

Association of Women Surgeons meets in San Francisco

Each year, the Association of Women Surgeons (AWS) sponsors an educational conference, awards dinner, and networking breakfast in conjunction with the American College of Surgeons annual Clinical Congress. Kathryn D. Anderson, MD, FACS, the new President of the College, attended the annual networking breakfast, which was held on October 19, and spent time talking with students, residents, and other AWS members.

This year, the educational program, which drew a record 138 participants, featured a panel of three women surgeons: Barb Pettitt, MD, FACS; Rosemary Duda, MD, MPH, FACS; and Carla Pugh, MD, PhD, FACS. They discussed how they achieved success on their own terms and provided attendees with an understanding of the career choices that are available to surgeons and the inspiration to dare to be different.

Following the opening session of the program, the keynote presenter—best-selling author and associate professor of education and organizational behavior at Stanford University—Debra Meyerson, PhD, presented *Leading Changes through Tempered Radicalism*. The course provided participants with a deeper understanding of the nature of contemporary gender discrimination and an approach to change that will enable participants to improve



Left to right: Hilary Sanfey, MD, AWS President; Dr. Anderson; and Sue Stuart, MD, AWS Immediate Past-President.

conditions for women without jeopardizing their careers.

On October 17, the AWS recognized outstanding women surgeons at its annual awards dinner. The AWS awards program recognizes individuals who have contributed exceptional service to women in surgery and the association, honors those who demonstrate great potential as future leaders in surgery, and encourages and supports female medical students pursuing a career in surgery. This year's recipients of the following awards were recognized:

- The Nina Starr Braunwald Award: Karin Muraszko, MD, FACS
- The Honorary Member Award: Morris Kerstein, MD, FACS
- The Distinguished Member Award: Patricia Lowery, MD, FACS

- The Outstanding Woman Resident Award: Leora Balsam, MD

- The Patricia Numann, MD, Medical Student Award: Erika Manning

In addition, the 2006 AWS Foundation/Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Inc. fellowship was presented to Anjali Kumar, MD, and her mentor, Laura Esserman, MD, FACS, from the University of California at San Francisco.

In 2006, the AWS will celebrate 25 years of inspiring, encouraging, and enabling women surgeons to realize their professional and personal goals. Please mark your calendar and join us for the AWS 25th Anniversary Gala and Conference, October 6-7, 2006, in Chicago, IL. For more information, call 630/655-0392, e-mail info@WomenSurgeons.org, or visit www.WomenSurgeons.org.