

August 2026 | Monthly Newsletter



MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY



AUG. *Sponsored by the UCSF Department of Surgery*

Newsletter by: Faaizah Arshad



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Happy August, Muriel Steele Society members!

Below you will find updates, celebrations, and highlights.



Highlights of Achievement:



Congratulations to Brittany G. Abt who will be joining the UCSF Department of Surgery as Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Division of Adult Cardiothoracic Surgery. Her commitment to innovation, discovery, and surgical education makes her an exciting addition to the department.



Congratulations to Dr. Valerie M. Weaver, Professor of Surgery and Director of the Center for Bioengineering and Tissue Regeneration, who was selected as one of just 16 investigators worldwide to receive funding through the Gray Foundation's \$35 million Team Science program.

Congratulations to Dr. Haley Oosterhouse on her appointment as Co-Director of the UCSF Women's Sports Medicine Center. Together with Dr. Stephanie Wong she will advance care, education and research while supporting women and girl athletes.



Congratulations to Dr. Melissa Zimel on her appointment as Interim Chief of Orthopaedic Oncology at UCSF. She will continue advancing the department's mission of exceptional patient care, education and research.

Congratulations to Dr. Rosanna Wustrack in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery on beginning her tenure as President of the UCSF Medical Staff. She will represent UCSF physicians and guide initiatives focused on clinical quality, patient safety, medical staff governance and physician engagement across UCSF Health.



Congratulations to Dr. Chelsea Bahney in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery on receiving a UCSF Catalyst Award for her research advancing fracture healing.



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More Achievements!

**Dr. Madhulika (Mika) G. Varma**

Congratulations to Dr. Madhulika (Mika) G. Varma, Chief of Colorectal Surgery in the Department of Surgery at UCSF, on her selection for the 2026 AWSF Nina Starr Braunwald Award, a tremendous honor that recognizes her sustained and outstanding contributions to the advancement of women in surgery.

Read about Nina Starr Braunwald:

SCAN ME



2026 AWSF Attending Awards:

SCAN ME



The AWS Foundation Awards Dinner & Gala:

SCAN ME



If you're interested in attending with Dr. Kornblith & Dr. Collins, please email: Vanessa Shiffer at Vanessa.Rosado@ucsf.edu



Recent Events!

**UCSF Orthopedic Surgery**

UCSF Orthopedic Surgery at AOSM 2026!

UCSF Ophthalmology

UCSF Ophtho at their retreat!



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Recent Events!

UCSF OHNS



UCSF OHNS at a reunion dinner at AHNS 2026.

UCSF Obstetrics & Gynecology



UCSF OBGYN on their intern retreat!

Opportunities!

Attention Faculty: Seeking Medical Student Research Collaborators?

The Muriel Steele Society (MSS) Medical Student Committee has created a Research Opportunities Database for faculty, residents, and fellows in surgery and surgical subspecialties who are looking to collaborate with medical students on research projects.

If you have a current research project, or even an idea in development, and would like medical student assistance, we encourage you to add your opportunity to the database.

Medical Students: please use the "Instructions for Interested Medical Students." tab. In your email to the PI, please cc the Muriel Steele Society Med Student Committee email address:
TheMurielSteeleSociety2@ucsf.edu.

Access the database here:



You may need to be logged into your UCSF Box account to edit the spreadsheet.



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Medical Student Corner

Join the Slack
here:



We're still looking for medical students interested in getting involved with the Muriel Steele Society! Whether you'd like to contribute to the MSS Newsletter, conduct MSS Spotlight interviews with faculty, or create social media content for Department events (ACS Clinical Congress), we'd love to have you join us.

Join the MSS Medical Student Slack to stay up to date.

We're also continuing our "Ask MSS!" initiative. Have a question about surgery at UCSF? Whether it's about research opportunities, mentorship, clerkships, career planning, or getting involved, we're here to help—or connect you with someone who can. Reach us anytime at TheMurielSteeleSociety2@ucsf.edu.

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:

- **Aug 6 at 8:30pm EST**- Resident & Fellow Committee Meeting
- **Aug 13 at 8pm EST**- AWS SCALPELS: Life Transitions After Your Surgical Career
- **Aug 20 at 8pm EST**- AWS SCALPELS: Using Your Skills for Adaptability
- **Aug 27 at 8pm EST**- AWS SCALPELS: Adaptability Panel
- See the AWS Events list for additional opportunities throughout the month:



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 DC 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



Faaizah Arshad is a third-year medical student at UCSF and co-creator of the newsletter.



Grace Kloss is a third-year medical student at UCSF, MSS Vice-Chair, and co-creator of the newsletter.



Eleanor Fiege joined UCSF in 1984, and the Department of Surgery in 1990. She is the HR Liaison, and newsletter editor/proofreader.

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?

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