

January 2026 | Monthly Newsletter



MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY



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*Sponsored by the UCSF Department of Surgery*

Newsletter by: Grace Kloss





## MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY

Happy New Year from the Muriel Steele Society!

This issue highlights recent events, awards, and research that reflect the strength, mentorship, and impact of our members!



## HIGHLIGHTS



This holiday season, we want to recognize all of our incredible residents and faculty working over the holidays. You have shown up with dedication and compassion, making a difference in countless lives. Enjoy some photos from our holiday trauma and transplant teams!



An inspiring read:  
Laura López González highlights the work of **Dr. Amy Fiedler** and her team in leading the world's first all-female heart transplant in 2023, a milestone that has resonated widely and inspired surgeons across the country. The story underscores ongoing efforts to promote gender equity, mentorship, and innovation in surgical care at UCSF.

Read it  
here!





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## NATIONAL RECOGNITION



UCSF Health earned the **ACS NSQIP Meritorious Award for Outcomes from the American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program**, recognizing outstanding surgical patient care and exceptional outcomes. This prestigious award places UCSF among a select group of hospitals nationwide acknowledged for excellence, especially in high-risk cases. It reflects the dedication of our surgical teams to quality, safety, and collaboration.



ACS Article



UCSF Article



ESPN recently released a short video recounting the shooting of 49ers wide receiver Ricky Pearsall, highlighting SGT Joelle Harrell of the SFPD and Dr. Lucy Kornblith, UCSF Associate Professor of Surgery, Trauma and Critical Care Surgeon, and Co-Chair of the Muriel Steele Society.

Scan the QR code for an inside look at this inspiring story.



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**BREAST SURGERY SPOTLIGHT**

We are proud to spotlight recent recognitions that underscore the innovation, mentorship, and dedication of our Breast Surgery faculty.

**Dr. Cheryl Ewing** has received the **UCSF PISCES Teaching Award**, honoring her excellence in clinical teaching and mentorship. Students praised her for outstanding instruction in breast cancer care and essential surgical skills, as well as her deep commitment to supporting learners' growth and career development. This well-deserved recognition reflects her dedication to educating the next generation of physicians.



**Dr. Rita Mukhtar** and **Dr. Elisabeth Abeles** have been awarded a \$50,000 Research Development Grant through the UCSF Breast Oncology Program for their pilot study evaluating FAP PET imaging to track disease progression in metastatic invasive lobular carcinoma. Their work is part of the multicenter PLUMB study and has the potential to improve diagnostic accuracy and patient care for a challenging breast cancer subtype.







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## RECENT EVENTS



## MSS Gowning and Gloving



MSS hosted a Gowning and Gloving event to introduce first-year students to the operating room and help second-year students build confidence as they prepare for their surgery rotations. Participants also had the chance to attend a Q&A with General Surgery and OBGYN residents.

## MSS x SIG Mixer

The Surgery Interest Group and Muriel Steele Society hosted a joint mixer event where students, residents, and faculty participated in rotating meet-and-greet sessions, fostering personal connections and mentorship. The event had an amazing turnout, with a packed room and lively, meaningful conversations throughout the evening.





## MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY

## 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:

- Jan 5<sup>th</sup> 5-6 PM PST: Publications Committee Meeting
- Jan 7<sup>th</sup> 3-4PM PST: AWS conference Planning Committee Meeting
- Jan 7<sup>th</sup> 4-6PM PST: AWS Executive Committee Meeting
- Jan 8<sup>th</sup> 5-6PM PST: Clinical Practice Committee Meeting
- Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 4-6PM PST: AWS Council Meeting
- Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 5-6PM PST: Surgical Mentoring Program: Surgical Careers in Surgical Education, Rural, Community, Private, Military, and other practices
- Jan 18<sup>th</sup> 9-10AM PST: AWS Medical Student Monthly Meeting
- Jan 20<sup>th</sup> 4-5 PM PST: Better Mentor, Bigger Impact! AWS Surgical Cross Mentoring Program
- Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> 4:30-6:30PM PST: Coaching Program Session #2
- Jan 29<sup>th</sup> 5-6PM PST: outreach Committee Meeting: Liason Coordination
- See the AWS event list for additional information!

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:themurielsteelesociety@ucsf.edu).

**Want to become more involved with the  
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