

Association of Women Surgeons **ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026**



WASHINGTON, DC • SEPTEMBER 25-26, 2026

Advocacy

Speaking Out and Scaling New Heights for
Our Patients, Our Profession, and Ourselves.

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

Grand Hyatt Washington
1000 H St NW
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: 202-582-1234



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 Grand Hyatt Washington on the Constitution Level. The registration desk will be open during the following hours:

- Thursday, September 24, 2026, 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- Friday, September 25, 2026, 6:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- Saturday, September 26, 2026, 7:00 AM – 1:30 PM
- Sunday, September 27, 2026 - 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM



PHOTOGRAPHY DISCLAIMER

Registration and attendance at the AWS 2026 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, September 25

- 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM
- 9:55 AM - 10:30 AM
- 11:30 AM - 11:45 AM
- 3:50 PM - 4:20 PM



LET'S GET SOCIAL!

Post your conference experience on social media, and be sure to tag us at @womensurgeons so we can share it with our audience! #AWS2026

Theme & Objectives



The Association of Women Surgeons 2026 Annual Conference convenes on September 25-26, 2026 in Washington, DC.

The theme for the 2026 conference is “Advocacy: Speaking Out and Scaling New Heights for Our Patients, Our Profession, and Ourselves”. The learner outcomes for the conference are:

1. Apply advocacy strategies to navigate systemic barriers, advance career progression, and create equitable pathways in surgical practice.
2. Demonstrate courageous communication skills, including difficult conversations, negotiation, and public discourse to advocate for patients, colleagues, and the profession.
3. Engage with emerging research, surgical innovation, and cross-specialty perspectives to inform and strengthen advocacy efforts at the institutional and policy level.
4. Build and sustain a professional identity and community network that supports long-term resilience, well-being, and advocacy in surgery.

AWS 2026 Conference Planning Committee

Dr. Marion Henry (Chair)

- Anais Andrade
- Bhavya Bansal
- Stephanie Bonne
- Lisa Cannada
- Akiko Chiba
- Onyeka Chukwuma
- Tiana Clemons
- Sophie Dream
- Sofia Ghani
- Oviya Giri
- Camila Guetter
- Irada Ibrahim-Zada
- Sadia Ilyas
- Negin Jarrah
- Beatriz Lima
- Denise Lo
- Adriana Loricchio Veiga
- Colby Mallett
- Shahd Mansour
- Sophia Okeke
- Riyana Patel
- Mable Pereira
- Deniz Piyadeoglu
- Lisa Reid
- Chantal Reyna
- Areeba Saif
- Shannon Small
- Akhila Swarna
- Sofia Viana

CME & Disclosure 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 the 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 11.00 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.



CME

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 requirements of the American Board of Surgery's Continuous Certification program.

Diplomates of the American Board of Surgery

By participating in an ACS-accredited activity, you may choose to participate in the automatic transfer of your CME credits to the ABS via the ACCME. The direct automatic transfer applies to all learners who have an American College of Surgeons (ACS) profile, are Diplomates of the ABS, and have provided their ABS ID and date of birth in the ACS MyCME Portal on the Board Certification page.

If you do not already have an American College of Surgeons (ACS) profile (Learner ID), you can create one through the ACS New User Registration Form. This is a free offering for those who have enrolled in an ACS- Accredited educational activity. The ACS ID will grant you access to MyCME where you can track, manage, and send your CME Data to the ABS.

If you need assistance with creating an ACS Learner ID or are not certain if you already have one, please contact Log-In Help. For more information or to request assistance, contact mycme@facs.org.

Disclosure Information

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 relevant financial relationships with any ineligible company held in the last 24 months. All reported conflicts are managed by a designated official to ensure a bias-free presentation. Please note that first authors were required to collect and submit disclosure information on behalf of all other authors/contributors, if applicable.

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

Thank You



The Association of Women Surgeons gratefully acknowledges the generous support from our sponsors, without which our conference would not be possible.

The AWS wishes to thank and recognize the following companies for their commercial promotion towards this activity:

Empower Sponsor: Johnson & Johnson MedTech

Engage Sponsors: Medtronic and Vertex

Exhibitors: About Time Financial, BRC, Clarix Imaging, CompHealth, Hologic, Morgan Stanley, SAGES, Surgical Ergonomics, Tracy Nicole, Vie Lorie

The AWS wishes to thank the following chair sponsors for their support:

- Gold Chair Sponsors
 - Department of Surgery at UC Davis Health: Diana Farmer, MD, FACS, FRCS, FAAP
 - Columbia University Department of Surgery: Emile A. Bacha, MD
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 - University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine: Ronald P. DeMatteo, MD, FACS
 - Virginia Commonwealth University, Department of Surgery: Vigneshwar Kasirajan, MD
- Bronze Chair Sponsors
 - Albany Medical Center: KMarie King, MD, MS, MBA, FACS
 - Laura & Ryan Fields Charitable Trust
 - Southern Illinois University School of Medicine
 - University of Chicago, Department of Surgery: Jeffrey B. Matthews, MD, FACS
 - University of Pittsburgh Department of Surgery: Timothy Billiar, MD
 - West Virginia University: Carl Schmidt, MD, FACS

AWS wishes to recognize and thank the following companies for their monetary commercial support: Association of Women Surgeons Foundation, Merit Medical, and Scanlan Inc.

Program



FRIDAY, September 25, 2026

Mentoring Breakfast & Exhibit Hall

7:00 AM – 7:50 AM

Welcome

8:00 AM - 8:05 AM

Dr. Marion Henry

Advocacy Spotlight

8:05 AM - 8:25 AM

Dr. Elisabeth Potter

Advocacy Panel

8:25 AM – 9:25 AM

Drs. Jessica Burgess, Amy Liepert, Lilian Erdahl, Anahita Dua, Regan Wilson, and Christen Russo

AJS Top Papers

9:25 AM – 9:55 AM

Nathalia Beller, Harnoor Kehal, Dr. Amy Morrison

Exhibit Hall & Networking Break

9:55 AM - 10:30 AM

Starr Research Forum

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

PEDIATRICS: Dr. Anna Jose, Dr. Banan Otaibi, Dr. Grayson Stinger, Hannah Johnston, McKenna Dellinger, Dr. Andreina Giron, Paige Richards

ORTHOPEDICS: Alaina Bryson, Angelica Bartler, Alexandra Wadhwani, Alexia Childress, Emilie Ginovker, Shreya Goel, Kelan Queenan, Casey Ostrowski

GEN SURG MIX: Dr. Erica Archivolti, Abigail Jacobi, Fraol Bekele, Dr. Radha Bansal, Anoushka Kathiravan, Sweccha Bhatt, Dr. Zainab Mehdi, Zhuxuan Pan, Dr. Nicole Izhakoff

Exhibit Hall/Networking

11:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Keynote Address

11:45 AM - 12:45 PM

Dr. Dana Suskind

Human Raised, Human Treated: The Surgeon's Role in Protecting Human Connection

Lunch / Business Meeting

12:45 PM - 1:30 PM

Presidential Address

1:30 PM - 2:00 PM

Dr. Simone Betchen

Negotiation Session

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Jessica Minesinger

Advocacy Spotlight

2:30 PM - 2:50 PM

Dr. Paula Ferrada

Surgical Specialty Panel

2:50 PM - 3:50 PM

Drs. Carolyn De La Cruz, Elizabeth Brown, Tanaz Ferzandi, Kelly Malloy, and Ugochi Okoroafor-Ridgway

Exhibit Hall/Networking

3:50 PM - 4:20 PM

Ergonomics & Disability Fireside Chat

4:20 PM - 5:20 PM

Drs. Geeta Lal and Erin Garvey

Program



FRIDAY, September 25, 2026

Starr Research Forum

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

THORACIC, ENT, ENDOCRINE: Anya Chaudhry, Jaladhija Chalichama, Jasmine Yuan, Sarah Singh, Serena Persaud, Dr. Sujata Syamal, Dr. Titilope Sandra Saheed

COLORECTAL, BREAST, BARIATRIC, ONC: Helen Wei, Dr. Isabel Pichardo, Kelsey Van Housen, Dr. Kylie Dickerson, Maya Blasingame, Dr. Sumita Mitra

PLASTICS, UROLOGY, GYN, NEURO, ORTHO: Alexandra DiGiovanni, Dr. Hanna Dieterle, Harshini Veena Suresh, Lily Karlson, Victoria Koffi, Kyra VanKirk, Mary C. McDonough

Wine & Cheese Reception

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

SATURDAY, September 26, 2026

Wellness Activity: Yoga

7:00 AM - 7:40 AM

Rebecca Crumpler High School Outreach

8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Workshop A1: Courageous Conversations

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Dr. Sharon Stein

Workshop A2: Defining Surgical Identity

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Dr. Martha Zeiger

SATURDAY, September 26, 2026

Workshop A3: Responding to Challenges and Changes

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Drs. Sareh Parangi, Lucy De La Cruz, Sofia Wagemaker

Workshop B1: Ergonomics

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM

Drs. Geeta Lal and Linda Miller

Workshop B2: Advocacy Lab

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM

Drs. Christina Colosimo and Jennifer Whittington

Workshop B3: Turn Obstacles into Opportunities

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM

Drs. Diem Vu and Shannon Foster

AWS Coach Training (invite only)

1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Medical Student and Resident Mixer

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

SUNDAY, September 27, 2026

Women in Surgery Reception

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

AWS Foundation Awards Dinner & Gala

7:30 PM - 10:00 PM

Schedule

Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel | Constitution Level

Thursday, September 24

Time	Event	Location
3:00 - 7:00 PM	Registration	Constitution Foyer

Friday, September 25

Time	Session	Room
6:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Registration	Constitution Foyer
7:00 - 7:50 AM	Mentoring Breakfast / Exhibit Hall	Wilson/Roosevelt
8:00 - 8:25 AM	Welcome & Advocacy Spotlight	Constitution Ballroom
8:25 - 9:25 AM	Advocacy Panel	Constitution Ballroom
9:25 - 9:55 AM	AJS Top Papers	Constitution Ballroom
9:55 - 10:30 AM	Exhibit Hall / Networking	Constitution Foyer
10:30 - 11:30 AM	Starr Research Forum	Breakout Rooms
11:30 - 11:45 AM	Exhibit Hall / Networking	Constitution Foyer
11:45 AM - 12:45 PM	Keynote Address	Constitution Ballroom
12:45 - 1:30 PM	Business Meeting & Lunch	Constitution Ballroom
1:30- 2:00 PM	Presidential Address	Constitution Ballroom
2:00 - 2:30 PM	Negotiation Session	Constitution Ballroom
2:30 - 2:50 PM	Advocacy Spotlight	Constitution Ballroom
2:50 - 3:50 PM	Surgical Specialty Leaders Panel	Constitution Ballroom
3:50 - 4:20 PM	Exhibit Hall / Networking	Constitution Foyer
4:20 - 5:20 PM	Ergonomics & Disability Fireside Chat	Constitution Ballroom
5:30 - 6:30 PM	Starr Research Forum	Breakout Rooms
6:30 - 7:30 PM	Wine & Cheese Reception	Constitution Foyer
All Day	Professional Headshots	Constitution Foyer

Schedule

Grand Hyatt Washington Hotel | Constitution Level

Saturday, September 26

Time	Session	Room
7:00 AM - 1:30 PM	Registration	Constitution Foyer
7:00 - 7:40 AM	Wellness Activity	Constitution Ballroom E
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Rebecca Crumpler High School Outreach	LaTrobe
8:30 - 10:30 AM	Workshop: Courageous Conversations	Wilson/Roosevelt
9:00 - 10:30 AM	Workshop: Defining Surgical Identity	Cabin John/Arlington
9:00 - 10:30 AM	Workshop: Responding to Challenges and Changes	Constitution Ballroom E
10:45 AM - 12:15 PM	Workshop: Ergonomics	Constitution Ballroom E
10:45 AM - 12:15 PM	Workshop: Advocacy Lab	Cabin John/Arlington
10:45 AM - 12:15 PM	Workshop: Turn Obstacles Into Opportunities	Wilson/Roosevelt
1:30 - 4:30 PM	AWS Coach Training	Constitution Ballroom
5:30 - 7:00 PM	Student and Resident Reception	Constitution Ballroom

Sunday, September 27

Time	Event	Location
5:00 - 8:00 PM	Registration	Constitution Foyer
6:00 - 7:30 PM	Women in Surgery Reception	Constitution Foyer
7:30 - 10:00 PM	AWS Foundation Awards Dinner & Gala	Constitution Ballroom



YOUR OPINION COUNTS

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

Let's Be Social



@womensurgeons
#AWS2025

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.

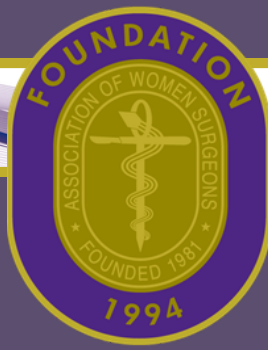


Foundation Silent Auction

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



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honor of Dr. Nancy Gantt

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Sarah Koch
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Sherry Wren
Susan Pories
Toni Beninato
Yuk Ming Liu

*Gifts as of August 1, 2026



Networking Breakfast

Monday, September 28
7:00 AM
Grand Hyatt Washington, DC

**RSVP
HERE:**



Presented by:



stryker



Save the Date



AWS 2027 Annual Conference
October 15-16, 2027
San Diego, CA



Association of Women Surgeons

201 E. Main Street, Suite #810

Lexington, KY 40507

www.womensurgeons.org