

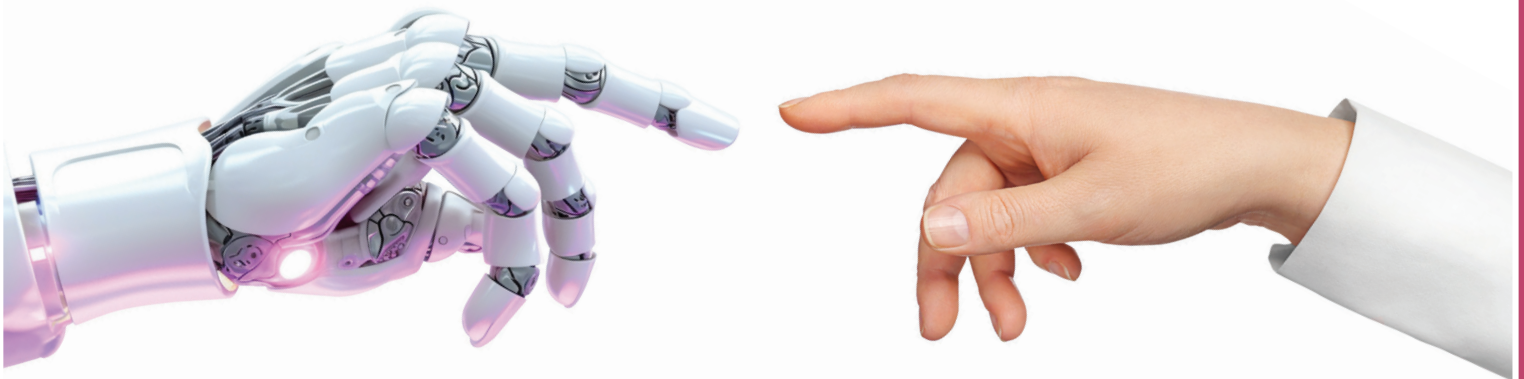


15TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL WOMEN IN SURGERY

# CAREER SYMPOSIUM

TRENDS IN HEALTHCARE

*Advancing Equity,  
Innovation and Leadership*



**February 7-9, 2025**

WYNDHAM GRAND CLEARWATER BEACH

NETWORK **WyndhamGrand\_Conference** PASSWORD **WIS2025**

 [wissymposium.com](http://wissymposium.com)

**#WIS2025**

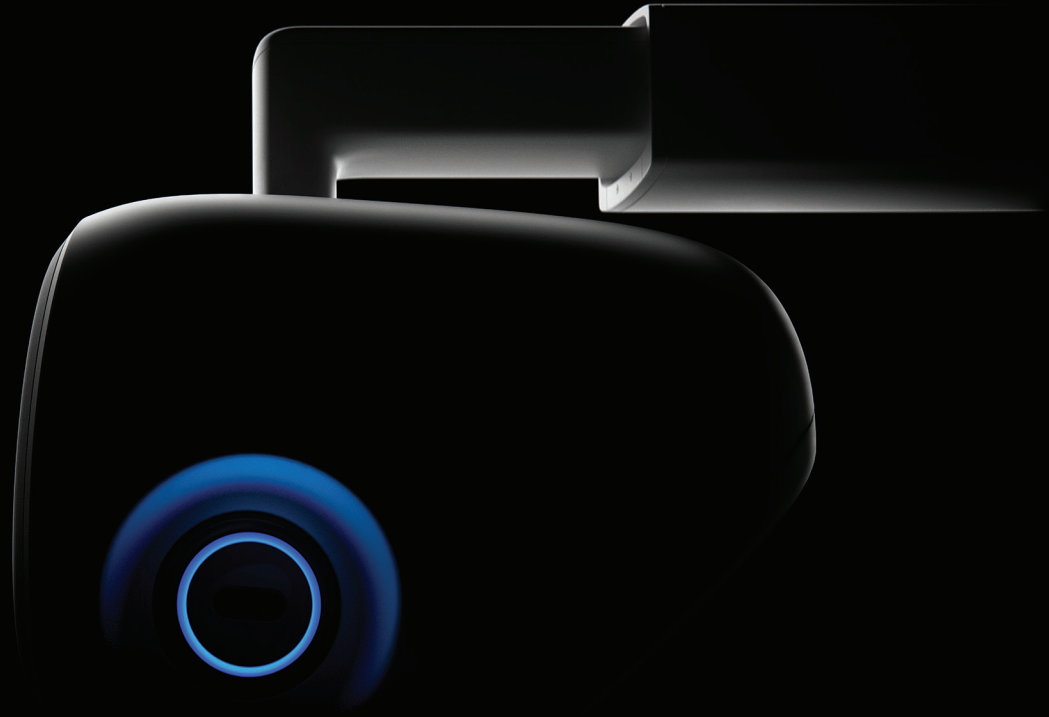
 Women in Surgery

 [womeninsurgery](https://twitter.com/womeninsurgery)

 [women\\_in\\_surgery\\_](https://www.instagram.com/women_in_surgery_)

 WIS Women in Surgery

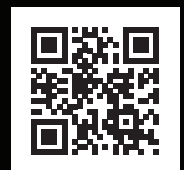
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# Welcome

*15th Annual International Women in Surgery Career Symposium on Emerging Trends in Healthcare: Advancing Equity, Innovation, and Leadership*



With immense excitement and a shared commitment to progress, we welcome you to a gathering that brings together visionary minds dedicated to transforming the future of Surgery—the **15th Annual Symposium on Emerging Trends in Healthcare**. This year, under the theme: "**Emerging Trends in Healthcare: Advancing Equity, Innovation, and Leadership**," we embark on a journey that redefines the future of healthcare and the essential role we all play in shaping it.

Our gathering is more than a symposium; it is a movement dedicated to fostering a healthcare system that prioritizes equity, embraces innovation, and nurtures bold leadership. As we come together to explore cutting-edge advancements, challenge systemic barriers, and champion transformative change, we reaffirm our collective mission to create a healthcare landscape that is inclusive, forward-thinking, and impactful.

In an era where disparities in healthcare remain a pressing issue, where groundbreaking technologies are reshaping patient care, and where strong leadership is needed more than ever, we recognize the urgency of these discussions. Our symposium serves as a dynamic forum for addressing these challenges head-on—bringing together pioneers, change-makers, and thought leaders to share insights, strategies, and solutions that will propel the industry forward.

This year's 15th anniversary event is particularly special as we welcome experts from diverse backgrounds and disciplines, each with unique experiences that exemplify the power of equity-driven innovation and leadership in healthcare. Their journeys, coupled with the perspectives and contributions of our attendees, serve as a powerful reminder of both the progress we have made and the work that remains.

As we engage in discussions, interactive workshops, and networking opportunities, let us remember that our greatest strength lies in collaboration. It is through our shared knowledge, diverse experiences, and unwavering dedication that we will redefine the future of healthcare—making it more accessible, equitable, and pioneering. We encourage you to actively participate, connect with peers and mentors, and embrace the wealth of knowledge that this symposium offers.

By the end of our time together, we hope you will leave empowered to drive meaningful change within your institutions, advocate for a more inclusive healthcare system, and continue pushing the boundaries of what is possible. Together, we can shape a future where equity, innovation, and leadership are not just aspirations but defining pillars of healthcare.

**Welcome to The 15th Annual International Women in Surgery Career Symposium —**  
let's embark on this transformative journey together!

Sincerely,

**Sharona B. Ross, MD, FACS**  
Founder and Chair Annual Women in Surgery Career Symposium



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**ROSS**

MD, FACS



Foregut and HPB Surgeon

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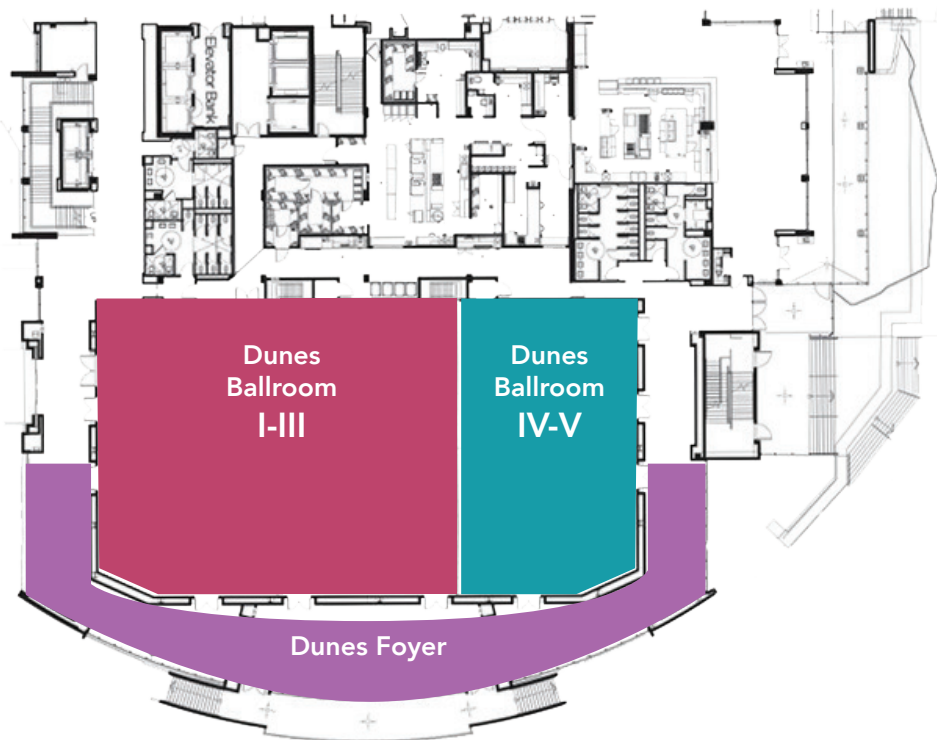
**Garnet  
VANTERPOOL, JR**  
MD



# WIS 2025 FLOOR PLAN



**THIRD FLOOR**



**LOBBY LEVEL**

Registration / Exhibits / Anniversary Celebration	Dunes Foyer
Networking Breakfast / Lunch	Dunes IV-V (Lobby Level)
<b>FRIDAY • WORKSHOP SESSIONS</b>	
Undergraduates & Medical Students Workshop	Dunes I-III (Lobby Level)
Resident & Fellows	Dunes IV-V (Lobby Level)
Attending Physicians (AWS Collaboration)	Sandpiper I-II (3rd floor)
Poster Session	Dunes I-III (Lobby Level)
<b>SATURDAY • PLENARY SESSION</b>	
Plenary Sessions	Dunes I-III (Lobby Level)
<b>SUNDAY • PARALLEL SESSIONS</b>	
Undergraduates & Medical Students	Dunes I-III (Lobby Level)
Resident & Fellows	Sandpiper I-II (3rd floor)
Attending Physicians (AWS Collaboration)	Heron (3rd floor)

## DAY ONE • FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

1:30 pm - 6:00 pm	<b>REGISTRATION &amp; INFORMATION</b> <i>Dunes Foyer</i>
<b>2:30 pm - 4:45 pm CONCURRENT WORKSHOP SESSIONS</b>	
	<p><b>SESSION A: UNDERGRADUATES AND MEDICAL STUDENTS</b> <i>Dunes I-III</i>  <b>Moderator:</b> <i>Monique Hassan</i>  <b>Panelists:</b> <i>Kellie McFarlin, Scott Gallagher, Sarah Samreen, Vivian Gahtan, Nova Szoka, Krista Haines, Melissa Phillips, Lauren Raymond, Jennine Weller, Cleo Siderides</i></p> <p><b>Creating a Powerful Presence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Science Behind First Impressions</li> <li>• Dressing with Confidence and Style</li> <li>• Professional Etiquette: Navigating Social and Business Settings</li> <li>• Communicating Your Value in 30 Seconds – Elevator Speech</li> </ul> <p><b>Building Your Professional Identity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crafting Compelling Personal Statements That Stand Out</li> <li>• Research Opportunities That Open Doors</li> <li>• Exam Strategies: Mastering MCAT and Beyond</li> <li>• The Journey to Authenticity: Embracing Imperfection</li> </ul> <p><b>Financial Fitness &amp; Stress Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smart Financial Choices for a Stress-Free Career</li> <li>• Balancing Debt, Dreams, and Wellness</li> </ul> <p><b>Interactive Role Play</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acing the Interview: From Preparation to Execution             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Interactive Interview Simulations</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Creating Meaningful Connections             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Building Lasting Mentor-Mentee Relationships</li> <li>- Networking Bingo: Finding Your Future Mentors</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<p><b>SESSION B: RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS</b> <i>Dunes IV-V</i>  <b>Moderator:</b> <i>Leigh Neumayer</i>  <b>Panelists:</b> <i>Steve Schwaitzberg, Alia Qureshi, Lynn O'Connor, KMarie King, Marina Kurian, Maureen Ayril, Marie Crandall, Lily Sadaat</i></p> <p><b>Charting Your Path: Residency or Fellowship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building Confidence: Finding Your Voice in Medical Teams</li> <li>• Thriving in Teamwork: Standing Out Without Overshadowing</li> <li>• Decoding Residency Programs: Key Factors to Consider</li> </ul> <p><b>Financial Success for Your Future</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Money Matters: Building a Smart Financial Plan</li> <li>• Managing Debt Without Losing Sleep</li> <li>• Navigating Contract Offers: Negotiation Strategies That Work</li> </ul> <p><b>Unlocking the Power of Professional Societies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choosing the Right Society for You</li> <li>• Making the Most of Membership: Opportunities You Can't Miss</li> <li>• Networking That Opens Doors</li> </ul>



## DAY ONE • FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7 *(continued)*

	<p><b>SESSION C: ATTENDING (AWS COLLABORATION) Sandpiper I-II</b>  <b>PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY, NEGOTIATIONS AND PROMOTION</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> <i>Chantal Reyna</i>  <b>Panelists:</b> <i>Lisa Hilton, Sharon Stein, Mecker Moller, Rahila Essani</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying and Branding Your Niche</li> <li>• How to Find a Job that Supports You in Your Niche</li> <li>• Negotiation Tips and Tricks</li> <li>• Avoiding Negotiation Pitfalls</li> <li>• How to Promote Yourself at Your Own Place</li> <li>• How to Promote Yourself within Your Specialty</li> <li>• How to Promote Yourself for New Opportunities</li> <li>• Pearls on Promotion</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A Panel at the End</p>
4:45 pm - 5:00 pm	<b>COFFEE BREAK with Exhibitors</b> <i>Dunes Foyer</i>
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	<b>POSTER SESSION</b> <b>Moderator:</b> <i>Rebecca Minter</i> <i>Dunes I-III</i>
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	<b>15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION with Exhibitors</b> <i>Dunes Foyer</i>

## DAY TWO • SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

7:00 am – 4:45 pm	<b>REGISTRATION AND EXHIBITS</b> <i>Dunes Foyer</i>
7:00 am – 8:00 am	<p><b>NETWORKING BREAKFAST</b> <i>Dunes IV-V</i>  <b>Breakfast Briefing: Guiding International Medical Graduates to Success in Surgical Careers</b> <i>Rahila Essani and Sarah Samreen</i></p>
8:00 am – 10:00 am	STEM and Undergrad Robotic Competition <i>Dunes Foyer</i>
8:00 am – 8:15 am	Opening Remarks from Program Chair <i>Sharona Ross</i> <i>Dunes I-III</i>
<b>PLENARY SESSIONS</b> <i>Dunes I-III</i>	
8:15 am – 9:15 am	<p><b>PLENARY 1: SHARED PRIORITIES IN SURGERY AMONG Z, Y, X GENERATIONS, AND BABY BOOMER</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> <i>Julie Freischlag</i>  <b>Panelists:</b> <i>Lauren Raymond, Alia Qureshi, Linda Richetelli-Pepe, Jennifer Tseng, KMarie King, Sallie Matthews, Ann Rogers, Alisa Coker, Sarah Samreen</i></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reshaping Surgical Culture</li> <li>• Priorities and Concerns Among Different Generations</li> <li>• Equity &amp; Diversity</li> <li>• Mentorship &amp; Sponsorship</li> <li>• Transitioning Leadership Roles in Surgical Societies and Institutions</li> <li>• How are Payers Influencing Surgical Priorities Across Generations?  - Exploring Value-Based Healthcare and Its Impact on Providers and Health Systems</li> </ul>





## DAY TWO • SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8 *(continued)*

<b>9:15 am – 10:15 am</b>	<p><b>PLENARY 2: TECHNOLOGY TRANSFORMING SURGERY</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> <i>Darla Hutton</i>  <b>Panelists:</b> <i>Melissa Hogg, Betsy Grunch, Melanie Aya-ay, Sharon Stein, Steve Schwaitzberg, Deborah Keller, Danielle Walsh</i></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women Surgeons are Advancing in Healthcare Innovations &amp; Robotic Surgery             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gen Y/Z Women Surgeons Tend to Easily Embrace New Technology: Simulation Training, Robotic Surgery, Telesurgery</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Different Generational Approaches to Adoption of Surgical Technology</li> <li>• Implementing AI into Your Life and Practice</li> <li>• Art of Social Media in Building a Practice:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Educating Patients, Referring Physicians, and Colleagues</li> <li>- Balancing Connectivity and Professionalism</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>10:15 am – 10:45 am</b>	<b>COFFEE BREAK with Exhibitors</b> <i>Dunes Foyer</i>
<b>10:45 am – 11:45 am</b>	<p><b>PLENARY 3: GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON WORK CULTURE IN SURGERY</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> <i>Anne Lidor</i>  <b>Panelists:</b> <i>Rebecca Minter, Patricia Numann, Darla Hutton, Julie Freischlag, KMarie King, Alia Qureshi, Marina Kurian, Lily Sadaat</i></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross-Cultural and Cross-Generational Insights into Equity, Safety, and Work-Life Balance</li> <li>• Regional Variations in Surgical Practices and Expectations</li> <li>• The Role of Cultural Norms in Surgical Training and Patient Care</li> </ul>
<b>11:45 am – 12:45 pm</b>	<p><b>PLENARY 4: REPRESENTATION IN SURGERY</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> <i>Karen Gibbs</i>  <b>Panelists:</b> <i>Alisan Fathalizadeh, Patricia Numann, Lisa Jane Jacobsen, Martin Martino, Lynn O'Connor, S. Julie-Ann Lloyd, Marie Crandall, Jennine Weller, Cleo Siderides, Sarah McLaughlin</i></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breaking Barriers in Male-Dominated Fields</li> <li>• Strengthening Diversity Across Gender, Racial, and Ethnic Lines</li> <li>• Hard Work, Resilience, and Competence</li> <li>• DEI in a Changing Landscape: Responding to Challenges After the Supreme Court Ruling</li> <li>• Differences Between Male and Female-Dominated Fields – Ob/Gyn vs. General Surgery</li> </ul>
<b>12:45 pm – 2:15 pm</b>	<b>NETWORKING LUNCH</b> <i>Dunes IV-V</i>

*Agenda is subject to change.*



## DAY TWO • SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8 *(continued)*

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

*Agenda is subject to change.*

**This activity is funded in part by unrestricted educational grants from Applied Medical, GORE, and Medtronic.**



## DAY THREE • SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

7:30 am – 11:15 am	<b>REGISTRATION AND EXHIBITS</b> <i>Dunes Foyer</i>
8:00 am – 9:00 am	<b>NETWORKING BREAKFAST</b> <i>Dunes IV-V</i>
9:00 am – 11:00 am	<b>PARALLEL SESSIONS</b>
	<p><b>SESSION A: UNDERGRADUATES AND MEDICAL STUDENTS</b>  <b>EXCELLING IN THE MEDICAL SCHOOL JOURNEY</b> <i>Dunes I-III</i>  <b>Moderator:</b> <i>Lynn O'Connor</i>  <b>Panelists:</b> <i>Lisa Jane Jacobsen, Melissa Hogg, Lauren Raymond, Cleo Siderides, Jennine Weller, Anne Lidor, Nova Szoka, Martin Martino</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cracking the Code: Your Ultimate Guide to Medical School Applications</li> <li>• Beyond the Basics: Adding Personal Flair to Create a Standout Application</li> <li>• Insights from the Experts. A Day in the Life of: HPB Surgeon, Colorectal Surgeon, Ob/Gyn, Bariatric Surgeon, General Surgeon</li> <li>• Building Mental Strength: Turning Healthcare Stress into Resilience</li> <li>• Achieving Harmony: Practical Strategies for Sustainable Wellness</li> <li>• Q&amp;A Panel – All Faculty</li> </ul>
	<p><b>SESSION B: RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS</b>  <b>BUILDING BLOCKS TO SUCCESS AFTER SURGICAL TRAINING</b> <i>Sandpiper-3rd Floor</i>  <b>Moderator:</b> <i>Sharon Stein</i>  <b>Panelists:</b> <i>Betsy Grunch, Monique Hassan, Sarah Samreen, Kellie McFarlin, Rahila Essani, Lily Sadaat</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pros and Cons of Joining an Academic Program Versus a Community Program</li> <li>• Building Connections That Matter: Creative Networking and Community Trust</li> <li>• Breaking Barriers: Strategies to Overcome Bias in Your Practice</li> <li>• Detailed Instructions: How to be a Medical Influencer on Social Media</li> <li>• Rising to Leadership: Navigating Institutional Roles with Confidence</li> <li>• Q&amp;A Panel – Wisdom from the Faculty</li> </ul>
	<p><b>SESSION C: ATTENDING (AWS COLLABORATION)</b>  <b>BEWARE THE GLASS CLIFF</b> <i>Heron-3rd Floor</i>  <b>Moderator:</b> <i>Marion Henry</i>  <b>Panelists:</b> <i>Margo Shoup, Vivian Ghatan, Elizabeth Paulus, Heidi Bahna, Chantal Reyna</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the Glass Cliff</li> <li>• Shared Discussion of Some Common and Not-so-Common Scenarios</li> <li>• How to Recognize Good Opportunity Versus a Not So Good Opportunity</li> <li>• Coaching and Mentorship Regarding these Opportunities</li> <li>• What to Do If You Find Yourself on the Edge of the Cliff</li> <li>• Q&amp;A Panel – Wisdom from the Faculty</li> </ul>
11:00 am – 11:15 am	<b>Closing Remarks from Program Chair</b> <i>Sharona Ross Dunes I-III</i>

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