



74th Annual International

WOMEN IN SURGERY CAREER SYMPOSIUM

REINVENTING WOMEN IN SURGERY: A GLOBAL CELEBRATION

March 22-24, 2024 • Tampa, Florida



WI-FI NETWORK Marriott Conference **PASSWORD WIS2024**

#WIS2024



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WELCOME

to the 14th Annual International WOMEN IN SURGERY CAREER SYMPOSIUM



With immense joy and a sense of shared purpose, we welcome you to an event representing the intersection of ambition, dedication, and transformative change – the 14th Annual International Women in Surgery Career Symposium. In this year's theme: *"Reinventing Women In Surgery: A Global Celebration,"* we embark on a journey that transcends borders, disciplines, and the conventional narratives that have long defined our field.

Our gathering is more than a symposium; it is a movement toward inclusivity, recognition, and empowerment in Surgery. As we gather to celebrate our collective journey, share insights, and forge new paths, we stand united in our commitment to encourage more women to embark on and thrive in surgical careers.

In a field where the echoes of a male-dominated past are still heard, we stand committed to promoting professionalism, equality, and the indispensable role of women in Surgery. Our symposium serves as a vital forum for addressing the challenges that persist in a field still marked by gender disparity, while also celebrating the successes and strategies that have enabled women to shatter glass ceilings. Through engaging with women who are thought leaders and pioneers in our field, we hope that our participants will gain invaluable perspectives and tools for navigating and succeeding in the world of Surgery.

This year's symposium is particularly special as we are bringing speakers from all corners of the world, each with their unique stories of triumph, resilience, and groundbreaking achievements. Their journeys, coupled with the shared experiences of our attendees, serve as a powerful reminder of the progress we've made and the roads yet to travel.

As we look forward to the discussions, workshops, and networking opportunities ahead, **let us remember that our collective wisdom is the most powerful tool we have for redefining the future of Surgery.** It is through our shared efforts that we can create a world where women are not only participants but leaders and innovators in the field. I encourage you to actively participate, share your experiences, find mentors, and connect with fellow attendees.

By the end of the symposium, we hope that you will return to your institutions empowered to foster environments that promote career advancement, personal growth, and the expansion of horizons for women in Surgery. Together, we can continue to push boundaries, inspire change, and pave the way for future generations of women surgeons.

Sincerely,

Sharona B. Ross, MD FACS

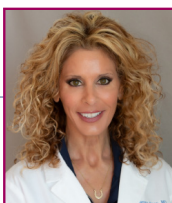


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Chief, Department of Gastroenterology & Pancreatic Surgery
Zhejiang Provincial Peoples' Hospital, China

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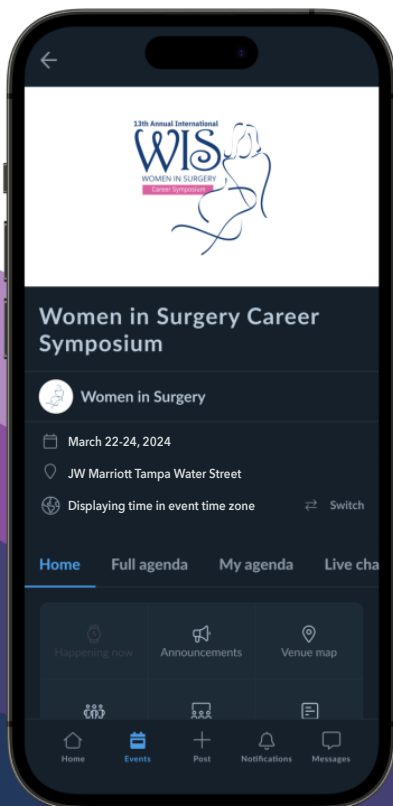
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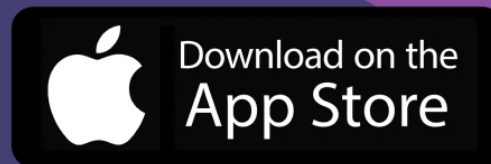
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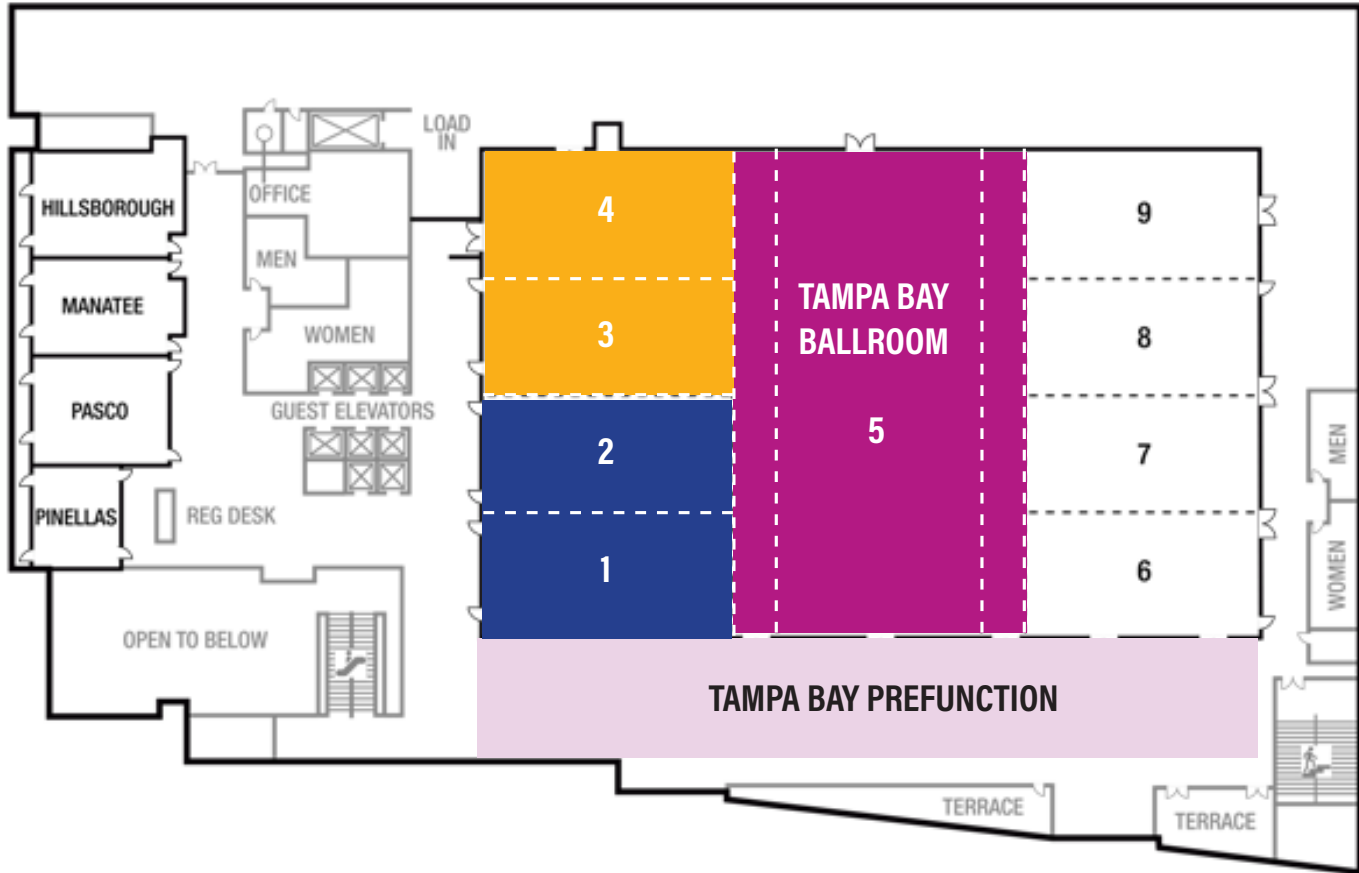


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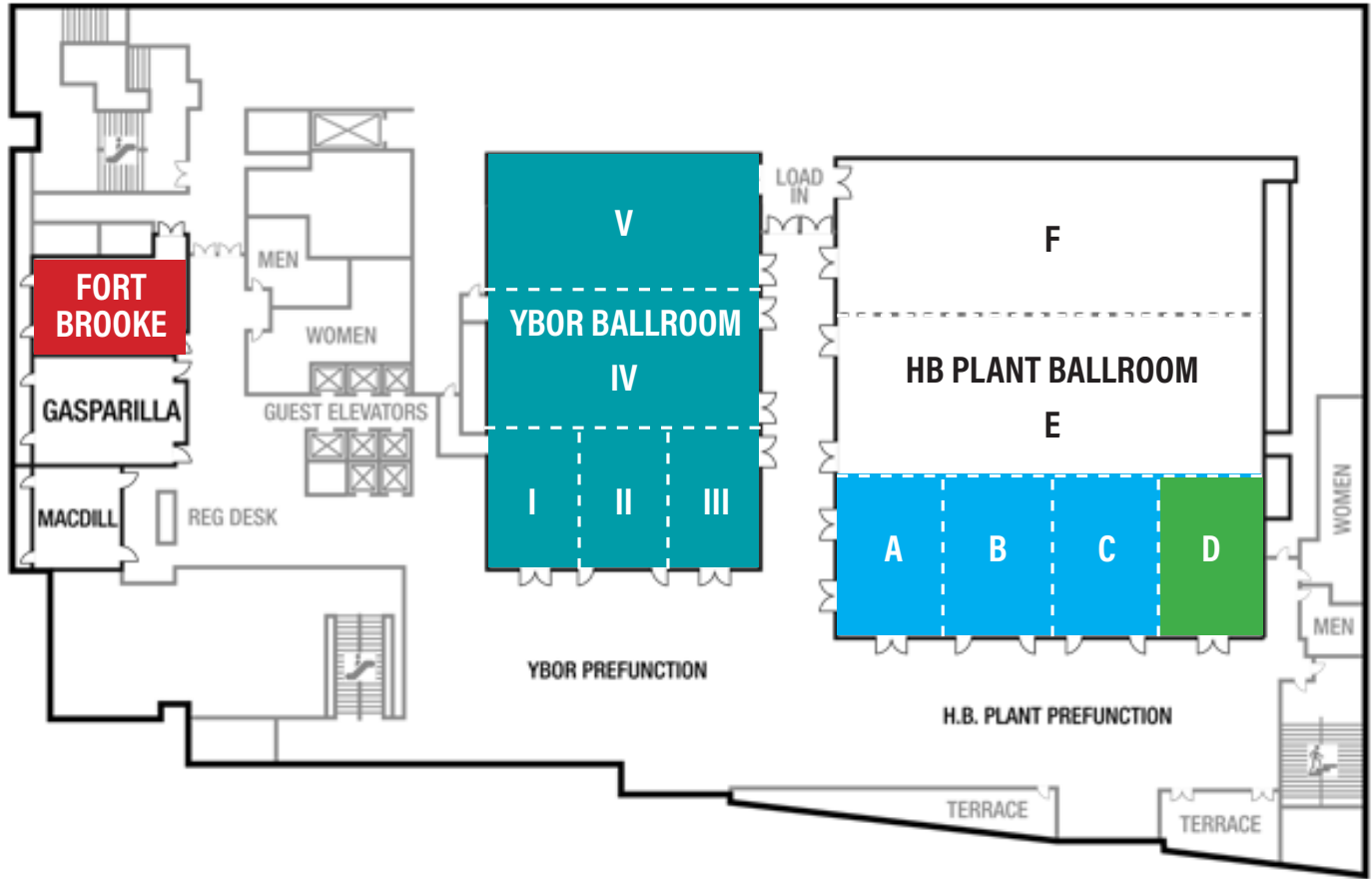
4TH FLOOR



General Session & Break Out: Session A	Tampa Bay Ballroom 5
Break Out: Session B	Tampa Bay Ballroom 1-2
Break Out: Session C	Tampa Bay Ballroom 3-4
Exhibition Hall	Tampa Bay Prefunction
Break Out: Attendings & AWS	Fort Brooke
Break Out: Resident/Fellows & WLS	HB Plant Ballroom A-C
Break Out: Undergraduates, Medical Students	HB Plant Ballroom D
Breakfast: Saturday & Sunday	Ybor Ballrooms
Lunch: Sunday	Ybor Ballrooms



2ND FLOOR



AGENDA

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2024

1:30 pm – 6:00 pm Registration & Information Desk

Tampa Bay Prefunction

6:15 pm – 9:00 pm Exhibit Hours

Tampa Bay Prefunction

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

SESSION A: UNDERGRADUATES / MEDICAL STUDENTS

Tampa Bay Ballroom 5

Moderator: Alisa Coker, MD

Panelists: *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

Tampa Bay Ballroom 1-2

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)

Tampa Bay Ballroom 3-4

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 (see page 14)

Tampa Bay Ballroom 5

6:15 pm – 9:00 pm

WELCOME RECEPTION / 14TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Tampa Bay Foyer



SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024

7:00 am – 8:00 am	NETWORKING BREAKFAST	Ybor Ballroom
	Breakfast Briefing: Navigating Success for International Medical Graduates (IMGs) in Surgery <i>Lucy De La Cruz, MD</i>	
6:00 am – 4:45 pm	Registration & Information Desk	Tampa Bay Prefunction
7:00 am – 4:45 pm	Exhibit Hours	Tampa Bay Prefunction
8:00 am – 10:00 am	STEM and Undergrad Robotic Competition	
8:00 am – 8:15 am	Opening Remarks from Program Chair <i>Sharon Ross, MD</i> Welcome Remarks from SVP/Chief Operating Officer <i>Richard Sellwood, USF Federal Credit Union</i>	
8:15 am – 9:15 am	PLENARY 1: GLOBAL WOMEN SURGEONS' FORUM: VISIONARY DIALOGUES FOR HEALTHCARE LEADERSHIP	Tampa Bay Ballroom 5
	Moderator: Sallie Matthews, Executive Director, SAGES Panelists: <i>Nicole D Bouvy, MD, PhD (Netherlands), Sarah Fuentes Carretero, MD, PhD (Spain), Michelle de Oliveira, MD (Switzerland), Ela Ekmecigil, MD (Turkey), Agneta Odera, MD (Kenya), Ming-Yin Shen, MD, PhD (Taiwan), Rooma Sinha, MD (India) and Jin Weiwei, MD (China)</i>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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	Tampa Bay Ballroom 5
	Moderator: Darla Hutton, MSN Panelists: <i>Nita Ahuja, MD, Gina Baldo, BA, Caitlin Clark, Silvana Perretta, MD, Aurora Pryor, MD, MBA, Laila Rashidi, MD, Patricia Sylla, MD, Jacqueline Tonkel, and Jennifer Tseng, MD, MPH</i>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Exhibitors / Networking / Mentorship Social	
10:30 am – 11:30 am	PLENARY 3: GLOBAL COLLABORATION: MASTERING NETWORKING, MENTORSHIP, AND SPONSORSHIP	Tampa Bay Ballroom 5
	Moderator: Sharon Stein, MD Panelists: <i>Karen E. Gibbs, MD, Sharon Lum, MD, MBA, Leigh Neumayer, MD, MS, MBA, Patricia Numann, MD, Alia Qureshi, MSc, MD, and Sanziana Roman, MD</i>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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	Ybor Ballroom
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm	FASHION SHOW: DRESS TO IMPRESS! Host: <i>Wendy Ryan, ABC Action News Main Anchor</i>	Tampa Bay Ballroom 5

AGENDA

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024 (CONTINUED)

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

PLENARY 4: CAREER COMPASS: CHARTING YOUR OWN PATH TO SUCCESS

Tampa Bay Ballroom 5

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 Exhibitors / Networking / Mentorship Social

2:45 pm – 3:45 pm

PLENARY 5: THE SURGEON'S GUIDE TO SMART FINANCE

Tampa Bay Ballroom 5

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

Tampa Bay Ballroom 5

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





SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024

8:00 am – 11:15 am Registration & Information Desk
 8:00 am – 9:00 am Breakfast

Tampa Bay Prefunction
 YBor Ballroom

9:00AM – 11:AM PARALLEL SESSIONS

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

HB Plant Salon D

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

HB Plant Salons A-C

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 ATTENDINGS

Fort Brooke

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*

POSTER SESSION

FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2024 • 5:00PM - 6:00PM • TAMPA BAY BALLROOM 5

Moderator: Nita Ahuja, MD

#	TITLE
1	UNVEILING THE EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGE: SURGICAL RESIDENT SKILL DEFICIENCY IN BDI RECOGNITION VIA CHOLANGIOGRAPHY Emily Hannah, BS - University at Buffalo Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
2	FACTORS INFLUENCING GENDER DISPARITIES IN PHYSICIAN BURNOUT: A SILENT CRISIS Anika Nayak, BA - University of California Berkeley
3	REDDIT PERSPECTIVES ON COLONOSCOPY PROCEDURE: SENTIMENT AND THEMATIC ANALYSIS Ava Herzog, BS - Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
4	USING A MODEL FOR IMPROVEMENT TO REDUCE ELECTIVE SURGICAL CANCELLATION IN JIMMA UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER Lidya Mude, MD - Jimma University
5	SYSTEMIC TREATMENT FOR BRAIN METASTATIC TRIPLE NEGATIVE BREAST CANCER: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS Linh Vu, MD - Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
6	ACCESSIBILITY OF LACTATION POLICIES AND FACILITIES FOR 1,847 ACGME - ACCREDITED SURGICAL RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAMS Marissa Kruk, BS - Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University at Buffalo
7	THE IMPACT OF APPLICANT SIGNALING ON THE GENERAL SURGERY MATCH PROCESS: A SINGLE INSTITUTION EXPERIENCE Peyton Murdock, MD - University of Tennessee Medical Center Knoxville
8	A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF FACTORS INFLUENCING WOMEN'S SPECIALTY CHOICE IN ORTHOPAEDICS VERSUS PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION Ashley Amundson, BS - Cooper Medical School of Rowan University
9	FEMALE STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVE ON GENDER: WHERE THEY ARE AND WHERE THEY WANT TO BE Romina Vega Hermosillo, MD - Universidad Anáhuac, Hospital de Especialidades Dr. Bernardo Sepúlveda Gutiérrez - Centro Médico Nacional Siglo XXI, Mexico City, Mexico
10	BEYOND THE GLASS CEILING; THE INFLUENCE OF FEMALE VASCULAR SURGEONS IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS ON CAREER ADVANCEMENT Marjan Moghaddam, BS - University of California San Diego, School of Medicine



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Dr. Bahareh Nejad*
Head of Robotics Program, UC Davis



* Dr. Bahareh Nejad is a paid CONMED consultant.

Special Events

**Welcome Reception
14th Anniversary
Celebration**

**Friday March 22
6:15 pm – 9:00 pm**

Fashion Show: Dress to Impress!

Saturday March 23

1:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Tampa Bay Ballroom 5

**Host: Wendy Ryan,
ABC Action News Main Anchor**

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Florida Chapter

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Laderer



Mr. and Mrs. John H. Sykes



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