



# Association of Women Surgeons

## Signature Speaker Series Directory

**With the generous grant support from Intuitive, AWS will provide funding up to \$1000 towards defraying travel costs for a sponsored speaking engagement at either a national or regional event outside the speaker's current location.**

# 2025 Signature Speaker Series Cohort



Tanya Anand, MD, MPH



Abbey Fingeret,  
MD, PhD



Carmen Fong, MD



Annabelle Fonseca, MD



Danielle Holt, MD



Amanda Kirane, MD



Lauren Kopicky, DO



Shannon F.R.  
Small, MD, FACS



Irlna Tantchou, MD





**Tanya Anand, MD**

**Institution:** University of Arizona

**Areas of Expertise:** Trauma, Surgical Critical Care, Burns, Emergency General Surgery

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Hemorrhage
- Post-intubation Hypotension
- Endotheliopathy of Trauma
- Metabolomics
- Resuscitation in Trauma
- Geriatric Trauma
- Precision Medicine in Trauma

**Contact:**

[tanyaanand@arizona.edu](mailto:tanyaanand@arizona.edu)



**Abbey Fingeret, MD, PhD**

**Institution:** University of Nebraska Medical Center

**Areas of Expertise:** Endocrine Surgery; Surgical Education

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Building Habits for Effective Teaching
- Generational Differences in Teaching and Learning
- Emotional Intelligence & Maximizing your EQ for Personal and Professional Success
- Engaging Your Audience: Evidence Based High Impact Presentation Skills

**Contact:**

[Abbey.Fingeret@unmc.edu](mailto:Abbey.Fingeret@unmc.edu)



**Carmen Fong, MD**

**Institution:** Hemorrhoid Centers of America

**Areas of Expertise:** Constipation, Proctology/Anorectal Disease, Colorectal Surgery

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- From Academic Surgeon to Private Practice/Entrepreneur: Insights and Strategies
- Constipation Nation: Writing, Researching, Publishing and Marketing a Book
- Go When You Have to Go: Helping Patients with Constipation
- Hemorrhoids, Fissures and Fistulas, Oh My!: Current Management of Anorectal Disease
- Becoming a Surgeon-Mom at 40: Fertility, IVF, and Parenting

**Contact:**

[carmen.f.fong@gmail.com](mailto:carmen.f.fong@gmail.com)





**Annabelle Fonseca, MD**

**Institution:** University of Alabama at Birmingham

**Areas of Expertise:** Surgical Oncology, Hepatopancreatobiliary, Health Services Research, Disparities Research

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Foregut Cancer
- Access to Cancer Care
- Guideline Concordant Treatment of Foregut Cancers

**Contact:**  
[annabelle.fonseca@gmail.com](mailto:annabelle.fonseca@gmail.com)



**Danielle Holt, MD**

**Institution:** Uniformed Services University

**Areas of Expertise:** Talent Management, Admissions, Recruitment, General Surgery, Hernia, Robotics, Military Surgical Readiness

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Military Physician Applicants for UME Through Faculty
- Medical School Admissions and Recruitment
- Military Surgical Readiness

**Contact:**  
[danielle.holt@usuhs.edu](mailto:danielle.holt@usuhs.edu)



**Amanda Kirane, MD**

**Institution:** Stanford University School of Medicine

**Areas of Expertise:** Melanoma, Translational Science, Immunology, Immunotherapy

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Surgical Science & Translational Medicine
- Next Generation Spatial-omic Technologies
- Immunotherapy
- Machine Learning and Modeling for Personalized Medicine
- Macrophage Biology
- Neoadjuvant Therapy
- Cell Therapy (TIL) for Solid Tumors
- Scientific leadership and team science

**Contact:**  
[akirane@stanford.edu](mailto:akirane@stanford.edu)



**Lauren Kopicky, DO**

**Institution:** Cleveland Clinic

**Areas of Expertise:** Breast Surgical Oncology, Breast Ultrasound, Image Guided Breast Biopsies and Procedures, Oncoplastic Surgical Techniques including Aesthetic Flat Closure and Goldilocks Mastectomy, Mentorship, Breast Billing and Coding

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Benign and Malignant Breast Disease
- Breast Ultrasound
- Breast Biopsies and Procedures
- Oncoplastic Breast Surgery
- Breast Billing and Coding

**Contact:**

[lauren.kopicky@gmail.com](mailto:lauren.kopicky@gmail.com)



**Shannon F.R. Small, MD, FACS**

**Institution:** Yale University Health System

**Areas of Expertise:** Trauma, Critical Care, Emergency Surgery

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Care of the Female Surgical Patient
- Consideration for Breastfeeding
- Care of Elderly or Pediatric Trauma Patients
- Use of Robotic Surgery in Emergency Surgery
- Importance of Inclusive Excellence in Resident Education

**Contact:**

[shannon.small@yale.edu](mailto:shannon.small@yale.edu)



**Irlna Tantchou, MD**

**Institution:** Highlands Oncology Group

**Areas of Expertise:** Colorectal Surgery

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Growing Robotic Practice
- Empowering Younger Female Surgeons Resilience and Grit
- Academic Capacity in Private Practice
- How to Become Affiliated with Industry

**Contact:**

[irlnatantchou@gmail.com](mailto:irlnatantchou@gmail.com)



# 2024 Signature Speaker Series Cohort



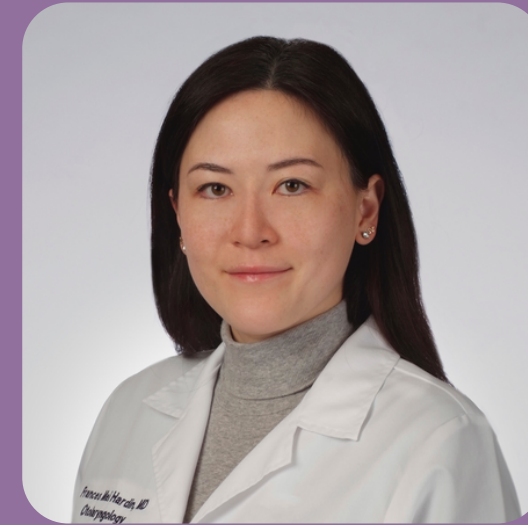
Shannon Foster, MD



Erin Garvey, MD



Christa Grant, MD



Frances Mei Hardin, MD



Nimmi Kapoor, MD



Lindsey Kilgore, MD



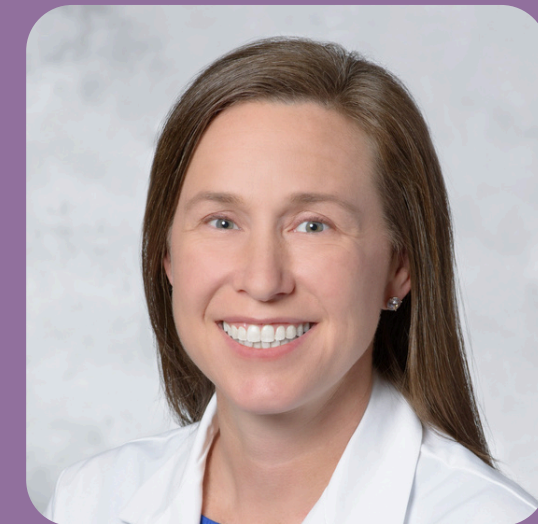
Madhuri Rao, MD



Kathryn Rowland, MD



Umut Sarpel, MD



Stephanie Worrell, MD





**Shannon Foster, MD**

**Institution:** SMF Facilitation Services, SMF Consulting Services, Divisions of SMF Coverage & Solutions, LLC

**Areas of Expertise:** Strategic Assessments, Career Building, Conflict Resolution, Workplace Dynamics, Communications Training, Advocacy and Activism, Leadership Development, Trauma and Acute Care Surgery

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Leadership and Development Series
- Communications 101 for Surgeons
- Accountability and Transparency
- The Hard Truths of Medicine
- Learn How to Carve Your Own Career Path
- Turning Conflict into Opportunity
- Simple Steps and Behaviors to Prevent Career Mistakes

**Contact:**

**[shannonfostermd@gmail.com](mailto:shannonfostermd@gmail.com)**



**Erin Garvey, MD**

**Institution:** Phoenix Children's Hospital

**Areas of Expertise:** Personal Finance, Physician Disability, Wellness

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Personal Finance
- Physician Disability,
- Wellness
- Supporting Lactating Physicians
- Trainees

**Contact:**

**[erinmgarvey@gmail.com](mailto:erinmgarvey@gmail.com)**



**Christa Grant, MD**

**Institution:** Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at Westchester Medical Center

**Areas of Expertise:** Neuroblastoma, Pediatric Surgical Oncology, Global Surgery, General Pediatric Surgery

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Neuroblastoma
- Pediatric Surgical Oncology
- Global Surgery
- General Pediatric Surgery

**Contact:**

**[christagrantomd@gmail.com](mailto:christagrantomd@gmail.com)**



**Frances Mei Hardin, MD**

**Institution:** Hippocratic Collective

**Areas of Expertise:** Sinus and allergy, endocrine surgery, laryngology

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Interpersonal Effectiveness Skills
- Distress Tolerance for Medical Trainees,
- Changing the Culture of Medicine & Medical Training
- ENT topics

**Contact:**  
[frances.mei.hardin@gmail.com](mailto:frances.mei.hardin@gmail.com)



**Nimmi Kapoor, MD**

**Institution:** UCLA Medical Center - Los Angeles, CA

**Areas of Expertise:** Breast Cancer, Breast Ultrasound, Cryoablation, Resident Education

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Surgical Innovation in Breast Cancer
- Unconventional Career Paths
- Pregnancy and Breast Cancer Considerations
- Granulomatous Mastitis
- Breast Cancer Problems for the Primary Care Provider
- Ultrasound as a Tool for Surgical Innovation

**Contact:**  
[nskapoor@mednet.ucla.edu](mailto:nskapoor@mednet.ucla.edu)



**Lyndsey Kilgore, MD**

**Institution:** The University of Kansas Cancer Center

**Areas of Expertise:** Breast Cancer, Lymphedema, Lymphatic Reconstruction, High risk breast lesions, De-escalation of surgery , Surgical Education Curriculum, Career Development, Life and Career

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Surgical Management of Breast Cancer
- Breast Basics
- Breast Cancer-related Lymphedema
- Developing and Implementing a Breast Cancer Prevention Program
- High-risk Breast Lesions: To Cut or Not
- Surgical Education Curriculum
- Surgical Residency and Beyond

**Contact:**  
[Lyndseyk514@gmail.com](mailto:Lyndseyk514@gmail.com)





**Madhuri Rao, MD**

**Institution:** U of M Thoracic and Foregut Surgery

**Areas of Expertise:** Lung malignancies Non small cell and small cell lung cancer, Mesothelioma, Benign and malignant esophageal diseases, SUBxiphoid approach to thymectomy and mediastinal tumors

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- New techniques and Innovations in Thoracic Surgery
- Subxiphoid Thymectomy
- Robotic Thoracic Surgery
- Non-Intubated Thoracoscopic Surgery
- Women of Color in Medicine
- Lung cancer screening,
- My journey

**Contact:**

[mvrao@umn.edu](mailto:mvrao@umn.edu)



**Kathryn Rowland, MD**

**Institution:** University of Chicago

**Areas of Expertise:** Pediatric Surgery, Character Education

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Character Cultivation in Medical Education
- Humanism in Surgery
- Human Flourishing
- Women in Surgery

**Contact:**

[krowland2@bsd.uchicago.edu](mailto:krowland2@bsd.uchicago.edu)



**Umut Sarpel, MD**

**Institution:** Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School

**Areas of Expertise:** Surgical Oncology, Women in Surgery, Robotic Surgery

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Heated Intra Peritoneal Chemotherapy
- Building Gender Allyship in Surgery
- Pregnancy Complications & Infertility
- Robotic Surgical Oncology
- Differences in Virtual Conference by Gender
- Demystifying Tumors of the Appendix
- Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy
- Increasing Access to Surgery in Uganda
- Robotic versus Laparoscopic Colectomy
- Increasing Diversity in Surgical Residency
- New Peritoneal Surface Malignancy-HIPEC

**Contact:**

[usarpel@bidmc.harvard.edu](mailto:usarpel@bidmc.harvard.edu)





## Stephanie Worrell, MD

**Institution:** University of Arizona

**Areas of Expertise:** Thoracic Surgery

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Esophageal Cancer
- Mentorship
- Foregut Disease
- Robotic Thoracic Surgery

**Contact:**

[sworrell@arizona.edu](mailto:sworrell@arizona.edu)

## Umut Sarpel, MD

**Institution:** Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School

**Areas of Expertise:** Surgical Oncology, Women in Surgery, Robotic Surgery

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Heated Intra Peritoneal Chemotherapy
- Building Gender Allyship in Surgery
- High Rates of Pregnancy Complications and Infertility Among Female Surgeons
- Robotic Surgical Oncology
- Differences in Virtual Conference by Gender
- Demystifying Tumors of the Appendix
- Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy
- Increasing Access to Surgery in Uganda
- Robotic versus Laparoscopic Colectomy
- Increasing Diversity in Surgical Residency
- New Peritoneal Surface Malignancy for HIPEC

**Contact:**

[usarpel@bidmc.harvard.edu](mailto:usarpel@bidmc.harvard.edu)

# 2023 Signature Speaker Series Cohort



**Melissa Chang, MD**



**Nicole Goulet, MD**



**Caitlin Hicks, MD**



**Kelsey Larson, MD**



**Kathryn Martin, MD**



**Maureen  
O'Shuaghnessy, MD**



**Chantal Reyna, MD**



**Sarah Rodriguez, MD**



**Minerva  
Romero Arenas, MD**



**Ming-Li Want, MD**





**Melissa Chang, MD**

**Institution:** Trinity Health Ann Arbor Hospital

**Areas of Expertise:** Robotic surgery, CRS (benign and malignant), pelvic floor

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Robotic Surgery
- Women in Surgery
- Surgical Education

**Contact:**  
[mchangtang@gmail.com](mailto:mchangtang@gmail.com)



**Nicole Goulet, MD**

**Institution:** Weill Cornell Medicine

**Areas of Expertise:** DEI efforts in surgery, LGBTQ+ inclusivity in surgery

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- DEI Efforts in Surgery
- LGBTQ+ Inclusivity in Surgery

**Contact:**  
[ngouletmd@gmail.com](mailto:ngouletmd@gmail.com)



**Caitlin Hicks, MD**

**Institution:** Johns Hopkins Hospital

**Areas of Expertise:** Value-based care, PAD, Carotid disease, TAAA, Research & Mentoring

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Value-based Care in Vascular Surgery
- Carotid Disease Management
- Opportunities in Research & Mentoring

**Contact:**  
[chicks11@jhmi.edu](mailto:chicks11@jhmi.edu)





**Kelsey E. Larson, MD**

**Institution:** University of Kansas

**Areas of Expertise:** Breast Cancer

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Multidisciplinary Breast Cancer
- Research

**Contact:**

**[klarson6@kumc.edu](mailto:klarson6@kumc.edu)**



**Kathryn Martin, MD**

**Institution:** Maria Fareri Children's Hospital  
at Westchester Medical Center

**Areas of Expertise:** Pediatric Surgery,  
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Diversity Equity Inclusion - Race, Gender, LGBTQ+
- Health Disparities

**Contact:**

**[kathrynmartinmd@gmail.com](mailto:kathrynmartinmd@gmail.com)**



**Maureen O'Shaughnessy, MD**

**Institution:** University of Kentucky

**Areas of Expertise:** Hand Surgery

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Hand Surgery - Ulnar Wrist Pain
- Distal Radius Fractures
- Arthroplasty
- Arthroscopy
- Mentoring Females in Orthopedic Surgery

**Contact:**

**[maoshaugh@gmail.com](mailto:maoshaugh@gmail.com)**



**Chantal Reyna, MD**

**Institution:** Loyola University Medical Center

**Areas of Expertise:** Program Building and Mentoring

- **AWS Speaker Series Topics:**  
Mentoring/Sponsoring Across Generations
- Practice and Program Building
- Early Career Building
- Professional Identity and Personal Branding

**Contact:**  
[creynamd@gmail.com](mailto:creynamd@gmail.com)



**Sarah Rodriguez, MD**

**Institution:** The University of Chicago

**Areas of Expertise:** Retinopathy of Prematurity

- AWS Speaker Series Topics:**
- Global Health
  - Policy Changes
  - Prevention of Pediatric Blindness

**Contact:**  
[srodriguez5@bsd.uchicago.edu](mailto:srodriguez5@bsd.uchicago.edu)



**Minerva Romero Arenas, MD**

**Institution:** Weill Cornell Medicine | NYP  
Brooklyn Methodist Hospital

**Areas of Expertise:** Endocrine surgery,  
General surgery

- AWS Speaker Series Topics:**
- Endocrine Surgery
  - Opioid Prescribing
  - DEI
  - Surgical Education

**Contact:**  
[Minervies@gmail.com](mailto:Minervies@gmail.com)



**Ming-Li Wang, MD**

**Institution:** University of New Mexico

**Areas of Expertise:** Surgical Education,  
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Faculty Development in Bystander Training
- Resident Evaluation and Feedback
- Cultural Competency and Dexterity in Surgery

**Contact:**

**[mlwang@salud.unm.edu](mailto:mlwang@salud.unm.edu)**



# 2022 Signature Speaker Series Cohort



**Stephanie Bonne, MD**



**Christy Chai, MD**



**Emily Keung, MD**



**Kimberly Lumpkins, MD**



**Jennifer Plichta, MD**



**Joon Shim, MD**



**Erin Stevens, MD**



**Stephanie Bonne, MD**

**Institution:** Advocate Christ Medical Center

**Areas of Expertise:** Trauma Prevention, Trauma Systems, Gun Violence Prevention, Violence Intervention

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Women in Surgery,
- Public Health Careers
- Trauma-Informed Care

**Contact:**  
[stephanie.bonne@aah.org](mailto:stephanie.bonne@aah.org)



**Christy Chai, MD**

**Institution:** Baylor College of Medicine, Michael E DeBakey Department of Surgery, Division of Surgical Oncology

**Areas of Expertise:** Surgical Oncology, Robotic Surgery, Clinical Research

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Wellness & Burnout
- Diversity/Equity/Inclusion
- Robotic Surgery
- Cancer Prevention & Survivorship

**Contact:**  
[christy.chai@bcm.edu](mailto:christy.chai@bcm.edu)  
[christy.chai@va.gov](mailto:christy.chai@va.gov)



**Emily Keung, MD**

**Institution:** The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

**Areas of Expertise:** Surgical oncology, soft tissue sarcoma, immunotherapy, cancer epigenomics, cutaneous malignancies

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Soft Tissue Sarcoma
- Immunotherapy
- Translational Research
- Clinical Research

**Contact:**  
[ekeung@mdanderson.org](mailto:ekeung@mdanderson.org)



**Kimberly Lumpkins, MD**

**Institution:** University of Maryland School of Maryland

**Areas of Expertise:** Pediatric surgery, personal development

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Personal Mission Statement
- Time Management
- Interviewing and Hiring

**Contact:**  
[KLumpkins@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:KLumpkins@som.umaryland.edu)



**Jennifer Plichta, MD**

**Institution:** Duke University Medical Center

**Areas of Expertise:** Breast surgery, breast cancer, breast cancer risk

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Clinical Outcomes Research
- Mentorship

**Contact:**  
[jennifer.plichta@duke.edu](mailto:jennifer.plichta@duke.edu)



**Joon K. Shim MD**

**Institution:** Bassett Healthcare Network

**Areas of Expertise:** Bariatric/Foregut Surgery, Surgical Education, Surgical Humanities, Leadership Curriculum, Rural Surgery, Combat Surgery

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Development of Surgical Education Curricula
- Rural Surgery
- Surgical Humanities
- Innovation
- Leadership Curriculum
- Combat Surgery
- Bariatrics/Foregut

**Contact:**  
[joon.shim@bassett.org](mailto:joon.shim@bassett.org)





**Erin E. Stevens, MD**

**Institution:** Prevea Health, Division of Gynecologic Oncology, HSHS St Vincent Cancer Center

**Areas of Expertise:** Surgical oncology, women's health

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Gynecologic Oncology
- Women's Health
- Rural Cancer Care
- End of Life
- Collaborating Across Specialties
- Cancer Myths

**Contact:**

**[erin.e.stevens@gmail.com](mailto:erin.e.stevens@gmail.com)**

# 2021 Signature Speaker Series Cohort



Tania Arora, MD



Letitia Bradford, MD



Elizabeth David, MD



Marion Henry, MD



Cassandra Kelleher, MD



Anjali Kumar, MD



Patricia Numann, MD



Heena Santry, MD



NAsreen Vohra, MD



Grace Wang, MD



Tanya Zakrison, MD





**Tania Arora, MD, FACS**

**Institution:** Augusta University

**Areas of Expertise:** Surgical Oncology, Surgical Education

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Diversity and Inclusion in Surgical Departments and Institutions
- Development of Surgical Education Curricula
- Clinical Outcomes Research

**Contact:**  
[tarora@augusta.edu](mailto:tarora@augusta.edu)



**Letitia Bradford MD, FAAOS**

**Institution:** University of Nevada School of Medicine, Department of Surgery

**Areas of Expertise:** Orthopedic surgery, disparities research, diversity

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Wellness
- Basic Sciences
- Mentorship
- eGaming/eSports

**Contact:**  
[drlbradford@nthdimensions.org](mailto:drlbradford@nthdimensions.org)



**Elizabeth A. David, MD, MAS, FACS**

**Institution:** University of Southern California

**Areas of Expertise:** Thoracic surgery, disparities research

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Clinical Research
- Wellness
- Women in Surgery
- Health Services Research

**Contact:**  
[elizabeth.david@med.usc.edu](mailto:elizabeth.david@med.usc.edu)



**Marion Henry, MD**

**Institution:** University of Chicago

**Areas of Expertise:** Pediatric surgery, surgical education, surgical advocacy

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Clinical Research
- Translational Research
- Wellness

**Contact:**  
[mcwhmd@gmail.com](mailto:mcwhmd@gmail.com)



**Cassandra Kelleher, MD**

**Institution:** Massachusetts General Hospital

**Areas of Expertise:** Pediatric surgery, clinical outcome research

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Clinical Research
- Surgical Disparities
- Surgical Appropriateness

**Contact:**  
[ckelleher3@partners.org](mailto:ckelleher3@partners.org)



**Anjali Kumar, MD**

**Institution:** Washington State University

**Areas of Expertise:** Colon and rectal surgery, clinical research

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Young Surgeon/Young Investigator Issues, Leadership
- Clinical Research
- Wellness
- Career Transitions (starting a new practice, transitioning practice, taking a leave of absence, termination, working part-time, re-entry pathways)

**Contact:**  
[anju@wsu.edu](mailto:anju@wsu.edu)





**Patricia Numann MD**

**Institution:** SUNY Upstate Medical University

**Areas of Expertise:** General surgery, surgical education

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Wellness

**Contact:**

[numannp@upstate.edu](mailto:numannp@upstate.edu)



**Heena Santry, MD**

**Institution:** Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

**Areas of Expertise:** General surgery, clinical outcome research

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Clinical Research
- Translational Research

**Contact:**

[heena.santry@osumc.edu](mailto:heena.santry@osumc.edu)



**Nasreen Vohra, MD, FACS**

**Institution:** Brody School of Medicine East Carolina University

**Areas of Expertise:** General Surgery, complex surgical oncology (gastrointestinal malignancies, peritoneal surface malignancies, melanoma, Merkel cell carcinoma), translational Research

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Clinical research
- Wellness
- Translational Research
- Gastrointestinal and Cutaneous Malignancies, Regional Therapy
- Disparities

**Contact:**

[vohran@ecu.edu](mailto:vohran@ecu.edu)



**Grace Wang, MD**

**Institution:** Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

**Areas of Expertise:**

Vascular surgery, Clinical outcome research

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Clinical Research
- Wellness

**Contact:**

[Grace.Wang@uphs.upenn.edu](mailto:Grace.Wang@uphs.upenn.edu)



**Tanya Zakrison, MD**

**Institution:** University of Chicago Medicine

**Areas of Expertise:** General surgery, disparities research

**AWS Speaker Series Topics:**

- Translational Research
- Clinical Research

**Contact:**

[tzakrison@surgery.bsd.uchicago.edu](mailto:tzakrison@surgery.bsd.uchicago.edu)