

**Happy**

**Summer!**

Hello and welcome to the OMI's quarterly newsletter. It is hard to believe that we are already halfway through the year! In the past few months, we have been busy running 31 seminars for 982 doctors at the OMI in Salzburg and Mexico City, ramping up the OMI observership program, and conducting OMI satellite symposia in different corners of the world. In mid-July, OMI Vietnam will kick off with two fully booked courses at VinUniversity in Hanoi. Meanwhile, musically gifted kids will spend an exciting summer at Schloss Arenberg attending the annual opera camps. Read on for more highlights, and do not forget to check out the OMI blog and OMI Instagram. We wish you all a very pleasant summer!



## **OMI Sets All-Time Application Record**

How to describe the OMI seminars in five words? Eye-opening, immersive, fun, impactful, and above all, extremely popular! More than 760 doctors applied for

one of the 34 spots in last week's Medical Leadership course, marking a record high in the program's history. In the last quarter, we have hosted a variety of in-demand seminars, both in Salzburg and Mexico City. From Pediatrics to Oncology, the OMI provides full-spectrum education to physicians from medically less developed countries and encourages them to continue delivering patient care back home rather than emigrating. Thanks to our dedicated faculty, doctors around the world continue to benefit from world-class medical education and training.

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## **OMI Runs High-Impact Maternal and Infant Health Symposium in Kyrgyzstan**

Could you find Kyrgyzstan on an unlabeled map? Kyrgyzstan is a sovereign state in Central Asia, with a population of 6.7 million. Bordered by Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and China, it is a landlocked, lower middle-income country, which gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. Maternal, newborn, and child health are key indicators of health system performance, and

despite major efforts to reduce mortality rates, mothers and newborns are still dying there in appalling numbers. From May 22 to 23, 2023, the OMI held a Maternal and Infant Health symposium at the Kyrgyz State Medical Academy in Bishkek. Neonatology pioneers Dr. Richard A. Polin (Columbia University) and Dr. Josef Neu (University of Florida) teamed up with gynecologist Dr. Petra Kohlberger (Medical University of Vienna) to share their expertise with 56 pediatricians, gynecologists, and obstetricians from the region.

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**OMI Faculty Teaches the Unteachable in Estonia**

From May 24 to 25, 2023, OMI fellow Dr. Gerhard Grents invited OMI faculty Dr. Nancy Weigle and Dr. Jonathan E. Fischer from Duke University Department of Family Medicine and Community Health to participate in the first International Medical Education Conference “Teaching the Unteachable” at the University of Tartu, Estonia. The two-day conference focused on structuring learning and teaching skills in various medical education environments, with a particular emphasis on teaching communication and employing simulated patients. Drs.

Weigle and Fischer then took part in the Spring School of the Young Family Doctors of Estonia, where they lectured and conducted workshops on deprescribing, sharing serious news, and physician wellness. They were also treated to a traditional Estonian smoke sauna to relax at the end of a busy day of teaching!

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### **OMI Advances Palliative Care in Albania**

An old saying goes, "Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime." The OMI's mission is to give fellows the empowering tools they need to steer their lives and impact the lives of many others. After attending the OMI Palliative Care and Nursing seminar in Salzburg, OMI fellow Irena Laska proposed replicating the course for colleagues in Albania. As Executive Director of the Mary Potter Hospice in Korce, her passion has been to advance palliative care throughout the country. She knew that to meet this goal, she would need to provide education for doctors, nurses, and instructors who will ultimately prepare the next generation of practitioners. To that end, Irena

organized a three-day symposium in May of 2023. OMI faculty members Patrick Coyne and Carrie Cormack (Medical University of South Carolina), and Dr. Judith Paice (Northwestern University) led the teaching effort. 53 attendees were actively engaged and described the conference as highly transformative.

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### **When It Matters Most, Count on Us!**

Sometimes life puts you in tough situations. Since civil war erupted in Sudan in April of 2023, OMI fellow Dr. MohammedElhassan M. A. Abdalla could not return to Khartoum after participating in the OMI Clinical Research Methods seminar. The OMI team in Salzburg helped to make the best of this unfortunate situation and promptly arranged for an observership at a local hospital. Thanks to Dr. Christoph Griessenauer, Head of the Department of Neurosurgery at the Christian Doppler Clinic, and his team for facilitating this placement, which allowed Dr. Abdalla to enhance his skills and gain valuable experience. [Click here to read the full story!](#)

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### **OMI Signs Partnership with Nigerian Teaching Hospital**

We are taking another step forward in Africa! On May 16, 2023, the OMI signed a partnership agreement with the Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospitals Complex (OAUTHC) located in Ile-Ife, Osun State, Nigeria. Affiliated with the Obafemi Awolowo University, OAUTHC is one of the leading teaching hospitals in the country. It provides comprehensive medical services through six clinics and offers a variety of educational and training programs. To ensure the operation runs smoothly, Dr. Adekunle Adeyemo, an ENT specialist and OMI alumnus, will assume the role of an OMI ambassador at the OAUTHC. So far, the OMI has awarded 96 fellowships to Nigerian physicians, 35 of them coming from Ile-Ife.

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## **OMI Fellow Reunion Sparks Fond Memories**

On May 23, 2023, more than 40 OMI alumni from various parts of Kyrgyzstan gathered at the Jannat Resort in Alamedin. The reunion sparked fond memories as fellows shared stories of their time at the OMI in Salzburg and their careers since participating. Besides reminiscing, the event was also a vital opportunity to look ahead to the future. Stephanie Faschang, OMI Managing Director, shared program updates and encouraged fellows to remain actively involved in the OMI network. It was truly wonderful to see so many familiar faces and to hear what our fellows have been up to. The OMI is proud to see its alumni thrive! Thanks to Dr. Lola Asanalieva, OMI local coordinator, and her organizing committee for making this reunion such a memorable success.

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## **OMI Annual Report 2022**

Are you curious about our activities and achievements of the past year? The OMI annual report for 2022 is out! Fully committed to improving healthcare globally, the OMI continues to impact the lives of thousands of doctors and their patients. The program's success is based on a true team effort. In the 2022 annual report, we give a voice to those who share our vision and contribute to "Medical Education beyond Borders". Read all about it via the link below.

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## **OMI Seminars 2024: Apply Now!**

Are you ready to take your career to new heights? The 2024 Salzburg OMI seminar program is now open for application! Join motivated colleagues from around the world for a week-long course in your medical specialty. The OMI seminars take place at Schloss Arenberg in Salzburg, Austria. They are a mix of state-of-the-art lectures, case presentations, workshops, and hands-on training. Leading experts from our partner institutions in the United States and Europe are enthusiastic to share their knowledge and experience with you. Fellowships cover travel expenses, teaching materials, and full board. Don't miss this unique opportunity to enhance your knowledge and skills!

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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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