

December 2024 | Monthly Newsletter



MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY



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Sponsored by the UCSF Department of Surgery

Newsletter by Reta Behnam

Instagram: @MURIELSTEELESOCIETY_UCSF

<https://murielsteelesociety.ucsf.edu>



MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY

Happy December to all our
Muriel Steele Society members!

Please read below to see upcoming events and highlights
of member achievements!

The MSS Surgeon Spotlight Series!



Starting in September, MSS began a new initiative titled “**Portraits of Surgeons**” that will highlight 12 phenomenal MSS members in the Family Waiting Room at Parnassus and in the Adult Wards on the 6th floor at Mission Bay from September 2024 through February 2025.



The surgeons who were highlighted throughout the month of November were **Dr. Maanasa Indaram**, Pediatric Ophthalmologist and **Dr. Ashley Jeanlus**, ObGyn Reproductive Justice Advocate (pictured on the left)



The December highlights are **Dr. Andrea Park**, Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon and **Dr. Merisa Piper**, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon (pictured on the right)





New Senior Resident Spotlights!

Jacqui Callander, OHNS



What is your favorite memory from training?

There are too many to choose just one! I love anytime our resident crew has the chance to spend time together-- my co-residents are the best.

What's the best piece of advice you've received during your training?

Someone told me early on to treat every surgery as an opportunity to improve; it's easy to go through the motions during residency, but the time passes by quickly and I've found this sentiment especially salient in my last year of residency. Every patient and every case presents an opportunity to learn and refine your skills, so make the most of these moments while you have the guidance and expertise of mentors readily available.

What do you like to do for fun?

Run, get outdoors, spend quality time with my people (and dog!)

What is your favorite memory from training?

Seeing my first ever deep brain stimulation case in medical school was like magic. Once the stimulation electrodes were turned on intraoperatively, the patient could hold a water bottle steady for the first time in years! It has been really special then getting to do those sorts of cases years later as a resident.

What's the best piece of advice you've received during your training?

To improve my grip strength (I did by hitting the climbing gym!)

What are your most important personal and professional achievements to date?

Looking back, I'm proud of the research I accomplished during my PhD on reinforcement learning circuitry in the midbrain dopamine system. I am proud of reading Greenberg's Handbook of Neurosurgery cover to cover 3 times although it was very painful. I am proud of getting to feel progressively more confident in the operating room, although I am often and easily humbled. As a research year resident, I am currently proud and excited about the research I've doing in human intracranial electrophysiology studying the neural basis of decision-making.

Clara Starkweather, Neurosurgery





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Past and Upcoming Events!



This past month the MSS Education and Resource Committee hosted their annual

Gowning and Gloving Event!



where medical students were introduced to the routines of the OR!

Annual MSS Executive Council Meeting and Holiday Party!

Thank you to everyone who attended the quarterly executive council meeting and annual holiday party this past Wednesday!

Special thanks to Dr. Coleman for being our fantastic sommelier and Dr. Varma for being our gracious host!

If you would like to get involved with MSS leadership please reach out to lucy.kornblith@ucsf.edu and mika.varma@ucsf.edu





MSS Research Committee Updates:

Research Symposia Recap

On Thursday, November 9th The Muriel Steele Society Research Committee held its Fall 2024 Research Symposium titled Optimizing the Research Mentor-Mentee Relationship!



Special thanks to our panelists and moderators, Dr. Rita Mukhtar, Dr. Elizabeth Wick, Dr. Karen Trang, Dr. Kimberly Kirkwood, Dr. Patricia Conroy!

Celebrating 50 years of the Committee on the Status of Women

The committee plays an important role at UCSF, working to modernize and expand family-friendly policies at UC, address the diverse caregiving needs of women throughout their careers, and incorporate new voices into their efforts. As part of its equity-driven mission, CSW often advocates to extend benefits that faculty members receive to staff employees and learners.

Women have come a long way at UCSF. Our total population is now 63 percent women. Women make up 50 percent of faculty, 66 percent of staff, and 58 percent of postdocs, trainees, and students. Chancellor Susan Desmond-Hellmann was our first woman chancellor from 2009-2014 and established the ODO in 2010. The current Chancellor's Cabinet is 33% women, including former CSW chair Kathy Giacomini, PhD, now dean of the School of Pharmacy. In the School of Medicine (SOM), women faculty or faculty from groups that have been historically marginalized in medicine now hold 67% of Dean's Council and 44% of SOM leadership positions.



Visit their website here!



MSS Research Committee Updates:

Recruiting Participants!

Focus Group Interest Form - Barriers and Facilitators of Professional Advancement Amongst Underrepresented Groups in Academic Surgery

We are asking you to take part in a research study being done by Muriel Steele Society at the University of California, San Francisco.

We are holding a focus group to understand the **barriers and facilitators associated with becoming a leader in academic surgery among participants from intersectional underrepresented backgrounds**. The focus group will be confidential, last about 1.5 hours, and participants will be compensated \$25 for your time.

We are recruiting academic surgeons at UCSF who self-identify as a gender minority in their surgical field and URIM.

If you are interested in participating or learning more, please fill out this brief interest survey. For any questions or concerns, please reach out to Dr. Varma (mika.varma@ucsf.edu) or Katherine Miclau (katherine.miclau@ucsf.edu). Thanks!



Congratulations to Dr. Tasce Bongiovanni and Colleagues!

New Online Views 74.

Research Letter | Pacific Coast Surgical Association

November 6, 2024

Pain Assessment in Older Adults After Traumatic Injury

Natasha Gonzalez, BA¹; Hope Schwartz, BA¹; Rebecca Menza, RN, PhD, ACNP²; Amy M. Shui, MS, MA³; Robert Mackersie, MD⁴; Tasce Bongiovanni, MD, MPP, MHS⁴

» Author Affiliations

JAMA Surg. Published online November 6, 2024. doi:10.1001/jamasurg.2024.3368

For being published in JAMA Surgery!

Read her article here:





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AWS Updates

December 12 at 4 PM PT:

Building an Academic Foundation
Setting Up Your Practice the First 100 Days

Virtual

Register by emailing katherine.miclau@ucsf.edu

January 21 at 5 PM PT:

AWS Journal Club

Virtual

Register by emailing katherine.miclau@ucsf.edu

Listen to AWS Podcast here:

Produced by the AWS Communications Committee, **podcasts feature inspiring interviews with women surgeons** recorded during national meetings, in hospitals, and at the AWS annual conference. Hear from leaders in healthcare, research, and education.



Read and Write for the AWS Blog here:

Explore insightful articles or contribute your own voice to the AWS blog!

Apply to be an author today!



Thanks for reading!

MSS Communications Committee:

Resident Leads: Alexis Colley, Fernanda Romero-Hernandez

Medical Student Lead: Mandeep Kaur

Newsletter: Reta Behnam, Allison Chang

Social Media: Rachel Huynh, Nikki Mahendru, Reta Behnam

If you have anything you would like to feature (publications, advice, work photos and achievements, family or personal photos and 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 and 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 and other gender minorities 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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