1. **Save the Date June 1st, 2020—AAF Cultural Exchange Award Luncheon**

On June 1st, 2020, the American Austrian Foundation will host its fourth annual Cultural Exchange Award Luncheon at the Metropolitan Club in New York City. This year’s honorees are Franz Welser-Möst and The Cleveland Orchestra, who will be introduced by the honorable Ronald S. Lauder. The proceeds raised at the Luncheon will be used to support the AAF’s curatorial exchange program, which provides directors from leading US and Austrian museums with the opportunity to select a young curator from their respective institutions to spend up to a month in Austria and the United States, respectively.

For more information on our 2020 honorees, please visit [www.welsermoest.com](http://www.welsermoest.com) and [www.clevelandorchestra.com](http://www.clevelandorchestra.com).

Photo credit: © Roger Mastroianni, Courtesy of The Cleveland Orchestra

2. **2020 AAF/Seebacher Prize for Fine Arts and AAF Young Conductors Fellowships—Deadline to Apply is April 10th, 2020**

The AAF/Seebacher Prize for Fine Arts provides fine arts graduate students at American universities, or those who have completed their graduate studies within the past two years, with fellowships to study a course of their choice at the International Summer Academy of Fine Arts Salzburg in Austria. The fellowship covers Summer Academy tuition, travel and accommodation at Schloss Arenberg.

2019 AAF/Seebacher Prize for Fine Arts recipient, Cara Chan, chose to participate in a course titled ‘Listen to the Stone’. Here is what she had to say about her experience:
“I’ve gained new perspectives in terms of working processes. The generosity of the quarry owner in gifting us our chosen rocks gave us freedom where experimentation was limitless. Previously, carving at home in LA, I was confined by the original shape and size of my stone due to the expense. In being free with the stone, I was able to approach my work differently for the better and overcome the stones trueness to form in order to achieve the intent of my sculpture.

I [also] learned and enhanced carving techniques shown by Karin and Mikkel. They were wonderful teachers who were extremely knowledgeable in their craft. I will take the skills that I’ve learned at the residency to further explore making sculptures in stone. The sculptures that I made at this residency will be shown in early October in a group show curated by the editor in chief of CARLA (Contemporary Art Review Los Angeles).”

For more information and to apply for the 2020 AAF/Seebacher Prize for Fine Arts, please click here.

The AAF Young Conductors Fellowship provides promising young conductors (age 30 or younger) from the United States the opportunity to spend up to four weeks at the Salzburg Festival observing the world’s leading conductors and artists at work during rehearsals and performances. The fellowship includes a $1,500 travel reimbursement, accommodation at Schloss Arenberg and a stipend for meals.

Please see below a testimonial from one of our 2019 Young Conductors Fellowship recipients, Pak Lok Alvin Ho, regarding his experience in Salzburg last summer:

“[The experience] has definitely broadened my knowledge of Austrian culture, and I was most impressed with the curiosity and respect for the arts. This is something I take away as an inspiration, as it does not occur naturally, but when it does, one feels in the room a special atmosphere, an atmosphere that allows a deep conversation in art, music and life. It will be close to my heart for my whole professional life, and I cannot wait to visit Salzburg Festival again for the artistic richness which is so unique in the world. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the American Austrian Foundation for supporting such wonderful fellowship, your dedication to the continued growth of art and music is remarkable, humbling and inspiring. This is certainly a highlight of my artistic life so far, and I believe what I have taken is so immense that will guide my path in many following years.”

For more information and to apply for the 2020 AAF Young Conductors Fellowship, please click here.
3. AAF Medical Programs—2019 Overview

The Open Medical Institute (OMI) is a global educational initiative, founded in 1993 by The American Austrian Foundation and physicians from Weill Cornell Medical College. The aim is to expose mid-career level, English-speaking doctors from countries in transition to Western medical knowledge and technology through participation in multiple short-term continuing medical educational programs, thereby building local capacity.

In 2019, the OMI hosted a total of 1,285 fellows at 41 Salzburg Medical Seminars at Schloss Arenberg. In total, 709 Salzburg Seminars have taken place since 1993 with 23,197 participating fellows from 127 countries.

For an overview of the 2019 OMI Salzburg Medical Seminars, please click here.

For detailed reports on all OMI Salzburg Medical Seminars from 2017-2020, please click here.

Furthermore, 112 physicians profited from an OMI Observership at Austrian hospitals in Vienna, Graz or Salzburg last year. Observers participating in the program have the chance to learn new operating techniques, treatment protocols and modern hospital management. Since the beginning of the Observership Program in 1998, 2,564 fellows have participated in an Observership in Austria.

In addition to the Open Medical Institute, the AAF conducts bilateral exchange programs for U.S. and Austrian medical students (Max Kade) and residents (Andlinger). All programs share medical knowledge and experience, foster medical alliances across borders, and enable physicians to improve their skills and deliver the best possible care to their patients.

27 US Medical students were chosen to take part in the Max Kade Exchange Program, gaining new insights and broadening their international experiences during medical clerkships in Austrian hospitals in 2019. As an exchange, 17 chosen Austrian medical students were granted a fellowship last year to pursue a clinical clerkship at one of the OMI’s partner universities in the US.

The Andlinger Residency Exchange allows medical residents and young associates to spend 2-4 weeks participating in an international fellowship. In 2019, there were four Andlinger fellows from the United States and Austria.

Please find facts and figures from 2019 here.
4. **2019 Music for Medicine Benefit**

The 23rd annual Music for Medicine Benefit took place on Thursday, December 12, 2019 at 07:00 pm. A brass ensemble consisting of members of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra performed at Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York, followed by dinner and a live auction conducted by **Peter Costanzo** of Doyle New York. Overall, the evening raised a record breaking $670,000 which will be used to support the Salzburg Weill Cornell Seminars of the Open Medical Institute. A huge thank you to all of our supporters!

**Please stay tuned for the announcement of our 2020 Music for Medicine date.**
5. Vienna City of Science Symposium—Transplantation Medicine

The Vienna City of Science Symposium will take place at 2:00pm on Wednesday, March 18th, 2020 at the Weill Auditorium. This year’s topic will be Transplantation Medicine with a focus on liver and kidney transplantation. This event is sponsored by the American Austrian Foundation, the Vienna Science and Technology Fund and Royalty Pharma and will be hosted by Dr. Augustine M. K. Choi, Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean, Weill Cornell Medicine and Dr. Wolfgang Aulitzky, Associate Dean for International Medicine and Distance Learning, Weill Cornell Medicine.

Speakers will include: Dr. Rainer Oberbauer, Chief, Division of Nephrology and Dialysis, Medical University of Vienna; Dr. Rebecca Craig-Schapiro, Assistant Professor of Surgery, Weill Cornell Medicine; Dr. Robert S. Brown, Director of Medical Liver Transplant, Weill Cornell Medicine; and Dr. Gabriela Berlakovich, Chief, Division of Transplantation Medicine, Medical University of Vienna.

The full gallery of photos can be accessed here.

Launched in 2001, the Milton Wolf Seminar Series addresses developing issues in diplomacy and journalism – both broadly defined. The University of Pennsylvania Annenberg School for Communication, The American Austrian Foundation (AAF), and the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna (DA) have jointly organized this seminar since 2010.

The 2020 Seminar will take place at the Diplomatic Academy Vienna from April 20-22 and will dive deeply into the role of media and international relations across areas of practice: diplomacy, journalism, development, activism, and analysis. It will investigate related new developments in old and new media, legal and regulatory norms, and diplomacy interventions. Case studies will provide dystopian and prosocial examples of how governments, journalists, activists, and digital and traditional media organizations are seeking to shape and leverage a contemporary media environment characterized by dis/misinformation, fragmentation, decline, and receding public trust in information sources.

Panelists at the 2020 Seminar will discuss critical questions and potential solutions to current challenges facing media and diplomacy. How should the training of diplomats and the role of diplomats adjust to meet the altered realities of communications systems? What sort of current or imagined journalistic models are best suited to contemporary trends? Are there any local, national, or global interventions that suggest new pathways forward? What are the implications of these trends for transnational activism and social justice reforms? Invited guests will include academics, researchers, legal experts, technologists, citizen activists, regulators, diplomats, and journalists actively involved in identifying and building different solutions.

For more information on the Milton Wolf Seminar, please visit the seminar [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

7. **AAF/IMRF Fellow Poster Prize**

We are excited to announce that one of our recent fellows at the Hospital for Special Surgery, Dr. Kevin Staats from Vienna, Austria, was awarded best poster at the German Arthroplasty Conference—one of the largest and most prestigious arthroplasty conferences in Central Europe. The event was hosted by Prof. Dr. Carsten Perka, Medical Director, Surgeon-in-Chief and Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, Center for Musculoskeletal Surgery (CMSC), Berlin and Prof. Dr. Thorsten Gehrke, Leading Chief Physician, Joint Surgery, Helios Endo-Klinik, Hamburg.

Please see below a photo of Dr. Kevin Staats (3rd from left) receiving his reward.
8. 2020 OMI Fellow Testimonials

Dr. Amina Sayed, OMI Fellow from Qatar, participated in the recent OB/GYN seminar in Salzburg which took place from January 19-25, 2020. Dr. Sayed shared her thoughts with us at the end of the seminar:

“Looking back at the week, I enjoyed the seminar, the experience was very unique. Living and attending the seminar in the same building has great benefits, you get closer to the other fellows and the faculty. You get to share your experience, discuss different cultures and history. The experience was truly outstanding and special. I would like to thank the organizers and lecturers for all their efforts and I hope we see everyone again next year!”

Dr. Vaida Vaitiekaityte from Siauliai, Lithuania, participated as a fellow in the Oncology A: Gastrointestinal Cancers seminar which took place during the last week of January 2020. Here is what she had to say about her experience:

“Looking back at the week, I have learned so much. I was honored to share my experience with colleagues from other countries and I was happy to meet new people. I have learned a lot from a great faculty with many years of experience who shared their knowledge with us. I want to express my great gratitude to everyone in the organization of this seminar. I was given the opportunity to gain new friends, extend my network and enjoy Salzburg. I hope to participate in future seminars with such a diverse and multidisciplinary group.”
One of the participants at our first seminar of the year, Pathology, was Dr. Nina Bondarenko. Please see below Dr. Bondarenko’s thoughts on the seminar:

“Looking back at the week, I have mixed feelings. I was very happy because I have learned a lot, I found new friends, and yet at the same time I am very sad because the seminar is over. I want to express my gratitude to the AAF and the OMI seminar organizers for choosing me, for giving me this opportunity to get new knowledge, for new useful skills, for unique chance to understand the level of the world’s standards of quality in practical pathology. Thank you, our intelligent Faculty for amazing, highly informative, modern and creative lectures, which I definitely will be using in my daily practice. And, certainly, thank you for the chance to meet new people from other countries, to share an experience and make new friends.”