

















Like the stars that make up a constellation

... we make a bigger impact **TOGETHER.**

conference manual

Operation Smile



july 21-27, 2025 university of maryland, usa



HOW TO REACH THE **ISLC NURSES**

Text or call +1 757-270-6084 anytime and you'll reach one of our on-staff nurses:

- Kristi Neiswender
- Kristie Dore
- Laura Ball

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Brigette Clifford

Associate Vice President of Student Programs +1757-412-8500

MaryAnn Lafler Senior Manager +1 757-615-3569

Craig Russell International Program Manager +1 347-204-9563

MORE ISLC ONLINE

Visit operationsmile.org for the schedule, highlights, and more about ISLC 2025 presenting sponsor Align Technology!







KEY LOCATIONS

STAMP STUDENT UNION

This is where our activities will take place every day.

PYON-CHEN RESIDENCE HALL

All participants are staying in this



hall on campus.

YAHENTAMITSI DINING HALL This is where we'll have most of

our meals together while we're on campus.

HOW TO CONNECT TO WIFI

- 1. Choose the umd-guest network option and follow the prompts to request an account.
- 2. Access the text message or email to get your username and password.
- 3. Sign on!

FOLLOW US FOR ISLC 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

O @OSSTUDPRO

OPERATION SMILE STUDENT PROGRAMS

EDAYS

OPENING CEREMONIES

DRESS CODE: Smart Casual

INTERNATIONAL DAY

DRESS CODE: Wear something that represents your country



JULY



JULY

SERVICE DAY

DRESS CODE: Conference casual

OFFSITE AND CHILL NIGHT

Day: Wear your ISLC 2025 T-shirt Night: Wear something comfortable



TALENT SHOW

DRESS CODE: Wear one of these prints or colors: zebra print, yellow, red, pink, blue, green, polka dots, orange, fuchsia, or stripes

TEAM DAY AND FINAL PARTY

Day: Wear your team's colors Night: Wear black, white, and metallic color palettes for the masquerade ball

























* invisalign' iTero' exocad

ad vivera

A WELCOME FROM THE PRESENTING SPONSOR OF ISLC 2025 'Your journey exemplifies the power of perseverance, hope, and collective effort'

Welcome to Operation Smile's 33rd annual International Student Leadership Conference!

We are delighted to welcome you to ISLC where you have the opportunity to connect with students globally, exchange ideas, and enhance your leadership skills. Your participation reflects your dedication to creating positive impacts within your communities and beyond.

This year is particularly significant for Align Technology as it marks the fifth occasion we have sponsored the conference. I have had the privilege of attending each of these conferences, witnessing participants grow into exemplary leaders. Your commitment, resilience, and passion have been truly inspiring. Observing your ability to tackle challenges like global health equity, celebrate achievements, and consistently pursue excellence has been a joy. Your journey exemplifies the power of perseverance, hope, and collective effort.

As we begin this year's conference, themed "Lead with Hope", I encourage you to seize the opportunities presented, actively participate in the sessions and workshops, and collaborate with fellow students. This event aims to challenge you, expand your thinking, and inspire innovation.

The theme "Lead with Hope" is particularly pertinent as we navigate times of uncertainty and change, emphasizing that hope is a crucial driver for progress. The diverse perspectives you contribute are invaluable in addressing global challenges and seeking sustainable solutions.

For first-time attendees, prepare for transformation through engaging discussions, interactive workshops, and inspiring keynote sessions. I am optimistic about empowering young leaders like yourselves to serve others and create positive impacts.

Your leadership inspires future generations, and together, we can pave the way to a brighter future where leadership transcends borders and drives meaningful change.

Julie Paulsen Align Technology, Inc. VP, Philanthropy, Inclusion, and Wellness





A WELCOME FROM OPERATION SMILE **'There is no time better than now to bring smiles into the world'**

For 33 years, we've brought our student volunteers together to become stronger ambassadors for Operation Smile's patients and build leadership skills that will take you into the future with us.

As we come together once again for ISLC 2025 here in Maryland, we want you to "Lead with Hope." This is important as it aligns with Operation Smile's overall strategy and our newest initiative, Operation 100.

Operation 100 is our bold strategy to bring essential surgical care closer to patients' homes by investing in frontline health workers and strengthening district hospitals. We will start by equipping 100 cleft operative teams with advanced skills, essential equipment, and enhanced health care infrastructure across 100 hospitals. This marks a pivotal step in our four-decadelong commitment to advancing health equity to ensure no one is left behind.

In many cases, these hospitals are more rural and need our love and leadership. The communities where these hospitals exist will need people like you to EDUCATE about cleft conditions and health, ADVOCATE for children living with cleft, and to ACTIVATE trainings, fundraising and new interest. As WE BUILD HOPE, we hope that your being with us this week will leave you better equipped as a global leader.

Thank you for taking time to be with us this week. Be present so you can get the very most out of the speaker and workshop sessions, but also in getting to know your team and as many others as possible. There is no



We believe safe, essential surgery is a human right. By focusing on district hospitals, we're bringing care closer to patients, creating access to surgical care, building local capacity and fostering stronger health systems and communities. time better than now to bring SMILES into the world with the hope that our world will be a little bit kinder because of you!

Brigette Magee Clifford

Bright & Hage Cliffed

Associate Vice President, Operation Smile Student Programs

BILL MAGEE

William (Bill) Magee Jr., D.D.S., M.D., is a plastic and craniofacial surgeon and dentist who founded Operation Smile in 1982 with his wife, Kathleen (Kathy) Magee, and serves as the organization's CEO Emeritus.

Dr. Magee received a D.D.S. from the University of Maryland, M.D. from George Washington University Medical School, served his general surgery residency at the University of Virginia Medical School.

He received the Fulbright-Hays Scholarship Grant to study in Paris with Dr. Paul Tessier in 1975. He then received his plastic surgery training at the Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, Virginia. Dr. Magee was highlighted in U.S. News & World Report's issue "America's Top Leaders" in November 2009 and was given the National Medal for Peace and Friendship Among Nations in Vietnam in 2009. In 2007, UNICEF presented the Magees with a special recognition on behalf of Operation Smile.

He entered into Plastic Surgery Specialists, Inc. in Norfolk in 1978 and became president of the group, which at the time was the largest private training program in the United States. In 2016, he stepped away from the practice to invest all of his effort and energy into Operation Smile.



KATHY MAGEE



Kathleen (Kathy) Magee founded Operation Smile in 1982 with her husband, Dr. William (Bill) Magee Jr., and currently serves as its President & CEO on a full-time basis. Kathy is also a lifetime member of the Board of Directors, overseeing funding and longheld organizational relationships. Kathy shapes future strategy and leads project design within medical mission programming and the education, training and Student Programs departments.

She fosters university partnerships and research with academic institutions, such as the University of Southern California through the International Family Study, which contributes to understanding the causes of cleft. Kathy is deeply involved in Operation Smile Student Programs, which provides opportunities for students to volunteer, engage and support Operation Smile's work by raising funds and awareness. She leads the International Student Leadership Conference (ISLC).

As a New Jersey native, Kathy received her B.S.N. from Misericordia University in Pennsylvania, her M.Ed. from the University of Maryland, and her M.S.W. from Norfolk State University in Virginia. She is a mother of five and grandmother to 14, all of whom participate in Operation Smile.

MEET OUR SPEAKERS align ** invisalign | Nero | exocad | vivera JULIE PAULSEN

Julie Paulsen is an experienced human resources executive and currently works at Align Technology, Inc., makers of Invisalign clear aligners and the iTero intraoral scanner.

She joined the company in May 2006 as a strategic human resources business partner and is now the Vice President, HR, Employee Programs, and Community Engagement.

Julie has more than 20 years of progressive experience and consistently excels in her roles where she has a reputation as an authentic, positive and dynamic business leader and partner. She is known as a team player, a trusted advisor and mentor. Julie holds an MBA from Santa Clara University, and she attended the University of Georgia before receiving a BA from California State University, Chico through the National Student Exchange (NSE) program.

With a passion for nonprofits, she is a member of the Junior League of San Jose where she held several leadership and board of director roles. She also serves as a current board member for America's ToothFairy.



JAIME RICHARDSON

Jaime Richardson is the Vice President of Human Resources for the Americas region at Align Technology. In this role, Jaime leads a comprehensive HR team driving human capital strategy and execution through HR Business Partners, Total Rewards, HR Operations, and regional Learning and Development across North and South America.

Since joining Align in 2017, Jaime has been instrumental in supporting the company's rapid growth, initiating the women@align commercial chapters in multiple countries promoting development and mentorship and spearheading leadership development and succession management initiatives for the commercial business resulting in ready now successors for critical roles. With over 20 years of experience at multinational companies such as GE and Abbott, Jaime has held various positions including HR Business Partner, Talent Management, Organizational Development leader, and HR Leadership Program graduate. Jaime has successfully led HR teams through multiple business cycles and stages of growth, including acquisitions. Prior to a career in HR, Jaime was a process consultant at Accenture, focusing on data analytics and IT testing.

Jaime holds both a bachelor's and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Wisconsin. Residing in the Tempe, Arizona, area, Jaime and her husband are proud parents of three children.

align

※ invisalign | iTero | exocad | vivera

ELLA HOCKRIDGE

Ella Hockridge is serving as an intern with Align Technology. As someone pursuing both environmental science and philosophy in college at the University of Colorado Boulder, Ella is passionate about where science, ethics, and human action and connection meet. Her path has not been linear, but it has taken her through classrooms, summer camps, nonprofit organizations, corporate offices, research facilities, and even backstage theatre productions. Each experience has taught her something unique about communication, collaboration, and showing up.

Ella was born in the UK and still visits often to see family and friends staying connected to her roots while continuing to grow. She's excited for the experiences, challenges, and opportunities to come.



AUSTIN COOK

Austin Cook is a dedicated Talent Acquisition Partner and Program Manager at Align Technology, Inc. Having joined the company almost five years ago, he has had the opportunity to recruit for all major professional positions, with a primary focus on individuals early in their careers. Currently, he works on the Early Careers team, concentrating on the Align Intern Program, managing both recruitment and program aspects. Known for his authentic, driven, and caring leadership, Austin is passionate about helping people advance their careers.

Austin played a pivotal role in developing the Sales Associate Program, which trains recent college graduates before deploying them to various Medical Device Sales roles. Austin earned his bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina Wilmington. He currently lives in Raleigh, NC, and enjoys golfing and spending time outdoors.

Align Technology, Inc. is the leading global medical device company that designs, manufactures, and sells the Invisalign® System of clear aligners, iTero[™] intraoral scanners, and exocad[™] CAD/CAM software for digital orthodontics and restorative dentistry.

BILLY MAGEE

Dr. Billy Magee is the chief medical officer at Operation Smile. He is also an associate professor of surgery in the Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the University of Southern California (USC), director of international programs in the Division of Plastic and Maxillofacial Surgery at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, and chief of plastic and reconstructive surgery at Shriners for Children Medical Center, Pasadena.

As the second oldest of five, Billy found himself on an immersive experience in surgery from an early age. As his father worked diligently both at home and abroad, Billy found himself as a young "assistant" as a kid! More important was the vast global exposure to the field and culture. It was how he was exposed to treat people that was perhaps more important. Amidst a booming clinic practice, he has been able to remain one of USC top clinical educators, recognized multiple times for his effort. Understanding the importance of a broader education into the field of plastic surgery globally, he is responsible for initiating and maintaining one of the only Global Surgery Fellowships in the world. For the last 15 years he has helped to mentor young leaders to be pioneers in the field.

His research initiatives are as diverse as his interests, driving the largest global environmental and genetics cleft projects in the world, creating innovative platforms in education and teaming with major corporations to utilizing emerging technology to advance our understanding of surgical technics and outcomes.



DR. DAN TAUB

Dr. Dan Taub received his dental degree in 1993 from Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, University of Maryland, and completed a one-year GPR residency at Albert Einstein Medical Center, Philadelphia. He completed his residency training in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS) at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital (TJUH) and his medical degree at Jefferson Medical College within a six-year period (2004).

Dr. Taub is currently an Associate Professor and Vice-Chair of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Thomas Jefferson Hospital. He is in full-time academic practice of OMFS at TJUH. Dr. Taub is a Diplomat of The American Board of Oral Maxillofacial Surgery. Dr Taub completed six years as a board examiner for The American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.

Dr. Taub is currently on the Board of International Academy Osseointegration and Diplomat of The Academy. Dr. Taub has volunteered on numerous missions with Operation Smile.

PAVEL LAU

Pavel Lau believes in two things:

1) People are a key piece in building shared well-being for everyone, and

2) The best way to learn and grow is through experiencing, enjoying, and connecting with one another.

He's a social entrepreneur with over 25 years of experience facilitating immersive workshops in Mexico, the United States, Latin America and Europe. In 2002, he founded Grupo RE, a social enterprise specializing in the development of socioemotional skills through experiential learning. Through Grupo RE, he has consulted for global leaders such as Johnson & Johnson, Unilever, UNICEF, General Electric, and Siemens, and has built the largest Spanish-speaking YouTube channel for playful dynamics, with over 150,000 subscribers and 22 million views.

Pavel is committed to creating shared wellbeing through experiential learning and human connection.



Ruben Ayala, M.D., M.Sc., is a public health physician from Panama with more than 30 years of experience in humanitarian assistance. During his career with Operation Smile, he has planned, executed and overseen surgical programs in more than 40 countries. He met a brother and sister whose story stuck with him. Bartolo was 2 years old, and his sister was about 8. They traveled for five hours with the support of volunteers to get to the place where Operation Smile was performing surgeries because Bartolo had a cleft palate. "She had nothing but a couple of changes of clothes, diapers, a bottle and pocket change. And the enormous responsibility of bringing her baby brother back with surgery and hopefully a new lease on life."

He currently serves as Operation Smile's chief policy and advocacy officer. He is also a board member and immediate past president of the Permanent Council of the Global Alliance for Surgical, Obstetric, Trauma and Anaesthesia Care. He represents Operation Smile at the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the World Health Organization's Acute Care Network, the Global Health Council, the Global Initiative for Children's Surgery and the Frontline Health Workers Coalition. He leads Operation Smile's global health policy efforts, promoting access to safe, timely and effective surgical care for underserved communities around the world.

The experience was life-altering for Ayala as well. "Over the years, I have witnessed Operation Smile professionals around the world tackling colossal needs and giving people hope. It has been impossible not to want to continuously be part of it, which led me to have 30-plus years now as a member of Operation Smile."

RILEY GARRISON

Riley Garrison works as a Project Manager for Waves For Water with a focus in Latin America and Indonesia. He is fluent in Spanish and Portuguese and has led clean water projects in nine countries.

There's no place

Together with Christian, he presented about the global water crisis at the World Economic Forum's 2019 Shape LatAm Conference in Léon, Mexico and at WEF's annual summit in Geneva, Switzerland in 2024.

Prior to working in humanitarian aid, he practiced law as a Deputy District Attorney on behalf of the State of California. He holds a Bachelor's from UCLA and a Juris Doctorate from Pepperdine.

CHRISTIAN TROY

Christian Troy is the executive director of Waves For Water, a humanitarian aid organization whose mission is to provide access to clean water for every single person who needs it. In addition to

Christian is also an expert in areas of post-disaster restoring and rebuilding, and economic development. Prior to Waves For Water, Christian was the managing director of creative industry for the City of Los Angeles where duties included advising the city's mayor on matters of policy affecting film and television production, as well as job growth and job creation.

regular program work, as executive director since the organization's inception, he has led efforts in response to nearly every major disaster during the last 15 years from Haiti to Pakistan, Vanuatu to the Philippines, and Bosnia to Japan.

Waves For Water has implemented programs in 51 countries and provided access to clean water for over 4 million people. A black belt in Tae Kwon Do, a former Hollywood talent agent at the famed Creative Artists Agency, a globetrotting and competitive surfer — Christian's unique skill set has served him well in the role of global problem solver.

Waves For Water is a targeted nonprofit organization that focuses on correcting the imbalances of water scarcity in developing communities around the world. It implements its programs through the local teams of volunteers and community leaders they cultivate.



AMANDA MARSHALL

Amanda Marshall is the founder of Fair Chance, one of Washington, DC's leading nonprofit organizations that builds partnerships with promising communitybased youth and family organizations and provides them with the knowledge and tools they need to increase their capacity, effectiveness and sustainability. Amanda is also the co-founder of Families4Families, a national effort that is creating the next generation of changemakers by harnessing the power of young leaders to address food insecurity and basic needs nationwide.

Amanda attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and graduated from the Honors Program with a BA in Economics in 1997. While at UNC-CH, Amanda received a North Carolina Statewide Humanitarian Award for founding the university's first chapter of Operation Smile.



THE MARSHALL FAMILY

Amanda and her family (Alex, James, Mac, John and Brooks) launched Families4Families in March 2020 to address the critical food emergency in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. F4F began as a grassroots neighborhood affair collecting groceries in the Marshall's driveway and delivering them to families in need throughout the Washington, D.C. region. Within weeks, F4F quickly became a nationwide initiative.

Since March 2020, F4F has grown to 130 F4F Student Clubs throughout the country, 8,500 volunteer student leaders, and has delivered over 1.3 million meals to families in need in the United States. Families4Families is inspiring the next generation of changemakers, philanthropists and social entrepreneurs.

ASHLEY WYKLE

Ashley Wykle serves as lead speechlanguage pathologist on the Cleft & Craniofacial team at the Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters in Norfolk, Virginia. Her specialty areas include craniofacial and velopharyngeal disorders, feeding and swallowing disorders, and neurogenic communication disorders. as she has treated patients across the lifespan, working with pediatric, adult, and geriatric populations in hospitals, schools, outpatient clinics, telehealth, and skilled nursing facilities. Ashley lives in Virginia Beach with her husband and two rambunctious sons, who greatly influence her love of outdoor adventures, sports, and food!

Ashley's work experiences have been vast,

CAMERON WATSON

Cameron earned his bachelor's degree in biology from Washington College (Class of 2019) in Chestertown, Maryland, while also double minoring in chemistry and Hispanic studies. Although he underwent several dental procedures as a child, it wasn't until the spring semester of his senior year after hearing a lecture from Dr. Chris Smith, a Class of 2007 alumnus — that he seriously considered dentistry as a career.

At UMSOD, Cameron has continued to deepen his research interests under the mentorship of Dr. Emily Chu, Dr. Hanae Saito, Dr. Michael Weir, and Dr. Tao Ma, focusing on dental biomaterials and tissue remodeling/engineering. Looking ahead, he hopes to integrate his interests in tissue engineering and oral and maxillofacial surgery to improve patient outcomes and shorten recovery times.

During his three gap years, Cameron explored both dentistry and research: first by working part-time at EJL Dental, a family-focused practice in Rockville, MD, and later as a full-time research assistant in the Neurotrauma Department at the Naval Medical Research Center in Silver Spring, MD. For Cameron, "Advancing Oral Health and Improving Lives" is more than just the school's vision statement — it embodies the purpose that drives current and future dentists and researchers in their work.

JEREMIE OLIVER PIÑA

Jeremie Oliver Piña, Ph.D., M.S., M.B.A. is an impassioned clinician-engineer with particular interest in cleft palate and craniofacial health. Currently, Jeremie is a Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) Candidate (class of 2026) at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry as well as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD).

He earned his Ph.D. in biomedical engineering from the University of Utah, partnered with the NIH, focused on the single-cell spatial omics of palate development (Published in Nature Communications, Journal of Dental Research, and Tissue Engineering). Jeremie has also earned bachelor's degrees in microbiology and biomedical science from the University of Hawai'i-Manoa and Brigham Young University-Hawai'i, respectively. During his Ph.D. training, he also completed a Master of Science degree in Healthcare Delivery Science from the Mayo Clinic and Arizona State University, and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Utah David Eccles School of Business.

Jeremie's ultimate goal is to combine his scientific and clinical training as a plastic and maxillofacial surgeon-engineer with a focus on craniofacial anomalies to better translate novel treatments from bench-tobedside.



KAREN ULERIO

Born in Peru and currently residing in Chesapeake, Virginia, Karen Ulerio is a dedicated clinical social worker care coordinator at the Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters in Norfolk, Virginia. She has had the privilege of working at the hospital since graduating with her master's degree in clinical social work. Her educational background includes a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in clinical social work, providing her with a solid foundation to support the mental health and psychosocial needs of pediatric patients and their families.

In addition to her work at the hospital, Karen's involved in the craniofacial clinic, where she provides support to a diverse range of patient populations, ensuring that families navigate the complexities of care for children with craniofacial conditions.

Outside her professional responsibilities, Karen has volunteered at Operation Smile since 2021. She also attended Operation Smile's Latinoamerica en Accion leadership conference.

Karen also completed an Interpreter Training for Healthcare, Education, and Human Services, which enables her to effectively bridge communication gaps and advocate for diverse patient populations. She is deeply committed to providing holistic care, collaborating with interdisciplinary teams, and ensuring the best possible outcomes for children and their families.

ARMANDO PAZ

Armando Paz is a Cuban-born entrepreneur, philanthropist, and cleft lip and palate survivor who has transformed personal adversity into a lifelong mission of impact. As the founder of The Paz Foundation, he leads initiatives that provide life-changing surgeries, mentorship, and critical resources to children and families living in poverty across Latin America and the U.S.

Armando's dedication to service is rooted in his own journey. Born with a cleft condition in Havana, he overcame medical, emotional and social challenges before immigrating to the United States. A former elite martial artist, he represented TEAM USA at the Pan American Championships in Brazil and the World Championships in Japan, embodying resilience and discipline.

In addition to his humanitarian work, Armando is a successful business leader. He is the founder of Amax Tax Pro, a nationally recognized accounting firm based in Hialeah, Florida, and co-owner of Lima Bakery. Through both his business ventures and nonprofit work, he remains committed to building opportunity, dignity and hope for those who need it most.

SHANDELL P. RICHARDS

Shandell P. Richards is a passionate and results-driven nonprofit leader, currently serving as the Chief Program Officer at Horton's Kids. A proud first-generation Antiguan American, Shandell began her career in public education, where she developed a strong commitment to equity, youth voice, and community empowerment.

With over a decade of experience in youth development and education equity, she now oversees programs that support the academic, social-emotional and careerreadiness needs of children and families in Southeast D.C. She has led transformational initiatives including mentor development, internship placement, healthcare career camps, and strategic community partnerships.

Known for her sharp operational mind and deep empathy, Shandell centers collaboration, cultural responsiveness, and long-term impact in every facet of her work. Outside of her professional life, she enjoys traveling and experiencing new cultures, finding inspiration and connection through global perspectives that inform her work with youth and families.

CHRISTOPHER MAGEE

Chris Magee is a storyteller, and the creative force behind the mental healthdriven streetwear brand Hug Your Friendz. He launched the brand during his sophomore year at the University of Colorado Boulder after losing close friends to suicide and recognizing how rare it is for young people to feel truly seen and supported.

What started as a single hoodie has evolved into a national community rooted in connection, resilience and realness. Chris shared this journey in his TEDx talk, where he opened up about turning personal breakdowns into purpose. Through his clothing, content, and campus rep program, he continues to build a brand that doesn't just sell — it shows up.



John is the founder of Protein Scoops.

Protein Scoops began as a simple yet bold idea from a health-conscious teenager, John Marshall, who wanted to make getting daily protein more enjoyable. Frustrated by the monotony and bad taste of shakes and bars, John set out to create a creamy, delicious ice cream that packed a protein punch without compromising on flavor.

He is a rising Junior at Landon School in Washington, D.C. It was his idea that started Protein Scoops.

James is the Co-President of Protein Scoops. He is a rising Sophomore at Vanderbilt University. He is majoring in Economics and Math, with a minor in Data Science.

What started in a home kitchen quickly gained momentum, and with the help of his older brother, James, a college student at Vanderbilt, the duo turned their vision into a thriving family-run startup.

BECKY ABBOTT

Becky M. Abbott, MPH, is the Director of **Research and Special Assigned Projects for** the National Foundation for Ectodermal Dysplasias (NFED) and Co-Chair of the **NFED Family Advocacy Committee where** she leads efforts to move the Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act (ELSA) through Congress. She received her undergraduate degree in biology from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and her Master's in public health at Benedictine University in Lisle, Illinois. She resides in Slinger, Wisconsin, with her husband, Tom, and three sons: Aidan (diagnosed with xlinked hypohidrotic ectodermal dysplasia (XLHED), Ryder, and Lachlen (diagnosed with Autism). The Abbott family advocates regularly to educate members of Congress on ectodermal dysplasias, skin disease, rare disease, congenital and craniofacial anomalies, autism and other important topics.

As a caregiver who has experienced many barriers related to accessing medically necessary treatments and coverage for her sons, Becky has made it her mission to use her experiences and advocacy to help others and considers it a privilege to be working closely with a widely underserved population.

Becky encourages all patients, advocates, and communities to raise awareness for their disease and/or condition and advocate on a daily basis. Patient and provider stories work hand-in-hand to provide legislators, educators and others with a complete picture of why they should work to help underserved communities. Raising our voices together is the most powerful tool we have to promote positive change.



MEET THE STUDENT PROGRAMS TEAM



Carlos Verón *Global Director*



Gaby Sagel Manager, LAC Region



MaryAnn Lafler Senior Manager



Craig Russell International Program Manager



Mansi Shah U.S. Manager



Melissa Cagney Associate, U.S. Western Region





Anna Scotti *Associate, Europe*

Meggie Chopade Alumni Programs Director



Olivia Hennessy *Global Coordinator*



Bethany Bogacki *Content Team*



Juanchi Marín *Content Team*



Julián Corredor *Student Programs Intern*