



14TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL WOMEN IN SURGERY CAREER SYMPOSIUM 2024

**MARCH
22-24**

Reinventing Women in Surgery: A Global Celebration

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2024

2:30 PM - 4:45 PM | WORKSHOP SESSIONS

SESSION A: UNDERGRADUATES, MEDICAL STUDENTS

Moderator: Dana Telem, MD, MPH

Panelists: *Alisa Coker, MD, Lucy De La Cruz, MD, Rahila Essani, MD, Kellie McFarlin, MD, Ashley Mooney, MD, Mary Ottinger, MD, Andrea Pakula, MD, MPH, Sarah Samreen, MD, and Iswanto Sucandy, MD*
Juli Lewis, VP of Community Engagement, USF Federal Credit Union

Making a Lasting Impression

- Power of First Impressions
- Dress to Impress
- Conference Etiquette: The "Do's and Don'ts"
- Elevator Pitch Excellence

Enhancing Your Profile: From CV to MD

- My Story... (Personal Statements)
- Pursuit of Publications: Involvement in Research
- MCAT/USMLE Tips
- Debunking the Myth of the Perfect Candidate

Financial Planning & Wellness: How to Best Handle Debt

- Interactive Sessions:**
- Hitting a Homerun with Your Interviews
 - » Role-Play Interviews (2 Mock Interviews)
 - How to Maximize Networking
 - » Mentor Scavenger Hunt
 - » ABC's of a Successful Mentor/Mentee Relationship

SESSION B: RESIDENTS / FELLOWS

Moderator: Patricia Sylla, MD

Panelists: *Caitlin Houghton, MD, Jessica Minesinger, FACMPE, Leigh Neumayer, MD, MS, MBA, Lynn O'Connor, MD, MPH, Laila Rashidi, MD, and Moran Slavin, MD*

Navigating the Leap: Residency or Fellowship

- Balancing Assertiveness: Finding Your Voice in a Medical Setting
- Standing Out While Working Together
- Evaluating Technology and Training: What to Look for in a Residency Program

Financial Planning 101

- Personal Financial Planning and Investment Portfolio
- How to Handle Debt
- Contract Negotiations

The Value of Surgical Societies: Why and When to Join

- Choosing Your Surgical Society and Maximizing Benefits: A Strategic Approach
- How to Master Networking

Optimal Time to Start Family Planning

SESSION C: ATTENDING – ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN SURGEONS (AWS)

Moderator: Tawakalitu Salewa Oseni, MD, MPH

Panelists: *Simone Betchen, MD, MBA, Danielle Henry, MD, Marion Henry, MD, MPH Susan Pories, MD, and Sharon Stein, MD*

Panel Discussion: Mastering the Deal: Strategies for Optimizing Contract Negotiations (with Q&A)

- Digital Influence: Navigating X, Instagram, and Threads in Professional Life (with Q&A)
- Charting Success: Advanced Strategies for Navigating Your Surgical Career (with Q&A)
- Surgical Mentorship: Empowering Women in Surgery Through Coaching Strategies

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

POSTER SESSION Moderator: Nita Ahuja, MD

6:15 pm – 9:00 pm

WELCOME RECEPTION / 14TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



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SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024

7:00 am – 8:00 am NETWORKING BREAKFAST

Breakfast Briefing: Navigating Success for International Medical Graduates (IMGs) in Surgery *Lucy De La Cruz, MD*

8:00 am – 10:00 am Registration and Exhibits

8:00 am – 10:00 am STEM and Undergrad Robotic Competition

8:00 am – 8:15 am Opening Remarks from Program Chair *Sharona Ross, MD*
Welcome Remarks from SVP/Chief Operating Officer *Richard Sellwood*
Richard Sellwood, USF Federal Credit Union

8:15 am – 9:15 am PLENARY 1: GLOBAL WOMEN SURGEONS' FORUM: VISIONARY DIALOGUES FOR HEALTHCARE LEADERSHIP

Moderator: Sallie Matthews, Executive Director, SAGES

Panelists: *Nicole D Bouvy, MD, PhD (Netherlands), Sarah Fuentes Carretero, MD, PhD (Spain), Michelle de Oliveira, MD (Switzerland), Ela Ekmekcigil, MD (Turkey), Agnetta Odera, MD (Kenya), Ming-Yin Shen, MD, PhD (Taiwan) Rooma Sinha, MD (India) and Jin Weiwei, MD (China)*

- 1 Leading with Inclusivity: A Global Dialogue on Surgery
- 2 Rising Above Doubts: International Stories of Conquering Imposter Syndrome
- 3 Training Across Cultures: Earning Respect and Support in Global Surgery Environments
- 4 Operating Under Pressure: Lessons from Surgeons Worldwide
- 5 Changing Medicine's Face: Women Surgeons Breaking Barriers Around the World
- 6 Expanding Horizons: Developing International Networks and Communities

9:15 am – 10:15 am PLENARY 2: SURGERY WITHOUT BORDERS USING TECHNOLOGY FOR BRIDGING SURGICAL COMMUNITIES

Moderator: Darla Hutton, MSN

Panelists: *Nita Ahuja, MD, Gina Baldo, BA, Caitlin Clark, Silvana Perretta, MD, Aurora Pryor, MD, MBA, Laila Rashidi, MD, Patricia Sylla, MD, Jackie Tonkel and Jennifer Tseng, MD, MPH*

- 1 Horizon Surgeons: Embracing Limitless Opportunities for Global Connection
- 2 Pioneering the Future: Advancements in Robotics and AI in Medicine
- 3 Revolutionizing Care: The Emergence of Telecollaboration
- 4 Society Validation: Cultivating Surgical Mentorship Across Borders
- 5 AI as an Ally: Reimagining how Surgeons Train in the Operating Room
- 6 Innovators: Honoring the Creativity and Perseverance of Women in Surgery

10:15 am – 10:30 am Break with Industry / Networking / Mentorship Social

10:30 am – 11:30 am PLENARY 3: GLOBAL COLLABORATION: MASTERING NETWORKING, MENTORSHIP, AND SPONSORSHIP

Moderator: Sharon Stein, MD

Panelists: *Karen E. Gibbs, MD, Sharon Lum, MD, MBA, Leigh Neumayer, MD, MS, MBA, Patricia Numann, MD, Alia Qureshi, MSc, MD, and Sanziana Roman, MD*

- 1 Cultivating Connections: Exploring Networking, Mentorship, and Sponsorship
- 2 The Mentor and Sponsor Match: Strategies for Successful Connections
- 3 Building and Sustaining Mentorship Over Time
- 4 Mastering the Art of Being a Mentor/Mentee
- 5 Cross-Generational Collaboration: Bridging the Gap from Boomers to Millennials in Surgery

11:30 am – 1:00 pm NETWORKING LUNCH

1:00 pm – 1:30 pm **FASHION SHOW: DRESS TO IMPRESS!**
Host: *Wendy Ryan, ABC Action News Main Anchor*

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SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024 (CONTINUED)

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm **PLENARY 4: CAREER COMPASS: CHARTING YOUR OWN PATH TO SUCCESS**

Moderator: Lynn O'Connor, MD, MPH

Panelists: *Caitlin Houghton, MD, Deborah Keller, MS, MD, John Marks, MD, Martin Martino, MD, Andrea Pakula, MD, MPH, Melissa Phillips, MD, Aurora Pryor, MD, MBA, Bruce Ramshaw, MD and Nova Szoka, MD*

- 1 Navigating the Surgical Ladder: From Student to Surgeon
- 2 Choosing Your Specialty: Purpose, Time, Money
- 3 Surgeon and Industry Collaboration
- 4 Boundary-Setting in Surgical Careers
- 5 Flexible Pathways to Mastery
- 6 Advancing in Surgery: Leadership and Beyond

2:30 pm – 2:45 pm **Break with Industry / Networking / Mentorship Social**

2:45 pm – 3:45 pm **PLENARY 5: THE SURGEON'S GUIDE TO SMART FINANCE**

Moderator: Sean Cleary, MD, MSc, MPH

Panelists: *Maureen Ayril, MBA, Jessica Minesinger, FACMPE, Melissa Mora, Esq, Linda Richetelli-Pepe, MBA, CHC, Jennifer Snider, MSA, and Alice Wei, MD, MSc*

- 1 Understanding Your Worth: Decoding Compensation Structures
- 2 Deal or No Deal: Strategies for Effective Negotiations
- 3 Bridging the Divide: Tackling the Gender Wage Gap in Surgery
- 4 Salary Self-Assessment: Balancing Earnings and Well-being
- 5 Blueprint for Financial Health: Comprehensive Financial Planning

3:45 pm – 4:45 pm **PLENARY 6: LIFE BEYOND THE OR: MASTERING BALANCE, WELLNESS AND FAMILY**

Moderator: Anne Lidor, MD, MPH

Panelists: *Maria Altieri, MD, MS, Rahila Essani, MD, Laura Johnson, MD, Kandace Kichler, MD, Marina Kurian, MD, Mary Maniscalco-Theberge, MD, Kellie McFarlin, MD, Leila Rashidi, MD, and Nova Szoka, MD*

- 1 Work/life Balance: A Myth or Reality?
- 2 Single Professionals Need Balance Too
- 3 Family Planning and Fertility
- 4 Parenthood: Timing it Right?
- 5 Scalpel and Stroller: Work-Family Balance
- 6 Managing the "Second Shift" of Household Responsibilities
- 7 Strength in Vulnerability: Balancing Power Dynamics in Surgery
- 8 Recognizing the Limit: Understanding and Managing Surgeon Burnout
- 9 Addressing Mental Wellness in Surgical Careers





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SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024

INDUSTRY DAY FOR PROGRAM DIRECTORS

7:00 am – 9:00 am Registration / Breakfast

9:00AM – 11:AM PARALLEL SESSIONS

9:00 am – 11:00 am UNDERGRADUATE/MEDICAL STUDENTS

Moderator: Patricia Sylla, MD

Panelists: *Scott Gallagher, MD, Krista Haines, DO, MA, Monique Hassan, MD, Laura Johnson, MD, Kandace Kichler, MD, Mary Ottinger, MD, Moran Slavin, MD, and Irina Tantchou, MD*

- 1 Mastering Medical School Applications: A Comprehensive Guide
- 2 Beyond STEP 1: Crafting a Standout Application with Personal Touches
- 3 Exploring Paths in Medicine: DO vs. MD Perspectives
- 4 Nurturing Resilience: Transforming Stress into Strength in Healthcare
- 5 Empowering Balance: Pathways to Sustainable Wellness in Medicine
- 6 Gap Year Growth: Maximizing Opportunities for Personal and Professional Development
- 7 Social Media Savvy: Building Your Brand as a Medical Student for Residency Programs

Q&A Panel – All Faculty

9:00 am – 11:00 am RESIDENTS/FELLOWS – Women’s Leadership in Surgery (WLISS)

Moderator: Caitlin Halbert, DO, MS

Panelists: *Lucy De La Cruz, MD, Caitlin Halbert, DO, MS, Melany Hughes, MD, MPH, Marina Kurian, MD, Aurora Pryor, MD, MBA, and Alia Qureshi, MSc, MD*

- 1 Climbing the Institution Ladder of Leadership
- 2 Building Your Brand as a Leader and Defining your Why
- 3 Advanced Degree: To Pursue or Not Pursue
- 4 Practice Building Strategies for Female Surgeons: How to Overcome Bias from Patients and Colleagues
- 5 Practice Building Strategies for Female Surgeons: Creative Networking and Earning Trust in Your Community

Q&A Panel – All Faculty

9:00 am – 11:00 am ATTENDING – Association of Women Surgeons (AWS)

Moderator: Tawakalitu Salewa Oseni, MD, MPH

Panelists: *Cherisse Berry, MD, Cornelia Griggs, MD, Leigh Neumayer, MD, MS, MBA, Arghavan Salles, MD, PhD Janet Betsy Tuttle, MD, MHA, and Danielle Walsh, MD*

- 1 Navigating Career Transitions: Embracing Change and Opportunity
- 2 The Art of Self-Care: Cultivating Wellness in a Demanding Profession
- 3 Expanding Horizons: Leadership and Opportunities Beyond the OR
- 4 Mentoring Excellence: Strategies for Effective Mentorship and Sponsorship

Q&A Panel – All Faculty

11:00 am – 11:15 am Closing Remarks [Planning Committee](#)