

# In the loupe



UCSF SURGERY NEWSLETTER  
DECEMBER 2025



# Chair's Message

Dear Colleagues,

As we close out the year, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks for all that you do across our Department; that is, in our hospitals, clinics, classrooms, research programs, and communities. Your dedication, compassion, and teamwork are the backbone of UCSF Surgery.

I also want to reflect on the energy and joy of our recent Department Holiday Party. It was wonderful to see faculty, staff, and residents together – and equally meaningful to welcome so many partners and plus-ones. Building a community that is genuinely inclusive of the people who support us outside the workplace matters. We are committed to continuing and strengthening this approach next year. Thank you to our Chair's Office staff – **Sabrina Lum, Crystalin Bonjoc, Mandy Li, and Carrie Triplett** – who worked hard to make the event a success.

This month, I also want to highlight new research our team published in **JAMA Surgery**, examining promotion pathways for academic surgeons (<https://t.co/OvWEjjZlyc>). Our national cohort study of more than 6,000 faculty found that surgeons who changed institutions were significantly more likely to be promoted within 10 years, with the strongest effect among faculty underrepresented in medicine. At the same time, the findings point to persistent disparities for women and UIM faculty who remain at their home institutions, underscoring the importance of equitable internal pathways for advancement. Deliberate institutional efforts are needed to support the long-term career development of faculty and create more internal opportunities for advancement.

It is interesting that in the **2025 Community Climate Survey** results just released here at UCSF, our UCSF Surgery faculty reported having a UCSF mentor or sponsor at significantly higher rates than colleagues in other departments at UCSF. While this is encouraging, we need to continue to actively and intentionally focus on the advancement of our faculty and trainees, and especially the professional development of our staff. We are recruiting many new faculty colleagues this year (**please tune into the faculty recruitment chalk talks live or the video recordings that Stephanie Lee makes available afterward**), but retention efforts remain even more important.

These data reinforce what we strive to build here at UCSF: clear, supportive, and fair structures that help people grow – and stay. Investing in mentorship, recognition, and transparent promotion practices remains central to who we are and who we aim to be. Thank you again for the extraordinary work and spirit you bring to our community. I look forward to all we will accomplish together in the year ahead.

*Julie Ann Sosa*



# MEET your colleagues



**Ruolin "Lorraine" Jiang**

Clinical Research Coordinator

As the lead coordinator for the **DCIS RECAST** clinical trial in Breast Surgery at the Breast Care Center, I work with **Dr. Jordan Jackson** and **Dr. Laura Esserman** to support patients with HR-positive ductal carcinoma in situ through an individualized treatment approach using neoadjuvant endocrine therapy and serial imaging. My role includes patient enrollment, multidisciplinary coordination, and collaboration with national study sites. The trial has been presented at **ASCO** and featured on **CBS News**.



**Catherine Sutherland**

Operations Manager

As Operations Manager of the **Surgical Skills Center**, I oversee day-to-day operations of the simulation lab where trainees develop foundational technical skills and practice operative techniques outside the operating room. The role also includes supporting the **ACS-AEI Simulation & Education Fellowship**, providing research fellows with resources to study education theory through simulation-based practice.



**Rashad D. Benton**

Director of Communications

As Director of Communications in the **Chair's Office** for the UCSF Department of Surgery, I lead strategic storytelling, digital engagement, and brand direction to strengthen visibility and alignment across faculty, staff, trainees, and institutional partners. My work spans editorial leadership, social media, department-wide newsletters (**including the one you're reading**), the annual **State of the Department** presentation, and overall communications strategy. By integrating these efforts, I help shape a cohesive narrative that elevates innovation, fosters collaboration, and positions the department as a trusted leader in academic surgery.



**Renee Sweeney**

Administrative Officer III & Finance Analyst

As an Administrative Officer III and Finance Analyst for the **Division of Transplant and Department of Surgery**, I provide administrative support to **Dr. Nancy Ascher** and financial reporting for Senior Director **Kalpana Harish**. I oversee five recharge activities, manage budgets, monthly billing, and provide real-time financial and operational analysis. The role also involves analyzing large datasets and translating complex financial information into clear, actionable reports to support broader organizational decision-making.

This page highlights staff members from across the Department of Surgery whose work supports our divisions and day-to-day operations. In this issue, we feature eight colleagues representing a range of roles and teams. We hope this offers a chance to put faces to work you may already know – and perhaps discover something new along the way.

This spotlight will continue in future issues until every member of our staff has been featured. To our staff: your contributions are essential to how this department functions, and your work is deeply appreciated.



**Victor Varoqui**

Associate Specialist

As an Associate Specialist in the **Surgical Innovations** department, I support medical device research and development by creating design concepts, drawings, prototypes, and conducting bench testing informed by market research, user-needs assessments, and clinical observations. Furthermore, I collaborate closely with clinicians and students to generate intellectual property and support grant efforts, while managing the department's prototyping lab and overseeing equipment and workflows to enable rapid device development.



**Allison Stover Fiscalini**

Executive Director, Athena and WISDOM

As Executive Director for the **Athena Breast Health Network** and the **WISDOM Study within General Surgery and Breast Surgery**, I lead the Program Management Office at UCSF, overseeing operations and cross-institutional collaborations. My responsibilities include grant development and award management, oversight of the **WISDOM IT** platform, national partnership building, stakeholder engagement, and day-to-day clinical trial operations. Our multidisciplinary collaborations drive efforts to advance personalized breast screening and prevention nationwide, with **WISDOM 1.0** results recently presented at **SABCS** and published in **JAMA**, including **Time** and **NYTimes** coverage.



**Tracy Aubuchon**

Administrative Director

As the Administrative Director for the Divisions of **Pediatric Surgery** and **Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery**, I support the academic, operational, financial, research, and educational missions of both divisions. The role involves close collaboration with faculty, learners, and staff across Mission Bay, Parnassus, and Oakland Children's sites. Additionally, I manage staff across locations, oversee three fellowship programs and multiple basic science laboratories, and help ensure the effective administration of the divisions' academic, research, and teaching programs in support of exceptional patient care and innovation.



**Alondra Camarena**

Research Assistant

As a post-baccalaureate intern with the **Breast Care Center (BCC) Internship Program**, I coordinate the Patient Support Corps, a patient scribing program that supports visits by providing written notes and audio recordings for patients to review afterward. I also manage the **Supportive Care Needs Survey**, a distress screening tool that identifies cancer-specific needs and connects patients with social work and other supportive resources. In addition, I serve as a research assistant on a genetic testing decision-making study at the VA and in Radiation Oncology with **Dr. Lisa Singer**.

# education



**Dr. Raghav Chandra**, Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellow, published a study in **Nature Medicine** in October alongside a multidisciplinary team of co-authors. The study, “**Macrovascular tumor infiltration and circulating tumor cell cluster dynamics in patients with cancer approaching the end of life,**” offers important insight into tumor behavior and disease progression during late-stage cancer, advancing our understanding of metastatic biology.



**Dr. Maria Castro**, General Surgery Research Fellow, received the **First Place Tepas Award** at the **Pediatric Trauma Society Annual Meeting** for her manuscript and podium presentation, “**A New Pediatric Trauma Center Quality Benchmarking Metric.**” Her work focused on functional outcomes after pediatric injury at Benioff Children’s Hospital Oakland is conducted under the mentorship of **Dr. Aaron Jensen**.

**Dr. Kirkpatrick Fergus**, General Surgery Resident, published his research in **Genome Medicine** on integrating polygenic risk scores into personalized breast cancer screening. He was also selected as a **semi-finalist** for the **Research Excellence Award at the American Society of Human Genetics** for this work.



**Dr. Russyan Mark Mabeza**, General Surgery Resident, has been selected for the **2026 National Clinician Scholars Program (NCSP) at UCSF**. The NCSP provides interdisciplinary mentorship and rigorous training in health services research, community-partnered research, and health policy, preparing clinicians to lead transformative work in health and healthcare systems.



**Dr. Miguel Nunez**, General Surgery Resident, has been named a **2026 National Clinician Scholars Program (NCSP) Scholar at UCSF**. Through advanced training in implementation science, health system innovation, and community-engaged research, he will join a distinguished cohort committed to improving health and healthcare for diverse communities.



**Natasha Gonzalez** has been selected as a recipient of the **2026 AAS Senior Medical Student Travel Award**, an honor that recognizes emerging leaders in academic surgery. Supported by mentors **Drs. Tasce Bongiovanni** and **Matthew Lin**, Natasha will represent UCSF Surgery at the **Academic Surgical Congress** in Florida this February, where she will be recognized for her promise as a future surgeon-scientist.

**Breast Surgeon Dr. Cheryl Ewing** has been selected by the 2025 PISCES students for a **UCSF Medicine PISCES Teaching Award**, recognizing her outstanding teaching and mentorship in breast cancer care and surgical skills. Students praised her clarity, hands-on guidance, and support in shaping their career interests. Her commitment to education continues to enhance the PISCES learning experience.



**Dr. Phoebe Miller**, General Surgery Resident, has been named a **2025–26 NHLBI StARR Scholar** by the NIH, recognizing her outstanding potential and commitment to rigorous scientific inquiry. Her innovative research contributions have already made a significant impact, and this award marks an exciting next step in her development as a surgeon-scientist.



## *New Staff Member*

We are pleased to welcome **Amber Cobbett** as the new **Co-Clerkship Coordinator for General Surgery UME**. In this role, she will support multiple **4th-year** surgery rotations, helps review and select visiting student applicants, oversees key components of Surgery 110—including Orientation Week, and assists with the Surgery Interest Group.



The **biannual Robotic Tissue Lab for Residents** started on **December 8th** and will last through the **19th**, offering dedicated hands-on training in robotic surgery fundamentals. Faculty across various divisions will lead sessions designed to strengthen residents’ technical skills, instrument familiarity, and procedural confidence within a high-fidelity skills-lab environment.

# graduating

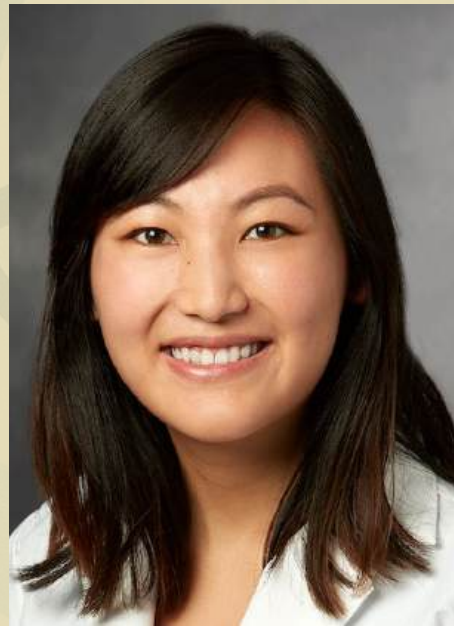
This year's education highlights are anchored by a milestone moment for our training program: **three** of our **General Surgery Chief Residents—Drs. Basil Karam, Karen Trang, and Tom Sorrentino**—have matched into highly competitive colorectal surgery fellowships at **NYU, Mount Sinai, and Washington University in St. Louis**. Their successes, alongside the remarkable scholarly achievements featured on this page, reflect the strength of UCSF's surgical training environment and the exceptional talent, dedication, and academic rigor of our residents.



## ***Dr. Basil Karam,***

Chief Resident (PGY-5) in General Surgery, has matched into the **Colorectal Surgery Fellowship at New York University**.

Dr. Karam completed his medical degree at the American University of Beirut, where he also earned his BS in Biology. He went on to complete preliminary General Surgery training at Johns Hopkins University before joining UCSF for residency, where he will finish in June 2026.



## ***Dr. Karen Trang,***

Chief Resident (PGY-5) in General Surgery, has matched into the **Colorectal Surgery Fellowship at Mount Sinai**. Dr. Trang earned her MD from Stanford University and completed her BS in Biochemistry at Saint Mary's College of California. During her residency at UCSF, she also completed specialized training in Clinical Informatics. She will complete her General Surgery residency in June 2026.



## ***Dr. Tom Sorrentino,***

Chief Resident (PGY-5) in General Surgery, has matched into the **Colorectal Surgery Fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis**. Dr. Sorrentino received his BS in Biomedical Engineering from Yale University and his MD from UCSF, where he will complete his General Surgery residency in June 2026.

# *Chief Residents*

# research

## A Transformational Year for Surgical Science: Seven Major Faculty Awards

Seven faculty members ushered in FY 25 by securing major federal awards totaling more than **\$22.5 million**. Notably, five awards exceed \$2 million, ranging from **\$2.4M to \$7.2M** – a scale of funding that significantly expands the Department’s capacity for groundbreaking investigation.

We also celebrate a critical milestone for our next generation of research leaders:

**4** faculty members, **2** surgeon scientists, and **2** scientists from the **Transplant** and **Pediatric Surgery Divisions** received their first **RO1** or equivalent grant.

Securing the first RO1 is a defining moment in any research career. These accomplishments signal not only the strength of our faculty but also the future trajectory of surgical science at UCSF. Together, these awards reinforce UCSF Surgery’s standing as a national leader in scientific innovation, shaping the next era of discovery, training, and clinical impact.

Dr. Amar Nijagal

Dr. Hirotake Komatsu

Dr. James Gardner

Dr. Kyle Cromer

Dr. Sandy Feng

Dr. Valerie Weaver

**\$3.1 Million**

Novel Macrophage Mediated Signals Regulate the Immunoregulatory Environment of the Neonatal Liver

**\$2.4 Million**

Scalable and Transplantable Pancreatic Islet Organoids with Engineered Oxygenation

**\$4 Million**

Aire-expressing Macrophages as Novel Mediators of Tumor Immune Evasion

**\$1.4 Million**

Engineering Enhanced Erythropoiesis for Red Blood Cell Disorders

**\$7.2 Million**

Early Signals of the Transition from Immune Quiescence to Activation in the Liver Allograft Microenvironment and in the Circulation

**\$3.3 Million**

Antidepressant Regulation of PDAC

Dr. Peter Stock

Dr. Tammy T. Chang

Dr. Mark Zhao

Dr. Atesh Worthington

Dr. Kun Jia

Dr. Alison Baskin

**\$950k**

Parathyroid Allotransplant for Treatment of Hypoparathyroidism

**\$40k**

Irreversible Electroporation (IRE)-mediated Hepatocyte Transplantation as a Treatment for Inborn Errors of Metabolism

**\$25k**

Improving Patient Adherence to Watch-and Wait Surveillance Using Informatics Tools

**\$79k**

CIRM Fellowship Award

**\$79k**

CIRM Fellowship Award

**\$88k**

University of Michigan Surgical Oncology Research Training Program

## Four UCSF Surgery Residents Awarded Prestigious F32 Fellowships — A Landmark Moment for Resident Research

Dr. Iris H. Liu

Dr. Alexandra M. Highet

Dr. Simon Chu

Dr. Juan C. Reyna

Cardiometabolic disease and vascular aging: Klotho regulation of medial arterial calcification

Sociodemographic and geospatial disparities in outcomes for patients with biliary atresia: A comprehensive analysis using national and state datasets

Enhancing Safety and Efficacy of Stem-Cell Derived Islet Transplantation using CRISPR-Mediated Genome Engineering

Characterization and Optimization of a Novel Bioreactor for Biomanufacturing and Cryopreservation

In an exceptional moment for UCSF Surgery resident research, **four** residents secured **NIH F32 Postdoctoral Fellowships** in the past 2 academic years. This is impressive, an unprecedented achievement over the past 2 decades. These nationally competitive awards underscore the strength of our resident research program, highlighting the depth, rigor, and scientific ambition in our Department. Three of the four projects are basic science while one is rooted in clinical science, demonstrating the breadth of investigative pathways supported by UCSF Surgery.

# accomplishments

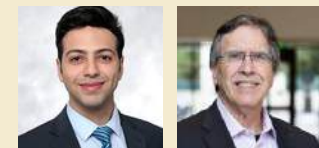


**Dr. Rebecca Plevin**, Associate Professor of Surgery and Trauma & Surgical Critical Care Surgeon at ZSFG, on her appointment as **Vice Chair for the Northern California Committee on Trauma** with the **American College of Surgeons**.

**Dr. Tasce Bongiovanni**, Trauma & Acute Care Surgeon at ZSFG and UCSF Health, was honored with the **Joan L. & Julius H. Jacobson II Promising Investigator Award** from the **American College of Surgeons**. This national recognition highlights her impactful research and growing influence in advancing trauma and acute care surgery.



**Dr. Johannes Kratz** and **Dr. Jeroen Roose's**, leadership helped secure a **\$250,000 Lopker Family Foundation award** for their project, "**Advancing Two-Hit Therapy Approaches for K-Ras Mutation Cancers**." Selected from 30 submissions across UCSF, the project unites collaborators from **ImmunoX** and the **Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center** to advance new two-hit therapeutic strategies for difficult-to-treat K-Ras cancers.



**Dr. Ariyan Tabesh** (UCSF East Bay Resident), **Dr. Shahram Aarabi** and **Dr. Michael Kohn** have received a **UCSF Catalyst Consultation Award** for their project, "**4D Volumetric M-Mode Ultrasound for Automated DVT Diagnosis**." This recognition highlights their innovative approach to advancing ultrasound technology and improving diagnostic accuracy.



UCSF Health appointed **Dr. Eric Nakakura** as the new **Medical Director for Mission Bay A5/A6 and UBLT**. A Stanford- and Johns Hopkins-trained surgical oncologist, Dr. Nakakura will oversee quality and throughput initiatives across Mission Bay, helping to strengthen patient care, coordination, and operational excellence.

At this year's **ACS Clinical Congress**, **Dr. Julie Ann Sosa** presented the newly released **American Thyroid Association guidelines**, which she co-developed and co-led with **Dr. Matthew Ringel** of **The Ohio State University**. The updated recommendations emphasize patient-centered care, shared decision-making, and more personalized management approaches for thyroid cancer.



Congratulations to **Dr. Tammy T. Chang**, UCSF General Surgeon, on receiving the **2025 SUS Mid-Career Award** from the **Society of University Surgeons**. This recognition highlights her innovative research, leadership, and vision in advancing surgical science.



In a new study published in **Science Advances**, **Dr. Ajay V. Maker** shows that "**Combination LIGHT Overexpression and Checkpoint Blockade Disrupts the Tumor Immune Environment Impacting Colorectal Liver Metastases**," demonstrating how a novel immunotherapy approach reshapes the immune microenvironment and eradicates tumors in preclinical models.

# ZSFG UPDATE

The Division of Surgery at **Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center** closes an exceptional year defined by record clinical volume, major research advances, and noteworthy faculty achievements. Despite historic highs in trauma activations and emergency general surgery cases, our multidisciplinary team continued to deliver compassionate, high-quality care with resilience and unwavering commitment to the ZSFG mission.

The division expanded its faculty with the arrivals of **Dr. Ahmed Naiem** (Vascular Surgery) and **Dr. Nichole Starr** (General Surgery), strengthening clinical capacity and academic leadership. Research efforts accelerated with three major trauma-focused clinical trials—**PAIN**, **CAVALIAR**, and **AURORA**—led by **Dr. Lucy Kornblith** and **Dr. Joesph Cuschieri**, alongside key national guideline contributions from **Drs. Ronald B. Tesoriero** and Cuschieri. Global health collaborations also grew under the leadership of **Drs. Starr, Boeck, Kock, Dicker, Garber, and Sammann**.

This year brought significant recognition in education and leadership. **Dr. Rebecca Plevin** was appointed **Vice Chair of the Northern California Committee on Trauma**; **Dr. Kumar** received the **UCSF Lean Champion Award**; and **Drs. Collins** and **Cuschieri** earned **Academy of Medical Educators Excellence in Teaching Awards**. Additional honors included the **ASE Faculty Teaching Award** for **Dr. Andre Campbell** and the **Jacobson Promising Investigator Award** for **Dr. Tasce Bongiovanni**.

Faculty continued to shape national surgical education through leadership in **the AAST EST Emergency General Surgery Course**, **the AAST Bootcamp**, and **American College of Surgeons** programming, while sharing expertise through invited lectures, publications, and consensus initiatives. Together, these accomplishments reflect a year of remarkable impact and reaffirm the division's leadership in clinical excellence, research innovation, global engagement, and surgical education.

As we close out the year, the Division extends warm wishes to everyone for a happy holiday season and a healthy, successful New Year—and offers sincere thanks to all faculty, trainees, staff, and partners for their continued support and dedication.



*- Joe Cuschieri*

# muriel steele society

The Muriel Steele Society entered the fall with increased energy—hosting standout events, welcoming inspiring guests, and celebrating major achievements.

## Suturing + Knot-Tying Workshop with The Stitch Lab

The Muriel Steele Society partnered with **The Stitch Lab** at UCSF for a hands-on suturing and knot-tying workshop, giving medical students the chance to learn and practice essential surgical closure techniques under faculty and resident guidance.

## Mental Health and Resilience in Surgery

The Society hosted an evening focused on Mental Health and Resilience in Surgery, featuring **Dr. Carter Lebares**, Director of the UCSF Center for Mindfulness in Surgery, who spoke on sustaining well-being in surgical careers. **Emma Peat** from **NAMI San Francisco** highlighted community resources, followed by a shared meal and time for peer and mentor connection.

## GWIMS Award Recognition

This year, the Muriel Steele Society—now more than **600** members strong—was honored with the **2025 AAMC GWIMS Emerging Organization Leadership Award**. The recognition celebrates the Society's growth from an initial group of seven and its ongoing commitment to advancing women in surgery. As **Dr. Kornblith** noted, the award is “a call to continue this work with even greater intention.”

## Visiting Professor: Dr. Miral Grandhi

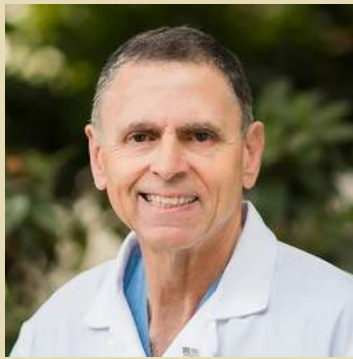
We welcomed **Dr. Miral Grandhi**—Associate Professor of Surgery at **Rutgers** and **Director of Hepatobiliary Surgery at Rutgers Cancer Institute**—for a brunch visit. Attendees enjoyed hearing her insights on surgical oncology, mentorship, and navigating academic medicine.

## Annual Ocean Beach Bonfire

To close out October, the Society hosted its annual **Ocean Beach Bonfire** and **S'mores Night**, offering a relaxed setting for incoming and outgoing surgical residents to connect across specialties and spend time with faculty outside the clinical environment.



# IN OUR COMMUNITY



Dr. James Betts was selected to receive the **Charles Houston Bar Association's Benjamin Travis Community Service Award**, an honor rooted in civil rights excellence. He was recognized for his impact at an awards ceremony in San Francisco.



Dr. Ajay Maker delivered the **57th Annual Slaughter Lecture** in Chicago, spending the day with **University of Illinois Chicago General Surgery residents** discussing pancreatic cancer and biomarkers of pancreatic cystic neoplasms. He shared UCSF Surgery data and clinical approaches, noting the strong curiosity and commitment demonstrated by the trainees.



Two years ago, **Mayor London Breed** proclaimed **November 2nd, 2023 as "Dr. Andre Campbell Day."** This year, nurses, physicians, and staff at **ZSFG** surprised Dr. Campbell with a second annual celebration, complete with food, fun, and commemorative scrub caps, hats, and stickers. Dr. Campbell extends his sincere thanks to everyone who helped make the moment special.



The first **OR Etiquette Orientation and Foley Catheter Simulation Lab** for Surgery Clerkship students was led by 4th-year Surgical Peer Tutors **Jessica Santhakumar** and **Taylor Walker**. In a lifelike mock operating room, students practiced gowning, gloving, sterile field setup, and OR etiquette. Special thanks to **Michael D. Francis** for supporting this hands-on training experience.



This fall, **UCSF Medicine** continued its **Stop the Bleed** training in partnership with the **ZSFG Trauma Service**. With dedicated support from **Sarah Garden, RN**, the program empowers medical students to teach bleeding control techniques throughout the San Francisco community. A recent session engaged 30 community participants.



In November, UCSF Surgery hosted its annual faculty retreat, **"The Financial Future of Academic Medicine."** Leaders from across UCSF and UCSF Health came together to discuss innovation, sustainability, and strategic approaches to strengthening the department's clinical and research mission.



**Dr. Elisabeth Abeles**, Research Fellow, and Surgical Oncologist **Dr. Rita Mukhtar** were awarded a **\$50,000** Research Development Grant from the **UCSF Breast Oncology Program** for a **PLUMB Study** sub-project evaluating FAP PET imaging in metastatic invasive lobular carcinoma.



**Dr. Johannes Kratz** launched the **UC Thoracic Surgery Initiative (UCTSI)**, a UC-wide collaborative advancing shared outcomes and research across campuses. He also presented UCSF's **AIM-HIGH trial**—an international study of adjuvant chemotherapy in molecular high-risk patients—at the **VJ Oncology Advances in Lung Cancer Webinar** and the **AATS International Thoracic Surgical Oncology Summit**.



A moment from **WTS 2025**: The first-ever **Women in Thoracic Surgery Fun Run** marked an energizing start to the conference, bringing attendees together for a four-mile run and celebrating community, wellness, and connection.



Throughout the Thanksgiving holiday, the **ZSFG** team continued to provide exceptional care while also creating a sense of community within the hospital. Staff came together to share a Thanksgiving meal, reflecting the teamwork and compassion that sustain our patients and one another. We are deeply grateful to the nurses, physicians, APPs, trainees, and staff who made the holiday meaningful while remaining steadfast in their care.



**Dr. Andre Campbell** served as the **26th Annual Francis Moore Sr. Distinguished Lecturer** at the **Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences**, where he met with faculty, residents, and students. He shared appreciation with **Dr. Copeland** for the invitation and the opportunity to engage with the academic community.



Over the Thanksgiving break, **ESPN** released a video highlighting the robbery and shooting of **San Francisco 49ers** Wide Receiver **Ricky Pearsall**, featuring the individuals who helped save his life—including **SGT. Joelle Harrell** and our very own UCSF Trauma Surgeon **Dr. Lucy Kornblith**.



Back in April, we announced the recruitment of **Dr. Matthew (Matt) Skovgard**, who joined the department in September after completing his cardiothoracic surgery fellowship at **Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center**—he is already off to a strong start as a Thoracic Surgeon and Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery.



**Dr. Lucy Kornblith** and our Chair, **Dr. Julie Ann Sosa** at the **Surgery Interest Group x Muriel Steele Society Mixer**.



On December 10th, the **Surgery Interest Group x Muriel Steele Society** mixer drew an outstanding turnout, bringing together **MSS** leadership, **Dr. Caitlin Collins**, **Dr. Lucy Kornblith**, our Chair, **Dr. Julie Ann Sosa**, and faculty from across the department for an evening centered on connection, mentorship, and community.



At the **Surgery Interest Group x Muriel Steele Society** mixer, students participated in rotating meet-and-greet sessions, with one faculty member stationed at each table, creating focused conversations and meaningful opportunities to explore surgical careers and build lasting connections across the department.

# DEPARTMENT HOLIDAY PARTY



# DEPARTMENT HOLIDAY PARTY

