



MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY

JUNE 2021 EVENTS AND UPDATES

Dear Muriel Steele Society Members,

We hope all of you had a wonderful holiday weekend - hopefully your Memorial Day this year looked a little bit different from last year's now that so many of us and our family and friends have been vaccinated.

As many of you know, each September is the AMA's **Women in Medicine Month**. This year, we are hoping to celebrate #WIMMonth by highlighting the **diversity and mentorship** of women surgeon trainees and faculty at UCSF. We invite all MSS members to take 3 minutes to fill out this [survey](#). We will compile responses over the next several months - stay tuned for an exciting September!

Last month, we hosted our 3rd annual **Department of Surgery Women in Surgery Grand Rounds**. **Dr. Minerva Romero Arenas** gave an excellent talk on the subject of DEI in the Surgical Workplace. If you missed it, you can access the recording of her talk [here](#). We were also fortunate to host Dr. Romero Arenas for a conversation with the MSS the evening before, moderated by Drs. Jessica Gosnell, Clara Gomez-Sanchez, and Sophia Hernandez. Thank you to our moderators and all of you for joining.

Last month, we also announced this year's **Honor Roll Nominations**. Thank you to everyone who submitted a nomination and congratulations to our nominees! It's an honor to work with all of you.



MURIEL STEELE
SOCIETY

HONOR ROLL 2021

UCSF General/Plastic Surgery

Nancy Ascher, MD, PhD
Laura Barnes, MD
Jhoanne Bautista, MD, PhD
Marissa Boeck, MD, MPH
Tasce Bongiovanni, MD, MPP
Hillary Braun, MD
Hueylan Chern, MD
Caitlin Collins, MD, MPH
Nicole Conkling, MD
Patricia Conroy, MD
Hannah Decker, MD
Ceazon Edwards, MD
Rym El Khoury, MD
Laura Esserman, MD, MBA
Sandy Feng, MD, PhD
Alexa Glencer, MD
Clara Gomez-Sanchez, MD
Jade Hiramoto, MD
Cindy Huynh, MD
Yvonne Kelly, MD
Esther Kim, MD
Kimberly Kirkwood, MD
Lucy Kornblith, MD
Jasleen Kukreja, MD, MPH
Elizabeth Lancaster, MD
Carter Lebares, MD
Kelly Mahuron, MD
Caroline Melhado, MD
Sarah Mohamedaly, MD, MPH
Amanda Mueller, MD
Rita Mukhtar, MD
Audrey Nguyen, MD
Keon Young Park, MD, PhD
Keon Min Park, MD
Jenni Perri, MD, MBA
Merisa Piper, MD
Linda Reilly, MD
Marisa Schwab, MD
Julie Ann Sosa, MD, MA
Mika Varma, MD
Jasmine Wong, MD
Mignote Yilma, MD

Kaiser General Surgery

Althaea Greenstone, MD
Susannah Rose, MD, PhD

UCSF East Bay

Amal Khoury, MD, MPH
Katherine Stern, MD

UCSF Neurosurgery

Arati Patel, MD

UCSF Obstetrics and Gynecology

Eleanor Drey, MD, EdM
Rosanna Galzote-Carino, MD
Jolene Kokroko, MD, MPH
Jerrine Morris, MD

UCSF OHNS

Anna Butrymowicz, MD, MS
Jolie Chang, MD
Marika Russell, MD
Nancy Wang, MD
Jacqueline Weinstein, MD
Mary Xu, MD

UCSF OMFS

Minerva Loi, DDS, MD

UCSF Ophthalmology

Lauren Hennein, MD
Yvonne Ou, MD
Sriranjani Padmanabhan, MD
Saras Ramanathan, MD
Julie Schallhorn, MD, MS
Gerami Seitzman, MD
Miel Sundararajan, MD

UCSF Orthopaedic Surgery

Nicole Schroeder, MD
Rosanna Wustrack, MD
Melissa Zimel, MD

UCSF Urology

Carissa Chu, MD
Domenique Escobar, MD
Lindsay Hampson, MD, MAS

Last month, we hosted our third of three virtual **Wellness Workshops** by **Nfinite Strength** - thank you to everyone for participating! Moving forward, we hope to host one of these workshops each year.

If you participated in these events but did not receive an email with information about how to access online resources, please email sarah.mohamedaly@ucsf.edu or patricia.conroy@ucsf.edu.

We are excited for our next **MSS Second Tuesday Wellness Event**. On Tuesday, **June 8, 2021 from 7-8 PM** we will be hosting a **MSS Journal Club**. The journal club's theme will be: **Gender Differences and Differential Achievement in Surgery**.

The two articles (attached to this email) we will be discussing are:

- Gender Disparity in Awards in General Surgery Residency Programs (Kuo et al. JAMA Surgery. 2021.)
- Women Surgeons' Experiences of Interprofessional Workplace Conflict (Dossett et al. JAMA Network Open. 2020.)

Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021

Time: 7-8 PM

Event: Journal Club

Location: [Zoom](#) (Meeting ID: 922 6759 4491, Password: 165478)

This summer, we are excited to bring back some **in-person, outdoor wellness events**, with our first being in July to welcome our new trainees. Stay tuned for more information.

This month, we are so excited to share a brand new spotlight featuring **Dr. Lan Vu**, a pediatric surgeon here at UCSF and an Associate Program Director of our general surgery residency. Dr. Vu was interviewed by medical student **Ruth Laverde**. To read our prior **MSS Spotlights**, the interviews are uploaded [here](#) on the MSS website.

Thanks for reading!

Your **MSS Communications Committee**

(J. Bautista, M. Boeck, M. Coleman, P. Conroy, L. Wong, D. Martins)

Muriel Steele Society Spotlight Series

Dr. Lan Vu

Interview by Ruth Laverde

Question 1: You often tell me that the people around us have so much influence on our career paths — what impact has mentorship had on you and your surgical career?

LV: My mentors gave me the confidence that I didn't have in myself —made me feel like I was capable and was able to show me all the things that I could do that I thought were like second nature to everybody else. My first mentors in Surgery were the residents with whom I worked when I was a third-year medical student — just being in awe of their commitment to their patients and then being able to try to see if I could see myself in their shoes ... there were big shoes to fill, and so I didn't think I was capable of that. Then I met Dr. Hanmin Lee —who's my boss, my colleague, and my friend now when he first started as UCSF faculty and I was a third-year medical student. He has always kind of pushed me in directions that I felt a little uncomfortable — uncomfortable in the sense that I didn't feel like I was capable. It's easy to fall into a comfortable position right, like something that is always easy or to take the easy way but he's always kind of nudged me into leadership and things that required me to speak up and allowed for my voice to be heard. It challenged me and made me realize I can do this. And that's what keeps me going — to have that kind of support: "I know you can do it, I know you didn't think you could, but you definitely can do it."

One example of Dr. Lee's mentorship happened when I started out as faculty, fresh out of training. I was doing a thoracoscopic lobectomy in an infant. The affected lobe can be inflated with large cysts in these congenital cystic lung lesions, which can obscure the operative field. The case can be kind of stressful and Dr. Lee was proctoring me; even now it's always good to have a friend in the room. I was struggling during the case given the less than optimal view and he just let me struggle. At the end of the case, he said, "You know, Lan, maybe next time you should put another port in to help you" and I said, "... Four hours into the case, we're done, and you're telling me this NOW?" He's like "well you wouldn't remember unless you struggled, right? If I told you, from the beginning, then it would just be like somebody told you how to do it, but now you'll remember the struggle." The struggle IS what you'll remember and I feel like it makes you in tune with your learning and those are the most impactful moments.

Question 2: If not surgery, then what?

LV: Oh that's an easy one because I've thought about it since I was a kid. I'd be a journalist, I would like to travel the world and write about people. A journalist because it was something that I didn't think I could be. English wasn't my first language. English or being able to communicate wasn't something that my family stressed as important. As an immigrant, it's a little bit harder.... you feel that you're not the best speaker or that

you don't write as well. Other things like math and science always came a little bit easier for me. I had to work really hard to express myself in writing ...but when I did, it felt great. It was a challenge, and so when I did succeed it just felt like —that I could own it. I became a doctor, instead, because that was easier.

Question 3: Classic! Who would your first article be on or where would it take place for your first article?

LV: I don't know - I hadn't thought about that! As I got older, I thought, the best job in the world would be a food critic. I could write about the food and the people. You would just meet all the local people, eat different types of food, and write about the history behind the food and how it all integrates into life and culture. That would be like my dream job.

RL: If you were to suddenly stop operating and decided to run a street food blog I would read it! It sounds like a dream job with a lot of yummy street food.

LV: My son gets really excited about the fact that you could sit on the sidewalk in Vietnam and eat food. He's like “ We can go EVERYWHERE in the street and there's food?” and I'm like “yeah ...just walk outside and there's food at every corner.” Can't wait to go back with him.

RL: Well, maybe that's what he'll end up doing. Street food critic.

LV: I can live vicariously through him.

RL: Is that every parent's dream? I'm still trying to figure that out.

LV: To be honest, I think there's a little bit of a push from your parents for what they would have wanted for themselves, but they didn't have the opportunity to do. My parents didn't have the opportunity to go to college and do all the things I did. My mom loved science, so she would buy medical textbooks and anatomy books. When I was going to school we'd have a library of old books. She would love to read the books and would absorb all this information because I think she always wanted to be a doctor. Fortunately, I enjoy being a doctor and I enjoy being a surgeon so I'm happy to have her live vicariously through me.

The remainder of Dr. Vu's interview with Ruth will be uploaded on the MSS website [here](#).

The Muriel Steele Society is an inclusive community dedicated to inspiring, supporting, and promoting women 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.

All women surgeons or medical students interested in surgery are included in the society but we recognize that some women may have been inadvertently left out of these emails. Please forward to anyone who you think might like to be included in the MSS. If you are interested in membership, please email us at themurielsteelesociety@ucsf.edu.

For more information about the Muriel Steele Society, please visit our [website](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#).

See what's coming up next on the [Muriel Steele Society's calendar of events](#).

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? We especially welcome women in other surgical departments to join our Executive Council! Email co-chairs Mika Varma (mika.varma@ucsf.edu) or Lucy Kornblith (Lucy.Kornblith@ucsf.edu) for more information.