



## A message from the Alliance Committee Chair



In 1993, Mrs. Mady Donoff was hand-picked to develop a “partnership organization” of OMS spouses and friends. Less than a year later, Mrs. Donoff and the Alliance Steering Committee had worked some true magic, and the OMS Foundation Alliance held its first Annual Event at the 1994 AAOMS Annual Meeting. For thirty years now, we’ve been welcoming family, friends, staff, and OMSs to enjoy good food and great friends (old and new) at each Annual Meeting.

As this year’s Alliance Chair, I warmly invite you to join us for the Alliance’s 30th year of events! The 2024 Luncheon and FUNraiser for GIVE at Orlando’s renowned [Primo](#) restaurant will be Sept. 12 and will feature a delicious menu curated by their two-time James Beard Award-winning chef, Melissa Kelly. Be sure to [register](#) by Aug. 15 for early-bird pricing!

Our daily (Wed-Fri) Health Walks will offer a scenic and social tour of Orlando in the company of AAOMS friends, followed by a casual breakfast for all participants. We invite you to [register now!](#) All onsite participants will receive a free Health Walk t-shirt courtesy of Canfield, Inc.

Proceeds from all Alliance events will benefit the Global Initiative for Volunteerism and Education ([GIVE](#)). GIVE provides reimbursements of up to \$2,500 in travel expenses for residents serving with international humanitarian healthcare teams. During our Thursday Luncheon, we’ll hear from Dr. Vickas Agarwal who traveled with Smile Bangladesh in late 2022. I promise you’ll be inspired by stories from the front lines of compassionate healthcare.

Cheers to building bridges within our AAOMS community and THANK YOU for being a pillar of support for the Alliance!

Mrs. Olga Schwartz  
2023-24 Alliance Committee Chair

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## Register today for our 2024 Alliance events!

### [Alliance Luncheon and FUNraiser for GIVE](#)

Thursday, Sept. 12, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Primo at JW Marriott Grande Lakes

4040 Central Florida Pkwy, Orlando

\$135 until Aug. 15, \$150 Aug. 16 - Sept. 8

[Register](#) **TODAY! Ticket sales end Sept. 8!**



### [Orlando and off-site Health Walks for GIVE](#)

**Orlando:** Sept. 11 - 13, 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Departs from the “Convention Center Entrance” of the Hyatt Regency Orlando

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

**Registration is free; optional donations will benefit GIVE**

[\(Global Initiative for Volunteerism and Education\)](#)

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## Resident spouses chosen to attend the AAOMS Annual Meeting

Ten OMS residents attending the annual meeting will be bringing their spouses along with financial help from OMSNIC and the OMS Foundation Alliance. The ten resident spouses submitted [Norma L. Kelly Resident Spouse Scholarship](#) applications and were selected to receive up to \$1,000 in documented travel and lodging costs to attend the 2024 AAOMS Annual Meeting. “Kelly Scholars” enjoy VIP treatment at Alliance events throughout the Annual Meeting and are warmly welcomed into the AAOMS community. In the words of one 2024 Kelly Scholar, “Attending the AAOMS annual meeting is not only a celebration of my husband's dedication and hard work, but it also offers an opportunity to connect with other spouses who understand our unique experiences and challenges. I am confident that sharing and learning from others in similar situations will be invaluable as we navigate this exciting phase in our lives.”

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## GIVE recipient reflects on humanitarian healthcare experience – “I am filled with gratitude”



Dr. Vickas Agarwal, 2023 GIVE Participant

By Vickas Agarwal, DDS, MD

Traveling to Dhaka, Bangladesh, with the Smile Bangladesh team was a milestone for me, made possible through a Global Initiative for Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) grant from the OMS Foundation. Thanks to the generosity of the Foundation's donors, I was able to fulfill my longstanding aspiration to engage in global surgery by participating in a mission trip. I have long been drawn to the idea of contributing to surgical care in underserved communities worldwide. However, financial constraints often hindered such endeavors, especially during residency. The grant from the OMS Foundation alleviated this burden, providing for my travel expenses and essential support for accommodation, meals and supplies. Without this assistance, joining Smile Bangladesh in Dhaka would have been nearly impossible. The funds not only facilitated my travel but also allowed me to actively participate in the mission of

providing vital surgical care to those in need. Every patient we treated underscored the impact of our presence and the importance of our work. Equally valuable was the opportunity to work alongside mentors with diverse backgrounds from outside my program. Gaining exposure to different techniques to accomplish the same goals gave me new perspectives, and collaborating with the dedicated professionals of Smile Bangladesh provided insights beyond just surgical techniques. Their commitment to their community and resilience in challenging circumstances left a lasting impression on me. Reflecting on my time in Dhaka, I am filled with gratitude – for the opportunity to serve, for the lessons learned and for my generous colleagues who helped make this experience possible. It has reinforced my commitment to global surgery and deepened my understanding of the profound impact we can make when we come together to serve those in need.

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**[Donate today](#) to help the Alliance raise \$10,000 in 2024 to fund four new GIVE stipends. Thank you!**

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# Special Thanks to our 2024 ALLIANCE Supporters

