

Dear OMI faculty, fellows, and friends,

It's springtime here in Salzburg! The days are getting longer, flowers are blooming, and good vibes are in the air. During this beautiful season of growth, we are happy to share exciting news with you. From January through March, we have been busy coordinating three global hubs. In Salzburg, we successfully conducted 12 seminars. Dr. Kershenobich, the doyen of the Mexican healthcare system, visited us to learn more about the OMI and to assist in strengthening the OMI MEX program. Last but not least, we are thrilled to have officially launched OMI Vietnam, thus broadening our footprint around the world.



## **Knowledge Shared Is Power Multiplied**

In the first quarter of 2023, 395 fellows from 61 countries traveled to Salzburg to learn firsthand from renowned experts in pediatrics and adult medicine. Weill Cornell Medicine, the Hospital for Special Surgery, the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Columbia University, and Duke University provided the academic leadership for these 12 week-long seminars. Multiple courses offered valuable hands-on training, which allowed fellows to enhance their practical skills. In response to the dire situation of the healthcare system in many African countries, we have been offering more fellowships to doctors from Africa.

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### **OMI Vietnam Officially Launched!**

The OMI is excited to announce its expansion into Vietnam! A memorandum of understanding was signed on March 8, 2023, with VinUniversity, located in Hanoi, Vietnam. This collaboration marks an important milestone in the history of the OMI and paves the way for further global expansion of the program. The partnership will provide doctors from Southeast Asia with new academic opportunities to improve their knowledge and skills, and contribute to the development of healthcare in the region.

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## **OMI Salzburg Welcomes Vietnamese Fellows**

As a part of our recent involvement in Southeast Asia, we have begun to regularly host Vietnamese fellows at the OMI in Salzburg. Since January 2023, qualified physicians from VinUniversity and the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (Hanoi), as well as the Institut Pasteur, the University of Medicine and Pharmacy, and the University Medical Center (Ho Chi Minh City) have been traveling to Schloss Arenberg to attend various courses. We are happy to welcome these young and dedicated doctors to the Salzburg program and to see our network growing.

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### **Dr. David Kershenobich Visits the OMI in Salzburg**

The OMI was honored to have Dr. David Kershenobich, former Director General of the National Institute of Medical Sciences and Nutrition Salvador Zubirán (INCMNSZ), in Salzburg for the Columbia University Seminar in Internal Medicine to familiarize himself with the OMI program. As the OMI aims to strengthen the OMI MEX activities, Dr. Kershenobich's commitment to assist in the expansion and promotion of the OMI seminar series in Mexico is much appreciated! 12 OMI MEX seminars will take place in Mexico City and Guadalajara this year.

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## **Are Statins Obsolete?**

In February 2023, we kicked off this year's OMI satellite symposium series in Tbilisi, Georgia. Dr. Natia Vashakmadze, a very active OMI alumna, brought together 250 doctors for a clinical endocrinology conference. OMI faculty member Dr. Peter Lansberg, a world-renowned lipidologist, shared his expertise with an engaged audience. The conference was organized by the Georgian Association of Endocrinology and Metabolism and supported by the OMI, the Ilia State University, and the Israeli-Georgian Medical Research Clinic "Healthycore". What a great example of local capacity building in healthcare!

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## Imaging the Future

The OMI gives distinguished alumni the unique opportunity to invite international experts to their home institutions. Pediatrician Dr. Anna Arakelyan is an OMI rising star, striving to improve pediatric health services in Armenia. In March 2023, she organized a satellite symposium in Pediatric Radiology at the Arabkir Medical Center, a leading pediatric hospital in Yerevan. OMI faculty Dr. Erich Sorantin from the Medical University of Graz provided up-to-date knowledge through intriguing lectures and ultrasound workshops. During a hospital visit and round table discussions with local faculty ideas for future research opportunities evolved.

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## Update from the OMI Observership Program

In February 2023, the Open Medical Institute welcomed the first observers of the year for observerships in Vienna, Graz, and Salzburg. Seven doctors from Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Hungary, and Poland had the chance to visit Austrian hospitals to improve their clinical skills, learn new techniques and treatment protocols, and experience modern hospital management.

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## Art Exhibit at Schloss Arenberg

From March 5 to July 1, 2023, we are showcasing Martina Stock's Opus 20 | 100 Female Voices at Schloss Arenberg. Visit and admire 20 portraits of exceptional female artists from the last 100 years of the Salzburg Festival. The exhibition is free and open to the public on Thursday evenings, Saturdays, and Sundays. Meet the artist on Saturday, April 8, 2023, at 11:00 am for a private tour and a unique harp performance.

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### Coming Soon: OMI Annual Report 2022!

We are looking forward to releasing the OMI annual report, which highlights our activities over the past year and the voices of those who contributed to make it all possible. Stay tuned!

**Please visit our website and blog to read even more OMI updates!**

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Yours sincerely,





**Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Aulitzky**  
CEO | Open Medical Institute  
A Program of the American Austrian Foundation

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