

July 2026 | Monthly Newsletter



MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY



JULY *Sponsored by the UCSF Department of Surgery*

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<https://murielsteelesociety.ucsf.edu>



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Happy July! Please read below for updates from Muriel Steele Society!



Highlights of Achievement



The UCSF School of Medicine Watson Scholar Fund recognizes faculty whose leadership advances diversity, health equity, anti-discrimination, and care for medically underserved communities. Established in honor of pioneering scientist and mentor John A. Watson, PhD, the program supports the recruitment and retention of faculty committed to creating a more equitable future in academic medicine and patient care. Recipients receive three years of funding to support their academic work and community engagement.

Congratulations to Clara Gomez-Sanchez, MD, Assistant Professor of Surgery and Vascular Surgeon, on being named a 2026 Watson Scholar! We also congratulate fellow 2026 recipient Tokunbo Ayeni, MD, Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery, and all of this year's Watson Scholars.



Congratulations to Dr. Hueylan Chern, Professor of Surgery, Colon and Rectal Surgeon, and Director of the Surgical Skills Center, and Jessica Santhakumar, UCSF medical student, on receiving a 2026–2027 Medical Education Research Seed Grant. Their funded project, Characterizing Mental Model Formation Across Learner Expertise Levels in Robotic Assisted Surgery Digital Simulation, highlights UCSF's continued leadership in advancing innovation in surgical education.

Congratulations to Dr. Tasce Bongiovanni, Associate Professor of Surgery and Trauma & Acute Care Surgeon, on receiving the UCSF School of Medicine 2025–2026 Long Term Mentor Award. Nominated by UCSF medical student Natasha Gonzalez, this honor recognizes Dr. Bongiovanni's outstanding commitment to mentoring and supporting the next generation of researchers, innovators, and physicians.





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Congratulations, Graduates! Welcome, Interns!

July marks an exciting time of transition at UCSF Surgery. We proudly celebrate our graduating residents as they complete their training and begin the next chapter of their careers—whether pursuing fellowship or joining the workforce as attending surgeons. Thank you for your dedication, leadership, and the lasting impact you've made on your programs.

We are excited to see all that you'll accomplish.

At the same time, we are thrilled to welcome our incoming intern class as they begin their surgical training. This is the start of an incredible journey, and we look forward to watching you learn, grow, and contribute to our teams. Welcome to UCSF, we're so glad you're here!

Below are a few highlights from residency graduation celebrations and intern socials across departments. As graduation events continue and more of our incoming interns arrive in San Francisco, we look forward to sharing additional photos and celebrating all of our residency programs in the months ahead.

OHNS



Orthopedic Surgery



OBGYN Interns



NSGY



General Surgery Interns

General Surgery



OHNS Interns



Orthopedic Surgery Interns





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Past Events

UCSF C SHORE Co Directors Tasce Bongiovanni, MD, and James Iannuzzi, MD, celebrated a successful year with an event for faculty, residents, and students.

A special congratulations to the entire C SHORE community for another outstanding year of advancing health services research, fostering collaboration, and supporting education across UCSF. Thank you to the faculty, residents, students, and C SHORE leadership whose dedication continues to make this program a success.



This June, the Department of Surgery joined the #WearOrange campaign to honor those affected by gun violence and raise awareness about prevention, healing, and community support. As the City's only Level I Trauma Center, Zuckerberg San Francisco General remains committed to advancing violence prevention, supporting recovery, and partnering with the community to build safer, healthier futures.

"Our responsibility extends beyond treating injuries. We work to advance prevention efforts, support recovery, and partner with the community to address gun violence as a critical public health issue," Dr. Joseph Cuschieri, Chief of Surgery at ZSFG.



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★ Highlights ★



Welcome to Dr. Claire de Crescenzo, who joins the UCSF Division of Vascular & Endovascular Surgery as Assistant Professor of Surgery. An East Bay native, Dr. de Crescenzo returns to the Bay Area with expertise in complex vascular disease and a commitment to expanding access to specialized surgical care.

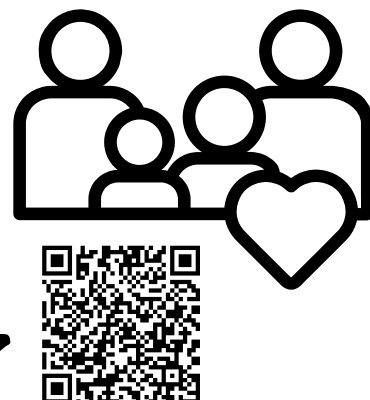
Welcome back to UCSF, Dr. Mariya Samoylova! Joining the Division of Thoracic Surgery as Assistant Professor of Surgery, Dr. Samoylova brings expertise in thoracic surgical oncology, robotic surgery, and complex thoracic procedures, along with a strong dedication to research, education, and patient centered care.



Congratulations to Dr. Qizhi Tang, Professor of Surgery in the Division of Transplant Surgery, on her appointment to the Bluestone and Rosenkrantz Immune Tolerance Professorship in Diabetes. This distinguished honor recognizes her pioneering contributions to immune tolerance research and the development of novel therapies for transplantation, autoimmune disease, and type 1 diabetes.

★ Family Resource Spotlight ★

Did you know eligible UCSF faculty receive up to 20 days of back-up child care each year through UCSF Family Services? Benefits include center-based care through Bright Horizons or in-home care, and households with two eligible faculty members may qualify for up to 40 days annually. To learn more about eligibility, co-pays, registration, and important enrollment instructions, visit the UCSF Family Services Back-Up Care webpage.





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Attention Medical Students!

Hi Muriel Steele Society Medical Students!

There are several exciting opportunities to get involved with the Muriel Steele Society this year. Whether you're interested in writing, interviewing faculty, creating social media content, or simply staying connected, we'd love to have you join us! Be sure to join the new MSS Medical Student Slack to stay up to date on opportunities and events.

1. MSS Newsletter Team

We're looking for students to join the MSS Newsletter Team. This is a great opportunity to stay informed about everything happening across the Department of Surgery while contributing your creativity and writing skills. Check out previous newsletters here



2. MSS Spotlight Interviewer

Help conduct interviews for our MSS Spotlight series! Interview UCSF surgery faculty to learn about their career paths, clinical interests, and experiences while building valuable connections within the surgical community. View previous spotlights here



3. American College of Surgeons (ACS) Conference Coverage

Attending the ACS Clinical Congress this fall? We're looking for students to help create social media content for the Department's Instagram. If you'll be there and are interested, we'd love to hear from you!



4. Have a Question? Ask MSS! ???

We're launching a new MSS Medical Student Q&A email where you can ask anything related to surgery at UCSF—from research opportunities and mentorship to clerkships, career advice, or getting involved. If we don't know the answer, we'll connect you with the faculty, residents, or students who do. No question is too small! Reach us at TheMurielSteeleSociety2@ucsf.edu





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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:

- **July 16 at 8pm ET:** AWS SCALPELS: Sustaining Health and Uplifting Women in Surgery
- **July 23 at 8pm ET:** AWS SCALPELS: Preserving Mental Health
- **July 28 at 7pm ET:** AWS Reviewer Academy
- **July 30 at 8pm ET:** AWS SCALPELS: Sustaining Healthy Habits Panel
- See the AWS calendar for dates and times of various committee meetings (publications, executive, outreach, conference planning, clinical practice, etc.)



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: Grace Kloss

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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