



ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN SURGEONS FOUNDATION 2025 Annual Report



Thank You for Empowering Women in Surgery Your Generosity Makes a Difference!

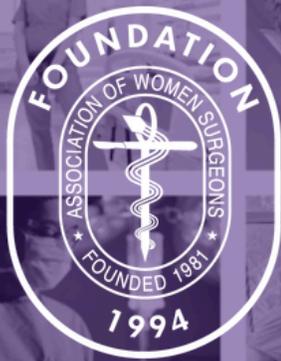
The Association of Women Surgeons Foundation extends heartfelt gratitude to each supporter who made our work possible in 2025. Your generosity expanded educational opportunities, supported the professional growth of women surgeons and trainees, and highlighted their excellence across the globe. We invite you to explore the impact you made and to continue partnering with us as we build an even stronger, more inclusive surgical community in the year ahead.

Expanding Horizons Women Surgeons Making a Global Impact



This year, the Association of Women Surgeons Foundation launched "Expanding Our Horizons," a series dedicated to highlighting inspiring women surgeons engaged in important global health initiatives. These impressive women in surgery shared details about their projects and reflected on the ways in which AWS and AWSF impacted their journeys. Head to the link below to read the profiles of these incredible women surgeons.

womensurgeons.org/expanding-horizons



ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN SURGEONS FOUNDATION 2025 Annual Report



Your Support Shapes the Future of Surgery

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, the AWS Foundation provides programs and resources to advance the careers of women surgeons and elevate the education of surgical trainees around the world. In 2025, AWSF offered the following resources to women in surgery:

- **Travel Grant:** The Foundation provided a travel grant to Dr. Tsion Tilahun Girma, who completed a Breast & Endocrine Surgery Fellowship at Christian Medical College in Vellore, India and presented at the Association of Breast Surgeons of India 13th Annual Meeting in Kolkata.
- **Visiting Professorship:** Dr. Lisa Cannada served as the 2025 AWSF Kim Ephgrave Visiting Professor at the Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine. The Visiting Professor program heightens the visibility of women surgeons and encourages women medical students to pursue similar careers.
- **Resident Travel Awards:** In 2025, four exceptional women surgeons were granted financial scholarships to attend the AWS Annual Conference in Chicago. The awardees included Drs. Emily Zolfaghari, Vasundhara Mathur, Ozge Vural, and Titilope Sandra Saheed.



“*Being invited to speak at one of the world’s leading surgical meetings from Turkiye, and then being honored with a travel award from the AWS and the AWS Foundation, will remain one of the most important turning points in my career.* - **Dr. Ozge Vural**

”

- **Women Scholars Program:** Presented in collaboration with the American College of Surgeons, this program provided women surgical trainees with access to the 2025 training and board examinations provided by the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa Scientific Conference. There were 20 women surgeons in Track 1 and 10 women surgeons in Track 2.

womensurgeons.org/generosity-in-action



ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN SURGEONS FOUNDATION 2025 Annual Report



Celebrating Outstanding Surgeons and Allies



In 2025, thanks to the support of our donors, the AWS Foundation recognized seven exemplary surgeons and surgeons-in-training at the AWSF Awards Dinner & Gala in Chicago on October 5. The awardees included:

- Dr. Nina Starr Braunwald Award: Carla M. Pugh, MD, PhD, FACS, MAMSE
- Dr. Olga Jonasson Distinguished Member Award: Susan E. Pories, MD, FACS
- AWS Past Presidents' Honorary Member Award: Thomas K. Varghese, Jr. MD, MS, MBA, FACS, MAMSE
- Dr. Charles W. Putnam Distinguished Mentor Award: Carlos A. Pellegrini, MD, FACS, FRCSI(Hon), FRCS(Hon), FRSCED(Hon), FWACS(Hon)
- Dr. Sally Abston Distinguished Member Award: V. Suzanne Klimberg, MD, PhD, MSHCT, FACS, MAMSE
- Dr. Hilary Sanfey Outstanding Resident Award: Ava C. Yap, MD, MHS
- Dr. Patricia Numann Medical Student Award: Isabella Gomes, MPH, MA

womensurgeons.org/awards



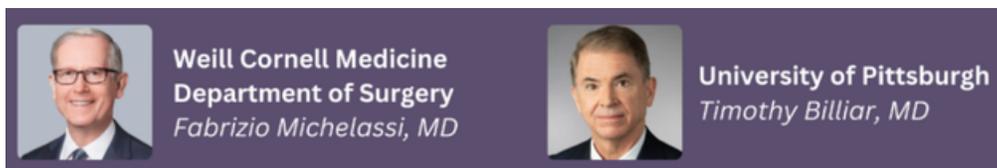


ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN SURGEONS FOUNDATION 2025 Annual Report



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

AWS and the Foundation would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to two Program Chairs that participated in 2025 as Institutional Members, Conference Sponsors AND Gala Table Hosts. Thank you to Dr. Michelassi of Weill Cornell Medicine Department of Surgery and Dr. Billiar of the University of Pittsburgh for their support!

AWS Conference Chair Sponsors

Gold Sponsors

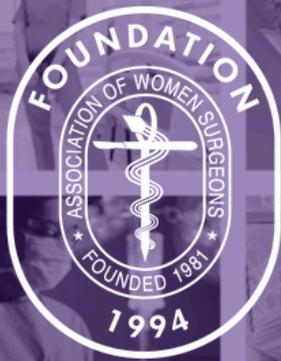
University of California-Davis School of Medicine: Diana Farmer, MD, FACS, FRCS
Weill Cornell Medical College: Fabrizio Michelassi, MD, FACS

Silver Sponsors

Rush University Medical Center, Department of Surgery: Alfonso Torquati, MD, FACS
University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine: Ronald P. DeMatteo, MD, FACS
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center: Timothy Billiar, MD, FACS
USF Health Morsani College of Medicine: Murray L. Shames, MD, DFSVS, FACS

Bronze Sponsor

Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University: Charles J. Yeo, MD, FACS



ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN SURGEONS FOUNDATION 2025 Annual Report



Directors & Deans Championed Women in Surgery Gala Table Sponsors

Full Table Sponsors

- Nancy Gantt, MD, FACS
- Patricia J. Numann, MD, FACS
- Atrium Health-Carolinas Medical Center: David Jacobs, MD, FACS
- George Washington University: Barbara Bass, MD, FACS
- Oregon Health Science University: Kenneth A. Azarow, MD, FACS, FAAP
- Rutgers University: Daniel Jones, MD, MS, FACS
- The Society of Black Academic Surgeons: John Stewart, MD, FACS
- The University of Toledo Medical Center: Jason Schroeder, MD, FAANS, FACS
- Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences: Annesley "AJ" Copeland, MD, FACS
- University of Chicago: Jeffrey B. Matthews, MD, FACS
- University of Pittsburgh Medical Center: Timothy Billiar, MD, FACS
- University of Rochester, Department of Surgery: Ryan Fields, MD, FACS
- University of Texas Medical Branch: V. Suzanne Klimberg, MD, PhD, MSHCT, FACS, MAMSE and Linda Phillips, MD, FACS
- University of Utah Health: Fiemu Nwariaku, MD, FACS
- University of Washington: Doug Wood, MD, FACS, FRCSEd
- Virginia Commonwealth University: Vigneshwar Kasirajan, MD, MBBS FACS
- Weill Cornell Medicine: Fabrizio Michelassi, MD, FACS

Half Table Sponsors

- Simone Betchen, MD, MBA, FACS
- Gayle DiLalla, MD, FACS
- Christine Laronga, MD, FACS
- Susan Pories, MD, FACS
- Thomas K. Varghese, Jr. MD, MS, MBA, FACS, MAMSE
- Case Western Reserve University Metro Health: Marie Crandall, MD, MPH, FACS
- Stanford University School of Medicine: Mary Hawn, MD, FACS
- Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center: Celeste Hollands, MD, FACS, FAAP
- The University of New Mexico School of Medicine: Sharmila Dissanaiké, MD, FACS, FCCM
- University of California - Davis School of Medicine: Diana Farmer, MD, FACS, FRCS
- University of California, San Francisco: Julie Ann Sosa, MD, MA, FSSO, FACS, MAMSE
- University of Cincinnati: Elizabeth Shaughnessy, MD, PhD, FACS





ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN SURGEONS FOUNDATION 2025 Annual Report



Directors & Deans Championed Women in Surgery Institutional Members

- Atrium Health - Carolinas Medical Center
- Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist
- Baylor Scott & White Healthcare
- Baylor University Medical Center
- Brigham and Women's Hospital
- Cleveland Clinic
- Cooper Medical School of Rowan University/Cooper University Hospital
- Dartmouth - Hitchcock Medical Center
- Duke Surgery
- Eastern Virginia Medical School at Old Dominion University
- ECU Health Medical Center/ECU
- George Washington University
- Guthrie Robert Packer Hospital
- 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
- MetroHealth
- Montefiore Medical Center
- Northwell Health Surgery Service Line
- Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine
- NYU Langone Medical Center
- OHSU
- Research Medical Center - Extant Healthcare
- Southern Illinois University
- Stanford Medicine
- SUNY Downstate
- The Medical College of Wisconsin Department of Surgery
- The University of Kansas Department of Surgery
- Trinity Health Ann Arbor
- UCSF Department of Surgery
- UCSF-East Bay Surgery Program
- Univ of FL Department of Surgery
- University of Alabama at Birmingham
- University of Arizona Department of Surgery
- University of Cincinnati Department of Surgery
- University of Colorado Department of Surgery
- University of Kentucky Department of Surgery
- University of Louisville
- University of Michigan Medicine
- University of Minnesota
- University of Missouri
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Utah Department of Surgery
- University of Wisconsin Department of Surgery
- UW Department of Surgery
- Virginia Commonwealth University Health
- Washington University in St. Louis
- Wayne State University School of Medicine
- Weill Cornell Medicine - Department of Surgery
- West Virginia University
- Yale School of Medicine, Department of Surgery

womensurgeons.org/institutional-members



ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN SURGEONS FOUNDATION 2025 Annual Report



Thank You for Elevating Women in Surgery Monthly Donors

- Sasha Adams
- Simone Betchen
- Stephanie Bonne
- Kelly Braniff
- Lisa Cannada
- Akiko Chiba
- Annesley Copeland
- Catherine Davis
- Gayle DiLalla
- Sophie Dream
- Elise Fannon
- Sophia Fu
- Kristalyn Gallagher
- Nancy Gantt
- Nicole Goulet
- Camila Guetter
- Marion Henry
- Celeste Hollands
- Marybeth Hughes
- Susan Kaiser
- Aeryn Kangas-Dick
- Matthew Kutcher
- Christine Laronga
- Jamie Lewis
- Yuk Ming Liu
- Kandace McGuire
- Dixie Mills
- Leigh Neumayer
- Lisa Newman
- Lauren Nosanov
- Patricia Numann
- Lisa Reid
- Chantal Reyna
- Kaitlin Ritter
- Patricia Roberts
- Hilary Sanfey
- Elizabeth Shaughnessy
- Latifa Silski
- Shannon Small
- Mediget Teshome
- JE "Betsy" Tuttle
- 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 2025 Annual Report



Thank You for Elevating Women in Surgery 2025 Annual Giving Donors

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

- Myriam Curet
- Dixie Mills
- Leigh Neumayer and David Bull
- Pon Satitpunwaycha

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

- Margaret Dunn
- Pauline Park
- Beth Sutton

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

- Barbara Bass
- AJ Copeland
- Gayle DiLalla
- Nancy Gantt
- Nicole Goulet
- Marion Henry
- Celeste Hollands
- Marybeth Hughes
- Laura Johnson
- Christine Laronga
- Joyce Majure
- Jeffrey Matthews
- Patricia Numann
- Chantal Reyna
- Patricia Roberts
- Hilary Sanfey
- Elizabeth Shaughnessy
- Sharon Stein
- JE "Betsy" Tuttle
- Grace Ward
- Robin Williams

Crystal Level Contributors: \$500 – \$999

- Lisa Cannada
- Kristalyn Gallagher
- Baiba Grube
- Ann Lowry
- Deborah McNamara
- Lisa Newman
- Joan Palomaki
- Susan Pories
- Anne Rizzo
- Susan Stuart
- Sonia Sugg
- Sherry Wren

Pearl Level Contributors: \$100 – \$499

- Sasha Adams
- Nicole Baril
- Linda Barney
- Simone Betchen
- Kelly Braniff
- Autumn Bridger
- Clay Burlew
- Kathleen Casey
- Candice Castro
- Marie Crandall
- Emilia Diego
- Sophie Dream
- Fatima Merino Escobar
- Shannon Foster
- Vivian Gahtan
- Kimberly Hendersot
- Danielle Henry
- Sharon Henry
- Kathryn Hughes
- Kari Jerge
- D'Andrea Joseph
- Kimberly Joseph

- Susan Kasier
- Lillian Kao
- Nimmi Kapoor
- Danielle Katz
- Deborah Kozik
- Robert Krell
- Matthew Kutcher
- Kristina Lemon
- Jaime Lewis
- Yuk Ming Liu
- Sharon Lum
- Mary Maniscalco-Theberge
- Kandace McGuire
- Clare McNaught
- Jessica Minesinger
- Lisa Newman
- Valentine Nfonsam
- Lauren Nosanov
- Jennifer Plichta
- Lauren Ramsey
- Sharon Ransom
- Lisa Reid
- Kaitlin Ritter
- Hilary Sanfey
- Mary Catherine Santos
- Barbara Schwartzberg
- Latifa Silski
- Shannon Small
- Amy Tan
- Mediget Teshome
- Julie Marosky Thacker
- Julie Valenzuela
- Amy Vertrees
- Melissa Warta
- Michaela West
- Kelly Wilman
- Elizabeth Windell
- Amy Vertrees
- Wing Sze Yung
- Michelle Zweifler



ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN SURGEONS FOUNDATION 2025 Annual Report



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