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# TORCHlight

## *March 2021 News from the OMS Foundation*

The OMS foundation is proud to introduce its electronic newsletter, TORCHlight. Here, you'll find timely stories about the Foundation's programs, donors and opportunities you can read on the go in less time than it takes for your coffee to brew.

Do you have a story idea for Foundation newsletters? Email [mdicarlo@omsfoundation.org](mailto:mdicarlo@omsfoundation.org) with your suggestions and feedback. *Torch* will continue to be delivered with the May/June and November/December issues of *AAOMS Today*. Watch for the next issue of TORCHlight in September.

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## **Student research award continues to attract top talent to the specialty**



Dr. Lauren Hum

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." [Read more.](#)

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## **Foundation announces 2021 funding opportunities**

Foundation donors frequently cite clinical research as a top priority. In response to the strong debut of its Clinical Research Support Grant in 2020, the Foundation is offering another two-year, \$150,000 grant in its research funding opportunities for 2021.

**Applications will be accepted online April 15 - July 15 for:**

**Clinical Research Support Grant (\$150,000, two-year duration):** This grant supports patient- and outcomes-oriented clinical investigations addressing the specialty's most urgent priorities. Consideration in 2021 is limited to proposals addressing the safety of the OMS anesthesia delivery model. [Learn more and apply for this grant.](#)

**Research Support Grants (\$75,000, one-year duration):** This grant supports scientific investigations addressing problems related to oral and maxillofacial surgery. [Learn more and apply for this grant.](#)

[Read more about funding opportunities from the OMS Foundation.](#)

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## Featured Donor: Dr. Elizabeth (Libby) Kutcipal

### 'I'm doing what I can do right now'

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. [Read more.](#)



Dr. Elizabeth Kutcipal

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## OMSFIRE: Funding the specialty's future



Dr. Debra Sacco

When the OMS Foundation in January 2020 rolled out OMSFIRE (OMS for Innovation, Research and Education) – a high-profile, recurring donor recognition program – AAOMS District III Trustee Dr. Debra Sacco was among the first to get on board. This was a way to activate her good intentions to give back to the specialty she loved with little effort. It was an easy decision.

“Since residency, I have felt called to serve the specialty that has given me so much,” she said. “But sometimes, when life got hectic, I would lose track of my Foundation giving. As a new Director, I recently helped construct the Foundation’s 2021-24 Strategic Plan. Now as an OMSFIRE donor, my consistent support will help fund those initiatives. Knowing that my OMSFIRE gifts will support OMS academicians, innovative education opportunities and clinically relevant research is gratifying. I was honored to be asked to help our specialty continue to thrive.” [Read more.](#)

## Legacy gifts honor Dr. Walker, help secure the specialty's future



Dr. Robert V. Walker

This year – the 10th anniversary of Dr. Robert V. Walker’s passing – the OMS Foundation hopes to welcome a dozen new members to its R.V. Walker Society, recognizing donors who commit to a gift of \$25,000 or more to the Foundation in their estate plan.

As Dr. Walker knew, a donor’s final gift to a cherished charity also is an opportunity to deliver a heartfelt “thank you.”

Dr. Karen Crowley recently amended her will to include a \$50,000 gift to the Foundation. She credits Drs. Don Booth, Paul Danielson, Jack Farnham and Philip Maloney with modeling an attitude of responsibility for the future of oral and maxillofacial surgery.



Dr. Karen Crowley

“The profession of oral and maxillofacial surgery has been the dream of a lifetime for me,” she said. [Read more.](#)

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