

May 2026 | Monthly Newsletter



MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY



MAY *Sponsored by the UCSF Department of Surgery*

Newsletter by: Grace Kloss



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Happy May!

We hope you enjoyed Earth Day and all the April events across our community. See below for updates, celebrations, and highlights.

MSS Visiting Professor & Grand Rounds



We would be honored to have you join us for the Muriel Steele Society Visiting Professor events and Grand Rounds. We'll gather Wednesday evening to celebrate both our **MSS Honor Roll recipients** and the Society's recent **AAMC award**, followed by **Grand Rounds** featuring our Visiting Professor, Dr. Yvonne Kelly.

Dr. Kelly is a former UCSF General Surgery resident who completed her fellowship in Abdominal Transplant and Hepatobiliary Surgery at New York-Presbyterian/Columbia–Cornell. She is now an Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery at UC Davis. Please join us in welcoming her!



Please RSVP Here





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Research Spotlight

A recent publication by Dayana Shariff, Fareha Moulana Zada, and Dr. Rosanna Wustrack highlights “Barriers to Entering Surgical Specialties for Hijab-Wearing Medical Students in the United States.” The study found that operating room (OR) sterility policies and perceptions surrounding the hijab create barriers that lead some trainees to avoid the OR and reconsider pursuing surgical specialties. We encourage members to read this article to learn more about these challenges, as well as suggested strategies for creating a more inclusive and supportive surgical training environment.



Dayana Shariff



Fareha Moulana Zada



Rosanna Wustrack, MD



UCSF Surgery was well represented at the Latino Surgical Symposium in Chicago. Speakers included Keli Santos-Parker, MD, PhD, Jessica Santos-Parker, MD, PhD, Axel Gomez, MD, Jackelyn Moya, MD, MS, MPH, Diego Martinez Mendiola, BA, and Sabrina Sedano, BS Congratulations to Dr. Keli Santos-Parker for winning a research award!



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Association for Surgical Education 2026 Recap



UCSF Surgery had a strong showing at the 2026 Association for Surgical Education (ASE) Annual Meeting. Faculty, trainees, and education leaders were well represented throughout the conference, highlighting the depth and impact of UCSF's contributions to surgical education.



Congratulations to all who were recognized! Collectively, UCSF participants earned four grants, multiple ASE Education Awards, two presentation awards, and celebrated two Surgical Education Research Fellowship (SERF) graduates,



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EARTH DAY



In honor of Earth Day, we're proud to highlight a leader in our community advancing sustainability and climate health.

Marya Zlatnik, MD, MMS, is a UCSF maternal-fetal medicine specialist and Associate Director of the Maternal Fetal Health and the Environment Program within the UCSF Western States Pediatric Environmental Health Speciality Unit (PEHSU). Her research focuses on how environmental exposures such as air pollution, PFAS, and wildfires affect pregnancy and fetal health. She also helps lead efforts to integrate climate and environmental health into clinical care and medical education.

As Dr. Zlatnik shares, "I encourage learners at all levels to consider 'caring/choosing wisely,' as following evidence-based guidelines and thinking about costs are valuable ways to incorporate sustainability in clinical care."

We're grateful for Dr. Zlatnik's leadership in this space on Earth Day and every day. We also recognize the many faculty, trainees, and staff contributing to climate and sustainability efforts across UCSF. Thank you for all you do!



Dr. Andre Campbell, MD, FACS, FACP, FCCM, MAMSE, DABS, FCBC, Trauma Surgeon and Vice Chair of Opportunity & Outreach at the University of California, San Francisco, was recently recognized for his more than 30 years of leadership, mentorship, and enduring contributions to surgical education. On April 29th, He was inducted as a Fellow of the Association for Surgical Education at the 2026 ASE Annual Meeting in Atlanta, a distinction reserved for individuals who have made significant and lasting contributions to the field.

Earlier this month, he delivered the prestigious Claude H. Organ Memorial Lectureship at the 77th Scientific Meeting of the Southwestern Surgical Congress in Tucson, Arizona—an honor that reflects his national impact in advancing surgical education and mentorship.

Together, these recognitions highlight a career dedicated not only to excellence, but to shaping the future of surgery through education, leadership, and opportunity.





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 Achievements!

Dr. Armita Basu, PhD, Associate Professor of Surgery, along with co-leads Laurel Bray-Hanin, COO of the UCSF Cancer Center, and Igna Lennes, Health System Sponsor, helped secure a \$1.2M PCORI Health Systems Implementation Initiative Award to transform how cancer care is delivered across UCSF Health.

This 4 year initiative will roll out real-time symptom monitoring across 33 practices, aiming to reduce complications, ER visits, and hospitalizations while improving patient quality of life.

We look forward to seeing the system-wide, patient-first impact this effort will have.



Thomas Li, MD



Dr. Thomas Li, General Surgery Resident, has been named the recipient of the 2025–2026 GME Excellence & Innovation Award in Education & Mentorship. Selected through peer and faculty nominations, this honor recognizes his consistent impact in the training environment.

He will be celebrated at the GME Awards Ceremony on May 11, 2026

Dr. Raghav Chandra, Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellow, has been selected for the FAST-CaR program, an oncology-focused clinical research pathway developed in collaboration with UCSF Epidemiology & Biostatistics.

Through FAST-CaR, fellows engage in longitudinal research development, peer feedback, and mentored project refinement. Dr. Chandra's work in lung cancer biology and disparities in cardiothoracic surgical care reflects this programs mission, and we look forward to seeing his works' impact!





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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:

- **May 17th 12:00- 1:00 PM ET:** AWS Medical Student Monthly Meeting
- **May 19th 7:00-8:00 PM ET:** Better Mentor, Bigger Impact! AWS Surgical Cross Mentoring Program
- **May 21st 6:00 PM ET:** AWS and WITS Cutting Edge Conversation: "More Than Skill: What it Really Takes to Succeed in Trauma Surgery"
- See the AWS calendar for dates and times of various committee meetings (publicaitons, executive, outreach, conference planning, clincial practice, ect)



Deadlines:

- Submit Award Nominations for women surgeons, trainees, and allies to be honored by **May 21**.
- Practicing surgeons are invited to submit an abstract for the AWS Annual Conference Starr Research Forum by **May 21**.
- The call for 2026 AWS Executive Committee Nominations is now open and closes **June 3, 2026**.

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: Alison 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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