



WIS CAREER SYMPOSIUM • FEBRUARY 7-9, 2025

WYNDHAM GRAND CLEARWATER BEACH *Clearwater Florida*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2025

2:30 pm - 4:45 pm **WORKSHOP SESSIONS**

SESSION A: UNDERGRADUATES AND MEDICAL STUDENTS

Moderator: *Monique Hassan*

Panelists: *Kellie McFarlin, Scott Gallagher, Sarah Samreen, Vivian Gahtan, Nova Szoka, Maria Altieri, Krista Haines, Melissa Phillips, Moran Slavin*

Creating a Powerful Presence

- The Science Behind First Impressions
- Dressing with Confidence and Style
- Professional Etiquette: Navigating Social and Business Settings
- Communicating Your Value in 30 Seconds – Elevator Speech

Building Your Professional Identity

- Crafting Compelling Personal Statements That Stand Out
- Research Opportunities That Open Doors
- Exam Strategies: Mastering MCAT and Beyond
- The Journey to Authenticity: Embracing Imperfection

Financial Fitness & Stress Management

- Smart Financial Choices for a Stress-Free Career
- Balancing Debt, Dreams, and Wellness

Interactive Role Play

- Acing the Interview: From Preparation to Execution
 - Interactive Interview Simulations
- Creating Meaningful Connections
 - Building Lasting Mentor-Mentee Relationships
 - Networking Bingo: Finding Your Future Mentors

SESSION B: RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS

Moderator: *Leigh Neumayer*

Panelists: *Sharmila Dissainake, Steve Schwaitzberg, Alia Qureshi, Lynn O'Connor, Nita Ahuja, KMarie King, Marina Kurian, Maureen Ayril, Marie Crandall*

Charting Your Path: Residency or Fellowship

- Building Confidence: Finding Your Voice in Medical Teams
- Thriving in Teamwork: Standing Out Without Overshadowing
- Decoding Residency Programs: Key Factors to Consider

Financial Success for Your Future

- Money Matters: Building a Smart Financial Plan
- Managing Debt Without Losing Sleep
- Navigating Contract Offers: Negotiation Strategies That Work

Unlocking the Power of Professional Societies

- Choosing the Right Society for You
- Making the Most of Membership: Opportunities You Can't-Miss
- Networking That Opens Doors



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	SESSION C: ATTENDING (AWS COLLABORATION) PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY, NEGOTIATIONS AND PROMOTION Moderator: <i>Chantal Reyna</i> Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying and branding your Niche • How to find a job that supports you in your niche • Negotiation tips and tricks • Avoiding negotiation pitfalls • How to promote yourself at your own place • How to promote yourself within your specialty • How to promote yourself for new opportunities • Pearls on promotion Q&A Panel at the End
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	POSTER SESSION [20] – Moderator: <i>Rebecca Minter</i>
6:15 pm – 9:00 pm	WELCOME RECEPTION AND 15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2025

7:00 am – 8:00 am	NETWORKING BREAKFAST Breakfast Briefing: Guiding International Medical Graduates to Success in Surgical Careers <i>Rahila Essani and Sarah Samreen</i>
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 <i>Sharona Ross</i>
PLENARY SESSIONS	
8:15 am – 9:15 am	PLENARY 1: SHARED PRIORITIES IN SURGERY AMONG Z, Y, X GENERATIONS, AND BABY BOOMER Moderator: <i>Julie Freischlag</i> Panelists: <i>Aurora Pryor, Alia Qureshi, Linda Richetelli-Pepe, Jennifer Tseng, KMarie King, Sallie Matthews, Ann Rogers, Alisa Coker, Sarah Samreen</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reshaping Surgical Culture • Priorities and Concerns Among Different Generations • Equity & Diversity • Mentorship & Sponsorship • Transitioning Leadership Roles in Surgical Societies and Institutions • How are payers influencing surgical priorities across generations? - Exploring Value-Based Healthcare and Its Impact on Providers and Health Systems



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9:15 am – 9:45 am	BREAK WITH INDUSTRY
9:45 am – 10:45 am	PLENARY 2: TECHNOLOGY TRANSFORMING SURGERY Moderator: <i>Darla Hutton</i> Panelists: <i>Melissa Hogg, Betsy Grunch, Vonda Wright, Melanie Aya-ay, Sharon Stein, Steve Schwaitzberg, Deborah Keller, Danielle Walsh, Aurora Pryor</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women surgeons are advancing in healthcare innovations & Robotic Surgery. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gen Y/Z women surgeons tend to easily embrace new technology: Simulation Training, Robotic Surgery, Telesurgery • Different Generational Approaches to Adoption of Surgical Technology • Implementing AI into your life and practice • Art of Social Media in Building a Practice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educating Patients, Referring Physicians, and Colleagues - Balancing Connectivity and Professionalism
10:45 am – 11:45 am	PLENARY 3: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON WORK CULTURE IN SURGERY Moderator: <i>Anne Lidor</i> Panelists: <i>Rooma Sihna, Rebecca Minter, Patricia Numann, Darla Hutton, Nita Ahuja, Julie Freischlag, KMarie King, Alia Qureshi, Marina Kurian</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-cultural and Cross-generational Insights into Equity, Safety, and Work-Life Balance • Regional Variations in Surgical Practices and Expectations • The Role of Cultural Norms in Surgical Training and Patient Care
11:45 am – 12:45 pm	PLENARY 4: REPRESENTATION IN SURGERY Moderator: <i>Karen Gibbs</i> Panelists: <i>Alisan Fathalizadeh, Patricia Numann, Sarah McLaughlin, Lisa Jane Jacobsen, Rooma Sihna, Martin Martino, Lynn O'Connor, S. Julie-Ann Lloyd, Marie Crandall</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breaking Barriers in Male-Dominated Fields • Strengthening Diversity Across Gender, Racial, and Ethnic Lines • Hard Work, Resilience, and Competence • DEI in a Changing Landscape: Responding to Challenges After the Supreme Court Ruling • Differences between Male and Female-Dominated Fields – Ob/Gyn vs. General Surgery
12:45 pm – 2:15 pm	NETWORKING LUNCH



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2:15 pm – 3:15 pm	PLENARY 5: COLLABORATING WITH INDUSTRY Moderator: <i>Melissa Phillips</i> Panelists: <i>Darla Hutton, Martin Martino, Nova Szoka, Gina Baldo, Margo Shoup, Alisa Coker, Sallie Matthews, Monique Hassan, Melissa Hogg</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Relationships and Opportunities with Industry Partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Importance of Industry Collaboration - Surgeons' Roles: Consultant, KOL, Speaker, Innovator, Investor - Using Social Media to Attract Industry Opportunities • Addressing Disparities in Women Surgeons' Involvement with Industry
3:15 pm – 3:45 pm	BREAK WITH INDUSTRY
3:45 pm – 4:45 pm	PLENARY 6: FAMILY, CAREER AND HEALTH IN SURGERY Moderator: <i>Nita Ahuja</i> Panelists: <i>Kellie McFarlin, Maria Altieri, Nova Szoka, Geeta Lal, Rahila Essani, Danielle Walsh, Vonda Wright, Vivian Gahtan, Anne Lidor</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generational Approaches to Balance Family and Career <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When is the Right Time to have children? - Medical School, Residency, Fellowship, First Job? - What are the Challenges? - Are there any Solutions? - Working Part-time? • Fertility Issues? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Freezing Embryos or Eggs, Embryo Donation - Adoption - Single Parenting - Women content without having children • Taking Care of Your Health – Inside and Outside the OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proper Ergonomics in the OR - Physical Health Outside the OR



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7:00 am – 9:00 am	NETWORKING BREAKFAST
9:00 am – 11:00 am	PARALLEL SESSIONS
	<p>SESSION A: UNDERGRADUATES AND MEDICAL STUDENTS EXCELLING IN THE MEDICAL SCHOOL JOURNEY</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Lynn O'Connor</i></p> <p>Panelists: <i>Vonda Wright, Lisa Jane Jacobsen, Melissa Hogg, Sarah McLaughlin, Sharon Stein, Anne Lidor, Monique Hassan, Nova Szoka</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cracking the Code: Your Ultimate Guide to Medical School Applications • Beyond the Basics: Adding Personal Flair to Create a Standout Application • Insights from the Experts. A Day in the Life of: HPB Surgeon, Colorectal Surgeon, Orthopedic Surgeon, Ob/Gyn, Breast Surgical Oncologist, Bariatric Surgeon, General Surgeon • Building Mental Strength: Turning Healthcare Stress into Resilience • Achieving Harmony: Practical Strategies for Sustainable Wellness • Q&A Panel – All Faculty
	<p>SESSION B: RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS BUILDING BLOCKS TO SUCCESS AFTER SURGICAL TRAINING</p> <p>Moderator: <i>KMarie King</i></p> <p>Panelists: <i>Betsy Grunch, Moran Slavin, Monique Hassan, Sarah Samreen, Pamela Hodul, Kellie McFarlin, Rahila Essani, Melissa Phillips</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pros and Cons of joining an Academic Program versus a Community Program • Building Connections That Matter: Creative Networking and Community Trust • Breaking Barriers: Strategies to Overcome Bias in Your Practice • Detailed Instructions: How to be a medical influencer on Social Media • Rising to Leadership: Navigating Institutional Roles with Confidence • Q&A Panel – Wisdom from the Faculty
	<p>SESSION C: ATTENDING (AWS COLLABORATION) BEWARE THE GLASS CLIFF</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Marion Henry</i></p> <p>Panelists: <i>Margo Shoup, Vivian Ghatan, Elizabeth Poulos, Heidi Brahma, Chantal Reyna</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the Glass Cliff • Shared discussion of some common and not-so-common scenarios • How to recognize good opportunity versus a not so good opportunity • Coaching and mentorship regarding these opportunities • What to do if you find yourself on the edge of the cliff • Q&A Panel – Wisdom from the Faculty
11:00 am – 11:15 am	CLOSING REMARKS