

Sept 2024 | Monthly Newsletter



MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY



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*Sponsored by the UCSF Department of Surgery*

Newsletter by Allison Chang



# MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY

**Happy September** to all our Muriel Steele Society members!

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



**New: Portraits of Women in Surgery,  
Now on Display at Parnassus and Mission Bay!**



Muriel Steele Society  
Surgeon Spotlight:

**Alexis Colley, MD, MS**

Surgery Resident  
Palliative Care Medicine Fellow

*I love being a surgeon and a palliative care doctor because I get to use my skills and knowledge to care for my patients as whole people. I value finding ways to relieve physical, emotional, and existential suffering so that my patients can live as well as they can, for as long as they can.*



We are excited to announce that a new digital series highlighting MSS members, **Portraits of Women in Surgery**, will now be on display at Parnassus and Mission Bay! Two portraits will be on display each month. Thank you to Dr. Camilla Gomes, Dr. Colleen Flanagan, and team for leading this wonderful initiative!

Muriel Steele Society  
Surgeon Spotlight:

**Hannah Decker, MD**

Surgery Resident  
Health Services Researcher

*I am passionate about improving access to high-quality surgical care and advancing health equity for all.*



Take a look at September's highlighted portraits on **Dr. Alexis Colley**, Surgery Resident and Palliative Care Medicine Fellow, and **Dr. Hannah Decker**, Surgery Resident and Health Services Researcher.



## *New Spotlight:* **Dr. Jeannette Lager!**



Jeannette Lager, MD, MPH is a Professor in Minimally Invasive Gynecology Surgery. She treats women with fibroids, abnormal uterine bleeding, ovarian cysts and endometriosis. She is the Associate Director of the UCSF Center for Endometriosis.

She is also the Director of Medical Student Education in OBGYN, and the Clinical Clerkship Director for Obstetrics and Gynecology for the School of Medicine.

Below is an excerpt from her spotlight, conducted by medical student Rachel Mundaden, that is now **live on the MSS website!**

### **Why did you decide to pursue minimally invasive gynecologic surgery?**

“I became interested in minimally invasive gynecologic surgery because I've always loved surgical procedures and the ability to identify a diagnosis, offer treatment options, and see patients improve their quality of life. That's what really inspires me to do the work—to be able to treat patients and focus on a patient-centered approach to provide minimally invasive surgical options. It enables patients to recover quickly and return to their normal activities. The complexity and advancing surgical techniques is a part of surgical practice that I absolutely love.”



*Read here!*



### **What is the best piece of advice you have received?**

“People always say, don't say yes to everything. Know your boundaries. But I think that it's also important to say yes to the things that you find interesting and want to do, because, generally speaking, those are worth the sacrifice. It opens doors to things that you might not ever otherwise do. When opportunities come up that may not have time, percentage, pay, or anything that's associated with it, if it is something that really lights a fire inside, I think that's something that is worth taking on.”



# MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY



## Coming Soon: **MSS Suturing Potluck**

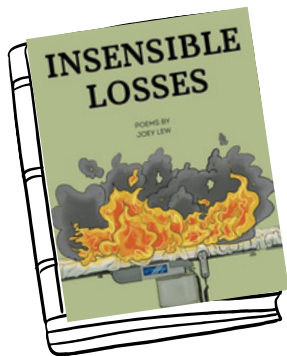


Be on the lookout for the **MSS Fall Suturing Potluck** happening this month on **September 19th, 6-8pm**, location on Parnassus campus to be announced!

This will be a relaxed, informal space for students to connect with one another, share a meal, and learn the basics of suturing and knot-tying. All MSS members are welcome to join and help teach current MS1 students suturing and knot-tying skills.



## Medical Humanities Highlight: **A Woman's Cut: Poetic Portraiture**



Congratulations to Joey Lew, a former UCSF medical student and MSS member, now surgical resident at Duke, on the publication of her poetry collection, **Invisible Losses!**

This collection includes many poems that were developed as part of Dr. Lew's Deep Explore project, and will be available at **Green Apple Books** on 9th Street starting the first week of September.



“Via precise diction and well-paced poems, Lew takes readers through the evolution of critically ill patient to budding surgeon, stopping to consider the hurdles faced and decisions made along the way.”

*Check it out  
online now!*



MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY

Have a new  
publication to  
highlight in the  
MSS Newsletter?



Let us know by submitting this form here or emailing us, and the MSS Communications team will be sure to highlight your publication in an upcoming MSS Newsletter!

<https://forms.gle/guR7Qz3mVexy7n147>

## Complete the ACS national well-being survey!



MSS members are encouraged to complete this new **national well-being survey**, a part of research being conducted by UCSF's **Dr. Carter Lebares** on surgeon well-being.

Individualized survey links were emailed on June 3rd—please email [wellbeingsurvey@facs.org](mailto:wellbeingsurvey@facs.org) if you are a practicing surgeon and did not receive a link.

The purpose of the survey is to pursue these important long-term goals:

- Increase understanding of the surgeon workforce.
- Identify workplace processes that enhance or inhibit surgeon well-being.
- Understand surgeon clinical and non-clinical workload and compensation.
- Use this data to drive evidence-based advocacy for surgeon workplace well-being.



[Learn more here!](#)



# MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY

## \*\*\* AWS Institutional Benefits — Renewed! \*\*\*

UCSF’s AWS Institutional Membership benefits have been renewed for the upcoming year!

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)**. 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!](#)



#### 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!](#)

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:themurielsteelesociety@ucsf.edu).

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

**Have an opportunity or event that you'd like to share with the MSS membership?** Email us at [themurielsteelesociety@ucsf.edu](mailto: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](mailto:mika.varma@ucsf.edu)) or Lucy Kornblith ([Lucy.Kornblith@ucsf.edu](mailto:Lucy.Kornblith@ucsf.edu)) for more information.



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