

# IN THE LOUPE



## DR. JULIE ANN SOSA



**Dear Colleagues,** As we wrap up another eventful year, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on our collective accomplishments and share my gratitude for all that we've achieved together. This year has been one of growth, progress, and meaningful milestones that highlight our commitment to excellence in surgery, education, research, and advocacy.

After years of planning and negotiations, we officially launched the cutting-edge simulation and skills center designed to enhance surgical training. With 5,730 square feet of dedicated space for multiple simultaneous sessions, the **Da Vinci robot**, a **laparoscopic training room**, **endoscopy**, **microsurgical techniques**, a **3-D printer** for models, and a resident lounge area, the skill center can support trainees from numerous specialties, medical students, and community engagement. It's a resource that will shape the future of surgical education, and I encourage everyone to take full advantage of it.

creating a fair and supportive environment for all. These accomplishments are not just milestones on a calendar—they are the result of your collective efforts, your drive, and your belief in what we can achieve together. I am grateful to be part of such a diverse, enterprising, and supportive surgical community.

As we celebrate the holiday season, I hope you take time to rest, recharge, and enjoy meaningful moments with your loved ones. You've earned it. The New Year promises to be an exciting one where we will continue to make strides in education, research, patient care, and equity. I am honored to lead such an extraordinary team. Wishing you and your families a joyous holiday season filled with peace, health, and happiness.

**Warm regards, JAS**



### Dr. Marc Ruel

Following a global search, we are delighted to have recruited **Dr. Marc Ruel, MD, MPH**, as our new **Chief of the Division of Adult Cardiothoracic Surgery**. Dr. Ruel is one of the world's most highly regarded cardiac surgeons, and his leadership will undoubtedly elevate our division to new heights across all our missions.

This year, we've continued to grow strategically, creating new positions that align with our vision for the future of surgical innovation and cutting-edge science.

These additions will help us remain at the forefront of medical advancements and strengthen our ability to provide exceptional care and education. A particularly proud achievement this year has been reaching gender parity in faculty salaries—an accomplishment that remains rare among academic institutions. This reflects our ongoing commitment to equity and inclusivity and positions us as a leader in



# LEGENDS OF SURGERY

HONORING DR. MARY J. MCGRATH, DR. MARGARET "PEGGY" KNUDSON  
DR. LINDA REILLY & DR. ROBERT C. MACKERSIE



# MEET YOUR Colleagues



**Airica Bustos**  
Clinical Lab Scientist

As a Clinical Lab Scientist specializing in HLA within the **Immunogenetics and Transplantation Laboratory**, I play a pivotal role in supporting successful organ and bone marrow transplants. My responsibilities include performing essential tasks such as DNA extraction, antibody testing, HLA typing, and next-generation sequencing.

I utilize comprehensive methodologies to ensure optimal compatibility between donors and recipients, contributing to the success of transplantation procedures.



**Marco Antonio Cordero**  
Staff Research Associate (SRA)

As a Staff Research Associate in the **Division of Pediatric Surgery**, I focus on evaluating therapeutic approaches for treating genetic disorders during the prenatal period. My work includes utilizing in vitro and in vivo models to assess the safety, efficacy, and feasibility of various gene therapy technologies during fetal development.

In addition to research, I maintain accurate laboratory documentation, ensure compliance with safety protocols, train new lab members in key techniques, and manage laboratory inventory. Being part of a collaborative scientific community inspires me to grow as a well-rounded scientist.



**Robyn Hughes**  
Project Analyst / Executive Assistant

In my role as Project Analyst and Executive Assistant in the **Division of General Surgery**, I provide high-level support to seven faculty members, including the Section Chief of Acute Care Surgery (ACS) and the Administrative Director of the Department of Surgery. I manage administrative, research, and clinical responsibilities to ensure the seamless daily operations of the faculty.

As the **Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship Coordinator**, I oversee the program for one Non-ACGME Fellow per year, assisting with recruitment, interviews, and providing ongoing administrative support throughout the fellowship.

My additional responsibilities include ordering supplies, troubleshooting IT issues, data analysis, presentation preparation, event and logistical coordination, front office reception, and supporting the basic science labs in the Division.



**E. Matthew Kuhn**  
Administrative Assistant III

As an Administrative Assistant II in the **Division of Vascular Surgery**, I provide essential support to the Vascular Faculty (excluding the Chief), ensuring smooth day-to-day operations. My responsibilities include managing the renewal of professional licenses and hospital privileges, preparing expense reports for travel and other reimbursements, and coordinating with the Vascular Surgery Grand Rounds series and Podiatric Student rotations.

Additionally, I offer backup support for our multiple training programs and assist the Nurse Practitioners, Division Administrators, lab staff, and trainees, contributing to the division's overall efficiency and success.

In an effort to strengthen our team's engagement and foster camaraderie, we have initiated a new project aimed at highlighting the contributions of eight staff members representing diverse divisions within the Department of Surgery. We are enthusiastic about launching this exciting endeavor, allowing you to become better acquainted with your colleagues. If you find something intriguing about one of your fellow team members, don't hesitate to email them.

We will be maintaining this page for the time being, and as we progress, we hope to eventually feature every member of our staff. To all the staff members currently reading this message, please know that you are making a significant impact and contributing to the collaborative spirit that defines our work environment. Thank you for being an integral part of our team.



**Crystal Loucel**  
Clinical Research Nurse

As a Clinical Research Nurse in the **Transplant Division**, I manage the PARADIGM clinical efficacy trial, which evaluates the co-transplantation of allogeneic parathyroid glands (PTG) and adult pancreatic islets (sourced from the same deceased donor) at the intramuscular brachialis site in individuals with Type 1 diabetes.

I oversee the day-to-day execution of the study, coordinating patient eligibility work-ups and collaborating with inpatient transplant teams, laboratory teams, and CRS staff to ensure seamless care during screening, surgery, and post-surgical follow-up. As a **Certified Diabetes Care & Education Specialist nurse**, I provide patient education, review clinical lab results, and work with various departments to advance transplant science for improved outcomes in patients living with diabetes.



**Briseis Eleanor**  
Human Resources Analyst

As the Human Resources Analyst for the **Surgery Education Office**, I play a vital role in supporting surgical residents by managing appointment processes, ensuring compliance with institutional and regulatory standards, and enhancing key areas such as recruitment, onboarding, licensure, and documentation in collaboration with the Graduate Medical Education team.

My work directly contributes to creating a seamless and supportive environment, empowering residents to excel in their clinical and academic pursuits. I aim to optimize administrative processes while fostering a culture of excellence, ensuring that our residents have the resources and guidance they need to thrive throughout their training.



**Susan Ku**  
Business Ops Analyst/Exec Asst

As a Business Analyst and Executive Assistant in the **Division of Surgical Oncology**, I provide essential administrative support to faculty, particularly for their research projects. My role includes assisting with grant submissions, managing program inventory and supplies, and preparing annual progress reports.

Beyond faculty support, I take on centralized divisional responsibilities, such as analyzing monthly financial reports, reviewing procurement orders and expense reimbursements, and facilitating human resources activities. I also help train incoming administrative staff on procurement and expense protocols, ensuring consistency and efficiency across the division. In this collaborative role, I am proud to contribute to our team's success and the greater UCSF community.



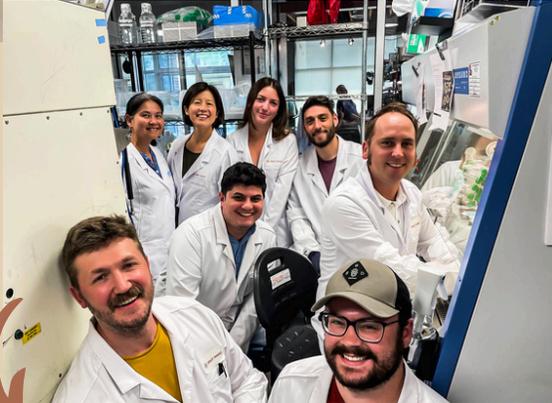
**Cindy Li**  
Business Operations Supervisor

As the Business Operations Supervisor at the **Breast Care Center**, my role entails a wide range of administrative and operational responsibilities that support our staff, faculty, and research programs.

These functions include HR operations, IT administration, vendor and contractor oversight, procurement and expense management, contracts and grants, research activities, and project management. By managing these areas, I help ensure the smooth operation of BCC's research initiative while contributing to the achievement of our organizational goals.

# EDUCATION

A Snapshot of our Surgical Oncology members at this year's American College of Surgeons 2024 Clinical Congress in San Francisco.



In 2025 we go to space. Here's our project team at the Payload Verification Test. Led by **Dr. Tammy T. Chang** & her lab - we're pioneering human liver tissue assembly in low Earth orbit (below an altitude of 1,200 miles), prepping for our **February 2025 flight with Space Tango**.



**Dr. Sabreea Parnell**

will be in the **2025-2027 cohort of the National Clinician Scholars Program** where she will work with The Wraparound Project at ZSFGH under the mentorship of **Dr. Amanda Sammann**.



**Dr. Ali Abbasi**

has published two significant pieces this quarter. The first, in **Nature Medicine**, outlines a policy perspective from the **FDA**, discussing why many questions about drugs and devices remain unanswered at the time of FDA approval.

The second publication, in **JAMA Surgery**, evaluates the level of evidence supporting clinical practice guidelines in general surgery. The study found that only **10% of recommendations** made by professional societies are supported by high-quality evidence.



**Dr. Karen Trang**

**Dr. Karen Trang** has had a series of celebratory milestones this year. She completed the **General Surgery Robotic Curriculum** and received the **Intuitive Robotic Equivalency Certificate**, marking a significant achievement in her surgical training. Additionally, **Dr. Trang**, along with resident **Dr. Hannah Decker** and faculty member **Dr. Liza Wick**, co-authored a publication in **JAMA Surgery** about electronic consent. **Dr. Trang's** abstract titled "**Trends in the Proportion of Surgeries Performed by Women Surgeons among Women Patients in the Veterans Health Administration (2014 – 2023)**" was selected as a finalist in the **Association of Women Surgeons 2024 Starr Medical Student and Resident Research Forum**, where it was one of just 10 abstracts chosen from over 200 submissions.



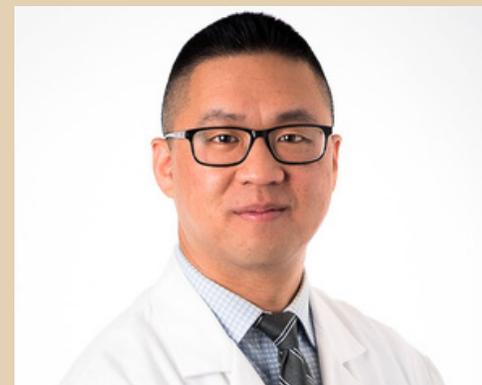
**Dr. Phoebe Miller**

a resident in our General Surgery program, has been awarded the **Looking to the Future STS Scholarship** for this year. This prestigious scholarship recognizes her outstanding potential and dedication to advancing the field of surgery.



**Dr. Russyan Mark Mabeza**

has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the **first PGY2 resident** to complete the **General Surgery Robotic Curriculum** and receive the **Intuitive Robotic Equivalency Certificate**. Additionally, his essay, "**Dear Tatay**", has been selected as the winner of the **2024 SAAS Stories Essay Contest**. **Dr. Mabeza's** heartfelt and impactful writing will be featured as a **publication in the SAAS edition of the Journal of Surgical Research**.



**Dr. Simon Chu**

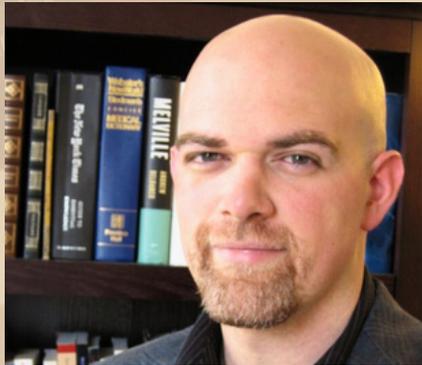
was awarded the prestigious **Young Investigator Award at the 30th International Congress of The Transplantation Society** in Istanbul, Turkey. His research, titled "**Aire-Expressing Cells are Novel Mediators of Allograft Tolerance in a Murine Heterotopic Heart Transplant Model**," was recognized for its groundbreaking contributions to the field of transplantation. **Dr. Chu's** co-authors include **Drs. Eva Gillis-Buck, Hong Sun, Jiayi Wang, Longhui Qiu, Chuck Rickert**, and his mentor, **Dr. Jay Gardner**.

# RESEARCH



**\$150k**

Dr. Amar Nijagal and Dr. Adam Abate have received funding from the UCSF Program for Breakthrough Biomedical Research to support their project, “**Developing Customized Microfluidic Droplet Ensembles to Study Cell-Cell Interactions in the Developing Liver.**” The \$150,000 award will advance their innovative research in this area.



**\$80k**

Dr. Alison Baskin has been awarded a T32 grant from the Regents of the University of Michigan for her project, “**Interdisciplinary Research Training Center in Cancer Care Delivery.**”

This award, valued at \$80,095, will support her research and training efforts in this critical field.



**\$158k**

Dr. Iris Liu has been awarded an F32 grant from the NIH National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute for her project, “**Cardiometabolic Disease and Vascular Aging: Klotho Regulation of Medial Arterial Calcification.**” The \$158,648 award will advance her research on the role of Klotho in vascular aging and cardiometabolic disease.



**\$225k**

Dr. Caitlin Collins has been named a **Watson Faculty Scholar** and awarded funding from the UCSF School of Medicine Dean’s Diversity Fund. This award, valued at \$225,000, will support her research through the end of June 2027.



**\$302k**

Dr. Nazsa Baker, Research Director and Program Manager of The Wraparound Project at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital (ZSFGH), has secured two research grants this quarter. The first, sponsored by the **Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund**, is titled “**Emergency Funds for Wraparound Clients**” and is valued at \$102,000.

The second grant, awarded by the **Health Alliance for Violence Intervention (The HAVI)**, supports her project “**Development of a Refined HIVP Risk Assessment Tool**” with funding of \$200,000.



**\$50k**

Drs. Kyle Cromer, Tippi MacKenzie, and Teresa Sparks have been awarded funding from UCSF’s Institute for Human Genetics for their project, “**Developing Innovative In Utero Therapy for Non-Immune Hydrops Fetalis and RASopathies.**” This \$50,000 award will help advance their pioneering work in this area.



# accomplishments

In early October, we announced that the **Department of Surgery** and the **Division of Vascular Surgery** successfully completed our **first TransCarotid Artery Revascularization (TCAR) procedure** at the state-of-the-art Highland Hospital Cardiovascular Catheterization Laboratory. Leading this innovative procedure was



**Dr. Camille Jackson**, a skilled Vascular Surgeon and Assistant Professor who trained at Highland and University of California, San Francisco. Working alongside our talented team at Highland Hospital, Dr. Jackson's expertise has positioned **AHS as one of the few hospitals in the San Francisco East Bay** to offer this cutting-edge, minimally invasive treatment for carotid artery disease.



**Congratulations to our Cardiac Surgery team on its first Total Artificial Heart procedure! Total Artificial Heart is a device that temporarily supports function on both sides of the heart, while patients with heart failure wait for a heart transplant.**

**Dr. Sanziana Roman**, Endocrine Surgeon, and **Dr. Elizabeth Ozer**, Psychologist, have been awarded a **\$200,000 "Advancing Faculty Diversity Award"** from the University of California's Office of the President. This funding supports their study, **"Leadership Equity Advances Diversity: Enhancing Processes for Selecting Leaders across UC Health Sciences."** Their work aims to address critical challenges in promoting equity and inclusivity in leadership roles within the health sciences. By identifying and enhancing processes for leadership selection, their study seeks to advance systemic changes that foster diversity and ensure equitable opportunities for all faculty members.



This quarter the Department revealed that **Dr. Joseph Cuschieri**, stepped into the role of **Vice Chair for Acute Care Surgery** in our Department of Surgery, effective **September 2024**.

In his new role, **Dr. Cuschieri** will oversee initiatives aimed at enhancing patient care, fostering multidisciplinary collaboration, and driving advancements in acute care surgery.



**NPR** recently published a fascinating feature titled, **"Scientists are Looking into the Benefits of Growing Human Tissue in Space,"** spotlighting our very own **Dr. Tammy Chang**, a Gastrointestinal & Acute Care Surgeon in the UCSF Department of Surgery.

In the interview with NPR's Will Stone, Dr. Chang delves into the groundbreaking potential of growing human tissue in microgravity.

Listen to the audio with NPR's Will Stone <https://lnkd.in/dBuUFTDz>

This November, we were thrilled to announce that the University of California, San Francisco Liver Center appointed **Dr. Holger Willenbring**, Professor of Surgery, as its new **Program Director!**

As the new Program Director, **Dr. Willenbring** will oversee the Liver Center's mission to promote cutting-edge research, foster collaboration among multidisciplinary teams, and support the development of new treatments for liver diseases.



**Dr. Brian Cain** (right), Cardiac Surgeon, pictured with **Dr. Johannes Kratz** at Kaiser Permanente has been awarded this year's **Thoracic Residency Program Teaching Award!** This prestigious recognition, selected by the cardiothoracic surgery residents, highlights Dr. Cain's unwavering dedication to teaching and mentorship.

Dr. Cain's commitment to cultivating the next generation of surgeons is evident through his exceptional ability to foster a supportive and educational environment.



Our Web Manager, **Jason Powers**, was selected to present at this year's prestigious **2024 UC Tech Conference!** This recognition highlights Jason's invaluable contributions to the UCSF Department of Surgery and the broader technology community within the UC system.

Jason's presentation showcased the collaborative efforts within the UCSF Department of Surgery, emphasizing how teamwork and innovation drive the success of our digital initiatives. Joining him on stage was his co-presenter, **Tim Tufts** from **Kanopi Studios**.



Breast Cancer Surgeon, **Dr. Jasmine Wong** was selected as a recipient of the **2024 PISCES Teaching Award!**

Known for her dedication to shaping the next generation of physicians, Dr. Wong is celebrated for her ability to inspire students through her compassionate approach to patient care and her commitment to teaching excellence. Dr. Wong's influence extends beyond the classroom and clinic, as she consistently fosters a culture of learning and professional growth, making a lasting impact on her students and colleagues alike.

# THINGS TO KNOW

## BIostatISTICS CORE



**DR. CATHY LEE**

In August, the Biostatistics Core welcomed **Catherine "Cathy" Lee, PhD, MS** (Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics) as the new director of the Department of Surgery Biostatistics Core, working closely with our stellar senior statistician, **Amy Shui, MS, MA**. We are extremely grateful to **Chiung-Yu Huang, PhD, MS** (Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics) for her outstanding service and leadership as our inaugural director.

Dr. Lee is opening her doors, making it much easier for you to arrange an initial consultation or simply ask a quick question, at no charge. She will hold weekly office hours so you can simply drop in. To book a time, please click here to complete a simple form.

**We also want to remind faculty, residents and fellows of the expanded free allocations!**

- Residents and Fellows: 40 (instead of 20) hours over duration of residency/fellowship
- New Junior faculty: Free and 50% discounted hours as delineated in your welcome letter
- All other faculty: Unlimited hours for NIH grant submissions; 10 hours / year for non-federal grant submissions; 2 free consultation hours per year.

There will be a rate increase for projects starting after January 1, 2025; old rates will be honored for ongoing projects. Note that our rates remain LOWER than UCSF CTSI rates.

**Director: \$180.96/hour (was \$175) || Senior Biostatistician: \$132.24/hour (was \$100)**

**DR. LEE WILL HOLD WEEKLY OFFICE HOURS. SIGN UP FOR 15 MINUTES USING THIS LINK**

If you need more time, please email Cathy at [Catherine.Lee3@ucsf.edu](mailto:Catherine.Lee3@ucsf.edu).



## CLINICAL TRIALS RESEARCH TIPS AND BEST PRACTICES

**EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1ST, 2025**

### CTSI Clinical Research Services (CRS) Scientific Review Process Update

Currently, **all studies conducted using CRS nursing services that had not been reviewed by the NIH are required to undergo CRS scientific review**. Due to the burden on study investigators and the CRS scientific review panel, the CRS is now accepting other scientific reviews besides NIH:

- All studies conducted using the CRS units and services will need to have undergone scientific review.
- The scientific review requirement for all studies can be fulfilled, such as:
  - **US Department of Health and Human Services agencies such as the NIH, FDA, CDC, ARHQ**
  - **National Science Foundation (NSF)**
  - **U.S. Department of Defense (DOD)**
  - **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**
  - **Veterans Administration (VA)**
  - **California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM)**
  - **(Additional groups will be added to this list as appropriate)**

If a study **has** undergone a scientific review by a state- or national-level organization not on this list, the review can be submitted to CRS to determine if it meets the requirements for external scientific review.

If a study **has not** undergone external scientific review, then the study will need to undergo scientific review conducted by CRS. Examples of types of studies that may require CRS scientific review include investigator-initiated studies not funded by a grant or pharmaceutical industry-supported studies that have not had FDA review.



Contact us with any questions: [Rodney.Rogers@ucsf.edu](mailto:Rodney.Rogers@ucsf.edu)



# SKILLS LAB UPDATE



As of Wednesday, **October 30th**, the Skills Lab has officially opened its doors at the new **Embarcadero** location! To make the transition seamless, shuttles will run on Wednesday mornings from Parnassus to Embarcadero, with return routes available to **Mission Bay, ZSFG, Mount Zion, and Parnassus**. Parking is also available via UCSF PayByPhone, and UCSF monthly parking passes are valid at the Embarcadero garage. The garage entrance is on North Point Street—simply use your UCSF ID badge to enter or press the assistance button if needed.

On **December 12th, 2024**, the Surgical Skills Lab celebrated its relocation with an Open House event. Residents were invited to explore the state-of-the-art facility, enjoy refreshments, and watch dynamic simulations highlighting robotic, laparoscopic, and open-surgery techniques. We are happy to recognize the following interns for their outstanding achievement in recently passing their **Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery (FLS)** exams:

- **Megan Casey**
- **Jacob Sonnenberg**
- **Anna Fishbein**
- **Willa Li**
- **Jonathan Li**
- **Madeline Matthys**



We're also excited to welcome **Catherine Sutherland** as the new **Surgical Skills Center Operations Manager**! Catherine brings a wealth of experience from her role as Executive Director at the Association for Surgical Education Foundation, where she managed fellowship programs and hands-on surgical training for trainees. Meanwhile, **Louis Solis** continues his outstanding work as the Lab Technician, offering vital support to the Skills Lab team. A huge thank-you to Louis for his incredible efforts during the manager search and for his leadership during this transition to the new location.

Several Muriel Steele Society medical student members were able to attend the **Association of Women Surgeons (AWS) 2024 Foundation Awards Dinner & Gala** following the AWS Conference in SF—a big thank you to **Dr. Julie Ann Sosa, Dr. Lucy Kornblith, Dr. Mika Varma,** and the **UCSF Department of Surgery** for their support of MSS representation at this wonderful event! Congratulations to all of our amazing MSS members who presented their work at the AWS and ACS 2024 Conferences in San Francisco!

# DIVERSITY. EQUITY. INCLUSION

MSS's Fall 2024 Research Symposium Panel featured a panel of several faculty and resident MSS members to discuss, **"Optimizing the Research Mentor-Mentee Relationship!"** Panelists included **Dr. Rita Mukhtar, Dr. Elizabeth Wick, Dr. Karen Trang, Dr. Kimberly Kirkwood,** and **Dr. Patricia Conroy.**



**Muriel Steele Society Surgeon Spotlight:**  
**Alexis Colley, MD, MS**  
Surgery Resident  
Palliative Care Medicine Fellow

*I love being a surgeon and a palliative care doctor because I get to use my skills and knowledge to care for my patients as whole people. I value finding ways to relieve physical, emotional, and existential suffering so that my patients can live as well as they can, for as long as they can.*



**Muriel Steele Society Surgeon Spotlight:**  
**Hannah Decker, MD**  
Surgery Resident  
Health Services Researcher

*I am passionate about improving access to high-quality surgical care and advancing health equity for all.*



**Muriel Steele Society Surgeon Spotlight:**  
**Eliana Delgado, MD, MPH**  
Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon

*[What I love about surgery is] the opportunity to improve the health of a patient by doing something. I am passionate about interacting and collaborating with colleagues and families. I would like our greater community to know that I am always available to them and that I always do my best.*



**Muriel Steele Society Surgeon Spotlight:**  
**Eva Gillis-Buck, MD**  
Surgery Resident  
Scientist

*Being a surgeon is so cool and such a privilege. It's like being an astronaut: sure it's hard work, long hours, sacrifice - but you get to go to outer space! Plus you get to meet new people everyday, help others, and even save a life.*



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**Muriel Steele Society Surgeon Spotlight:**  
**Maanasa Indaram, MD**  
Pediatric Ophthalmologist

*What I love most about being a pediatric eye surgeon is the meaningful impact we have on improving our patients' quality of life for years to come.*



**Muriel Steele Society Surgeon Spotlight:**  
**Ashley Jeanlus, MD**  
Obstetrician & Gynecologist  
Reproductive Justice Advocate

*[What I love about being a surgeon is] I have the privilege in playing a part of a patient's journey in all stages of their reproductive healthcare to provide a full spectrum of reproductive health care: prenatal care, gynecologic care and abortion care.*



**Muriel Steele Society Surgeon Spotlight:**  
**Andrea Park, MD**  
Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgeon

*I am a surgeon because I desire to serve others and I love exploring ways in which I can further improve my patients' quality of life. At the end of each day I love if it is a tough one I can honestly say that I am grateful for every moment and that I feel incredibly blessed to be able to do what I love each day.*



**Muriel Steele Society Surgeon Spotlight:**  
**Merisa Piper, MD**  
Plastic & Reconstructive Surgeon

*[What I love about surgery is] I love that I can see my hands and my mind to hopefully have a profound impact on someone's life.*



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**Muriel Steele Society Surgeon Spotlight:**  
**Marley Rashad, MD**  
Obstetrician & Gynecologist  
Maternal-Fetal Medicine Fellow

*One of the most rewarding aspects of my career as a surgeon in obstetrics is helping patients navigate complex decisions to achieve their goals of health, wellbeing, and family planning.*



**Muriel Steele Society Surgeon Spotlight:**  
**Fernanda Romero-Hernandez, MD**  
Surgery Resident

*[What I love about surgery is] the opportunity to inspire and encourage young medical students to become surgeons.*



**Muriel Steele Society Surgeon Spotlight:**  
**Nichole Starr, MD, MPH**  
Trauma & Surgical Critical Care Fellow

*Becoming a surgeon has been an incredibly rewarding experience because I have a tangible and immediate impact in patients' lives. I'm so lucky to train at UCSF where having strong women as mentors and leaders is the norm, not the exception!*



**Muriel Steele Society Surgeon Spotlight:**  
**Karen Trang, MD**  
Surgery Resident  
Clinical Informatics Fellow

*[What I love about being a surgeon is] being able to make a difference for my patients and my community in a tangible and often immediate way - it's incredibly fulfilling.*



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In September, MSS began a new initiative titled **"Portraits of Surgeons"** that has highlights 12 phenomenal MSS members in the Family Waiting Room at Parnassus and in the Adult Wards on the 6th floor at Mission Bay from September 2024 through February 2025.



DEPARTMENT HOLIDAY  
PARTY



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