

Women Surgeon Pioneers:  
*Shaping the Future of Surgery*



Association of Women Surgeons  
**ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025**

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS • OCTOBER 3-5, 2025

# Mission, Vision, Values



The **MISSION** of the Association of Women Surgeons:

AWS is a not-for-profit educational and professional organization whose mission is to inspire, encourage, and enable women surgeons to realize their professional and personal goals.

The **BRAND STATEMENT** of the Association of Women Surgeons:

There are still so many challenges facing women in surgery today: pay equity, ergonomics, family leave, healthcare reform, changes in academic medicine, resident education, and work-life balance. Many of these issues affect both men and women, majority and minority groups, and they affect our ability to do our jobs and live our lives well.

- Together we will address the issues affecting surgeons today.
- Together we will build your future in surgery.
- Together we will improve the lives of working surgeons.
- Together we will prepare surgeons to be leaders.

The Association of Women Surgeons is a fellowship of surgeons who have dedicated their professional lives to surgery. We can provide you with mentorship, with opportunity, and with your help, a better future for all surgeons. Why AWS? Because Together We Are Better.

The **GOALS** of the Association of Women Surgeons:

- **Equity:** AWS eliminates equity barriers for all surgeons.
- **Professional Development:** AWS promotes thriving surgeons at all career stages, in all practice models, and in their personal and professional lives.
- **Organizational Effectiveness:** AWS provides an innovative business model that ensures an inclusive, vibrant, and collaborative organization.

The **CORE VALUES** of the Association of Women Surgeons:

- **Integrity:** We uphold the highest level of ethical behavior as evidenced by honesty, transparency, and dignity.
- **Community:** We foster mentorship, sponsorship, and mutual support.
- **Inclusivity:** We aspire to include, promote and support all surgeons, and embrace diversity.



# General Information



## CONFERENCE LOCATION

McCormick Place Convention Center South Building  
2301 S Martin Luther King Dr  
Chicago, IL 60616  
Phone: (312) 791-7000



## BADGES

Your name badge admits you to attend Conference activities for which you are registered. You must wear your name badge at all times while you are in the conference area, to identify yourself as an AWS conference attendee.



## REGISTRATION HOURS

The registration desk is located in the McCormick Place South Building S105 Foyer. The registration desk will be open during the following hours:

- Thursday, October 2, 2025, 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- Friday, October 3, 2025, 6:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- Saturday, October 4, 2025, 7:00 AM – 1:30 PM
- Sunday, October 5, 2025, 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM



## COACHING PROGRAM WORKSHOP

One workshop will be offered the afternoon of Saturday, October 4, 2025. This workshop is for the AWS members who have generously volunteered to serve as a coach in 2025-2026. Please see the registration desk for more information and session availability.



## PHOTOGRAPHY DISCLAIMER

Registration and attendance at the AWS 2025 Annual Conference constitutes an agreement by the registrant to allow AWS to use and distribute, now and in the future, the attendees' image, photographs, or electronic reproductions of conference events and activities.



## EXHIBIT HOURS

Friday, October 3, 2025

- 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM
- 10:35 AM - 11:15 AM
- 3:15 PM - 4:15 PM

The Association of Women Surgeons wishes to recognize and thank the following companies for their monetary commercial support: Scanlan International and the Association of Women Surgeons Foundation. AWS wishes to recognize and thank the following companies for their medical education grant: GE Health.

# Theme & Objectives



The Association of Women Surgeons 2025 Annual Research Conference convenes on October 3-4, 2025, in Chicago, IL.

The theme for the 2025 conference is “Women Surgeon Pioneers: Shaping the Future of Surgery”. The learning objectives for the conference are:

- Identify and implement strategies to navigate career transitions, contract negotiations, and leadership opportunities in surgery.
- Apply self-advocacy techniques to advance career progression, secure leadership roles, and negotiate workplace benefits.
- Develop and refine self-promotion skills, including effective networking, public speaking, and professional branding.
- Integrate work-life balance strategies and wellness practices to build a sustainable, fulfilling surgical career.

## AWS 2025 Planning Committee



**Dr. Simone Betchen (Chair)**  
**Dr. Gayle DiLalla (Vice-Chair)**



Dr. Maria Altieri  
Sarah Bueno Motter  
Dr. Lisa Canada  
Laura Cogua  
Dr. Geofia Crasta  
Marie Maudeline Hippolyte  
Grace Hwang  
Ayah Ibrahim  
Dr. Irada Inbrahim-Zada  
Dr. D’Andrea Joseph  
Priya Krishna  
Jennifer Ku  
Nataly Montano Vargas  
Dr. Lauren Nosanov

Divyadeep Randhawa  
Dr. Lisa Reid  
Dr. Chantal Reyna  
Mahima Sangtani  
Dr. Umut Sarpel  
Dr. Gopika SenthilKumar  
Dr. Umut Sarpel  
Dr. Gopika SenthilKumar  
Dr. Eesha Shah  
Dr. Rachyl Shanker  
Dr. Zehra Siddiqui  
Dr. Mary Stuever  
Erin Welby

# Schedule

Friday, October 3, 2025

Time	Session	Room
7:00 - 8:00 AM	Continental Breakfast	S105 Foyer
7:00 - 8:00 AM	Starr Research Forum - Medical Students	S106 B
7:00 - 8:00 AM	Starr Research Forum - Residents	S106 A
7:30 - 8:00 AM	AJS Top Papers	S105
7:00 - 8:00 AM	Exhibitor Break - Networking	S105 Foyer
8:00 - 9:05 AM	Welcome & Keynote	S105
9:05 - 10:35 AM	Pioneering Women Leaders	S105
10:35 - 11:15 AM	Exhibitor Break - Networking	S105 Foyer
11:15 - 11:30 AM	Fellowship Grant Presentation	S105
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM	Pioneering Surgical Innovations	S105
1:00 - 2:15 PM	Business Meeting/Lunch	S105
2:15 - 3:15 PM	Likeable Badass: Fireside Chat with Alison Fragale	S105
3:15 - 4:15 PM	Exhibitor Break - Networking	S105 Foyer
4:15 - 5:15 PM	Pioneering Advocacy Strategies for Women Surgeons	S105
5:15 - 6:15 PM	Pioneering Your Authentic Self	S105
6:15 - 6:30 PM	Group Photo	S105
6:30 - 7:30 PM	Wine & Cheese Reception	S106
All Day	Professional Headshots	S105 Foyer

# Schedule

## Saturday, October 4, 2025

Time	Session	Room
7:00 - 8:00 AM	Wellness Activity	TBD
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Rebecca Crumpler High School Outreach Program	S104 B
9:00 - 10:30 AM	Navigating the Glass Cliff Workshop	S106 A
9:00 - 10:30 AM	Harnessing AI to Empower Surgical Practice	S106 B
10:45 AM - 12:15 PM	Getting Comfortable with Being Uncomfortable	S106 A
10:45 AM - 12:15 PM	Social Media for Surgeons & Trainees Workshop	S106 B
1:30 - 4:30 PM	The AWS Coaching Program	S106 A
5:30 - 7:00 PM	Medical Student / Resident Reception	TBD

## Sunday, October 5, 2025

Time	Session	Room
6:00 - 7:00 PM	Women in Surgery Reception	Hyatt Grand Ballroom C
7:30 - 10:00 PM	AWS Foundation Gala & Award Dinner	Hyatt Grand Ballroom A

## Monday, October 6, 2025

Time	Session	Room
7:00 - 9:00 AM	Stryker Networking Breakfast	Hyatt Grand Ballroom A
9:00 - 10:00 AM	AWS Collaboration Meeting	Hyatt Grand Oak Street

# CME Information



## ***CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION CREDIT INFORMATION***

### **Accreditation**

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of American College of Surgeons and Association of Women Surgeons. The American College of Surgeons is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

### ***AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™***

The American College of Surgeons designates this live activity for a maximum of **12.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™**. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.



Award of CME credits by ACS is based on compliance of the program with the ACCME accreditation requirements and does not imply endorsement by ACS of the content, the faculty, or the sponsor of the program.

Successful completion of this CME activity, which includes participation in the evaluation component, enables the learner to earn credit toward the CME of the American Board of Surgery's Continuous Certification program.

In accordance with the ACCME Accreditation Criteria, the American College of Surgeons must ensure that anyone in a position to control the content of the educational activity (planners and speakers/authors/discussants/moderators) has disclosed all financial relationships with any ineligible company held in the last 24 months. Please note that first authors were required to collect and submit disclosure information on behalf all other authors/contributors, if applicable.

**Please [CLICK HERE](#) for the complete disclosure list.**



# 2025 AWS Program



**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2025**

## ***AWS Starr Posters and Continental Breakfast***

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM

### Student Speakers:

Mehreen Ali Pasha  
Charlotte G. Burch  
Estefani Cota  
Jacqueline Friskey  
Julia Isber  
Yuleen Kaur  
Kathryn Radulovacki  
Carrie N. Reaver  
Raheyma N. Siddiqui  
Martina Zamponi  
Joyce Zhuang

### Resident Speakers:

Fayrouz F. Abu-Hamdan, MD  
Emma G. Burke, MD  
Kayla Iannarelli, MD  
Anna Mary Jose, MD  
Sharon Joseph, MD  
Ioannis Liapis, MD  
Carolina M. Larrain, MD  
Vasundhara Mathur, MD  
Elizabeth M. Reynolds, MD  
Titilope Sandra S. Saheed, MD

## **AJS Top Paper Presentations**

7:30 - 8:00 AM

## ***Welcome by Program Planning Committee Chair***

8:00 AM - 8:05 AM

Speaker:

Simone Betchen, MD, MBA, FACS

## ***Keynote Session: "From Trailblazing to Transformation: Building a Surgical Culture that Works for All"***

8:05 AM – 9:05 AM

Speaker:

Callisia Clarke, MD, MS, FACS

## ***Pioneering Women Leaders:***

9:05 AM – 10:35 AM

Speaker:

Barbara Bass, MD, FACS  
Mary McCarthy, MD, FACS  
Patricia Numann, MD, FACS  
Valerie Rusch, MD, FACS

## ***Exhibitors / Networking:***

10:35 AM – 11:15 AM

## ***AWS Fellowship Grant Report: HER2 Discordance Between Primary Breast Tumor and Nodal Metastasis and Relationship to Oncotype Score***

11:15 AM – 11:30 AM

Speaker:

Nimmi Kapoor, MD, FACS

## ***Pioneering Surgical Innovations***

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Speakers:

Geeta Lal, MD, MSc, FACS, FRCSC  
Lauren Ramsey, MD, MBA  
Nova Szoka, MD

## ***Lunch / Business Meeting***

1:00 PM – 2:15 PM

## ***Fireside Chat: Likeable Badass***

2:15 PM - 3:15 PM

Speaker:

Alison Fragale, PhD

## ***Exhibitors / Book Signing / Networking:***

3:15 PM - 4:15 PM

## ***Pioneering Advocacy Strategies for Women Surgeons***

4:15 PM – 5:15 PM

Speaker:

Margaret Tracci, MD, JD, FACS

## ***Pioneering Your Authentic Self***

5:15 PM - 6:15 PM

Speakers:

Paula Ferrada, MD, FACS, FCCM, MAMSE  
Stephanie Goff, MD, FACS, FSSO  
Sharon Stein, MD, FACS, FASCRS

## ***AWS 2025 Group Photo***

6:15 PM - 6:30 PM

## ***Wine & Cheese Reception***

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

# 2025 AWS Program



## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2025

### **Wellness Activity**

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM

### **Rebecca Crumpler High School Outreach Program**

8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

### **Workshop A: Navigating the Glass Cliff**

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

#### **Speakers:**

Heidi Bahna, MD, FACS, FASCS

Herb Chen, MD, FACS

Vivian Gahtan, MD, FACS

Salewa Oseni, MD, MPH, FACS

Dana Telem, MD, MPH, FACS

Heather Yeo, MD, MHS, MBA, FACS

### **Workshop B: Harnessing AI to Empower**

#### **Surgical Practice**

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

#### **Speakers:**

Heather Lyu, MD, MBI

Jamie Robinson, MD, PhD

Gopika SenthilKumar, PhD

Rachyl Shanker, MD

### **Break**

10:30 AM - 10:45 AM

### **Workshop C: Getting Comfortable with Being Uncomfortable: Preparing for and Engaging in Difficult Conversations**

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM

#### **Speakers:**

Laurie Paschal, MBA, MPH

### **Workshop D: Social Media for Surgeons & Trainees**

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM

#### **Speakers:**

Karlee Lau Loftin, MD

Elizabeth Malphrus, MD, MPP

Lauren Ramsey, MD, MBA

### **AWS Coaching Session (invitation only)**

1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

#### **Speakers:**

Sharon Stein, MD, FACS, FASCRS

### **Medical Student/Resident Reception**

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025

### **ACS Women in Surgery Reception**

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

### **AWS Foundation Awards Dinner and Gala**

7:30 PM - 10:00 PM

## MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2025

### **Stryker Networking Breakfast**

7:00 AM - 9:00 AM

### **Women in Surgery Collaborative**

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM



The Association of Women Surgeons is honored to announce the 2025 Joint Sponsor Travel Awards to the AWS 2025 Annual Conference.

Please join us in celebrating these exemplary trainees!



**Kelsey Van Housen**  
Thomas Jefferson  
University



**Dr. Mounika Naidu  
Boya**  
Massachusetts  
General Hospital



**Marcela Gutierrez**  
Texas College  
of Osteopathic  
Medicine



**Dr. Aurian Garcia  
Gonzalez**  
Duke University



**Dr. Evelyn  
Alexander**  
University of Arizona



**Sonal Swain**  
Weill Cornell Medical  
College

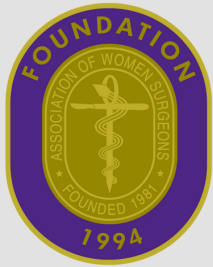


# AWS Career Center



**Matching fantastic job  
opportunities with amazing  
talent!**

Please visit website: <https://womensurgeons.careerwebsite.com/>



# Join the AWS Foundation

in sponsoring activities that advance the educational and professional growth of women in surgery.



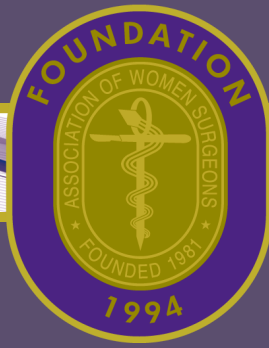
## Foundation Silent Auction

Bid now on exciting items!  
Your purchase will support career development opportunities for women surgeons around the world.



*Shopping for a Cause*





**Diamond Level Contributors:**  
**\$10,000 – \$24,999**

Pon Satitpunwaycha

**Platinum Level Contributors:**  
**\$7,500 – \$9,999**

Leigh Neumayer

**Gold Level Contributors:**  
**\$5,000 – \$7,499**

Margaret Dunn  
Beth Sutton

**Bronze Level Contributors:**  
**\$1,000 – \$2,499**

AJ Copeland  
Celeste Hollands  
Joyce Majure  
Hilary Sanfey

**Crystal Level Contributors:**  
**\$500 – \$999**

Gayle DiLalla  
Nancy Gantt  
Nicole Goulet  
Marion Henry  
Marybeth Hughes  
Christine Laronga  
Ann Lowry  
Dixie Mills  
Patricia Numann  
Joan Palomaki  
Chantal Reyna  
Anne Rizzo  
Patricia Roberts  
Elizabeth Shaughnessy  
JE "Betsy" Tuttle  
Robin Williams

**Pearl Level Contributors:**  
**\$100 – \$499**

Sasha Adams  
Nicole Baril  
Kelly Braniff  
Autumn Bridger  
Lisa Cannada  
Candice Castro  
Marie Crandall  
Emilia Diego  
Fatima Merino Escobar  
Kristalyn Gallagher  
Danielle Henry  
Sharon Henry  
D'Andrea Joseph  
Kimberly Joseph  
Lillian Kao  
Danielle Katz  
Deborah Kozik  
Kristina Lemon  
Jaime Lewis  
Sharon Lum  
Yuk Ming Liu  
Mary Maniscalco-Theberge  
Kandace McGuire  
Lisa Newman  
Lauren Nosanov  
Sharon Ransom  
Lisa Reid  
Kaitlin Ritter  
Barbara Schwartzberg  
Latifa Silski  
Amy Vertrees  
Melissa Warta  
Elizabeth Windell  
Michelle Zweifler

**\*Gifts as of August 30, 2025**



# Networking Breakfast & Diversity Panel



**Monday, October 6  
7:00 AM**

**Grand Hyatt Regency McCormick  
Grand Hyatt Ballroom A**

**RSVP  
HERE:**



**Presented by:**



**stryker**





# YOUR OPINION COUNTS

Please complete the conference evaluation. Watch your email inbox after the conference!

Let's Be Social



@womensurgeons  
#AWS2025



## WELLNESS *Activity*

CANYON RANCH®

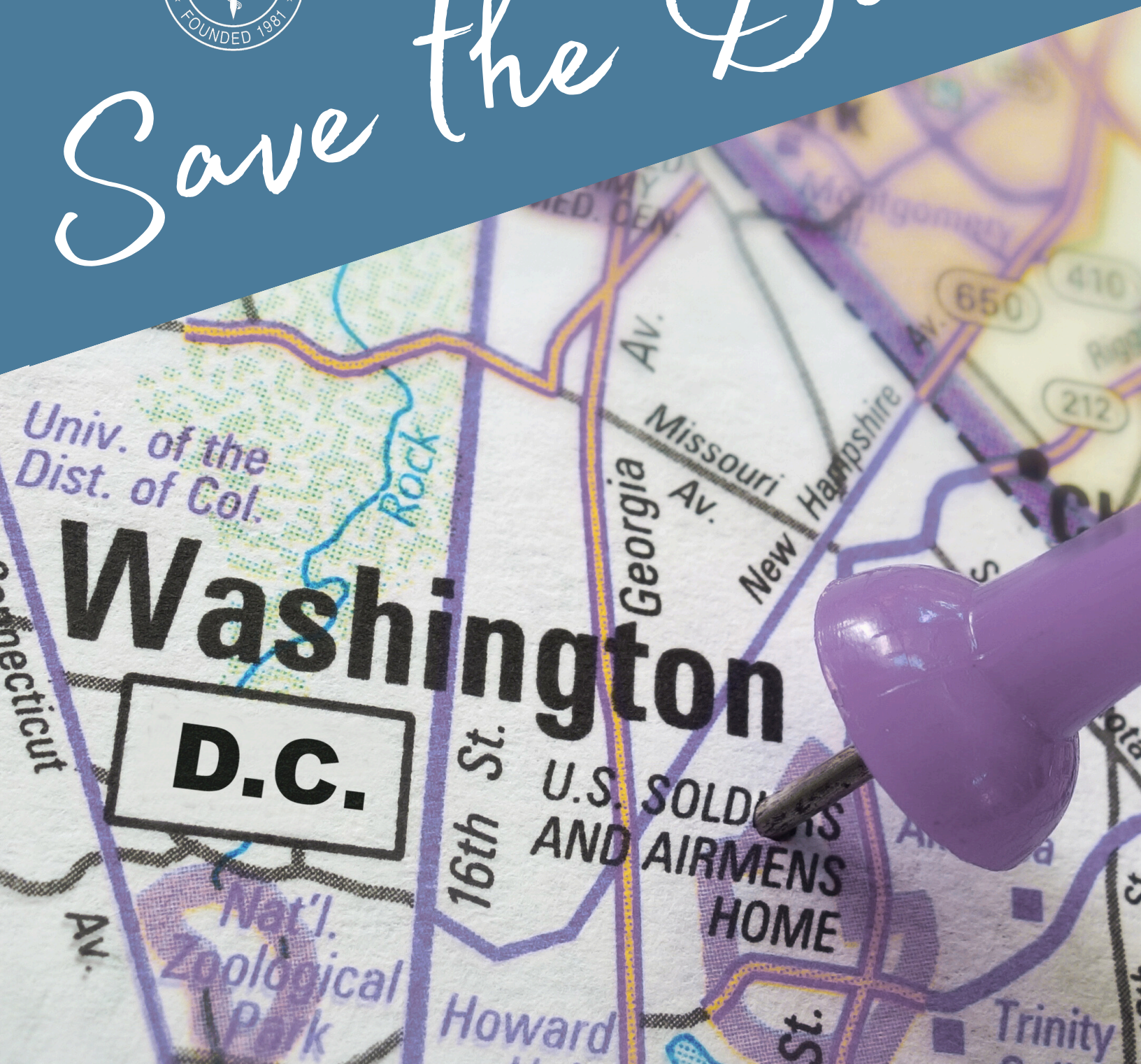
✦ SATURDAY,  
OCTOBER 4 AT 7AM ✦

Self care is key to success.  
Join Canyon Ranch, an AWS partner,  
for an expert-led wellness session on  
the second morning of the  
conference.





# Save the Date



**AWS 2026 Annual Conference**  
*September 25 - 26, 2026*





**Association of Women Surgeons**

*201 E. Main Street, Suite #810*

*Lexington, KY 40507*

*[www.womensurgeons.org](http://www.womensurgeons.org)*