

April 2024 | Monthly Newsletter



MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY

*“When I grow up,
I want to be a surgeon!
Just like mom!”*



APR.

Sponsored by the UCSF Department of Surgery

Cover Art by Aileen Gozali (medical student)



MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY

Happy April, Muriel Steele Society members!
Spring has Sprung!

Below you'll find updates, celebrations, and highlights of MSS members across specialties!

New Spotlight: Dr. Tasce Bongiovanni!

Tasce Bongiovanni, MD, MPP is an Assistant Professor in the Division of General Surgery. She serves as an Acute Care Surgeon and Intensivist at UCSF Parnassus, and Trauma Surgeon at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital.

Below is an excerpt from her spotlight that is **live on April 8th on the MSS website!**

THE MSS SPOTLIGHT SERIES

AVAILABLE NOW!



**Dr. Tasce
Bongiovanni**

Interviewed by Margaret Akey

Professionally, [I'm proud of] getting to stay at UCSF. I am so grateful to be a part of such an amazing community. The surgeons here are incredible clinically, but also there are so many people who care deeply about the world, locally and globally and making healthcare better from bench to bedside... It's mind blowing work that happens here at UCSF that benefits patient care.





MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY

Upcoming Dates...

MSS Wellness Committee Cookie Decorating Social

Join the MSS Wellness Committee for cookie decorating, de-stressing, and chatting on

May 16th from 6:30 - 8 PM
in the **Nursing Mezzanine**
(Parnassus Campus)

Please [RSVP here](#)



RSVP

By
Tuesday,
April 30th!



UCSF Women Physician Scientists Upcoming Keynote Address

Learn
more
about
WPSS
Here!



WPSS is a a professional network of physician-scientists at UCSF formed for advocacy, mentorship, and networking across the post-graduate physician-scientist career pathway.

On **Friday, May 17th**
Dr. Tippi MacKenzie will be the
Keynote Speaker at the Physician-
Scientist Research Symposium at
Mission Bay Conference Center
from **1:15 - 2pm!**



Register for
Dr. MacKenzie's
Talk Here!



ARPA-H Big Sprint for Women's Health: Call for Submissions!

Background: ARPA-H (Advanced Research Projects Agency For Health) aims to address critical unmet challenges in women's health across all demographics, geographies, and socioeconomic statuses, championing transformative innovations and tackling health conditions that uniquely or disproportionately affect women from every walk of life.

Purpose: Through the Sprint for Women's Health, ARPA-H aims to galvanize the innovator, investor, researcher, and patient advocate communities to proactively address women's health challenges, raise awareness, and spur innovation with two major funding opportunity tracks.

How: The two funding opportunity tracks aim to foster transformative R&D efforts from early-stage research "Spark" to later-stage development "Launchpad" that impact and improve women's health outcomes. With the two funding opportunity tracks, ARPA-H aims to lower barriers of entry for a diverse range of participants, with a simplified submission process of a Solution Summary followed by a Pitch session. **A Solution Summary is a 3-page document that addresses how the proposed idea is relevant to the ARPA-H mission and the proposed Women's Health topic areas presented below.**

Award: "Spark" - focused on transformative EARLY-stage research efforts aligned with Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) 1-4 and on specific topics of interest in Women's Health; **~\$3M award**
"Launchpad" - aimed to accelerate later stage transformative health solutions reaching the public, aligned at a higher TRL stage (5+) in the specific topics of interest in Women's Health; poised to impact health outcomes in the short term; **~\$10M award and commercialization partners.**

Please contact Gretchen Kiser (gretchen.kiser@ucsf.edu) in the Research Development Office for more information and/or if you plan to submit a solutions summary!

Women's Health Topics:

Topic 01: Women's Health at Home

Topic 02: Prioritizing Ovarian Health Through Mid-Life to Prevent Disease

Topic 03: ARTEMIS – Advancing Research Through Enhanced Models for Investigating the Influence of Sex Differences on Health Outcomes

Topic 04: Advancing Women's Brain Health Via Lymphatic Targeting

Topic 05: Objective and Quantitative Measurement of Chronic Pain in Women

Topic 06: WILD CARD: Revolutionary Breakthroughs in Women's Health

Submission Deadline: April 12th, 2024, 5:00 PM EDT.



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March In Review...

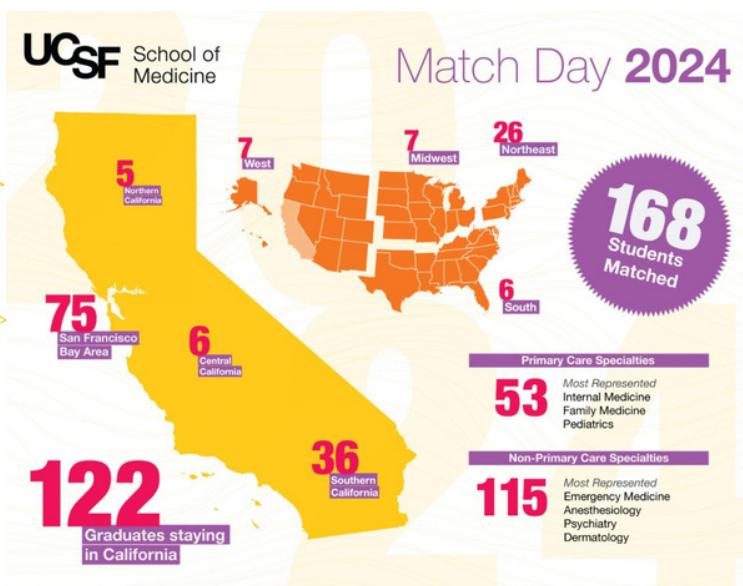
Friday March, 8th was **International Women’s Day!**

This year’s theme was #inspireinclusion.



Friday, March 15th was **Match Day!**

Congratulations to all our MS4s who matched this past month!



To everyone who is staying with UCSF we are so excited to see you grow and to everyone heading off around the country we know you’ll represent UCSF and MSS so well<3




MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY

Highlights of Achievement: 2024 UCSF Health Exceptional Physician Awards!

The Exceptional Physician Award recognizes select physicians for exemplary demonstration of UCSF Health’s values in their clinical practice and interaction with patients, faculty and staff.

This year, 5 MSS members from 5 departments were recognized with this honor by their peers. Congratulations Drs. Conroy, Plononska-Hirschfeld, Alba, Zimel, and Tai!

Patricia Conroy, MD



Chief Resident
Department of Surgery

Karolina Plononska-Hirschfeld, MD



Chief Resident
Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

Alejandra de Alba, MD MPH



Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology and Pediatrics, Department of Ophthalmology
Department of Ophthalmology

Melissa Zimel, MD



Associate Professor
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery

Chan Tai, MD



Clinical Professor of Surgery, Division of Plastic, Reconstructive, and Hand Surgery
UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland





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Highlighting Research Excellence: MSS Members at the Surgical Oncology International Cancer Conference!

4 MSS Members gave presentations and represented UCSF MSS at the Annual SSO Conference in Atlanta, GA on March 22nd, 2024!



POSTER PRESENTATION

Vascular Involvement in Pancreas Cancer: Limitations of Relying on Imaging and Expert Opinion



Dr. Jane Wang
Presenter



POSTER PRESENTATION

Estimating Care Fragmentation in Pancreatic Cancer



Dr. Jessica Dzubnar
Presenter



POSTER PRESENTATION

An Explainable Machine Learning Framework for Predicting Textbook Outcome After Cytoreductive Surgery with Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy



Dr. Jane Wang
Presenter



ORAL PRESENTATION

Practice Changing IO Studies in Breast Cancer



Dr. Rita Mukhtar
Speaker

Friday
22th March, 2024
4:00pm



ORAL PRESENTATION

Oncologic Outcomes with De-Escalation of Axillary Surgery after Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy for Breast Cancer: Results from >1,500 patients on the I-SPY2 Clinical Trial



Dr. Laura Esserman
Dr. Rita Mukhtar

Friday
22th March, 2024
1:20pm



ORAL PRESENTATION

Change in Biomarker Profile after neoadjuvant chemotherapy is especially common in patients with HER2+ breast cancer subtype



Dr. Rita Mukhtar
Speaker

Thursday
21th March, 2024
11:00am



MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY

Highlight of Achievement:

Dr. Kristina Rosbe!

Congratulations to Dr. Kristina Rosbe, Chief of UCSF's Pediatric Otolaryngology Division and Co-director of the Aerodigestive Clinic, for graduating from the inaugural **UCSF Health Affiliates Network Leadership Academy!**

She was also part of the team that appeared on Shark Tank pitching "Safe@Home" – a wearable device to monitor post-surgical patients at home for which they will receive funding for a pilot!



Highlights of Achievement: Dr. Iris Liu and Dr. Curtis Woodford!

Congratulations to Dr. Iris Liu and Dr. Curtis Woodford for earning the esteemed AHA Postdoctoral Fellowship, highlighting their commitment to advancing cardiovascular health!

2024 AHA POST DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT

Iris Liu, MD

Cardiometabolic Disease and Vascular Aging: Klotho Regulation of Medial Arterial Calcification

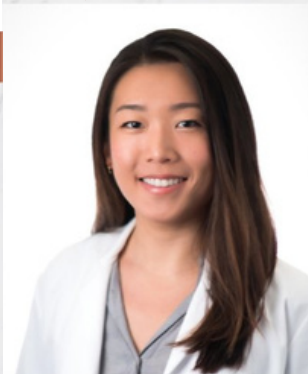
Dr. Liu will be studying the role of the Klotho protein in governing vascular wall homeostasis and the derangements in diabetes and renal disease that mediate Klotho loss and vascular calcification. This will be done using primary human samples as well as microfabricated 3D human engineered vessels under the mentorship of Dr. Michael Conte and Dr. Matthew Kutys.

2024 AHA POST DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT

Curtis Woodford, MD

Activated Notch4 enhances recovery in a mouse model of peripheral artery disease

Dr. Woodford will investigate the role of Notch4 in improving recovery from limb ischemia in a novel genetic model of peripheral artery disease under the leadership of Dr. Rong Wang





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AWS Membership Resources

To all our faculty, residents, and trainees—don't miss out on the **invaluable resources** available through membership in the **Association of Women Surgeons (AWS)**! We believe that by actively participating in organizations like AWS, we contribute to the growth and success of women in surgery. Let's take full advantage of these opportunities to thrive both professionally and personally. If you have any questions or need assistance in utilizing your benefits, feel free to reach out to the MSS Communications Committee.

Mark your Calendars!!! 2024 AWS Annual Conference



Save the date for **#AWS2024!** The **AWS Annual Conference** provides educational content, presentations by leaders in surgery, mentoring opportunities, and professional development. Join us right here in **San Francisco** from **Friday, October 18 to Saturday, October 19.**

Faculty:

AWS colleagues invite you to join them as a member of the Association of Women Surgeons.



[Learn more!](#)



[Learn more!](#)

Residents:

All UCSF residents in the Department of Surgery are institutional members of AWS through UCSF—we encourage you to fully leverage the diverse range of benefits AWS membership offers.

Medical Students:

Medical students are encouraged to join AWS for a fee of \$25—becoming a member will provide multiple networking opportunities for students at the AWS conference taking place in SF later this year!



[Learn more!](#)

National Medical Student Committee applications are also open until **March 22!**

AWS Benefits

Networking Opportunities:

Connect with a global community of female surgeons, fostering collaboration and mentorship.

Educational Resources:

Gain access to exclusive webinars, workshops, and publications to stay informed on the latest advancements.

Mentorship Programs:

Benefit from mentorship opportunities that can provide guidance and support at every stage of your career.

Career Development:

Access resources aimed at enhancing your professional skills and advancing your career in surgery.

Thanks for reading!

MSS Communications Committee:

Resident Leads: Alexis Colley, Fernanda Romero-Hernandez

Medical Student Lead: Aileen Gozali

Newsletter: Allison Chang, Reta Behnam

Social Media: Rachel Huynh, Nikki Mahendru, Reta Behnam

If you have anything you would like to feature (articles, advice, work photos/achievements, family/personal photos/achievements, etc) in this new section of our newsletters, please send an email to themurielsteelesociety@ucsf.edu.

The Muriel Steele Society is an inclusive community dedicated to inspiring, supporting, and promoting women and other gender minority surgeons so they can thrive at all stages of their careers. We will be hosting events throughout the year to foster a strong community of allies and to achieve the goal of continued excellence at UCSF. The Muriel Steele Society is dedicated to diversity, equity, and inclusion of colleagues, trainees, and learners at UCSF and beyond, who identify as women, transgender, and nonbinary in surgical fields. Our overarching goal is to advocate for a culture of belonging - free of bias and discrimination - that is focused on expanding the advancement of all genders and the broader LGBTQ+ community in surgery. All women and gender minority surgeons or medical students interested in surgery are included in the society but we recognize that some may have been inadvertently left out of these emails. Please forward to anyone who you think might like to be included in the MSS. If you are interested in membership, please email us at themurielsteelesociety@ucsf.edu.

For more information about the Muriel Steele Society,
please visit our website or follow us on Twitter or Instagram.

Have an opportunity or event that you'd like to share with the MSS membership?
Email us at themurielsteelesociety@ucsf.edu.

Want to become more involved with the Muriel Steele Society?

We especially welcome women in other surgical departments to join our Executive Council!
Email co-chairs Mika Varma (mika.varma@ucsf.edu) or Lucy Kornblith (Lucy.Kornblith@ucsf.edu)
for more information.



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