



MURIEL STEELE SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 2020 EVENTS AND UPDATES

Dear Muriel Steele Society Members,

We hope everyone is continuing to stay healthy and safe as we move into the Fall!

September is the American Medical Association's **Women in Medicine Month**, created to recognize the growing number of women in our profession.

We will be highlighting the fantastic women surgeons in our Department throughout the month on our [Twitter](#) (@UCSFMSS) and [Instagram](#) (@murielsteelesociety_ucsf).

Please fill out this [link](#) (as many times as you want!) - follow us on social media and you will find out why!

We want to send a special thank you to **Dr. Sosa** and the Department of Surgery for sponsoring a **UCSF Institutional Membership** to the **Association of Women Surgeons (AWS)** for this academic year. With this, all women categorical General Surgery, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, and Vascular Surgery Residents automatically became AWS Members. If you belong to this group of residents and *did not* receive an email from the AWS with your membership registration information, please let us know.

Last month, we began our new **Second Tuesday Wellness Events!** Every second Tuesday of the month, the MSS will host a Zoom-based Wellness Event.

Our first "Second Tuesday" was the "**What I Wish I Knew as an Intern**" event. Several surgical interns and medical students applying to surgery this year heard words of wisdom from junior and senior surgery residents about how to succeed in surgical internship. Thank you to everyone for participating!

Our second "Second Tuesday" was this week, where we hosted Drs. Diane Sliwka and Michelle Mourad, from the Department of Medicine, who are on a listening tour to understand the barriers to **Lactation Support for Surgical Specialties**. Thank you to all of the women who participated and shared their stories. We would love to hear from **more attendings** regarding their experiences - if anyone has comments or suggestions, please fill out this [link](#). Thank you to Drs. Sliwka and Mourad for spearheading this important initiative - we look forward to seeing some positive changes!

Stay tuned for our next Wellness Event, which will be held on **Tuesday, October 13, 2020** - this will be a "water-cooler", informal Zoom get-together!

We are excited to continue sharing **The MSS Spotlights**. Our third spotlight features Dr. Doris Wang as interviewed by our medical student Megan Casey. An excerpt is below and the whole interview will be uploaded [here](#) on the MSS website.

Next month, we are excited to host **Dr. Melina Kibbe**, Chair of the Department of Surgery at UNC, who will be joining us at UCSF (virtually) for the Annual Resident Research Symposium on **October 28, 2020**. The MSS will be hosting a lunchtime conversation with Dr. Kibbe, which will be limited to Department of Surgery Members.

Lastly, we have included an [editorial](#) published last week in the *World Journal of Surgery* by our very own **Dr. Sosa**. In this editorial, Dr. Sosa discusses the #MedBikini Controversy and steps that the *WJS* is taking to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Thanks for reading!

Your **MSS Communications Committee**

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

Muriel Steele Society Spotlight Series

Dr. Doris Wang

Interview by Megan Casey

Question 1: What is one thing you know now that you wish you had known during training?

DW: One thing I wish I had known during my training is the support network and resources that are out there now, especially for female neurosurgeons in particular. At the time that I entered the neurosurgery training program here, I was one of 3 female residents. Today, 4 of the 6 PGY 1 and 2s are female, so our numbers are definitely increasing. At the time of my training, there also weren't that many great female neurosurgeon mentors, so I sought my mentorship elsewhere. Another thing I wish I had known earlier is that the culture of the entire field is also changing, becoming more benign. People are more understanding and want to strike a balance between work and life. I was kind of pleasantly surprised by the amount of support I got throughout my training.

Question 2: Who do you admire?

DW: Oh, there are so many people. The first person is probably my college research mentor, Dr. Angelique Bordey. She was at Yale Medical School, a newly minted assistant professor and basic scientist studying neurophysiology. I basically just approached her, without having any prior research experience, and she taught me everything: how to think about a scientific

question, how to perform research, and she just gave me so many opportunities in terms of being first author on manuscripts and being able to present my research, even as an undergrad. That opened the door for me to go into this physician-scientist pathway. Then throughout my whole life I've been so lucky to have phenomenal mentors that continue to inspire me, who are great role models and colleagues. All of them, besides being incredibly successful scientist-surgeons, also model a sense of balance and encourage me to have a life outside of work as well. That's really important and encouraging -- they care about my wellbeing besides just how I am doing academically. That goes the same for my mentors here: Dr. Philip Starr, Dr. Eddie Chang, my chairman. They have all been so instrumental in my training. For me, it's really inspiring to see how much they've accomplished, not only academically and professionally, but also in their personal lives, how much they care for their mentees, and just how they're able to encourage the next generation. Now I'm in a position where I can look to inspire the next generation, so that's what I'm hoping to do.

Question 3: What impact has mentorship had on your surgical career?

DW: I wouldn't be here today without these mentors. I think one reason why I chose neurosurgery, especially UCSF neurosurgery, is having these role models. They are great technical surgeons and leaders of their field, developing new techniques with great patient outcomes and satisfaction. In addition, they really are at the frontier of pushing the field forward. From what Dr. Eddie Chang does with human language mapping in the epilepsy surgery world, to what Dr. Philip Starr does for movement disorders. These are pioneers who are really changing the world, changing how we understand the human brain, and how we can use these technologies and technological innovations to advance therapy for patients. It's so inspiring to have these neurosurgeon scientists as role models. Not only that, they are huge advocates for me as well-- encouraging me to stay in the field and telling me it's possible to do both. Without their mentorship and guidance, I wouldn't have thought this is possible. And trust me, along the way many, many people have discouraged me from going into this route. It's actually the people within the department, who are doing it, who are the most encouraging. I don't think I could've gotten here without them.

The rest of the interview will be uploaded [here](#) and features their perspectives on alternative career choices and their inspirations.

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 are included in the society but if you are interested in getting involved in the council, please email Drs. Kornblith and Varma.

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

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? Email co-chairs Mika Varma (mika.varma@ucsf.edu) or Lucy Kornblith (Lucy.Kornblith@ucsf.edu) for more information.