



**Heather Yeo, MD, MS,
MBA**

Treasurer

My first experience with the Association of Women Surgeons (AWS) was as a surgical resident. My organization had an institutional membership, through this membership I was able to network and start building connections within the organization. I have been an active member of AWS since 2011 when I was first starting my fellowship in surgical oncology at Sloan Kettering; during this time, I began attending the meeting and exploring some of the other AWS member programs. The next year I became the recipient of the Association of Women Surgeons Foundation and Ethicon Endo Surgery, Inc. Fellowship Grant. This grant helped to launch my academic career and is one to which I am extremely grateful. I have attended nearly every AWS meeting since 2011 and, over the past 12 years, have served in many capacities, accomplishing a great deal within the organization. I served on the communication committee, subsequently becoming a co-chair; in this role, I helped develop the Twitter account and the blog, increasing our online footprint.

During my last year on the committee, Dr. Stephanie Bonne and I launched the organization's podcast. I helped to create the outreach committee, first, by working with Dr. Sharon Stein to create a task force and then, working to create the ASA Mentorship Program and build relationships with other organizations. Most recently, I have served as the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion director, continuing to help build our relationships and liaison with other professional societies. It has been amazing to witness and be a part of its growth over the past 12 years and I am extremely proud to be a member.

I too have grown over the past 12 years, from when I started as a junior attending to completing my MBA in 2019 and receiving my first R01 in

2021. During this time, my children have also grown, leaving me with more time and more resources on my hands. I feel my educational background and research resources make me uniquely qualified for the role as Treasurer. Additionally, that I am entering an era where it is prudent for me to increase my focus on AWS.

My vision for this organization is to continue to grow it, continue to build our brand so that we are the organization that come to mind whenever anyone thinks of how to best support women surgeons or who to turn to in order to connect to the leaders in the field. I hope to focus on growing our financial future in order to increase our impact and influence in the surgical profession. I hope to use my experience in strategic planning, grant writing and finances from my MBA to help continue to diversify our resources while improving the value of the opportunities we provide. Leveraging our mission and talents to drive engagement and continued growth, in partnership with other organizations, I believe that we can expand AWS's impact. I am extremely committed to this organization and would be honored to serve as it's Treasurer if given the opportunity.