

March 2026 | Monthly Newsletter



MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY



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Sponsored by the UCSF Department of Surgery

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<https://murielsteelesociety.ucsf.edu>



MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY

Happy March!

We hope the month is off to a wonderful, and lucky, start! Below, you'll find the latest updates, celebrations, and highlights.

HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Celebrate International Women's Day with a week of empowering, engaging, and informative events, open to people of all genders.

The program runs from March 4th-11th. Featured events include a community Human Milk Drive in partnership with Mothers' Milk Bank California, a virtual pelvic health webinar focused on perimenopause and menopause, and a session on legal and financial planning for caring for aging parents. Additional offerings include professional headshots, virtual Drag Bingo, and more.



For the full schedule and event details, visit the UCSF International Women's Day website (scan the QR code).





★ ————— **Highlights of Achievement:** ————— ★

Medical Student Natasha Gonzales officially received her 2026 AAS Senior Medical Student Travel Award during the AAS/SUS Research awards ceremony. Supported by Dr. Tasce Bongiovanni, this award recognizes Natasha as part of the next generation of academic surgeons.



Maria Castro, MD



Residents Chelsie Anderson, MD, MS, and Maria Castro, MD, have been selected for the 2026–2027 Surgical Education Research Fellowship through the Association for Surgical Education as representatives of UCSF General Surgery Residency Program.

This prestigious fellowship supports emerging surgeon-educators who are dedicated to advancing innovation, scholarship, and excellence in surgical education. Congratulations, Dr. Anderson and Dr. Castro! The future of surgical education will undoubtedly be strengthened by your leadership and commitment.

Chelsie Anderson, MD, MS



Join us in celebrating Clara Gomez-Sanchez, MD, Assistant Professor in the School of Medicine, on being named a 2025–2026 Clinical Excellence Award recipient by the UCSF Academic Senate.

“Dr. Gomez-Sanchez exemplifies clinical excellence. Her technical skill, multidisciplinary leadership, dedication to patient-centered care, and innovative teaching distinguish her as one of the most accomplished junior faculty members at UCSF.” - Michael S. Conte, MD

Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition!





★ **Exceptional Physicians Award** ★

Congratulations to our residents and faculty who received the Exceptional Physicians Award. This award is given annually to select UCSF physicians who provide outstanding patient care, contributing to UCSF Health’s mission and exemplify UCSF PRIDE values.

Join us on March 30th, Doctors’ Day, for the presentation of the awards!



Karen Trang, MD



Chief Resident,
Department of General
Surgery

Chloe Connolly Dlott, MD



Resident,
Department of
Orthopedic Surgery

Alyssa Civantos, MD, MS



Chief Resident,
Department of
Otolaryngology - Head and
Neck Surgery

Garani S. Nadaraja, MD, FAAP



Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, **Associate Chief,** Division of Pediatric Otolaryngology, **Medical Director, Pediatric** Otolaryngology, Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland

Interim Executive Medical Director & Ambulatory Executive Medical Director for Women's Health, Associate Professor, Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, & Reproductive Services.

Roxanna Irani, MD, PhD



Ahmed Naiem, MD, FRCSC



Assistant Professor of Surgery, Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

Doruk Ozgediz, MD, MSc, FACS



Professor of Surgery, Division of Pediatric Surgery, Department of Surgery, **Director,** UCSF Center for Health Equity in Surgery and Anesthesia (CHESA)



Conference Recap



Academic Surgical Congress



The UCSF Department of Surgery headed to Central Florida on February 3rd for the 21st Annual Academic Surgical Congress. We are proud of all of our postdoctoral fellows and students who represented UCSF on a national stage!

Pacific Coast Surgical Association Annual Meeting



From February 4th-8th, trainees and faculty participated in presentations and scholarly dialog at the Pacific Coast Surgical Association meeting in Kapolei, Hawaii. Trainee presenters included Micheal Ou, MD, Hannah Chay, Rachel Huynh, Saffanat Sumra, And Laleh Foroutani.

Faculty also served as discussants and presenters throughout the meeting, including Jonathan Carter, MD, Tasce Bongiovanni, MD, MPP, Matthew Lin, MD, Lucas Thornblade, MD, MPH, Carter Lebares, MD, and Sunghoon Kim, MD helping guide and elevate national conversations in academic surgery.



UCSF medical student Hannah Chay received Best Brief Podium Presentation!





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This month in Cardiac Surgery



Congratulations to our UCSF patient, and our cardiac surgery team, lead by Amy Fiedler, MD, for completing the first UCSF heart transplant after having a total artificial heart (TAH). We are proud to be the only program in Northern California using a fully mechanical heart, and we have had the honor of implanting this life saving device in four patients so far. This device supports cardiac function on both sides of the heart while heart failure patients wait for transplant, representing a huge advancement in the world of heart transplant.



Congratulations to Bianca Bromberger, MD, who has been named as the Co-director of CT Surgery ICU for UCSF health.

Her background in critical care, ECMO, and transplant surgery reflects a career built around caring for the most medically complex patients. She could not be more suited for this role, and we look forward to watching as she helps shape the future of cardiac surgical care at UCSF.





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★ ————— This month in Thoracic Surgery ————— ★

Congratulations to Johannes R. Kratz, MD, Medical Director of Robotic Surgery and Director of Minimally Invasive & Robotic Thoracic Surgery, on being named the inaugural Chief of the Division of Thoracic Surgery at UCSF.

A distinguished surgeon-scientist, educator, and leader in robotic innovation and complex thoracic oncologic care, Dr. Kratz has played an instrumental role in shaping the Division of Thoracic Surgery from its earliest days. His appointment marks an exciting new chapter and sets a bold direction for the future of UCSF Thoracic Surgery.



Congratulations to Marko Boskovski, MD, MPH, on his appointment as Associate Program Director of the UCSF Thoracic Surgery Residency Program.

As Director of Ross and Aortic Valve–Preserving Surgery, Dr. Boskovski brings expertise in complex valve care and a strong commitment to surgical education. We look forward to his leadership and the meaningful impact he will have in shaping the training and development of our thoracic surgery residents.





MSS and UCSF Department of Surgery Celebrated #NationalWomenPhysiciansDay last month!



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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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:

- **March 3rd, 8PM EST**- Medical Student Winter Journal Club
- **March 3rd, 8PM EST**- Shinning Star Leadership Coaching Summary Session
- **March 4th, 7PM EST**- Skills Acquisition at different stages of training
- **March 11th, 8PM EST**- Surgical Mentoring Program: How to pursue research in medical school and as a surgeon scientist Conference Planning Committee
- **March 12th, 7PM EST**- AWS Industry Talk - Legal Considerations with Eliza Andonova
- **March 15th, 12PM EST**- AWS Monthly Medical Student Meeting
- **March 17th, 7PM EST**- Better Mentor, Bigger Impact! AWS Surgical Cross Mentoring Program
- **March 21st, 9AM EST**- Medical Student: Midwest Great Plains Regional Conference: Instruments of Change: Women Defining Surgical Excellence
- **March 24th, 8PM EST**- Cutting Edge Conversation with Women in Thoracic Surgery
- **March 25th - 28th** SAGES 2026 Annual 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, 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](#).

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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