

December 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 December!

From the MSS team, we wish you a magical December, wrapped with gratitude and reflection. Below find updates, celebrations, and highlights.

**Highlights of Achievement:**

Congratulations to Dr. Rebecca Plevin, who is Associate Professor of Surgery in the Division of General Surgery, Trauma & Surgical Critical Care at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital for her appointment to Vice Chair for the Northern California Committee on Trauma with the American College of Surgeons, which was effective Nov 1, 2025.



Congratulations to Natasha Gonzalez, who has been named a recipient of the 2026 AAS Senior Medical Student Travel Award and will represent UCSF at the Academic Surgical Congress in Florida this upcoming February.

Congratulations to Susan Chang, MD, who is a UCSF Professor in Neurological Surgery, for receiving the 2025 Lisa DeAngelis Award for Excellence in Neuro-Oncology Education.





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MSS Bonfire & S'mores



Muriel Steele Society hosted its Annual Bonfire and S'mores event at the end of October at Ocean Beach, where incoming and outgoing surgical speciality and subspeciality residents met each other and faculty outside of the academic setting, with a warm fire, laughter, and memories!



PUBLISHED ARTICLE

Congratulations to Iina Bhaya-Grossman, PhD candidate in the Edward Chang lab, and team on their recently published article titled *Shared and language-specific phonological processing in the human temporal lobe* in Nature. Scan QR to read:



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Article | [Open access](#) | Published: 19 November 2025**Shared and language-specific phonological processing in the human temporal lobe**

[Iina Bhaya-Grossman](#), [Matthew K. Leonard](#), [Yizhen Zhang](#), [Laura Gwilliams](#), [Keith Johnson](#), [Junfeng Lu](#) & [Edward F. Chang](#) ✉

[Nature](#) (2025) | [Cite this article](#)

18k Accesses | 198 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)



❄️ **Recent Achievement** ❄️



Congratulations to Dr. Maria Castro, PGY4 General Surgery Resident, who was awarded the First Place Tepas Award at the Pediatric Trauma Society Annual Meeting this past week for a manuscript and podium presentation on A New Pediatric Trauma Center Quality Benchmarking Metric, with mentor Dr. Aaron Jensen. Also 7 months pregnant!



PUBLISHED ARTICLE



Congratulations to Alyssa Zhou and team on their recently published article titled *Parenting in Surgery: A Structured Initiative to Support Surgeons Navigating Pregnancy and Early Parenthood During Training* in the Journal of Surgical Education. Scan QR to read:



Journal of Surgical Education
Volume 83, Issue 1, January 2026, 103793



Parenting in Surgery: A Structured Initiative to Support Surgeons Navigating Pregnancy and Early Parenthood During Training

Alyssa Zhou BS [†], Kelsey Ogomori MD [†], Alexis Colley MD, MS [‡], Julie Ann Sosa MD, MA [§], Madhulika G. Varma MD [‡], Lucy Z. Kornblith MD [§], Ava Yap MD [§], Karen Trang MD [§], Lan Vu MD, MAS [§]  


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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsurg.2025.103793>

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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:

- **Dec 8 at 8pm EST**- Personal Branding Webinar.
- **Dec 9 at 8pm EST**- Surgical Mentoring Program: How to prepare for residency MATCH and evaluate which program is right for you.
- **Dec 21 at 12pm EST**- AWS Medical Student Monthly Meeting.
- **Dec 30**- Complete the AWS Post Conference Survey.
- See the AWS Events list for additional opportunities:



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.