



# SLSNOW

Where Disciplines Meet

*Edition 23*  
*Sept 2025*



***MISWeek 2025 Focus Issue***  
***September 10-13, 2025***



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This Newsletter is Interactive. Look for the



# A MESSAGE FROM THE *Executive Director*

*Raymond Lanzafame, MD, MBA, FACS*



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to the latest issue of SLSNow.

The summer season is fading and meteorological fall has begun. Those of us in the northern climes are starting to see cooler nights and soon will see autumn colors. School is in session and the sights, sounds and relaxation of summer are now a memory. This time of year brings a return to our daily lives and a broad menu of professional conferences.

MISWeek 2025 is starting soon and is returning to the Wyndham® Lake Buena Vista Resort at Disney Springs® Resort Area. An exciting program is planned, and it's not too late to register. This issue of SLSNow highlights several facets of the program and information about award winners, distinguished speakers and information about exhibitors, sponsors, and more.

This issue also has information about our publications and fellowship opportunities.

We've also included some information about MISWeek 2026 which will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton at the Entrance to Universal Orlando on December 2-5, 2026. Save the date and make plans now to attend an exciting program.

Please share SLSNow with your colleagues and encourage them to join SLS. We learn from each other and being able to engage and interact with professions from our own and other specialties helps us improve our skills and outcomes for our patients. We welcome your active participation and are always willing to hear your comments and suggestions.

Thank you for being a part of the SLS Community.

Good reading!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raymond J. Lanzafame, MD, MBA, FACS". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Raymond J. Lanzafame, MD, MBA, FACS  
Executive Director & Chairman

# Article *Spotlight*

# JLSLS

JLSLS. 2025 Apr-Jun;29(2)  
doi: 10.4293/JLSLS.2025.00012

## Physician Employment in America: Private Practices Dominate Despite Increased Hospital Employment



Jesse L Popover 1, Trevor Jones 1, Chris Kalathia 1, Alexandra Mackey 1, Nathalie King 1, Emily Sardzinski 1, Zachary Oulton 1, Adnan Imam 1, Majd Al-Masri 1, Paul G Toomey

### Abstract:

Objective: A common perception is that physician-owned practices are in decline in the United States. However, there has been a lack of recent academic research to comprehensively characterize these trends. Our aim is to assess the current trends in physician employment over the last 2 decades to assess the interplay between private practices and hospital employment.

### Methods and procedures:

We analyzed data from the United States Census Bureau's Statistics of U.S. Businesses (SUSB) and the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS). Industry classifications were defined under the North American Industry Classification System.

### Results:

In 2022, the United States had 760,000 physicians, a 22% increase over the past decade. Hospital employment rose by 33%, while private medical practices grew by 17%. Currently, 55% of physicians work in private practices, down 3% from a decade ago, and 27% are hospital employed, up from 25% from a decade ago. Government employment decreased from 14% in 2013 to 12%. University employment remained stable (3%). There were 213,000 private medical practices in 2020, with 73% being small practices. There has been an increase in large practices ( $\geq 50$  employees), while small practices ( $< 50$  employees) decreased by 16% over 2 decades.

### Conclusion:

Private practices continue to be the dominant employment for physicians. Hospital employment over the last decade increased to just over one-quarter of employed physicians. Small private practices continue to be the most common type of private practice, despite an increase in larger private practices over the last decade.

In recent years, there has been a notable evolution in the landscape of physician employment in the United States. Traditionally, the trajectory of physician employment has been closely tied to the prominence of physician-owned practices. Data from the past thirty years shows that physician employment has continued to rise.<sup>1</sup> However, a prevailing perception suggests a decline in such practices, prompting a critical examination of this phenomenon. Baseline data from Avalere health consulting firm has espoused that by January 2022, 74% of all physicians were hired by a corporate or hospital entity, a number that has increased since 2019 from 62%. This suggests that the COVID-19 era of 2019 through 2021 has accelerated this recent trend.<sup>2</sup> Contributing to this perception is the growing number of large hospital systems, with

68% of all hospitals belonging to some larger hospital system, including the 703,246 system-affiliated beds in the United States, out of the nearly 920,000 total, which may raise concern over growing monopolization of healthcare in the United States.<sup>3</sup> Data on ownership is more sparse, with some estimates saying 44–46% of all practices are owned by physicians,<sup>4,5</sup> yet with estimates of 131,463 physician practices being owned by hospital or corporate entities, this means that there would be 234,755 practices in the United States<sup>2</sup>—yet data suggest that there are actually 338,899 physician group practices, which are defined separately from solo physician practices.

To read more of this article, please **click here.**



## There is NO manuscript submission fee

There is a non-refundable fee of \$500 US for each article accepted for publication in the journal.



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## FELLOWSHIPS AVAILABLE

### GYNECOLOGY

Fellowship in Minimally Invasive & Robotic Surgery in Gynecology & Reproductive Surgery  
*Director: Camran Nezhat, MD*  
 Palo Alto, CA

Fellowship in Minimally Invasive and Robotic Surgery in Gynecologic Benign and Malignant Pathologies  
*Director: Farr Nezhat, MD*  
 Long Island, NY

SLS Fellowship in Advanced Endometriosis  
*Director: Tamer Seckin, MD*  
 New York, NY

Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery Fellowship (FMIGS) of South Florida  
*Director: Emery Salom, MD*  
 Miramar, FL

### SIMULATION

Carlos Pellegrini and Brant Oelschlager Surgical Simulation Fellowship  
*Director: Robert Sweet, MD, FACS, MAMSE*  
 Seattle, WA

### GENERAL SURGERY

SLS Fellowship in Advanced Minimally Invasive and Endoscopic Techniques in General and Colorectal Surgery  
*Director: Jiri (George) Melich, MD*  
 Vancouver, BC, Canada

SLS Fellowship in Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary (HPB) Surgical Oncology  
*Director: Shawn MacKenzie MD, FACS, FRCSC*  
 New Westminster, BC, Canada

Colorectal Oncology and Advanced Laparoscopic Surgery Fellowship  
*Director: Elena A.T. Vikis, MD, MEd, FRCSC*  
 Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

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# FELLOWSHIP IN FOCUS

## FELLOWSHIP IN MINIMALLY INVASIVE AND ROBOTIC SURGERY IN GYNECOLOGIC BENIGN AND MALIGNANT PPATHOLOGIES

Location: NYU Grossman Long Island School of Medicine—Mineola, Long Island, NY  
Program Director: Farr Nezhat, MD, FACOG, FACS

Under the directorship of Dr. Farr Nezhat, the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the NYU Grossman Long Island School of Medicine is offering a 2-year minimally invasive gynecologic surgery fellowship program. Applications are currently being accepted for the next even-numbered program year (beginning August 2026).

The Fellow will work side-by-side with a multidisciplinary team of providers and will rotate at NYU Langone Hospital-Long Island and New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center and Lower Manhattan Hospital. Several other faculty members, including urogynecologists, general, and colorectal surgeons will work closely with the fellow.

For further information on the NYU Grossman Long Island School of Medicine MIGS Fellowship program, please contact:

Ruth Ansell  
Academic Coordinator  
MIGS Fellowship Program  
NYU Grossman Long Island School of Medicine  
Department of Ob/Gyn  
NYU Langone Hospital-Long Island  
Mineola, NY  
ruth.ansell@nyulangone.org



### FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

EMPOWERING GROWTH,  
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FELLOWSHIP IN MINIMALLY  
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IN GYNECOLOGIC BENIGN AND  
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LOCATION:  
NYU Langone Hospital-Long Island  
Mineola, NY  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR:  
Farr Nezhat, MD



# MEET OUR GRADUATING FELLOWS

Dr. Bruce Lee



*SLS Fellowship  
The Center for Gynecologic Oncology Miramar, FL*

Bruce Lee was born and raised in Sheboygan, WI. He attended the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where he majored in biochemistry and graduated with a Bachelors of Science degree and from the Honors College. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health for medical school. He completed his OB/GYN residency training at Rochester General Hospital in Rochester, NY. After completing a fellowship in minimally invasive gynecologic surgery fellowship at the Center for Gynecology Oncology in South Florida, he will be relocating to Eau Claire, WI at the Mayo Clinic Health System to practice OB/GYN.

Dr. Angie Tsuei



*Fellowship in Minimally Invasive and Robotic Surgery in Gynecology and Reproductive Surgery  
Director: Camran Nezhat, MD, FACOG, FACS*

As I complete my Minimally Invasive Gynecology Surgery Fellowship with Dr. Camran Nezhat, I am excited to continue my career with a focus on advancing care for individuals affected by endometriosis. I am deeply committed to clinical excellence, patient advocacy, and expanding access to evidence-based, compassionate surgical treatment. My work is driven by a passion for improving diagnostic accuracy, surgical outcomes, and long-term quality of life for patients. I look forward to contributing to a future where endometriosis is better understood, treated earlier, and managed with the



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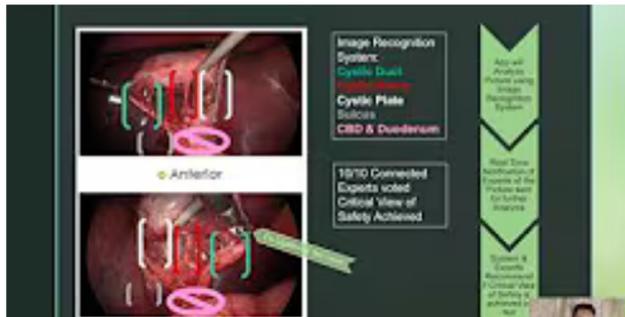


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Affiliated Medical Personnel	\$ 300.00	Available to Members Only

Special registration rates are available for SLS MEMBER Medical Students, \*Residents-in-Training, \*\*Fellows-in-Training, and Affiliated Medical Personnel. To qualify for these rates to the annual meeting you must currently be a Resident, Fellow-in-Training, or Affiliated Medical Personnel MEMBER of SLS.

SLS is currently offering FREE membership to Medical Students and Residents.

Fellow-in-Training, and Affiliated Medical Personnel membership dues are \$95 per calendar year.

To qualify as a Resident\* or Fellow-in-Training\*\*, you must be in training in an accredited training program or, if outside the U.S., you must be a Resident or Fellow-in-Training within the first five years after medical school degree.

To qualify as Affiliated Medical Personnel, you must be employed in an ancillary position in the health care field.

## ITS NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER TO ATTEND MISWEEK 2025



# MISWeek 2025 *Event Program*

<b>DAY 1</b>  <b>WED</b> <b>10</b> <b>SEPT</b>	7:00am – 8:00pm	<b>Conference Registration</b>
	7:00am – 8:00am	<b>Complimentary Coffee &amp; Bakery Items</b> <i>For Master Course Attendees only</i>
	8:00am – 12:00pm	<b>Hands-on Master Course:</b> <i>Advanced Laparoscopic Suturing – for the Gynecologist, Urologist, and General and Robotic Surgeon</i> Director: Grace Liu, MD Faculty: Ian Hodgdon, MD, Leslie Po, MD, Mireille Truong, MD
	12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch on your own
	1:00pm – 5:00pm	<b>Hands-on Master Course:</b> <i>The Pain Challenge: Achieving Optimal Outcomes in Minimally Invasive Surgery</i> Director: Jorge F. Carrillo, MD, MHPE Faculty: Mario Castellanos, MD, Georgine Lamvu, MD, MPH, CPE
	1:00pm – 5:00pm	<b>Hands-on Master Course:</b> <i>Transforming Surgical Practice with Artificial Intelligence</i> Director: Paul Toomey, MD, Co-Directors: Artur Horimoto, B.Eng
	5:15pm – 6:30pm	<b>Opening Ceremony -</b>
	5:45pm – 6:15pm	Keynote Speaker: Patricia L. Turner, MD, MBA, FACS <i>The Changing Surgical Workforce</i>
	6:15pm – 6:30pm	<b>Award Presentations</b>
	6:30pm – 8:00pm	Welcome Reception in Exhibit Hall; 6:30pm – 8:00pm e-Poster Viewing Open

<b>DAY 2</b>  <b>THUR</b> <b>11</b> <b>SEPT</b>	7:00am – 5:00pm	<b>Conference Registration</b>
	7:00am – 7:30am	<b>Complimentary Coffee &amp; Bakery Items/Product Presentations by Exhibitors</b>
	7:00am – 5:00pm	<b>Exhibits Open &amp; e-Poster Viewing</b>
	7:30am – 7:45am	<b>Highlights</b>
	7:45am – 8:45am	<b>Multidisciplinary Plenary Session:</b> <i>A Robot in Every OR: Myth or Reality</i> Director: Sharona Ross, MD, FACS Faculty: Rahila Essani, MD FACS FASCERS, Mark O'Hern, MHA
	8:45am – 9:45am	<b>Multidisciplinary Plenary Session</b> <i>What's New in Simulation and Using Simulation Without a SIM Center</i> Co-Directors: Ian Hodgdon, MD, Mirielle Truong, MD Faculty: John E. Morrison, MD, FACS, DRHC, MAMSE, Lauren Siff, MD
	9:45am – 10:15am	<b>Refreshment Break /Visit Exhibits/Product Presentations by Exhibitors</b>
	10:15am – 10:45am	<b>Nezhat Family Lectureship: Non-CME</b> Co-Directors: Camran Nezhat, MD; Ceana Nezhat, MD; Farr Nezhat, MD <i>New Frontiers in Fluorescent Image Guided Surgery</i> Speaker: Raul J. Rosenthal, MD, FACS, FASMBS
	10:45am – 12:45pm	<b>Multidisciplinary Plenary Session (Non-CME)</b> <i>The Present and Future of Robotic Surgery</i> Director: Sharona Ross, MD Faculty: Jeffery Alvarez - Moon Surgical , Joe Herman - Histosonics David Hitesman - Intuitive, Jim Lapke - Intuitive
	12:45pm – 1:00PM	<b>Moderator Briefing</b> <i>Raymond J.Lanzafame, MD, MBA</i>
	12:45pm – 2:00pm	<b>Refreshment Break /Visit Exhibits/Product Presentations by Exhibitors</b>
	2:00pm – 5:45pm	<b>Concurrent Presentation Sessions: Scientific Papers / Videos</b>
	2:00pm – 5:15pm	<b>Global Perspectives in MIS II</b>
	2:00pm – pm	<b>Global Perspectives in MIS I</b>
	2:00pm – 5:00pm	<b>Poster Town Hall (Non-CME)</b>
	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Special Event: Resident, Fellow, New Member Meet & Greet

# MISWeek 2025 *Event Program*

**DAY 3**

**FRI  
12  
SEPT**

7:00am – 5:00pm	<b>Conference Registration</b>
7:00am – 7:30am	<b>Complimentary Coffee and Bakery Items / Visit Exhibits / Product Presentations by Exhibitors</b>
7:00am – 2:00pm	<b>Exhibit Open &amp; e-Poster Viewing</b>
7:30am – 7:45am	<b>Highlights</b>
7:45am – 9:00am	<b>Multidisciplinary Plenary Session:</b> <i>Artificial Intelligence in Surgery: Enhancing Patient Care, Optimizing Workflows, and Lessons from Military Medicine</i> Director: Paul G. Toomey, MD Faculty: Brad Bichey, MD, MPH, Artur Horimoto, B.Eng, Hassan Tetteh, MD, MBA, MPA, MS, FACS, FAMIA, MAMSE
9:00am – 10:00am	<b>Multidisciplinary Plenary Session:</b> <i>Wellbeing and the Surgeon</i> Director: Juan Salgado-Morales, MD, FACOG, FACS, MIGS Co-Director: John E. Morrison, MD, FACS, DrHC, MAMSE Faculty: Cara King, DO, Thiers Soares Raymundo, MD, Dr.h.c.
10:00am – 10:15am	<b>Gustavo Stringel Awards for:</b> Best Poster, Best Poster by a Student, and Best Poster by a Resident
10:15am – 10:45am	<b>Refreshment Break/Visit Exhibits/Product Presentations by Exhibitors</b>
10:45am – 12:30pm	<b>Surgical Surprises: Video Session – When the Unexpected Happens</b> Director: Phillip P. Shadduck, MD, Dr. h.c. Co-Directors: Silvio Alen Canton, MBBS, Jessica Opoku-Anane, MD , MS <b>Discussant:</b> Ceana Nezhat, MS
12:30pm – 2:00pm	<b>Refreshment Break /Visit Exhibits/Product Presentations by Exhibitors</b>
2:00pm – 5:15pm	<b>Concurrent Presentation Sessions: Scientific Papers/Videos</b>
2:00pm – 5:15pm	<b>Global Perspectives in MIS II</b>
2:00pm – 6:00pm	<b>Global Perspectives in MIS I</b>
2:00pm – 5:45pm	<b>Concurrent Presentation Sessions: Scientific Papers / Videos</b>

**DAY 4**

**SAT  
13  
SEPT**

7:00am – 10:30am	<b>Conference Registration</b>
7:30am – 8:45am	<b>Breakfast with 2025 Excel Award Recipient</b> Director: Raymond J. Lanzafame, MD, MBA
7:30am – 8:00am	<b>Breakfast Served</b>
8:00am – 8:15am	<b>Highlights</b>
8:15am – 8:25am	<b>Introduction of Excel Award Recipient:</b> Thomas Lendvay, MD
8:25am – 8:40am	Presentation by Thomas Lendvay, MD <i>Empowering Surgeons to be Entrepreneurs</i>
8:40am – 8:45am	Presentation of Excel Award
8:45am – 8:55am	<b>Introduction of Janis Chinnock Wetter Award Recipient:</b> Linda Steckley, MBA
8:55am – 9:10am	Presentation by Linda Steckley, MBA <i>A Journey Through Innovation: The Early Days of SLS</i>
9:10am – 9:15am	Presentation of Janis Chinnock Wetter Award
9:15am – 9:20am	<b>Introduction of Keynote Speaker</b> Emmanuel Urquieta, MD, MS, FAsMA
	<b>Presentation by</b> Emmanuel Urquieta, MD, MS, FAsMA <i>Scalpels in Space: Autonomous Robotic Surgery for Mars Missions:</i>
10:05am – 10:10am	<b>Closing Ceremony - Passing the Presidential Gavel</b>



**MINIMALLY  
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## More on Hands-on Master Courses Wednesday September 10th

### **Suturing Skills Course: Advanced Laparoscopic Suturing - for the Gynecologist, Urologist, and General and Robotic Surgeon: 8:00am - 12:00pm**

**Description:** Participants will learn the uses and limitations of laparoscopic suturing. Suturing with two hands ipsilaterally allows the needle to operate in the sagittal plane, while permitting a restful and relaxed attitude of the elbows, forearms and hands. This course equips all attendees with improved suturing skills and insight into applications during surgery.

**Objectives:** Course participants will be better able to understand ergonomics, theory and rationale for reproducible and efficient laparoscopic suturing; learn port positions, instruments and tips to minimize fulcrum and maximize efficiency, perform interrupted suturing, continuous suturing, cinch knotting; apply learned skills in relevant surgical situations across specialties; and the prevention and management of bowel, bladder and ureteral complications by appropriate suture repair. A pre-test and post-test will demonstrate improvement in skills.

### **The Pain Challenge: Achieving Optimal Outcomes in Minimally Invasive Surgery: 1:00pm - 5:00pm**

**Description:** Effective peri-operative pain management plays a critical role in achieving favorable surgical outcomes. Research has highlighted specific risk factors that can predispose patients to less than optimal results. This evidence-based course will provide a focused discussion on pre-operative evaluation strategies, methods for addressing identified risk factors, and peri-operative approaches aimed at minimizing the likelihood of persistent pain while supporting enhanced recovery. The curriculum will include a review of abdominal wall and pelvic neuralgias that are sometimes observed following surgery, along with foundational aspects of pain anatomy, relevant terminology, and established principles for managing post-operative pain. Additionally, the course will cover two office-based procedures relevant to pain management that can be valuable for surgeons. This section will include an overview of procedure protocols, coding considerations, documentation requirements, and billing practices. This learning activity will incorporate interactive elements and will also address key factors influencing pain relief and overall patient satisfaction. The session will conclude with an interactive case discussion designed to: 1) reinforce core principles presented in the lectures and 2) offer a practical opportunity to engage with trigger point injection and nerve block techniques (both with and without ultrasound guidance)

**Objectives:** By the end of this presentation learners will be able to: Discuss basic principles of multi-modal treatments for peri-operative pain management. Review anatomy and management of post-operative neuralgias. Review office procedures that can be implemented in patients with post operative pain

### **AI Masterclass: Transforming Surgical Practice with Artificial Intelligence: 1:00pm - 5:00pm**

This highly interactive, hands-on AI Master class will immerse participants in real-world AI applications for surgeons and surgical practices. Through 20 rotating stations, attendees will explore AI-driven workflow automation, patient communication, decision support, and practice growth strategies. Surgeons will engage directly with AI tools like ChatGPT, DALL-E, Katie AI, and surgical automation platforms, learning how to optimize efficiency, enhance clinical decision-making, and scale their practice. This masterclass is designed for surgeons seeking a competitive edge in AI-driven healthcare. Join us to future-proof your surgical career! All participants will receive exclusive AI resources and a FREE 1-month Medreception.AI trial (A\$1,125 value).

**Objectives:** Participants in this course will: Master AI-powered productivity & workflow automation; Experience AI-driven patient communication & follow-up tools; Leverage AI for surgical research, clinical efficiency, and business growth. Participants will learn real AI solutions they can immediately implement for their practice.

Wednesday September 10, 2025

With Conference Registration: \$250  
Course Only: \$300



**MINIMALLY  
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## More on Plenary Sessions Thursday Sept 11th and Friday Sept 12th

### **A Robot in Every OR: Myth or Reality? : Thursday September 11th - 7:45am - 8:45am**

**Description:** The vision of a robot in every operating room is becoming more tangible as surgical robotics continue to evolve. This session will provide a comprehensive look at the factors shaping the future of robotic surgery and its widespread adoption. Experts will explore the practicalities of robotic integration and address the economic realities, logistics, system interoperability, and factors that influence the acquisition and use of these technologies, including: What capabilities are essential, and how do institutions determine which platforms to adopt? How will the challenges of training and credentialing across multiple robotic systems be addressed? What is the role of consensus standards in shaping robotic training programs? Is a robot in every OR our inevitable future—or an enduring myth?

### **Multidisciplinary Plenary Session: What's New in Simulation and Using Simulation Without a SIM Center Thursday September 11th - 8:45am - 9:45am**

**Description:** This session explores the evolving landscape of simulation in surgical training across surgical specialties.

**Objectives:** The objectives of the session will be to discuss current strategies for effective simulation and examine emerging trends such as virtual reality and how this is transforming surgical training. Attendees will gain valuable insights into adapting simulation to resource-limited environments, optimizing learner engagement, and integrating simulation into curriculum planning. By the end of the session, participants will have a comprehensive understanding of both foundational and cutting-edge approaches to simulation.

### **The Present and Future of Robotic Surgery (non-CME): Thursday September 11th - 10:45am-12:45pm**

**Description:** Interest in robotic surgery and applications of robotically assisted procedures continues to grow. The robotic surgical marketplace has been dominated by a single company for many years. However, this is rapidly changing with the continued evolution of multiport systems and the development and release of innovative systems from a growing group of new entrants in the field that offer a variety of solutions to solve surgical problems. This not for CME session brings together the leadership of some of the companies that are driving this wave of innovation. They will provide vignettes of the present and the future of robotic surgery. Learn the current status of multiport, single site, TORS, NOTES, and NOSCAR approaches, and what's on the horizon in robotics.

### **Artificial Intelligence in Surgery: Enhancing Patient Care, Optimizing Workflows, and Lessons from Military Medicine: Friday September 12th - 7:45am-9:00am**

**Description:** Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming surgery—not just in automating administrative processes but in enhancing patient care, improving clinical decision-making, and optimizing surgical workflows. From preoperative risk stratification to AI-assisted post-surgical monitoring, AI is increasingly being integrated into surgical practice to support better patient outcomes, reduce cognitive overload, and streamline clinical workflows. This session will focus on real-world applications of AI in perioperative care, patient selection, surgical risk prediction, and workflow efficiency. Experts will discuss how AI is currently being used to augment decision-making, improve care coordination, and enhance the patient experience. Additionally, we will examine how military medicine has pioneered AI-driven solutions in high-stakes environments, optimizing triage, surgical logistics, and patient management—offering valuable lessons for civilian healthcare.

**Objectives:** Identify AI applications that enhance patient care, including AI-assisted triage, surgical planning, and postoperative monitoring. Understand how AI improves decision-making and workflow efficiency in surgical practice, reducing delays, improving patient throughput, and ensuring timely interventions. Examine lessons from military medicine on AI-driven triage, resource optimization, and surgical decision support, and how these innovations translate to civilian surgical care. Discuss strategies for integrating AI into surgical practice to improve patient safety, optimize team coordination, and enhance overall surgical outcomes. Analyze real-world case studies showcasing how AI has positively impacted surgical workflows, patient management, and clinical decision-making.

### **Wellbeing and the Surgeon: Friday September 12th - 9:00am-10:00am**

**Description:** The well-being of surgeons is critical, yet often overlooked, as they face immense psychological challenges, including the emotional impact of surgical complications and impostor syndrome. Complications, even when unavoidable, can lead to feelings of guilt, shame, and diminished confidence, affecting performance and mental health. This emotional toll is compounded by the persistent self-doubt many surgeons experience due to impostor syndrome, where despite their expertise, they fear being exposed as inadequate. Without proper support, these factors can contribute to burnout and decreased effectiveness. Prioritizing mental health resources and fostering a supportive surgical culture are essential for improving both surgeon well-being and patient outcomes. This session will explore key contributors to burnout, including workplace stress, workload management, and emotional fatigue. It will also provide evidence-based strategies and actionable techniques to help participants mitigate or reduce burnout, fostering improved well-being and productivity.

Thursday September 11, 2025 and Friday September 12, 2025

## MISWeek 2025 - Excel Award



**Thomas Lendvay, MD** is a Professor of Urology and a Pediatric

Urologist at the University of Washington and Seattle Children's Hospital.

Dr. Lendvay has over 15 years of federal extramural funding (DoD and NIH) to explore methods of accelerating learning curves through objective surgical skills assessment and virtual reality warm-up for surgeons. His research and education endeavors have led to opportunities in entrepreneurship starting with Spi Surgical—a

neurosurgical robotics technology company. He co-founded and was Chief Medical Officer and inventor of CSATS, Inc.—a surgical skills improvement platform leveraging crowdsourcing to assess the skills of surgeons which was acquired in 2018 by Johnson and Johnson. He has since co-founded two start-ups—Singletto, Inc. an antimicrobial brand ingredient company with the only FDA-approved antiviral face mask PPE and Tend, Inc. a gut microbiome restoration company leveraging medical device technologies to increase access to encapsulated fecal microbiota transplants (FMT) in humans and companion animals co-founded with his wife, who serves as its COO. Tom is the father of two intelligent energetic teenage boys (Luke and Will) and husband to his wife (Kathleen) of 26 years.

## MISWeek 2025 - Janis Chinnock Wetter Award



**Linda Steckley, MBA** built a career in education, government, and philanthropy. Beginning in 1980, the next thirty-five years were spent as a fund raising professional, retiring in 2015 after serving The Chautauqua Institution as Senior Major Gifts Officer. This followed seven years supporting public policy research as vice president for development and executive education at the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC.

Prior to joining Brookings, Steckley's work focused on higher education with chief fund raising positions at Duke University School, New York University, and the University of Miami where she earned an MBA. Her professional leadership was demonstrated through involvement with the *Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE)*, serving on the CASE Board as a vice president and speaking at CASE conferences. She authored articles for CASE Currents and the books *Building Bridges: Fund Raising for Deans, Faculty, and Development Officers* and *New Strategies for Educational Fund Raising*.

Continuing a commitment to education, Steckley currently serves on the Board of Overseers for the University of Miami School of Business Administration after two terms as an officer of the UM Alumni Association. Steckley is a founding board member of the Fund for Education Abroad in Washington, DC, and is on the Dickinson College Alumni Council.

While serving as Assistant Vice-President for the University of Miami School of Medicine, Steckley assisted in the organization of the Society of Laparoscopic & Robotic Surgeons (SLS) and has served as a Trustee, Ex Officio, for twenty-eight years. In 2016, Steckley was elected to the Board of the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History and to the Board of the Chautauqua Institution's Opera Guild.

## MISWeek 2025 - Opening Session Keynote Speaker



### **Patricia L. Turner, MD, MBA, FACS**

**Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, American College of Surgeons  
Clinical Professor, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL**

She was previously director of the Division of Member Services at the American College of Surgeons, and before joining the College, Dr. Turner was in full-time academic practice on the University of Maryland School of Medicine faculty, where she was the surgery residency program director. Her MBA was completed at the University of Maryland Robert H. Smith School of Business. Dr. Turner is board-certified in surgery, having completed fellowship training in minimally invasive and laparoscopic surgery. Roles in national professional organizations or institutions include member of the Boards of Directors of the Council of Medical Specialty Societies and OceanFirst Bank (OCFC), member of CEO Council of The Joint Commission, Specialty Society CEO Coalition member, and the 2025 president of the Council of Medical Specialty Societies.

## MISWeek 2025 - Nezhat Family Lecture



### **Raul J. Rosenthal, MD, FACS, FASMBS**

**Regional Chair, Digestive Disease & Surgical Institute / Department Chair,  
Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery and General Surgery, Cleveland Clinic Florida**

Dr. Rosenthal completed his medical education and surgical residency in Rosario, Argentina. In 1982, he emigrated to Germany, where he undertook a second general surgery residency and became an attending surgeon at Northwest Hospital in Frankfurt. In 1993, he moved to the USA, completing a three-year fellowship in Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS) at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, followed by a third general surgery residency at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York.

Since 1999, Dr. Rosenthal has served as the Chief of MIS and Bariatric Surgery and the Director of the Fellowship in MIS and Bariatric Surgery at Cleveland Clinic Florida (CCF). In 2019, he was appointed Regional Director of the Digestive Disease Institute at CCF. He has been Chairman of the Department of General Surgery since 2012 and has directed the General Surgery Residency Program since 2011. From 2014 to 2016, he served as Chief of Staff and Chairman of the Medical Executive Committee at CCF. Starting June 1, 2025, Dr. Rosenthal will become Division Chief of General Surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. He has previously served on the SAGES Board of Governors and is a founding member and past president of the Fellowship Council. Additionally, he has been past president of the American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgeons (ASMBS) and the South Florida Chapter of the American College of Surgeons (ACS).

Dr. Rosenthal is the Editor-in-Chief of SOARD and Foregut Editor of SURGERY, and serves as an associate editor for Obesity Surgery. He is also on the Editorial Board for Annals of Surgery and Surgical Endoscopy. An honorary member of several surgical associations, he has conducted over 10,000 surgeries and trained more than 100 fellows. He is the author or co-author of over 500 publications, more than 60 book chapters, and over 200 educational videos.

## Best Of *Concurrent Scientific Presentations*

The Medical Educator Consortium Award for Best Scientific Paper	Role of Ethanol Sclerotherapy in Improving Ovarian Reserve and Outcomes of in Vitro Fertilization (IVF) Cycle in Women With Endometrioma- Prospective Parallel Arm Pilot Study	Neeta Singh, MD
Michael S. Kavic Award for Best Scientific Paper by a Resident	Lean and Green – a Comparison of Four Different Indocyanine Green Cholangiography Systems in Laparoscopic and Robotic Cholecystectomy Using Only Three Trocars	Hossam Abdou, MD
Paul Alan Wetter Award for Best Multispecialty Paper	Augmented Preoperative Planning: Virtual Reality and Synthetic MRI from CT Imaging of the Abdomen	Aarthi Muthukumar, BS
Carl J. Levinson Award for Best Video	Robotic Radical Antegrade Modular Pancreatosplectomy (RAMPS) in a Patient With Locally Advanced Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma of the Tail	Juan Salazar, MD
Best General Surgery Scientific Paper	Implementing a Robotic-Assisted Colorectal Surgery Programme: Feasibility, Safety, and Early Outcomes	Denise Jochems
Best General Surgery Video	Robotic Resection of Type I Choledochal Cyst. Standardization of Minimally Invasive Biliary Surgery Technique	Shivansu Kumar, BS
Best Gynecology Scientific Paper	Laparoscopic Lateral Suspension (LLS): An Alternative Approach in the Treatment of Advanced Pelvic Organ Prolapse (POP)?	Ian Vasicka, MD
Best Gynecology Video	Robotic Assisted Resection of Cesarean Scar Ectopic Pregnancy	Samantha Kegel, MD
Best Urology Scientific Paper	Demonstration Platform for Semi-Autonomous Robotically Assisted Partial Nephrectomy	Kevin Cleary, PhD
Best MultiSpecialty Video	Robotic Low Anterior Resection with Transanal Specimen Extraction for Recurrent Diverticulitis and Ventral Hernia Repair with Mesh	Tamara Damrel, MD

## Honorable Mention *Awardees*

Michael S. Kavic Award	Use of a Novel Mesh-Based Liver Retractor in Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery	Awinita Barpujari, MD
Carl J Levinson Award	Robotic-Assisted Resection of Disseminated Peritoneal Leiomyomatosis	Katerina Litvinova, MD
Carl J Levinson Award	Alternative Approach to Ectopic Pregnancy in Patients with Obesity and Complex Surgical History Using vNOTES	Shalabi Sorathia, MD
Carl J Levinson Award	Surgical Management of an Ectopic Pregnancy in the Setting of a Müllerian Anomaly	Nicole Catalano, MD MPH
Carl J. Levinson Award	Maximizing Minimally Invasive Techniques: A Multidisciplinary Robotic Deep Inferior Epigastric Perforator (DIEP) Flap	Mallika Mendu, DO
Harrith M. Hasson Award	Single Site Robotic Technology Research	Maciej Kieturakis, MD
Best General Surgery Scientific Paper	Geospatial and Demographic Correlates of Tobacco Use and Colorectal Cancer Incidence in North Carolina	Aisha Hashmi, BS
Best Gynecology Scientific Paper	A Comprehensive Intraoperative and 90 Day Postoperative Experience in Advanced Gynecologic Surgeries: Insights From a 20-Year Ongoing Review of Over 2000 Cases by a Single Surgeon	G. Michael Swor, MD, MBA
Best General Surgery Video	Robotic Partial Parenchymal Sparing Enucleation for Hemangioma - Technique of Peripheral Hepatectomy During Early Learning Curve	Korosh Jabbari, MS
Best General Surgery Video	Robotic Surgical Management of Gastro-Gastric Fistula after Laparoscopic Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass	Aiyana Batton, BS
Best General Surgery Video	Robotic Interval Cholecystectomy and Perihepatic Abscess Drainage after Graham Patch Repair	Pranali Kamat, MD
Best General Surgery Video	Laparoscopic Reduction of Cecal Volvulus, Ileocectomy, and Intracorporeal Anastomosis	Jennifer Klein, MD
Best Gynecology Video	Approach to the Robotic-assisted TLH with an Obliterated Posterior Cul de Sac due to an Ovarian Fibroma	Alexa Marie Del Mazo, BS

# Outstanding MIS Residents

Each year, residency training program department heads are asked to nominate one resident surgeon from their program to receive the SLS Outstanding MIS Resident Award. SLS proudly recognizes the following awardees.

## General Surgery

Ashley Mila-Hoff, MD  
 Christopher Bargoud, MD  
 Christopher Bargoud, MD  
 Christopher Fiorina, DO  
 Dennis Vaysburg, MD  
 Emma Worthington, MD  
 Hani Nasr, MD  
 Jacob Balmer, MD  
 Scott Marison, Jr., MD

## Obstetrics & Gynecology

Hannah Pope, MD  
 Hillary Kroll, MD  
 Kala Seawright, MD  
 Marisa Wozniak, MD  
 Megan Foster, DO  
 Nicole Jenkins, DO  
 Casey Wilkerson, MD  
 Joseph Rodriguez, MD  
 Abigail Pleus, DO  
 Adam Hunter, MD  
 Adam Rhein, DO  
 Adrian Chiem, MD  
 Aisha Ahmed, MD  
 Alexandra Alvarez, MD  
 Alexandra Morgan, MD  
 Alka Bapat, MD  
 Alka Bapat, MD  
 Amanda Hull, MD  
 Amanda Pitre, MD  
 Amanda Vozzola, MD  
 Amber Wright, MD  
 Ana Capi, MD  
 Ann-Sophie Van Backle, DO  
 Ann-Sophie Van Backle, DO  
 Anna Gervais, DO  
 Anna Harb, MD  
 Anna Jarvis, MD  
 Anna Claire Saucier, MD  
 Annalyn Welp, MD  
 Arhita Dasgupta, MD  
 Ashli Gibb, MD  
 Aubrey Jaeger, MD

Audrey Hernandez Irizarry, DO  
 Bianca Nguyen, MD  
 Blair Kimble, MD  
 Brent Bodily, MD  
 Brett Wright, MD  
 Brianna Engel, MD  
 Brielle Miles, MD  
 Brittany Hatchett, DO  
 Caitlin Reilly, DO  
 Catherine Tedeschi, MD  
 Cathleen Mestre, MD  
 Celeste Pilato-Amacher, MD  
 Chibuike Ezeibe, MD  
 Chloe Cooper, MD  
 Christie Tran, DO  
 Christine Nguyen Dawson, MD  
 Chrystal Stallworth, DO  
 Danielle Lanzdorf, DO  
 Danielle Saucier, MD  
 David Choueka, MD  
 Denisse Soto-Soto, MD  
 Destiny Phillips, MD  
 Devin Mijares, MD  
 Elizabeth Crawford, MD  
 Elizabeth Highlander, MD  
 Elizabeth Sprunger, MD  
 Ellen Pham, MD  
 Erin Bailey, MD  
 Erin Siegman, MD  
 Grace Chabal, MD  
 Grace Jacobs, MD  
 Gregory Harpring, MD  
 Hallie Ciomperlik, MD  
 Haley Vale, MD  
 Hannah Wichmann, MD MPH  
 Haven Frazier, DO  
 Jahnea Williams, MD  
 Janine Appleton, DO  
 Jason Collier, MD  
 Jean Munezero, MD  
 Jean Fidele Munezero, MD  
 Jennifer Brooks, MD  
 Jennifer Heibig, DO  
 Jenny Wu, MD  
 Jessica Chen, MD

Jessica Cunningham, MD  
 PhD  
 Jessica DeLeeuw, MD  
 Jonathan Dyas, DO  
 Jordan Towne, MD  
 Joseph Terzian, MD  
 Joyce Tumfour, MD  
 Julia Moyett, MD  
 Kasandra Hoeksema, MD  
 Kassie Whitfield, MD  
 Katherine Watson, DO  
 Keiko Leong, MD  
 Kelly Banta, MD  
 Kelly Banta, MD  
 Keri Cowles, MD  
 Khyla Burrows, MD MBA  
 Kimberly Forlenza, MD  
 Konyinsola Dawodu, MD  
 Kristen Cecil, MD  
 Lindsay Gugerty, DO  
 Lindsey Warren, DO  
 Macy Vickers, MD  
 Madeleine Hage, MD  
 Madhumita Govindaswamy, MD  
 Madi Odom, MD  
 Madison Chapman, MD  
 Mariah Eilly, MD  
 Mary Beste, MD  
 Mary Herberger, DO  
 MaryGrace Tadoes, MD  
 McKenzie Barber, MD  
 McKenzie Jackson, MD  
 Meagen Carter, MD  
 Meghna Ramaswamy, MD  
 Melanie Spall, DO  
 Mia Waliszewski, MD  
 Michelle McCraw, MD  
 Mieke Fortune, MD  
 Natalie Squires, MD  
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 Nicolina Mascia, MD  
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 Noelle Byrne, MD  
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Quinci Paine, MD  
 Ravyn Middleton, MD  
 Rebecca Borneman, MD  
 Ric Henderson, MD MPH  
 Roodline Jean-Baptiste, MD  
 Samantha Haefner, MD  
 Samuel Kraus, MD  
 savannah Maddox, DO  
 Sebastian Geraci, MD  
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 Selin Kutlu, MD  
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 Shelly Thai, MD  
 Shilpi Sharma, MD  
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 Sneha Kamarajugadda, MD MPH  
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 Sofia Sarduy, DO  
 Sophie Renaud, MD  
 Sydney Edmisten, MD  
 Sydney Graham, MD  
 Sydney Heigle, MD  
 Talin Darian, MD  
 Tam Nguyen, MD  
 Taylor Ditoro, MD  
 Taylor Langevin, DO  
 Taylore King, MD  
 Thomas Chavez, MD  
 Thomas Snead, MD  
 Tim Gemesi, MD  
 Tim Gemesi, MD  
 Tracey Akanbi, MD  
 Victoria Webber, MD  
 Xue Zhang, MD  
 Zarah Rosen, MD

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