

October 2025 | Monthly Newsletter



MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY



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Sponsored by the UCSF Department of Surgery

Newsletter by: Faaizah Arshad



MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY

Happy October!

Please read below for highlights and events.

Highlights and Achievements

Congratulations to Dr. Phoebe Miller, MS, MD, UCSF General Surgery Resident for being officially named a 2025–26 NIH National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) StARR Scholar!



Congratulations to Shraddha Pandey, Jacqueline Friskey, Katherine Miclau, Maithily Diaz, Vanessa Mora, and Fernanda Romero Hernandez, for winning runner-up for the 'Best Medical Student Presentation' at the 2025 AWS Starr Research Forum for their project titled: "Identifying Barriers and Facilitators of Professional Advancement Among Underrepresented Groups in Academic Surgery." Shraddha presented the project.



Recent: September MSS Grand Rounds

Carolyn Sangokoya, MD, PhD, presented at the Department of Surgery Muriel Steele Society Grand Rounds on building a community of women in science and medicine through mentorship. The session highlighted the importance of physician-scientist networking and community building, and she shared about the Women Physician Scientists (WPSS) group at UCSF as a platform for connection, support, and mentorship among women physician-scientists.





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Congratulations to the Faculty Recipients of the 2025 UCSF Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring Award!**Caitlin Collins, MD**Trauma & Surgical Critical
Care**Joseph Cuschieri, MD, FACS**Trauma & Surgical Critical
Care**April Mendoza, MD, MPH**Trauma & Surgical Critical
Care**Nasim Sobhani, MD**Obstetrics, Gynecology, and
Reproductive Sciences**Shareef Syed, MBChB,
MRCS, FACS, MAEd**

Transplant Surgery

**Lucas Thornblade, MD, MPH**

Surgical Oncology

**Mark Zhao, MD**Colon and Rectal Surgical
Oncology**Patience Afulani, PhD,
MD, MPH**Obstetrics, Gynecology, and
Reproductive Sciences**Patricia Loftus, MD**Otolaryngology Head and
Neck Surgery**Lisa Pascual, MD**

Orthopaedic Surgery

**Brian Feeley, MD**

Orthopaedic Surgery



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Recent: MSS x Stitch Lab Event

Muriel Steele Society and The Stitch Lab at UCSF held a workshop on suturing and knot-tying to create an opportunity for medical students to learn and practice surgical closure techniques.



Recent: News Feature- Project REACH Pilot ZSFG Drop-in Clinic

This project is a partnership between DPH Whole Person Integrated Care and ZSFG Division of Surgery with technical support from The Better Lab. With a \$100,000 grant from San Francisco General Hospital Foundation, Project REACH is helping patients receive surgical procedures sooner than later. Read and watch the following ABC7News feature titled "SF pilot program is 1st in the nation to provide surgical care for the unhoused".



ABC7News Feature:

Introducing the 2024 Equity and Innovation Grantees:





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Recent: MSS Mental Health & Resilience in Surgery

The UCSF Muriel Steele Society held a special dinner event on Mental Health and Resilience in Surgery. The evening began with a keynote presentation by Dr. Carter Lebares, Associate Professor of Surgery at UCSF and Director of the UCSF Center for Mindfulness in Surgery. Emma Peat, Director of Education Programming at NAMI San Francisco, highlighted local programs and resources. The night concluded with a shared meal and opportunities to connect with peers and mentors!



Recent: ACS Clinical Congress Global Surgery Mixer



ACS Clinical Congress

GLOBAL SURGERY SOCIAL

October 4, 2025
7:00-9:00 PM CT

AT VU ROOFTOP BAR
133 E CERMAK RD, CHICAGO

FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL:
GLOBALSURGERY@BCM.EDU



UCSF CHESA co-hosted a global surgery networking event at the 2025 American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress in Chicago with Stanford, Harvard, Baylor, and the Association of Academic Global Surgery.



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Recent: DOC SF 2025 Conference



The Digital Orthopaedics Revolution took place on October 3, 2025 at Hyatt Regency SF with Dr. Stefano Bini and Maria Manetti Shrem. Attendees explored the latest advancements in AI and MedTech innovation while connecting with fellow professionals to stay ahead of the curve in the industry.

Upcoming: OBGYN CME Conference

NEW FALL CME COURSE: OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY UPDATES: WHAT DOES THE EVIDENCE TELL US?
October 22 - 24, 2025

Topics covered will include: prenatal screening, gynecologic surgery, cancer prevention, and menopausal care along with expert insights into managing common and complex conditions in both obstetrics and gynecology.



Register here:



TARGET AUDIENCE

Designed for practicing physicians, residents, nurses, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants seeking an update on a wide range of current issues in obstetrics and gynecology.



✦✦ ACS Clinical Congress ✦✦

October 4-7, 2025, Chicago, IL

Sunday, October 5th

Gallbladder and Common Bile Duct for the General Surgeon, Video Based Education (9:45-11:15 AM): Use of Fluorescent Visualization For Dissection For A Robotic Assisted Completion Cholecystectomy



Surgical Aortic Valve Replacement Stratification by the Modified 5-Item Frailty Index Post-Implementation of a Transcatheter Valve Replacement Program at a Veterans Affairs Health System



Barriers and Facilitators to Timely Surgical Care for Distal Radius Fractures: A Qualitative Analysis



Piloting a Patient-Centered Clinical Decision Support Tool in the Electronic Health Record for Post-Surgical Opioid Prescription at Discharge



MRI for Trauma-Associated Neck Pain: Think Again



Key Problems and Proposed Solutions Identified by Older Surgical Patients in Problem-Solving Therapy Sessions: A Qualitative Study



Bladder Exstrophy Iliac Osteotomies: 3D Modeling Comparative Analysis of Current Approaches' Impact on Intrapelvic Volume and Acetabular Version



Moderator for Geriatric/Palliative Care Session



Coping With Crisis: The Resilience of Dr. Mary Crawford in the Face Of Wartime Challenges
presenting at History of Surgery Poster Competition



Updated American Thyroid Association Guidelines for Thyroid Nodules – What's New (2:30-4:00 PM): Management of Low-Risk Thyroid Cancer



Updated American Thyroid Association Guidelines for Thyroid Nodules – What's New (2:30-4:00 PM): Exploring Levels of Intraoperative Supervision and Autonomy: What Do "Indirect Supervision" and "Practice Ready" Mean in General Surgery Training?



ACS Clinical Congress

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Sunday, Oct 5th from 6 PM - 9 PM CT

Marriott Marquis Chicago (2121 S Prairie Ave, Chicago, IL 60616)

Monday, October 6th



Assessing the Evidence Behind Guidelines in Cardiothoracic Surgery: A Meta-Analysis



Effects of Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) Introduction on Surgical Aortic Valve Replacement (SAVR) Patient Risk Scores, Surgical Techniques, and Outcomes in a Veterans Affairs Healthcare System (VAHCS)



The Impact of Body Mass Index on Outcomes of Staged Breast Reduction Before Nipple-Sparing Mastectomy with Immediate Autologous Breast Reconstruction



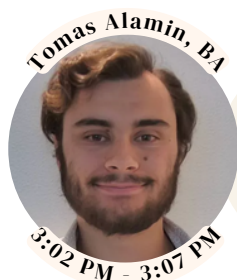
Exploring Barriers to Accessing Outpatient Surgical Care for People Experiencing Homelessness



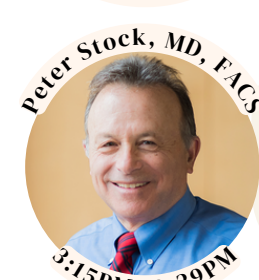
Humanitarian Crisis and Armed Conflict: Ethical Obligations Surrounding Healthcare (12:45-2:15 PM): Trauma Care in South Sudan



Prolonged Length of Stay in Elective Colectomy Patients: Insights from Artificial Intelligence-Based Medical Record Review



Differences in Surgical Resident Workload and Wellbeing



Ethical Considerations in the Surgical Care of Undocumented Patients (2:30-4:00 PM): Considerations for Transplantation in Non-US Citizens



Exploring Team Dynamics and Motivations in the Operating Room: A Qualitative Study



Patient Factors Influence Patient Reported Outcome Measurement Collection Rates but Not Clinical Benefit Following Total Joint Arthroplasty



✦ ACS Clinical Congress ✦

Tuesday, October 7th



We are thrilled to share that Dr. Nancy Ascher will be honored as an “Icon in Surgery” in recognition of her exceptional contributions to the field. Congratulations on this remarkable achievement!



Hematopoietic Cytokines and the Platelet Axis in Thromboinflammatory Complications After Injury



Distant Pancreatic Cystic Lesions (PCLs) Are Associated with Fewer Positive Lymph Nodes in Patients with Solid Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma (PDAC)



Trends in Cyst Size of Resected Intraductal Papillary Mucinous Neoplasms over Time—has the Evolution of the International Association of Pancreatology (IAP) Guidelines Impacted Surgical Thresholds?



Engineering a Synthetic Thrombopoietin Receptor to Enable Tunable Hematopoietic Stem and Progenitor Cell Expansion



Updates in Colorectal Cancer Liver Metastases (Moderator 9:45-11:15 AM): Multidisciplinary Management Strategies for Colorectal Liver Metastases—Addressing the Disease Biology



Machine Learning-Based Correlation of Venous Morphology with Hemorrhagic Shock Stage Using Volumetric M-Mode Ultrasound in a Swine Model



Landscape and Priorities for Simulation-Based Education in Global Children Surgery



Leveraging Local Expertise to Expand Hepatopancreatobiliary (HPB) Surgery Subspecialty Care to the Community: Outcomes and Lessons Learned over Four Years



From Prevention to Intervention: A Quality Improvement Program for Peripheral Artery Disease at a Safety Net Hospital



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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:

- **October 4, 5, 6, 7** - ACS Clinical Congress
- **October 5** - 2025 AWSF Awards Dinner & Gala
- **October 19** - AWS Medical Student Monthly Meeting
- **October 22** - AWS Publications Webinar: Preparing for Fellowship
- **October 24** - Apply to join a 2025-2026 AWS Committee.
- **Support women in surgery** as a 2025 AWS Conference Chair Sponsor and/or AWSF Gala Table Sponsor!
- 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, Faaizah 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](https://murielsteelesociety.ucsf.edu).

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? Email us at themurielsteelesociety@ucsf.edu.



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