

February 2026 | Monthly Newsletter



MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY



FEB.

Sponsored by the UCSF Department of Surgery

Newsletter by: Faaizah Arshad



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Happy February!

From the MSS team, we hope the year has been great so far. Below find updates, celebrations, and highlights.



Highlights of Achievement:



Congratulations to Dr. Natalie Escobar, UCSF General Surgery Resident, for being selected for the American Heart Association Postdoctoral Fellowship!



Congratulations to the 41 physicians from the University of California, San Francisco Department of Surgery who have been **named to Castle Connolly Top Doctors's 2026 Top Doctors list!**

Read more:





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MSS is happy to announce the newly formed Staff Committee. The goal of this committee is supporting staff, and increasing engagement and networking through sharing resources. Please be on the lookout for announcements for upcoming events. For questions or to get involved in the committee, please contact Diane Ngo (diane.ngo@ucsf.edu), Tracy Aubuchon (tracy.aubuchon@ucsf.edu), Mike Panion (mike.panion@ucsf.edu), Stephanie Lee (Stephanie.lee@ucsf.edu), or Lucy Kornblith (Lucy.kornblith@ucsf.edu).

New MSS Staff Committee

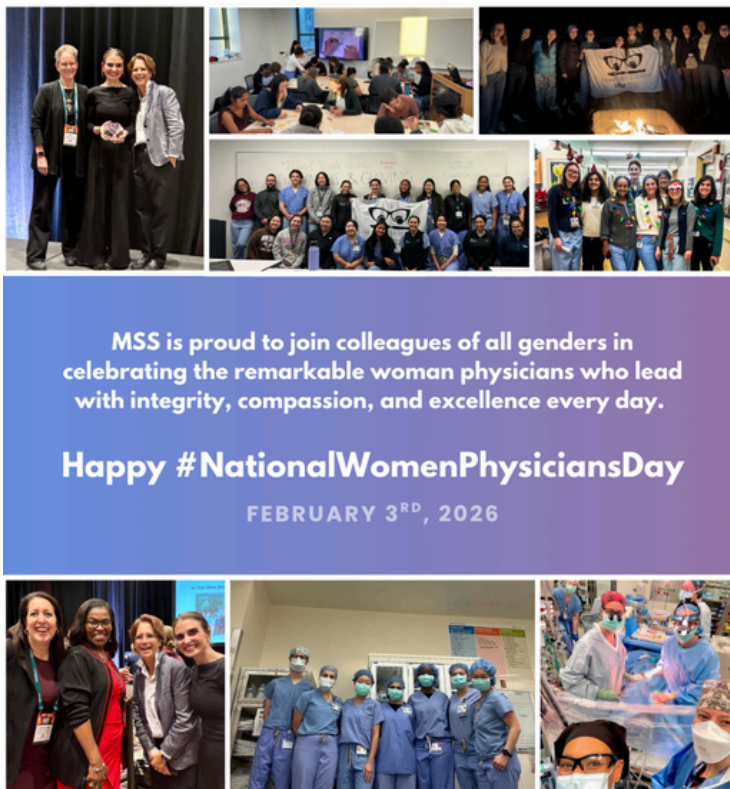


Happy
#NationalWomen
PhysiciansDay

MSS is proud to join colleagues of all genders in celebrating the remarkable woman physicians who lead with integrity, compassion, and excellence every day.

Happy #NationalWomenPhysiciansDay

FEBRUARY 3RD, 2026



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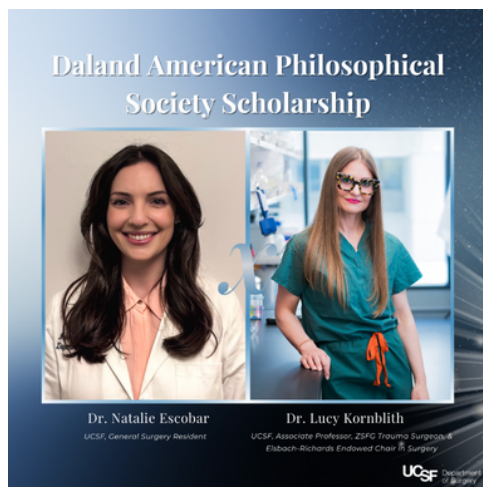
Department of
Surgery



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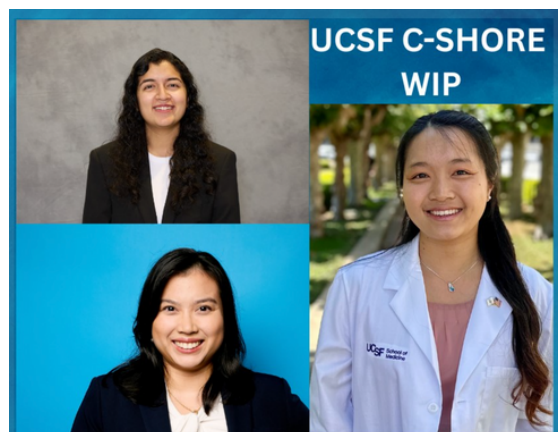
Recent Achievement:



Congratulations to Dr. Natalie Escobar and Dr. Lucy Kornblith who have been offered the **Daland American Philosophical Society Scholarship**—a highly selective, patient-centered clinical investigation fellowship providing \$40,000 per year for two years. The award recognizes research grounded in clinical rigor and real-world patient impact!

Student Research

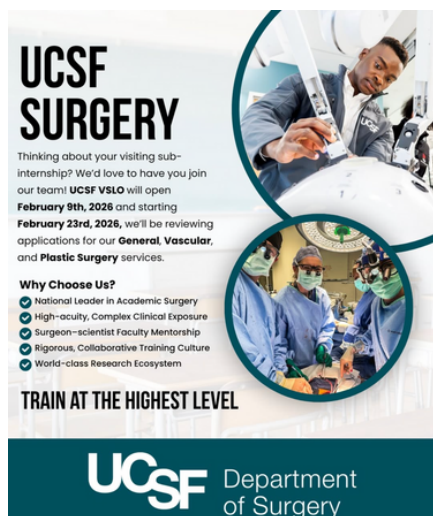
UCSF medical students Manami Diaz Tsuzuki, Rachel Huynh, Saffanat Sumra recently presented their **research at a C-SHORE WIP session**. We wish them the best on their upcoming ACS and PCSA presentations!



Upcoming Opportunities

UCSF Surgery will **soon be accepting visiting sub-internship applications for the 2026 cycle**. VSLO opens February 9th, 2026, with application review beginning February 23rd, 2026, for general surgery, vascular surgery, and plastic surgery. Apply via VSLO: <https://tinyurl.com/2m7eszca>

The Department of Ob Gyn & RS is holding their annual State of the Department event on Tuesday, February 24, 2026. **RSVP** through their newsletter.





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MSS Shadowing Program



Dr. Peng with Andre (Andy) Fabian, MS1 (JMP)

"Dr. Peng reaffirmed my interest in pursuing a surgical specialty. Within the operating room, I appreciated her step-by-step approach to each procedure, which helped me understand both the clinical and pathophysiological contexts behind each cut, cauterization, and stitch."



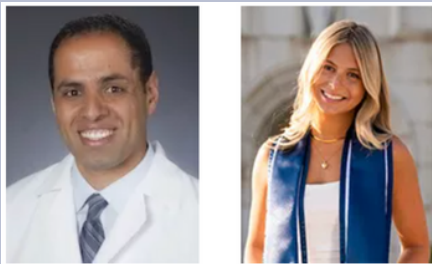
Janey Lee, MS1, with Dr. Amato

"Experiences like this are a tremendous help to first-year medical students (including me) as they explore and refine their interests and start to develop an idea of what kind of physician they want to become."



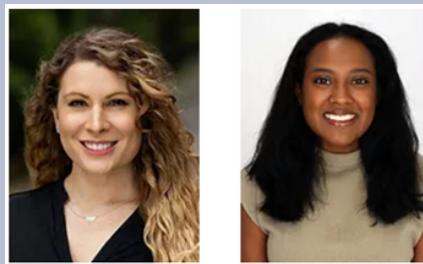
Dr. Emily Miraflor and Nickie Yang, MS3 (SJV PRIME)

"It was so amazing to see how everyone had a specific role/responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of our patient. This has made me less afraid of being in the OR and I look forward to being in the OR more and witnessing different types of surgical procedures."



Dr. Adnan Alseidi and Isabella LeKander, MS1

"Observing how Dr. Alseidi balanced technical expertise with compassion reinforced my passion for surgery—not only as a field of procedural skill but also as one deeply rooted in patient advocacy and interdisciplinary teamwork."



Dr. Clara Gomez-Sanchez and Raven Foster, MS1

"For future shadowing students I would encourage to always introduce yourself, tell them if you don't know how to do something, and approach the experience with an open mind!"

Read the full testimonials here:





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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:

- **Feb 3 at 8pm EST**- Shining Star Leadership Coaching Summary Session Webinar
- **Feb 5 at 8am EST**- AiS & AWS Present: Adoption & Implementation of Robotic Surgery Webinar
- **Feb 5 at 8:30pm EST**- Resident & Fellow Committee Meeting
- **Feb 11 at 6pm EST**- AWS Conference Planning Committee
- **Feb 11 at 8pm EST**- Surgical Mentoring Program: How to network at conferences and find other opportunities for networking Webinar
- **Feb 12 at 7pm EST**- AWS Cutting Edge Conversation with SAAS - Mentorship and Sponsorship in Surgery: Finding, Building, and Sustaining Relationships Webinar
- **Feb 15 at 12pm EST**- AWS Medical Student Monthly Meeting
- 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.

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](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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