



## A message from the Alliance Committee Chair



As our specialty – and the world – continues to evolve and diversify, the Alliance remains committed to building bridges to bring us together. Since 1994, we've helped welcome new families and reunite old friends in the AAOMS community with a time-honored combination of fellowship, food and fun.

You won't want to miss this year's [Luncheon and FUNraiser for GIVE](#) at Brigantine – a San Diego dining destination – on September 21. Register by August 20 for discounted tickets to this popular event – it will sell out. And our daily [Health Walks](#) offer a scenic and social tour of San Diego in the company of old and new AAOMS friends, followed by a casual breakfast for all participants. Can't make the San Diego walks? Choose the off-site registration option, walk at a time and place of your choosing, and send us a photo for our gallery!

Thanks to the generous support of our event partners, the proceeds from this year's events in San Diego will benefit the Global Initiative for Volunteerism (GIVE). Your donations to GIVE have supported 25 stipends to date, reimbursing up to \$2,500 in travel expenses for OMS residents serving with international humanitarian healthcare teams. We'll hear from one of them at our 2023 Luncheon; I promise you'll be inspired by the stories from the front lines of compassionate healthcare.

I can't wait to welcome you to San Diego! Cheers to building bridges within our AAOMS community and THANK YOU for being a pillar of support for the Alliance!

Stacy Erickson, Chair  
2023-24 Alliance Committee

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## Register today for our 2023 Alliance events!

### Alliance Luncheon and FUNraiser for GIVE

Thursday, Sept. 21, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Brigantine Seafood & Oyster Bar  
1360 North Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA  
\$135 until Aug. 20, \$150 Aug. 21 - Sept. 13



**Register TODAY! There will be no ticket sales after Sept. 13!**



### San Diego and off-site Health Walks for GIVE

**San Diego:** Sept. 20 - 22, 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Departs from the Hilton San Diego Bayfront Hotel –  
1<sup>st</sup> floor Promenade West lobby

Complimentary networking breakfast to follow

**Off-site:** Walk with the Alliance in spirit at the time/location of  
your choosing and send a photo to

[athomas@omsfoundation.org](mailto:athomas@omsfoundation.org) from your off-site walk for our  
Health Walk gallery!

Registration is free; donations will benefit GIVE ([Global Initiative for Volunteerism and Education](#))

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## Resident spouses invited to the AAOMS Annual Meeting

OMS residents attending the annual meeting are invited to bring their spouses along with financial help from OMSNIC and the OMS Foundation Alliance. With an approved [application](#), the Alliance will reimburse up to \$1,000 in documented travel and lodging costs of resident spouses attending the AAOMS Annual Meeting. Norma L. Kelly Resident Spouse Scholarship recipients enjoy VIP treatment at Alliance events throughout the Annual Meeting and are warmly welcomed into the AAOMS community. Please share this information with OMS residents and their spouses. [Applications due by August 20!](#)

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## Collaboration is key to Alliance events' success

Daily Health Walks hosted by the OMS Foundation Alliance, a staple of the AAOMS Annual Meeting for 28 years, trace their origins and longevity to a pharmacist's passion for fitness, an enduring friendship and an appreciation of how one can beget the other. The friendship between Garry Persons (pharmacist, jogger, humanitarian healthcare volunteer and current President of Canfield, Inc.) and Dr. Bill Frantzich (AAOMS member and inventor of The Jaw Bra) embodies the spirit of fellowship and fun that also defines the Alliance. As collaborators, they were a natural fit.



During his first career as a pharmacist, Mr. Persons organized and led daily jogs (and a Fastest Pharmacist Race!) at the American Society of Hospital Pharmacists' annual meetings. When he switched gears to launch Canfield, Inc., he floated a proposal to AAOMS for a daily jog during its Annual Meeting, offering to provide T-shirts for participants.

His idea found a collaborator in the newly launched OMS Foundation Alliance; a social walk along Miami Beach at the 1996 Annual Meeting meshed perfectly with the Alliance's mission to foster lasting friendships among AAOMS spouses and families. The walks became a fixture of the AAOMS meetings, and vintage Health Walk T-shirts remain a prized possession among the many participants who return every year. Dr. Frantzich, whose Jaw Bra was marketed by Canfield, was an enthusiastic collaborator, offering financial support for a post-walk breakfast for participants to enhance the networking experience. [Read more.](#)

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## Healing the Children with GIVE

As a dental student and OMS resident, some of Dr. Leena Zurayk's most gratifying moments 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 would have been out of reach if not for a Global Initiative for Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) stipend from the OMS



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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. [Read more.](#)

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## Your donations at work: GIVE stipend earns a "thank you" from US Ambassador to Malawi

Drs. Tania Nkungula and Lt. Cmdr. Shelby Curtis (USN, chief resident at Walter Reed Medical Center) first learned of the GIVE opportunity on April 26, 2023, at the Middle Atlantic Society of OMS meeting. Thanks to the Foundation's responsive Committee on Humanitarian Programs and staff, Dr. Curtis was approved for a GIVE stipend before Dr. Nkungula's team departed for Malawi on May 27, where they provided much-needed support to the sole OMS practicing in that tiny African country. On the eve of their departure, the U.S. Ambassador to Malawi sent the following letter of gratitude to the Foundation for supporting this effort.

*Dear all,*

*As Ambassador of Malawi, and taking this maiden trip with such eminent people, I feel humbled. I do not take for granted all the sacrifice that each one of you is making for the people of Malawi. I pray that you will find your trip and service to Malawi fulfilling and worth every moment as part of your calling.*



*We pray that there will be many more of such trips and that life for the many Malawians awaiting such expert service will never be the same. I can speak for Dr. Mchenga, the only Oral Surgeon in Malawi, who is very dedicated to duty and serving with very limited resources, that this will take off a great load over his shoulders.*

*As the Chinese proverb says, a journey of a thousand miles begins with one step, Saturday May 27th is the beginning of that journey!!!! God bless you all.*

*Zikomo (Thank you)*

*Justice Esme Jynet Chombo*

*Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Malawi to the USA*

**[Donate today](#) to help the Alliance raise \$10,000 in 2023 to fund 4 new GIVE stipends.**

**Thank you!**

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## Special Thanks to our 2023 ALLIANCE Supporters



PMR – The Jaw Bra  
Dr. James &  
Angie Henderson



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