

August 2025 | Monthly Newsletter



MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY



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Sponsored by the UCSF Department of Surgery

Newsletter by: Faaizah Arshad



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Happy August!

We hope the summer has been restful for you so far. Below you'll find updates, celebrations, and highlights from MSS

✦✦ Highlights of Achievement: ✦✦

Congratulations to Dr. Ava C. Yap, who is a recent UCSF General Surgery resident graduate, on receiving the **2025 Association of Women Surgeon's Foundation (AWSF) Dr. Hilary Sanfey Outstanding Resident Award** for her leadership, mentorship, and excellence in surgery! She will be celebrated at the AWSF Awards Dinner & Gala on Sunday, October 5 in Chicago.



Congratulations to Dr. Caitlin Collins, UCSF Assistant Professor of Surgery, on her appointment as **Co-Director of the Muriel Steel Society (MSS)**! She will be joining Dr. Lucy Kornblith in fostering a strong MSS community.

Congratulations to Nurse Practitioner Elizabeth Wayne from the UCSF Department of Transplant Surgery on **20 years as a transplant registered nurse!**





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✦✦ Highlights of Achievement: ✦✦

Congratulations to Dr. Kara Faktor, second-year UCSF General Surgery Research Resident and NIH Fogarty Fellow, on being named a **2025-2026 Fulbright U.S. Scholar**! We are excited for her future work at the Africa Regional Research Program.



Congratulations to Dr. Kate Dwyer, PGY4 at Vanderbilt, for **her 2026 match into the UCSF Reconstructive & Trauma Genitourinary Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship Program** in the Department of Urology!

Congratulations to Dr. Jessica Valdez, PGY4 in the UCSF Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Services, on her **2026-2027 match into her Breast Surgery Fellowship**, at City of Hope National Medical Center! All the best in this new chapter.





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✦✦ Congratulating Graduating Residents! ✦✦

**UCSF Plastic Surgery**

Congratulations to the graduating resident class, including Fellow Dr. Minnie Park and Chief Residents Dr. Justin Cheng, Dr. Solomon Lee, and Dr. Laura Wishing everyone the best in their future endeavors!

**UCSF Otolaryngology, Head & Neck Surgery**

OHNS celebrated with a Sooy Year-End Graduation weekend including the resident research symposium and a graduation dinner!

**UCSF Orthopedic Surgery**

Orthopedic Surgery held their annual Bones Ball, honoring the graduating residents and fellows, recognized faculty achievements, and reflected on a year of mentorship, growth, and excellence.

**UCSF General Surgery**

General Surgery honored their Chief Residents with a memorable evening celebrating gratitude and community.

**UCSF Neurosurgery**

Neurosurgery celebrated its graduating residents! Dr. Arati Patel won Best Senior Clinical Research and Dr. Clara Starkweather won Best Senior Basic Science Research!

**UCSF Obstetrics and Gynecology**

Obstetrics and Gynecology held a memorable resident graduation, with residents and faculty coming together to celebrate and reflect on their accomplishments.



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Recent Brunch with Dr. Amanda Laird

The Muriel Steele Society hosted a brunch on July 23, 2025 with Dr. Amanda Laird, recipient of the prestigious 2025 Association of Women Surgeons-American Surgical Association Surgical Leaders Fellowship Grant, who visited to give UCSF medical students and residents an opportunity to hear about her path in surgery and seek career advice.



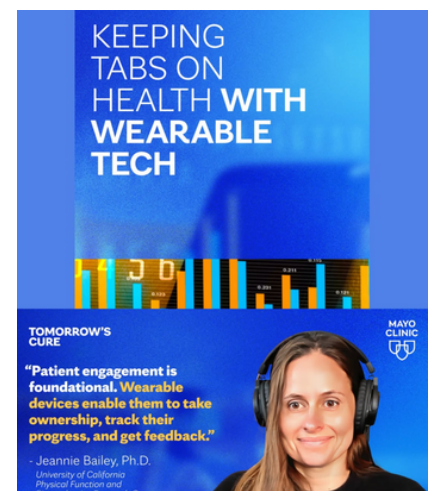
OHNS Peer Coaching Group

The Department of OHNS is piloting a new peer coaching group called "WISE Learning Group for OHNS Women and their Male Allies." WISE stands for Women Inspire, Support, Elevate, and the group will be based on content from the book *How Women Rise* by Marshall Goldsmith and Sally Helgeson. The objectives are to build connection and community, self-awareness for participants, learn and practice skills based on the coaching tips in the book, share experiences and troubleshoot challenges in a confidential space, and improve the work experience for current and future women leaders. Stay tuned for more updates!

PODCAST FEATURE



Dr. Jeannie Bailey, PhD, Associate Professor of orthopaedic surgery at UCSF, and Dr. Arjun Athreya, PhD, M.S, electrical and computer engineer at Mayo Clinic, were on Mayo Clinic's **'Tomorrow's Cure' podcast**, where they shared insights on how wearable technology is revolutionizing care by making it more proactive, accessible, and personalized.





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AWS Membership Resources

To all 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 Opportunities:

- **August 5-** AWS Medical Student Journal Club.
- **August 7-** Apply to be featured in the AWS Students and Residents as Pioneers Project.
- AIS Coffee with AWS featuring Dr. Shannon Foster (Leadership, Communication and Conflict Resolution in Healthcare Teams) on **August 11** at 10am EST FREE at aischannel.com.
- **August 14-** Apply for the Visiting Professorship with AWS partner LSS.
- **August 17** at 7pm EST- AWS Medical Student Research Opportunities Q&A.
- Cutting Edge Conversations- AAS and AWS on **August 19** from 7-8 PM EST.
- **August 22-** Apply for the AWS Better Mentors, Bigger Impact- Surgical Cross Mentoring Program.
- See the AWS Events list for additional details:



AWS Membership:

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 the AWS conference taking place in SF later this year!

AWS Benefits

Networking Opportunities:

Connect with a global community of 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: Allison Chang

Newsletter: Grace Kloss, Faizah Arshad

Social Media: Alex Lopes, Rachel Huynh



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 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. Our overarching goal is to advocate for a culture of belonging that is focused on expanding the advancement of all surgeons. All are welcome.

For more information about the Muriel Steele Society, please visit our [website](#).

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

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