



# ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN SURGEONS FOUNDATION 2024 Annual Report



## Thank You for an Incredible Year Empowering Women Surgeons **You Make Our Work Possible!**

As the year comes to a close, the Association of Women Surgeons Foundation (AWSF) extends heartfelt gratitude to our supporters for making our mission possible. Your generosity fuels our work to foster the educational and professional growth of women in surgery while addressing global gender disparities in the field. Read on for highlights of AWSF's impact and opportunities to continue advancing our shared vision. Together, we are shaping the future of surgery.

[womensurgeons.org/donate-now](https://womensurgeons.org/donate-now)

## Highlighting Mentorship in Surgery



This year, the Association of Women Surgeons Foundation launched "Looking Forward to Move Forward," a series dedicated to highlighting the thoughts of women surgeons and surgeons-in-training on mentorship, the ways in which AWS and AWSF impacted their journeys, and their hopes for the future of surgery. Click below to read the profiles of 10 incredible women surgeons.

[womensurgeons.org/looking-forward-to-move-forward](https://womensurgeons.org/looking-forward-to-move-forward)



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## Your Support Makes a Difference Shaping the Future of Surgery

Thanks to the generosity of donors, the AWS Foundation offered the following resources to advance the careers of women in surgery in 2024:



- **AWSF Travel Grants:** Through Foundation travel grants, Drs. Sifa Vumiliya Kanonge and Rahel Ababayehu Assefa had the opportunity to attend the 2024 Annual College of Surgeons of East, Central, and Southern Africa conference and Women in Surgery Africa events.



- **AWSF Visiting Professorship:** Dr. Jennifer Plichta served as the 2024 AWSF Kim Ephgrave Visiting Professor. She was hosted by the Rhode Island Hospital/ Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University to heighten the visibility of women surgeons and encourage women trainees to pursue similar careers.



“ I asked the trainees about their goals, aspirations, and dreams. I hope that I challenged them to aim high, dream big, seek help, and help others. This visit certainly provided inspiration for me to continue to do the same in my own journey, and I am incredibly thankful to the AWSF and Brown for the opportunity. Thank you! -**Dr. Jennifer Plichta** ”



- **AWSF Resident Travel Awardees:** In 2024, three exceptional women surgeons were granted financial scholarships to attend the AWS Annual Conference in San Francisco. The awardees included Drs. Jennifer Den, The University of Texas Medical Branch; Areeba Saif, UTHealth McGovern Medical School; and Clara Angeles, University of Wisconsin.

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## Celebrating Outstanding Surgeons and Allies



In 2024, thanks to the generosity of our donors, the AWS Foundation recognized seven exemplary surgeons and surgeons-in-training at the AWSF Awards Dinner & Gala in San Francisco on October 20. The awardees included:

- Dr. Nina Starr Braunwald Award: **Mary E. Fallat, MD, FACS, FAAP**
- Dr. Olga Jonasson Distinguished Member Award: **Clay Cothren Burlew, MD, FACS**
- AWS Past Presidents' Honorary Member Award: **Jeffrey B. Matthews, MD, FACS**
- Dr. Charles W. Putnam Distinguished Mentor Award: **Martha A. Zeiger, MD, FACS**
- Dr. Sally Abston Distinguished Member Award: **Sareh Parangi, MD, FACS**
- Dr. Hilary Sanfey Outstanding Resident Award: **Marla A. Sacks, MD**
- Dr. Patricia Numann Medical Student Award: **Cheryl K. Zogg, MD, PhD, MSPH, MHS**
- Dr. Kim Ephgrave Visiting Professor Award: **Jennifer Plichta, MD, FACS, FSSO**

[womensurgeons.org/awards](https://womensurgeons.org/awards)





# ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN SURGEONS FOUNDATION 2024 Annual Report



## Directors & Deans Championed Women in Surgery

Each year Program Directors and Deans are given many opportunities to partner with the Association of Women Surgeons and the AWS Foundation in supporting women surgeons. AWS and AWSF are grateful for the generosity of our institutional partners!



### Most Dedicated Supporters

There were seven (7) Program Chairs that sponsored AWS and AWSF as Institutional Members, Conference Sponsors AND Gala Table Hosts in 2024. AWS and AWSF wants to express our appreciation and gratitude to these chairs for their support!

## AWS Conference Chair Sponsors

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UC Davis Department of Surgery, Dr. Diana Farmer

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# ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN SURGEONS FOUNDATION 2024 Annual Report



## Directors & Deans Championed Women in Surgery Gala Table Sponsors



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- Dr. Christine Laronga
- Dr. Dixie Mills
- Dr. Patricia Numann
- Dr. Susan Pories
- Dr. Hilary Sanfey
- Duke Department of Surgery (2): Dr. Allan Douglas Kirk
- Emory University / Grady Memorial Hospital: Dr. Laura Johnson
- Guthrie Robert Packer Hospital: Dr. Anne Rizzo
- Martha Zeiger Honorary Table (2)
- Mary Fallat Honorary Table
- McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Houston: Dr. Richard Andrassy
- MD Anderson: Dr. Matthew H. G. Katz
- Newton-Wellesley Hospital/Mass General: Dr. Sareh Parangi

- OHSU Department of Surgery: Dr. Kenneth Azarow
- Rutgers University: Dr. Salewa Oseni
- University of California Davis: Dr. Diana Farmer
- University of California San Francisco: Dr. Lucy Kornblith
- University of Chicago (2): Dr. Jeffrey B. Matthews
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- Weill Cornell Medical College: Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi



# ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN SURGEONS FOUNDATION 2024 Annual Report



## Directors & Deans Championed Women in Surgery Institutional Members

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- Duke Surgery
- Eastern Virginia Medical School
- George Washington University
- Guthrie Robert Packer Hospital
- Indiana University School of Medicine
- Kuwait Surgical Society, Kuwait Medical Association
- Lahey Hospital and Medical Center
- Loma Linda University Health General Surgery Residency
- Loyola University Medical Center
- Maimonides Medical Center
- Memorial Healthcare System
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- NYU Langone Medical Center
- OHSU
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- Research Medical Center - Extant Healthcare
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- Saint Joseph's University Medical Center
- Southern Illinois University
- Stanford Medicine
- SUNY Downstate Medical College of Wisconsin Department of Surgery
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- Robin Williams
- Heather Yeo



*"Monthly donation to the AWS Foundation became a priority for me several years ago when I discovered the extent to which the programs, scholarships, and awards depend upon donations to be sustained. The impact is felt globally as well as locally. I am proud to support an organization so committed to the mission of advancing women's careers in surgery and working to address gender disparities worldwide. Funds are carefully and thoughtfully distributed in order to provide opportunity with a strong impact – even a small amount per month can help achieve big changes." - Dr. Lauren Nosanov*



# ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN SURGEONS FOUNDATION 2024 Annual Report



## Thank You for Elevating Women in Surgery 2024 Annual Giving Donors

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

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# ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN SURGEONS FOUNDATION 2024 Annual Report



## Thank You for Elevating Women in Surgery In Honor of Gifts 2024

Each year generous donors make gifts to the Association of Women Surgeons Foundation in honor of mentors, colleagues, faculty, and friends.



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Bryce Gaffer, Mary & Robert Hollands, Isadora Siqueira, Muriel Pories, Penelope Louisa Joseph, Daniel Theberge, Debbie Newman



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**Thank You for Elevating Women in Surgery**



The Association of Women Surgeons Foundation is deeply grateful for the incredible generosity of our supporters this year. Whether through single donations, recurring monthly gifts, endowments, or sponsorships, your contributions have made a lasting impact. Your support empowers the educational and professional growth of women in surgery and advances our mission to shape a stronger, more equitable future in the field. On behalf of the many women who have directly benefited, thank you for being a vital part of our community.

[womensurgeons.org/donate-now](https://womensurgeons.org/donate-now)