

September 2026 | Monthly Newsletter



MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY



SEP. *Sponsored by the UCSF Department of Surgery*

Newsletter by: Grace Kloss



MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY

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

Carrot Benefits

Carrot is a program to support family building. Residents and fellows have access to \$30,000 through Carrot toward family building, including fertility care, egg freezing, adoption, and doula services. Insurance now also covers up to three IVF cycles, which sits outside the Carrot allowance.

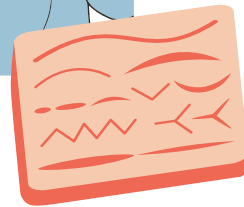
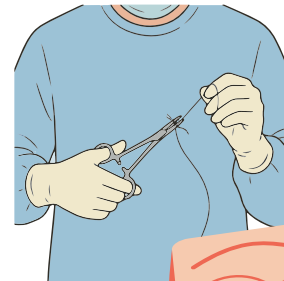
Muriel Steele Society would like to thank Maria Castro, Jake Sonnenberg, and Eva Gillis Buck, resident physicians at UCSF, for the work they did on behalf of their colleagues to help preserve Carrot Benefits. We look forward to seeing how it continues to enrich the lives of our trainees.

read more
here:



Events

The Muriel Steele Society and Stitch Lab at UCSF are excited to host a Suturing Potluck on Monday, September 14, from 5–7 PM! Attendance is limited to 25 students, so please sign up by Friday, September 4, using the linked QR code. The event will be hosted at one of our MSC vice-chairs' homes, and location details will be shared once your attendance is confirmed. We hope you'll join us for an evening of suturing practice, small bites, and community!



Thank you so much for joining us at our MSS Welcome Lunch on Monday, August 24th! We had a fantastic turnout, and it was wonderful to see so many students come together. We're incredibly excited about the energy and engagement this brings to the year ahead.

Don't forget to sign up to get involved with MSS this year. We have plenty of opportunities to connect, contribute, and engage with the UCSF surgical community. We look forward to seeing you at future events!



MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY

New Spotlight: Dr. Mary Xu

THE MSS SPOTLIGHT SERIES

**Dr. Mary Xu**

Interviewed by Esther Chai

Dr. Xu is a head and neck microvascular surgeon practicing within the Department of Otolaryngology. Her research focuses on head and neck cancer care in resource-limited healthcare settings, spanning both domestic and international contexts. She maintains ongoing partnerships with healthcare institutions in Tanzania and Rwanda.

Below is an excerpt from her spotlight, conducted by medical student Esther Chai that is **coming soon to the MSS website!**

“One thing that kind of struck me, going from a trainee to even a faculty seeking mentorship is how proactive you need to be in that mentorship relationship... The other piece that comes to mind is that the mentor mentee relationship can go both ways. I learn a lot from my mentees — they bring new ideas in different areas”

“Everything is needed. There's a place for every specialty in the global health world”





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Expanding Ovarian Cancer Prevention Across Surgical Specialties

Ovarian cancer remains the most lethal gynecologic malignancy, largely because it cannot be caught early. At least half of high-grade serous cancers arise in the fallopian tubes, where early disease is microscopic and invisible to imaging and biomarker screening.

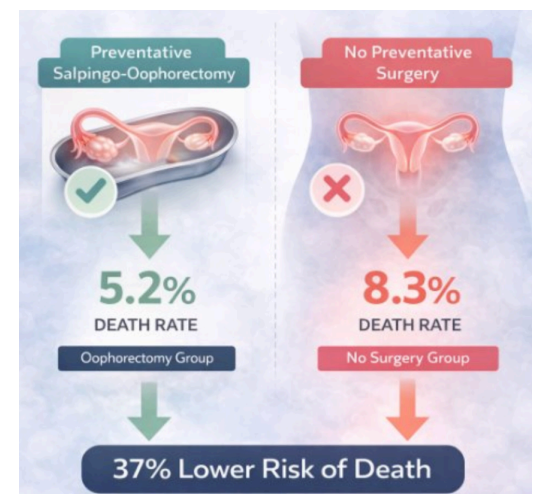
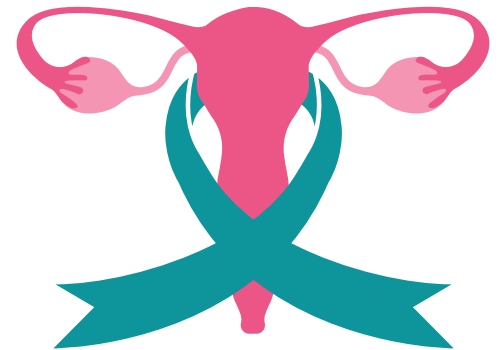
Prevention, therefore, is surgical — and it doesn't require removing the ovaries.

Large population studies show that salpingectomy alone reduces ovarian cancer risk by approximately 35% with no effect on hormonal status. Modeling suggests that routinely performing salpingectomy during other surgeries could prevent nearly 1,900 ovarian cancer deaths annually in the U.S.

Building on pioneering work by Rebecca Stone, MD, at Johns Hopkins, with whom we are collaborating, a multidisciplinary UCSF team is promoting bilateral salpingectomy at the time of planned abdominal and pelvic operations for patients who have completed childbearing. The approach is straightforward: the fallopian tubes can be removed safely in minutes using standard instruments across open, laparoscopic, and robotic approaches, often through existing ports.

The UCSF team includes Jocelyn Chapman, MD (Gynecologic Oncology); Liza Wick, MD and Caroline Erickson, MD (General Surgery); and Jonathan Carter, MD, and Sarah Palilla, PA-C (Bariatric Surgery).

We invite surgeons, trainees, and students across specialties to learn about this simple, high-impact opportunity to help prevent ovarian cancer.



JAMA Oncol. 2024;10(4):484-492.
doi:10.1001/jamaoncol.2023.6937

Information slides





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Achievements!

UCSF General Surgery Resident Eva Mae Gillis-Buck, MD, MPhil was awarded funding by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for her project, "Defining the role of RORYt-lineage antigen presenting cells in maternal-fetal tolerance."

Congratulations on this outstanding achievement, which will help deepen our understanding of the immune mechanisms that support healthy pregnancy and maternal-fetal immune tolerance.



Hirotake Komatsu, MD, PhD of the Department of Transplant Surgery received a UCSF Liver Center grant and a two-year NIH R56 award to support "Aberrant Mechano-Oxygen Coupling as a Driver of Zinc-Enriched Ectopic Mineralization in Osteoarthritis." This multi-PI project brings together investigators from UCSF Surgery, UCSF Dentistry, and Georgia Tech.

Tammy T. Chang, MD, PhD, General Surgeon and Professor of Surgery, has secured NIH R01 funding totaling more than \$2.25 million over four years. Her project, entitled "Irreversible electroportation (IRE)-mediated hepatocyte transplantation as a treatment for inborn errors of metabolism," will investigate an innovative strategy for using IRE to enable hepatocyte transplantation and pursue new therapeutic possibilities for metabolic disorders.



Dr. Andre Campbell, Professor of Surgery and Vice Chair of Opportunity and Outreach, added another international honor to his distinguished career with honorary membership into the Colombian Surgical Society. Dr. Campbell received this recognition in Cartagena, Colombia during a joint meeting with the Panamerican Trauma Society, where he joined UCSF surgeons and colleagues from across the Americas to exchange expertise, ideas, and perspectives in trauma and surgical care.



MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY

♥ Welcome to UCSF! ♥



Caroline Malhado, MD will be returning to UCSF in the Division of Pediatric Surgery as an Assistant Professor of Surgery following her pediatric surgery fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital.

Her clinical interests center on congenital and acquired esophageal and tracheal disease in children, and her scholarship focuses on pediatric trauma, emergency readiness, and global health equity.

We are very excited to welcome Dr. Malhado back and are looking forward to seeing what she does as UCSF faculty.

Maia Nofal, MD, a General Surgery resident at Boston Medical Center, and Nicholas Siena, MD, a General Surgery resident at UCLA, will be joining UCSF for their Surgical Critical Care and Acute Care Surgery Fellowship at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital.

Congratulations to you both! We look forward to seeing you at ZSFG.



Women Inspire, Support, Elevate (WISE 2.0)



This August, UCSF Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery launched Women Inspire, Support, Elevate (WISE 2.0).

The program began with a session focused on goal setting and a discussion inspired by the Harvard Business Review article entitled "Let Go of the Beliefs That Limit How You Lead."

The next WISE 2.0 session will take place on October 15th. Visit the UCSF OHNS Instagram page for additional information and updates.



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Publication Spotlight!

Congratulations to MSS Co Chair Rachel Huynh for publishing her first author JAMA Surgery research letter, “*Preoperative GLP 1 Receptor Agonist Use and Weight Loss Outcomes After Bariatric Surgery*,” under the mentorship of Jonathan Carter, MD with MSS members Rachel Prosser, Austine Peng, Tina Mai, Yimeng Li, and 2025 2026 MSS Co Chair Shraddha Pandey among the co authors. The study found that preoperative GLP 1 use neither enhanced nor diminished weight loss at one year after bariatric surgery, suggesting that preoperative pharmacologic weight loss does not come at the expense of subsequent weight loss in this period.

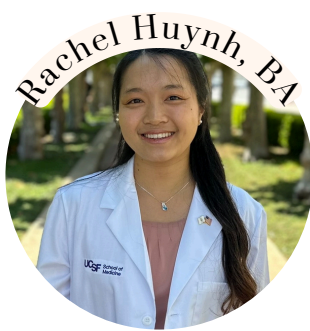
Read the full
Research
Letter here



Yimeng Li, BS



Morgan Manasa, MD



Rachel Huynh, BA



Jonathan Carter, MD



Rachel Prosser, BS



Shraddha Pandey, BA



Stanley Rogers, MD



Tina Mai, BS



Austine Peng, BS



Margaret Butchy, MD

Association of Women’s Surgeons Annual Conference

The 2026 Association of Women Surgeons (AWS) Annual Conference will take place September 25–26, 2026 in Washington, DC. This year’s theme, *Advocacy: Speaking Out and Scaling New Heights for Our Patients, Our Profession, and Ourselves*, will bring together surgeons and trainees for research presentations, mentorship, professional development, and conversations on advocacy and leadership.

Congratulations to UCSF medical student **Victoria Koffi**, who will present her research “*Identifying Health Related Social Needs and Assessing Preferred Resources Interventions in Hand and Upper Extremity Patients*” during Session 6 of the Starr Research Forum at the AWS Annual Conference on Friday, September 25th.



Victoria Koffi, BS



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American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress

Scientific
Presentations

Video- based
education session

Panel/
Moderator

Educational
Presentations

Saturday, September 26th

DC02

8:55-
10:20

Session I: Global Surgery on a National Level

Justine Broecker, MD, UCSF and Ainhoa Costas-Chavarri, MD, FACS, Ponce, Puerto Rico

Sunday, September 27th

QS101-3

12:50-
12:55

Preoperative Hemoglobin Predicts Transfusion but not Free Flap Microvascular Complications in Autologous Breast Reconstruction

Ava Daniel, BS, Alexandra J. Lopes, BA, Ginger Atwood, BA, Michael Choi, MS, Reta Behnam-Hanona, BA, Christopher Vargas, BA, Daniel Sina Rouhani, BS and Merisa Piper, MD, FACS

VE101

12:56-
1:06

Extended Pleurectomy, Decortication, and Bilobectomy for Pleural Mesothelioma

Yolana Moonsamy, MD, Adrian Valderrama, MD, Anna Huang, MD, Henry Manuel. Olivera-Perez, MD, Katemanee Burapachaisri, BS and Jeffrey Velotta, MD, FACS. UCSF

QS101-3

1:00-1:05

Predictors of Mastectomy SKIN Flap and Nipple Areolar Complex SKIN Scores Following Nipple Sparing Mastectomy with Immediate Reconstruction

Michael Choi, MS, Alexandra J. Lopes, BA, Ava Daniel, BS, Austin Colorado McBride, BS, Isabella LeKander, BA, Ginger Atwood, BA, Denice Segovia, BS, Sukjun Lee, BA, Christopher Vargas, BA and Merisa Piper, MD, FACS

QS101-3

1:05-1:10

Neighborhood-Level Socioeconomic Deprivation and Postoperative Complication Risk in DIEP Flap Reconstruction: The Role of Reconstruction Timing

Ava Daniel, BS, Alexandra J. Lopes, BA, Reta Behnam-Hanona, BA, Ginger Atwood, BA, Michael Choi, MS, Christopher Vargas, BA, Daniel Sina Rouhani, BS and Merisa Piper, MD, FACS

QS101-3

1:10-1:25

Perforator Row and Quantity Selection in DIEP Flap Breast Reconstruction: Associations with Breast and Donor-Site Outcomes

Isabella LeKander, BA, Alexandra J. Lopes, BA, Michael Choi, MS, Ava Daniel, BS, Denice Segovia, BS, Christopher Vargas, BA, Daniel Sina Rouhani, BS, Reta Behnam-Hanona, BA and Merisa Piper, MD FACS

VE101

1:18-1:29

Pafolacianine-guided Intraoperative Molecular Imaging Of Pulmonary Nodules During Video-assisted Thoracic Surgery (vats)

Elaine Liang, BA, Henry Manuel Olivera-Perez, MD, Anna Huang, MD, Yolana Moonsamy, MD and Jeffrey Velotta, MD, FACS

SF104

1:25-1:33

Infection after Immediate Implant-Based Reconstruction: A Randomized Trial of Postoperative Antibiotic Duration and Mastectomy Indication

Alexandra J. Lopes, BA, Michael Choi, MS, Jacquelyn Alexandra Knox, MD and Merisa Piper, MD, FACS



MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY

American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress

Sunday, September 27th (Continued)

VE101 1:29-1:41	Pleurectomy and Decortication in Stage I Pleural Epithelioid Mesothelioma	Elaine Liang, BA, Henry Manuel Olivera-Perez, MD, Anna Huang, MD, Yolana Moonsamy, MD and Jeffrey Velotta, MD, FACS
VE102 1:45-1:56	A Completely Intra-Parenchymal Approach for Robotic Segment VIII Hepatectomy	Architha Kannan, MBBS, Han Yin, MD, Laleh Foroutani, MD, Sophia Hernandez, MD, MAS, Carlos Uriel Corvera, MD, FACS, Adnan A. Alseidi, MD, EdM, FACS and Mohamed Adam, MD
QS102-3 2:40-2:45	Operative Autonomy, Performance, and Complexity in COSECSA General Surgery Teaching Programs	Justine Broecker, MD
2:50-2:55	The Association Between an Initial Complete Set of Vital Signs and Survival for Injured Children in the United States	Ashley Stoeckel, MD, Maria Castro, MD, Amy Miskovic, Bhavin Patel, Avery B. Nathens, MD, PhD, FACS, David Patrick Mooney, MD, FACS, Brian Yorkgitis, DO, FACS, Michael Dingeldein, MD, FACS, Katherine Remick and Aaron R. Jensen, MD, FACS

Monday, September 28th

VE202 8:12-8:23	Robotic Resection of a Cystic Paraganglioma Involving the Inferior Vena Cava and Duodenum	Kayla Switalla, MD, Anna Alexandra Fishbein, MD, Umesh Masharani, MBBS, Carlos Uriel Corvera, MD, FACS and June Peng, MD, FACS
SF211 12:45-12:53	A Qualitative Study of the Patient Experience after Post-Mastectomy Flat Closure	Reta Behnam-Hanona, BA, Alex Plonkowski, MD, Michael Choi, MS, Alexandra J. Lopes, BA, Daniel Soroudi, BS, Molly Elizabeth Baxter, BA, Jacquelyn Alexandra Knox, MD and Merisa Piper, MD, FACS
PS217 12:45-2:14	Updated Guidelines for Differentiated Thyroid Cancer: What's New?	Moderator: Julie A. Sosa, MD, MA, FACS
PS217 1:30-2:15	Four Cases Highlighting Application of the Guidelines to Patient Care	Julie A. Sosa, MD, MA, FACS and David Steward, MD, FACS
SF214 1:57-2:05	Preliminary Impact Evaluation of a Novel, Membership-Based Emergency Medical Service in Nairobi: Assessing Timely Access to Care	Brittany Robinson, MD, MPH, Isaac Obeng-Gyasi, MBChB, MPH, Daniela Salinas, MPH, Mark Yost, MD, MPH, Fanny Nadia Dissak Delon, MD, MPH, PhD, Carolyn R. Matifary, MBChB, MMed Fam Med, MPPM, Sammy Wafula Simiyu, BSc, MPH, Andrew N. Mertens, PhD, Catherine J. Juillard, MD, MPH, FACS and Marissa A. Boeck, MD, MPH, FACS



MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY

American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress

Monday, September 28th (Continued)

QS203-3 3:00-3:05	"When You're on the Streets, That's Survival" Qualitatively Exploring Access to Scheduled Surgical Care for People Experiencing Homelessness in an Urban, Public Health System	Gunter Lugo, MS, Maxwell J. Presser, MD, MPH, Adrienne Greer, MPH, Tanya Majumder, MD, MS, Hannah Decker, MD, Sandhya Bondada Kumar, MD, FACS, Joanna Eveland, MD, Amanda Sammann, MD, FACS and Marissa A. Boeck, MD, MPH, FACS
QS203-4 3:25-3:30	Neighborhood Disadvantage and Perioperative Outcomes in Children's Appendectomy: Patient- and Hospital-Level Findings from the ACS NSQIP- Pediatric Cohort	Abigail Loszko, MD, MSc, Melvin Coleman, MPH, Catherine Grant, BSN, RN, Nicole A. Wilson, PhD, MD, FACS, Lan Vu, MD, FACS and Jacqueline Saito, MD, MSCI, MBA, FACS
PS235 4:15-5:45	Gynecologic and Breast Cancer Risk-Reducing Operations: Optimizing Multidisciplinary Surgical Collaborations	Moderator: Lee-may Chen, MD, FACS
PS235 4:15-4:30	Overview of Coordinated Breast, Plastics, and Gynecologic Surgery	Speaker: Lee-may Chen, MD, FACS
PS235 5:10-5:30	Options of Breast Reconstruction and Prevention—Collaborating with Gynecology	Speaker: Merisa Piper, MD, FACS
PS237	Goals of Care for Palliative Cancer Cases: Communication Strategies in Action	Moderator: Emily V. Finlayson, MD, MS, FACS
PS237 4:15-4:27	Introduction to Prognostication & Communication in Geriatric Patients	Speaker: Emily V. Finlayson, MD, MS, FACS
PS237 5:20-5:45	Q&A	Emily V. Finlayson, MD, MS, FACS and Bridget Fahy, MD, FACS
SF233 5:04-5:15	Valve-Sparing Root Replacement vs. Bentall Procedure: Propensity-Matched Outcomes	Safal Sapkota, BA, Mahmoud Kutmah, BA, Joan Joshy, BA and Marko Boskovski, MD, MHS, MPH
SF224 5:18-5:26	Machine Learning-Based Correlation of Venous Morphology with Hemorrhagic Shock Stages Using Volumetric M-Mode Ultrasound in a Swine Model	Ariyan Tabesh, MD, Tripti Mathur, MD, Shahram Aarabi, MD, MPH, FACS, Sahil Patel, MD and Michael A. Kohn, MD



MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY

American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress

Tuesday September 29th

DC06:
8:30-8:45

Current Management of Intracranial Hypertension and Severe TBI

Speaker: Joseph Cuschieri, MD, FACS

VE303
9:45-11:15

Cardiothoracic Surgery II

Co-Moderator: Johannes R. Kratz, MD, FACS

SF307
9:53-10:01

Implementation of an Enhanced Recovery Protocol Improves Racial and Ethnic Equity in Pediatric Surgical Care

Johanna Borst, MD, Alexandra Highet, MD, MSc, Ashley Carol Dodd, MD, MSc, Willemijn Schäfer, PhD, Jane Holl, MD, MPH, Yao Tian, PhD and Mehul V. Raval, MD, MSc

QS301-6
10:10-10:15

Aneurysm Sac Expansion Predicts Adverse Events but not Mortality after Thoracic Endovascular Aortic Repair: Analysis of 3,221 Patients

Saad Balamane, Seth Thomas Sankary, MD, FACS and Trissa Ann Babrowski, MD, FACS

PS322
12:45-2:15

Managing the Difficult Patient: Communication, Compassion, and Professionalism Under Pressure

Co-Moderator: Rochelle A. Dicker, MD, FACS

SF314
12:45-2:15

Cardiothoracic Surgery

Moderator: Johannes R. Kratz, MD, FACS

VE306
12:56-1:10

Robotic Extrahepatic Bile Duct Resection for a Primary Bile Duct Neuroendocrine Tumor Using ICG to Define Tumor Margin

Anna Alexandra Fishbein, MD, Kayla Switalla, MD, Carlos Uriel Corvera, MD, FACS and June Peng, MD, FACS

SF311
1:41-1:49

From Prevention to Impact: A Longitudinal Evaluation of a Vascular Surgery Program at a Safety-Net Hospital

Tripti Mathur, MBBS, Ariyan Tabesh, MD, Sahil Patel, MD, Camille Jackson, MD and Shahram Aarabi, MD, MPH, FACS

Congratulations to everyone who is presenting, speaking, or having their work showcased at ACS and AWS! We're looking forward to an exciting weekend and the many connections to come.

We encourage everyone to support your fellow UCSF colleagues and celebrate their work throughout the conferences.

Did we miss your contribution to ACS or AWS? Please let us know at MurielSteeleSociety2@ucsf.edu so we can ensure that you are recognized!



MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY

Get Involved with MSS!

Looking to get more involved with MSS and the UCSF surgical community? Here are a few ways to participate and stay connected this year:

MSS Newsletter Team

Help create the MSS newsletter and share updates from across the Department of Surgery. This is a great opportunity for students interested in writing and communications.

**MSS Spotlight Interviews**

Interview UCSF surgery faculty about their careers, clinical interests, and experiences while making connections across the surgical community.

**ACS Clinical Congress Coverage**

Attending ACS Clinical Congress this fall? Help create social media content highlighting the conference for the Department of Surgery Instagram.

MSS Research Database

Looking for research opportunities or collaborators? Use the MSS Research Database to connect with faculty based on research interests and available projects.

**Join the MSS Slack**

Join our Slack to connect with other members, hear about opportunities and events, communicate within your committees, and ask questions.

**Have a Question? Ask MSS!** 🤔🤔🤔

Questions about research, mentorship, clerkships, career planning, or getting involved in surgery at UCSF? Email us at TheMurielSteeleSociety2@ucsf.edu. If we don't know the answer, we'll help connect you with someone who does.



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:

- **September 20th: 12-1 pm ET:** Medical Student Monthly Meeting
- **September 22nd: 7-8 pm ET:** AWS Reviewer Academy
- **September 25th-26th:** Washington, DC: AWS Conference



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 San Francisco 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.

Thank you for reading!

MSS Communications Committee:

Resident Leads: Alexis Colley and Fernanda Romero-Hernandez

Medical Student Lead: Grace Kloss

Newsletter: Grace Kloss, Faaizah Arshad and Eleanor Fiege

Social Media: Grace Kloss



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 Surgery in 1990. She is the departmental HR Liaison and newsletter editor.

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 or include in the Newsletter? Email us at themurielsteelesociety2@ucsf.edu.

Want to become more involved with the Muriel Steele Society?

Email us at themurielsteelesociety2@ucsf.edu.



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