

March 2025 | Monthly Newsletter



MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY



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Sponsored by the UCSF Department of Surgery

Newsletter by Mandeep Kaur

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<https://murielsteelesociety.ucsf.edu>



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Happy March to all our Muriel Steele Society members! Hope everyone enjoys the start of the Spring season.

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



Women's History Month



Women's History Month is celebrated every March to recognize and honor the achievements, contributions, and resilience of women throughout history. It began as a weeklong celebration in the U.S. in 1980 before expanding to a month in 1987. This month serves as a time to reflect on the progress made in gender equality, celebrate trailblazing women across various fields, and inspire future generations.



National Doctor's Day



National Doctors' Day is celebrated to honor and appreciate the contributions of physicians to society. In the United States, it is observed annually on **March 30**. The day recognizes the hard work, dedication, and sacrifices made by doctors in caring for patients and advancing medical science.





International Women's Day (IWD), celebrated annually on March 8, is a global day recognizing the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. It also serves as a call to action for gender equality and women's rights.



Get more info about IWD activities happening across UCSF and access to IWD Zoom backgrounds here:





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New Spotlight: Dr. Kim Luu!



THE MSS SPOTLIGHT SERIES

AVAILABLE NOW!



Dr. Kimberly Luu

Interviewed by Saffanat

Dr. Kim Luu is a Pediatric Otolaryngologist, and an Assistant Professor in the UCSF Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery (OHNS) Department. She currently also serves as a Bridges coach in the School of Medicine Coaching Program.

Below is an excerpt from her spotlight, conducted by medical student Saffanat Sumra that is **coming soon to the MSS website!**

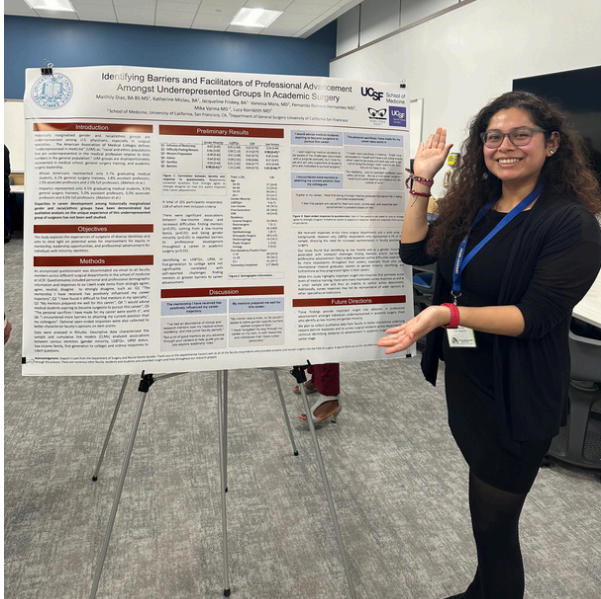
Is there a quote, mantra, or some lesson that you live by?

“I think there is one that resonates with me—‘The idea that some lives matter less is the root of all that is wrong with the world.’ The essence of it is that we are born into circumstances that we cannot control. We have a responsibility as a society to provide equity and equal access to opportunity, regardless of the situation you’re born into.”





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Conference Highlight: UC PRIME Conference

The UC PRIME Conference was held in Irvine, CA February 7-9!

Maithily Diaz presented a study conducted in collaboration with MSS, "Identifying Barriers and Facilitators of Professional Advancement Amongst Underrepresented Groups in Academic Surgery".

Conference Highlight: Academic Surgical Congress

The ASC was held in Las Vegas, NV February 11-13! Several MSS members were in attendance.





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Congratulations to the 2025 Exceptional Physician Awardees!

UCSF Health Exceptional Physician Awards are given annually to a few UCSF Health physicians who have provided outstanding patient care, contributed to UCSF Health’s mission, and exemplified UCSF Health’s PRIDE Values of professionalism, respect, integrity, diversity, and excellence. Here, we feature MSS awardees!



Jacquelyn Callander, MD
OHNS



Jade Hiramoto, MD
Vascular Surgery



Jasleen Kukreja, MD
Cardiothoracic Surgery



Mignote Yilma, MD
General Surgery



Lacey Smith, MD
Orthopaedic Surgery

Congratulations to the 2024-2025 UCSF C-SHORE Scholarship Grant recipients!

Manami Diaz Tsuzuki & Kelsey Ogomori presented at the 20th Academic Surgical Congress! Manami presented "Assessing Patient Acceptability of Screening for Intimate Partner Violence Following Trauma". Kelsey presented "Communication After Emergent Surgery by English Proficiency: An Explorative Qualitative Study".



Manami Diaz



Kelsey Ogomori





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AWS Updates

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.

Upcoming Events

- **March 10, 8 PM EST: AWS Surgical Mentorship: Balancing Family and Career**
- **April 10, 7 PM EST: Building an Academic Foundation: Finding and Funding Your Research Niche**
- **April 16, 6:30 AM CST: AWS Coaching Program - Coach Training #3**

Opportunities

- **2025 AWS Signature Speaker Series** (Apply by April 17). This series aims to develop and promote mid-career surgeons as experts. It offers training and support for speaking engagements.
- Apply now to be on **AWS volunteer committees**: <https://www.womensurgeons.org/get-involved>
- For full details and event registration information, visit the **AWS Event Calendar**.

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



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 AWS events.



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: Mandeep Kaur
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 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.

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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