

## **Greetings from snowy Salzburg!**

2023 is a special year for the Open Medical Institute as it marks the program's 30th anniversary. When Drs. Wolfgang Aulitzky and Stephen Scheidt organized the first seminar in cardiology in 1993, they could not have foreseen the OMI's tremendous growth. From one to more than 40 seminars per year, the OMI has awarded over 27,600 fellowships to physicians from 132 countries. We have gone global with hubs in Mexico and Vietnam, in addition to Salzburg. This year alone, we trained 1,786 doctors at our three centers and received an all-time high of more than 9,500 applications. We are so grateful to you for being part of our first 30 years – here's to the next 30!



## **Cheers to 30 Years!**

A peaceful mission, a shared desire to help others, and wonderful company. On November 29th, the OMI hosted a celebratory event at Schloss Arenberg with over 90 attendees, many of whom have been patrons of the program for years. Guest of honor, Dr. Monica Sala, from the Institut Pasteur in Paris, spoke on the partnership between the OMI and the Institut Pasteur, highlighting the mutual benefits of this unique global health initiative. Dr. Ernst Wolner, lecturer at the foremost OMI cardiology seminar in 1993, was presented a painting of Schloss Arenberg. We are thrilled to announce that our fundraising goal of EUR 100,000 was surpassed! Enjoy viewing the splendid photos from the event!

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### **Music for Medicine Benefit Celebrates the OMI's 30th Anniversary**

The AAF's annual Music for Medicine Benefit took place on December 4, 2023, at the stunning Metropolitan Club in New York City. This very special evening honored the 30th anniversary of the Open Medical Institute and featured Pablo Legorreta (Royalty Pharma, AMSA), Alexander Soros (OSF), and Dr. Wolfgang Aulitzky (OMI) as keynote speakers. We were pleased to be joined by Dr. Robert A. Harrington, the new Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine, and appreciate his enthusiasm for the program. An eclectic and wide-ranging concert was given by members of the Vienna Philharmonic. Over 250 guests joined us for the event, which was a resounding success, having raised over 670,000 USD to date.

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## **Teen Spirit: Navigating the World of Adolescent Medicine**

The stage between childhood and adulthood is a crucial part of growing up. Yet, this important developmental part of life is mostly unexplored, even in medicine. The OMI, together with the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, is trying to change that by dedicating a seminar series to adolescent health. It was a pleasure having WHO expert and OMI alumna Dr. Valentina Baltag as a member of this year's course faculty. Dr. Baltag is actively fighting for the recognition of adolescent medicine globally, which inspired the 29 participants from 21 countries.

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## **From Latin America to Central Asia: Managing a Global Network**

The OMI local coordinators are the glue that holds the OMI community together. They build bridges between the OMI's headquarters in Salzburg and the thousands of fellows worldwide. Currently, 26 committed individuals across the globe work to promote the OMI's programs locally, provide support to applicants, track the development and impact of fellows, and make useful connections within the local healthcare systems. This October, they gathered at Schloss Arenberg to reconnect and hatch plans.

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## Heart to Heart: Cleveland Clinic Experts Teach an OMI Satellite Symposium in Croatia

Curious to learn more about the OMI faculty members who travel to fellows' home countries to actively make a difference by sharing their knowledge with local healthcare professionals? Following the cardiac surgery seminar in Salzburg, Drs. Edward Soltesz, Nikolaos Skubas, and Faisal Bakaeen, from Cleveland Clinic, went on to Zagreb to teach 60 young Croatian cardiac surgeons and anesthesiologists. Thanks to Dr. Hrvoje Gašparović and his team from the University Hospital Centre Zagreb for hosting this successful symposium!

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## Tick, Tick, Tick: Vector-Borne Diseases Are on the Move

Mid-November, the OMI was back in Vietnam for its third week-long seminar, exploring the rise of vector-borne diseases in Southeast Asia. Leading Institut Pasteur faculty from France, Laos, and Cambodia teamed up with experts from Vietnam to provide the 30 fellows from all across Southeast Asia with a thrilling curriculum, which was specifically adapted to local needs and interests. Undoubtedly, a multidisciplinary approach is needed to tackle this global health challenge. Thanks to our host, the Institut Pasteur in Ho Chi Minh City, for having us. We look forward to continuing this unique knowledge transfer with our partners in Southeast Asia in the future!

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## Learning to Be a Public Health Strategist

At the beginning of December, the OMI, in collaboration with Maastricht University, kicked-off its first public health strategy seminar. A multidisciplinary faculty introduced participants to the essentials of public health with a focus on applying three lenses - law, systems thinking, and leadership - to devise strategies to improve population health in their home countries. Guided by the experts, the fellows identified public health issues that they would like to address and began shaping policy solutions that they will refine after returning home. In June 2024, the same cohort will reconvene at Schloss Arenberg for the next stage of the course.

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## **Mission Accomplished: OMI MEX Concludes 12th Seminar**

Colorful Oaxaca was the location for our 12th and last OMI MEX seminar this year. Top experts, from the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Weill Cornell Medicine, Columbia University, Duke University, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and the Institut Pasteur, provided the academic leadership for the three-day courses in Mexico. 340 doctors from Latin America learned the latest information in pediatrics and adult medicine. We are successfully increasing the number of seminars offered in our second hub: Last year we had 11, this year we had a dozen, and next year there will be 13. We cannot wait to see what the future of OMI MEX holds!

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## Knee, Hip, Spine: Honoring Milestones of Orthopedics

Every year, the OMI, the Medical University of Vienna, and the Josephinum Medical History Museum jointly organize the Vienna School of Medicine Gala. At the event, held on October 16, 2023, renowned experts gave the 170 guests a glimpse into the fascinating world of orthopedics. Dean Dr. Markus Müller portrayed the era of artificial intelligence and digital medicine. Dr. Renate Kain, the OMI pathology co-course director, was presented with the 2023 OMI award. The evening raised EUR 70,000 in support of the three medical institutions.

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## Join the OMI's 30 for 30 Fundraising Campaign

For three decades, we have been providing world-class medical education and training for 27,681 doctors from 132 countries. As we reflect on the past 30 years, we are proud of the positive impact we have had on these physicians, their patients, and their communities. Join us for some fabulous fundraising to celebrate 30 years of our program! Your contribution will go directly to the next generation of OMI fellows.

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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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Contact:

Salzburg Stiftung der American Austrian Foundation (AAF) | Open Medical Institute  
Schloss Arenberg | Arenbergstrasse 10 | 5020 Salzburg | Austria  
[www.openmedicalinstitute.org](http://www.openmedicalinstitute.org) | [seminars@openmedicalinstitute.org](mailto:seminars@openmedicalinstitute.org)