strengthen partnerships between physical therapists and oral and maxillofacial surgeons. Adam’s wife, Dr. Madison Hockaday, is an OMS resident at Vanderbilt University.



Louie Song

Louie (Xuheng) Song embodies the quiet strength and steadfast support that sustain resident families through the demanding journey of oral and maxillofacial surgery training. He is the spouse of Dr. Jingqi (Kenny) Li, a 2025

graduate of the OMS residency program at University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix. Married for more than nine years, Louie and Jingqi had faced geographic separation with resilience, deepening their commitment to one another despite the miles between them. Louie represents the dedication, sacrifice and unity that defines residency and surgical practice – and the powerful role they play behind every successful surgeon.

The Alliance Committee looks forward to the contributions both Adam and Louie will bring with their experience and dedication.