

ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN SURGEONS

AWS 2011



Celebrating
30 YEARS



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30 YEARS

MISSION

The mission of the Association of Women Surgeons is to inspire, encourage and enable women surgeons to realize their professional and personal goals.

Welcome to the Association of Women Surgeons 30th Anniversary Celebration!

It is hard to believe it has been 30 years since Patricia Numann, MD, FACS founded our Association right here in San Francisco during the October meeting of the American College of Surgeons in 1981. Thirty years later Dr. Numann is the new President of the American College of Surgeons. The Association of Women Surgeons has become a marvelous venue for women surgeons, residents and students to come together to advance their professional and personal aspirations. The AWS Foundation has grown to be able to provide multiple awards to outstanding individuals, as evidenced by this evening's AWS Awards Presentation.

It has been a true pleasure and honor to have served as the AWS President this past year.

I would like to thank all of our sponsors for their generous contributions and support over the years. Please enjoy the program.

Marilyn Marx, MD, MBA, FACS

AWS President

GOALS

- ◆ To promote professional growth and development
- ◆ To enhance and facilitate interaction among women surgeons throughout the world
- ◆ To foster an environment supportive of personal values and individual diversity
- ◆ To advance the highest standards of competence and ethical behavior

ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN SURGEONS



The Association of Women Surgeons was founded in 1981,

when Dr. Patricia Numann posted a sign inviting women surgeons to a breakfast at the October meeting of the American College of Surgeons. We are delighted to be here three decades later to observe Dr. Numann installed as the new President of the American College of Surgeons.

Congratulations Dr. Numann on your appointment. Thank you for all you have done for AWS and women in surgery over the years. You are a visionary who has the personality to get things done and to make the world a better place. Your legacy has been carved out and we look forward to following the future endeavors you are preparing to embrace. We know you will continue to be an inspiration for many years to come.

*With appreciation,
The Council, AWS Members and the Staff*



ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN SURGEONS

2011 AWS COUNCIL

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Marilyn Marx MD, MBA, FACS
The University of Texas Medical Branch

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AAS LIAISON

Kimberley Steele MD, FACS
Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center



Celebrating
30 YEARS

FOUNDATION CHAIR

Mary Hooks MD, MBA, FACS
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Margaret Dunn MD, FACS
Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine

TRUSTEES

Patricia Bergen MD, FACS
Susan Kaiser MD, PhD, FACS
Dixie Mills MD, FACS
Hilary Sanfey MB, BCh, MHPE, FACS
Susan Stuart MD, FACS
Beth Sutton MD, FACS

AWS AND AWSF STAFF

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MANAGER, DATABASE & FINANCE Patti Perillo

MANAGER, PUBLICATIONS Michel Hudson



ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN SURGEONS

Dear Colleagues,

Never could I have imagined how posting a simple request for other women to join me for breakfast would change my life. My motivation was to meet other women surgeons as I knew none, despite being in practice for 10 years. We had just finished selecting our next women residents. I had promised during the First Medical Women's Leadership workshop sponsored by AMWA and the AAMC, which I had attended, to do something to improve the status of women in my specialty. Since I knew no other women surgeons, this first step seemed essential. During the workshop I had been shocked at the similarity of the problems experienced by women in all specialties. I had naively believed it was because so few women were surgeons that I had experienced difficulty. I was determined to see that inappropriate treatment of women changed, or at a minimum, that women did not feel alone or helpless until it did. Hence began a life of wonderful friendships with amazing women throughout the world.

I would have never envisioned the change that would occur when these women set their minds to changing the status quo. Each time I hear of a woman's success, I feel happy. I am so pleased to see the large number of women entering surgery, as I know they will love their career as I have mine. I believe AWS – and therefore very indirectly I – have made a difference.

I have learned so much from the women of AWS: Let each person do what they do best. New ideas are good. Things change. Goal setting is important. Data is essential to make your point. You must measure and track accomplishments. You must be consistent in your message and never give up. Anything is possible if you are willing to work for it. Each of these lessons helped me in my practice and academic career as well.

I know there is still much to be done to see women achieve equity in American surgery, but even more so in many other parts of the world. On this 30th Anniversary of AWS, I see its role evolving to have a greater impact on policy that affects all surgeons and to provide a framework on which women surgeons in other countries can build in their quest for equity. Personally, I know I am not done with this quest, and I hope there are still many others who wish to join in this work.

Sincerely,

Pat Numann, MD
AWS Founder

American College of Surgeons
67th Clinical Congress
October 11 - 15, 1981

Dr. Patricia Numann hosts
the 1st Networking Breakfast for Women Surgeons

This breakfast was attended by:

Eleanor Asher
Jeanne Ballinger
Nora Burgess
Sharon Drager
Darlene Goldstein
Elsa Hirvela
Barbara Kinder
Yeu-Tsu Lee
Patricia Numann
Marsha O'Rourke
Elizabeth Payne
Gail Vivian
Joyce Rocko
Joan Shinkle
Joyce Majure
Sara Shumway
Nancy Stubbe
Kristen Zarfos

**I would like to express my deepest appreciation to Pat Numann
for her vision in bringing together this first group of women
and establishing the Association of Women Surgeons.**

We owe you a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid.

Hilary Sanfey, MB, BCb, MHPE, FACS

THE HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN SURGEONS

1981 – 1985

The AWS was founded in 1981 when Dr. Patricia Numann posted a sign inviting any women surgeons to a breakfast at the October meeting of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) in the San Francisco Hilton Hotel.

1986 – 1990

AWS has been a valued network of friends and professional relationships throughout my career.

Mary C. McCarthy MD, FACS
(1990 – 1992)

- ◆ The AWS was incorporated in 1986.
- ◆ The first AWS newsletter was produced by Dr. Joyce Majure and was distributed to all AWS members. This is now distributed electronically as *Connections*.
- ◆ The first AWS program entitled “*Women to Women; From Sabotage to Support*,” was presented in conjunction with the ACS Annual Clinical Congress.
- ◆ AWS initiated an awards program. Dr. Judith Briles received the first Honorary Membership Award. Dr. Christine Haycock received the first Distinguished Member Award.
- ◆ Former AWS president Dr. Tamar Earnest initiated a membership campaign that engendered enormous membership growth to over 1,000 members.
- ◆ AWS produced a poster for the ACS Clinical Congress exhibits that described the history of women surgeons and AWS.

1991 – 1996

Being a member of AWS, and then serving in its leadership, I have been privileged to meet extraordinary women. Each is inspiring and supportive – not only of women surgeons and their patients, but the wonderful profession that we all enjoy.

Linda Phillips MD, FACS
(1992 – 1994)

- ◆ AWS held a strategic planning meeting to identify obstacles to the career advancement of women surgeons and to strategize for the future.
- ◆ Former AWS President Dr. Joyce Majure created, compiled and edited the first edition of the *AWS Pocket Mentor*, designed to ease the transition from medical student to surgical resident and from resident to surgeon. *The Pocket Mentor* has been endorsed by the Association of Program Directors in Surgery and distributed to the majority of training programs in the USA. This is available electronically at:
www.womensurgeons.org/aws_library/pocketmentor.pdf
- ◆ AWS earned a seat on the ACS Board of Governors. Dr. Mary C. McCarthy was elected to serve as the first AWS Governor in 1995.
- ◆ An annual Research Fellowship Grants program was established in partnership with Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Inc. for women surgeons performing original surgical research.

THE HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN SURGEONS

1991 – 1996 CONTINUED

Working with other women surgeons for the benefit of both our patients and ourselves gave me skills and experiences that have enriched every aspect of my life in surgery.

Margaret M. Dunn
MD, MBA, FACS
(1994 – 1995)

- ◆ The AWS Foundation was established by Dr. Christine Haycock for recognition of outstanding women surgeons and surgical residents. The Foundation now grants six awards annually.
- ◆ The video *Women Pioneers in Surgery* was produced by Dr. M. Margaret Kemeny, in conjunction with US Surgical. This film documents the careers of three pioneers in American surgery: Dr. Alma Dea Morani, the first woman plastic/reconstructive surgeon; Dr. Nina Starr Braunwald, the first woman cardiac surgeon; and Dr. Olga Jonasson, the first woman chair of an academic department of surgery. Copies of this film are available at:

www.womensurgeons.org/aws_library/AWS_Product_Order_Form09.doc

- ◆ AWS began sponsoring networking breakfasts at various national meetings to provide networking opportunities for all surgeons. These networking events now occur annually at many major surgical meetings, including the Association for Surgical Education, the American Surgical Association, and the Association of Academic Surgeons Annual Meetings.
- ◆ “*Strategies for Success*” became the first freestanding summer AWS meeting for professional development. The program was held in the summer of 1992 in Park City, Utah.
- ◆ With the untimely death of Dr. Nina Starr Braunwald, the first woman cardiac surgeon, AWS instituted an award in her name. The award was established and endowed by a generous gift to the foundation from her husband, Dr. Eugene Braunwald. Dr. Nina Starr Braunwald has also been honored with a biography in the *National Library of Medicine Project: Changing the Face of Medicine*:

www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine/physicians/biography_41.html

1997 – 2001

- ◆ In an effort to provide guidance for medical students and surgical residents, a mentoring project was launched in the fall of 1997.
- ◆ AWS produced a resource book regarding issues of sexual harassment and gender bias. This is available online for AWS members.
- ◆ Under the leadership of Dr. M. Margaret Kemeny, the AWS collaborated with the National Institutes of Health to produce a 24-minute video entitled *Women Are Surgeons*. This video encourages young women to take math and science courses throughout their schooling, and to consider surgery as a viable career. This was distributed to women in junior high schools throughout the country. The film is available at:

www.womensurgeons.org/aws_library/AWS_Product_Order_Form09.doc

THE HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN SURGEONS

1997 – 2001 CONTINUED

It is so gratifying to know that we have been able to make great advances in the surgical world through the determination and hard work of so many AWS colleagues. This is my very favorite organization and I am proud to call myself a member.

Joyce Majure MD, FACS
(1995 – 1996)

- ◆ AWS initiated the Outstanding Woman Resident Award to recognize residents who demonstrate great potential as future leaders in a surgical field. Applicants must exhibit exceptional leadership abilities, have excellent technical and patient management skills, interact well with other health professionals, and serve as role models for junior residents and medical students.
- ◆ The ACS established a Committee on Women's Issues in response to a proposal from AWS to Dr. Olga Jonasson. This was renamed as the Women in Surgery Committee in 2008.
- ◆ *AWS Connections* was established as an electronic publication sent six times a year to AWS members. This update informs members of new developments within the association and in the surgical field, in addition to connecting members with other women surgeons in their areas of expertise.
- ◆ In 2000, Dr. M. Margaret Kemeny was named the second AWS/ACS Governor.

2002 – 2006

I cannot even begin to think of my life as a surgeon without AWS. The success of AWS has been as important to me as my own personal success, and I feel completely intertwined with this organization.

M. Peggy Kemeny MD, FACS
(1996 – 1997)

- ◆ A Code of Conduct was published in collaboration with the ACS. The Association of Organ Procurement Organizations has endorsed this as the standard of practice for transplant surgeons.
- ◆ The AWS Visiting Professor program was established to allow prominent women surgeons to share their expertise with medical students and residents across the country.
- ◆ An annual medical student award was initiated in honor of our founder Dr. Patricia J. Numann. The award assists a student in attending the Annual ACS Clinical Congress and the AWS meeting.
- ◆ Four electronic discussion lists were created to facilitate interaction and networking among members. One discussion list is designed for medical students and surgeons in training.
- ◆ AWS partnered with the *American Journal of Surgery (AJS)*. AWS now has three representatives on the *AJS* Editorial Board; each serves a three-year term.
- ◆ Under the leadership of Dr. Vivian Gahtan, AWS created the Career Development Resource, a series of articles describing different types of surgical practice. These are written to help medical students and residents with career choices. The series has been published in the *AJS* and is also available online at:

www.womensurgeons.org/home/Career_Planning.asp

THE HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN SURGEONS

2002 – 2006 CONTINUED

Through AWS we have been able to overcome many barriers, both real and perceived. My personal and professional life has been greatly expanded and improved because of AWS.

Leigh Neumayer MD, MS, FACS
(1997 – 1998)

Thanks to this organization I have a heartfelt gratitude to the surgeons of the past and present, male and female, who have had the courage to respect ability and commitment to patient care without regard to irrelevant personal differences.

Beth Sutton MD, FACS
(1998 – 1999)

- ◆ AWS partnered with the ACS, the American Surgical Association, and the Association of Program Directors in Surgery to conduct a national survey to explore interest in flexible training in surgery. These data resulted in two publications:
 - ◇ *Saalwachter-Schulman AR, Freischlag JA, Sawyer RG, Sanfey HA. Part Time Training In General Surgery: Results of A Web Based Survey. Arch Surg 2006; 141:977.*
 - ◇ *Saalwachter AR, Freischlag JA, Sawyer RG, Sanfey HA. The Training Needs and Priorities of Male and Female Surgeons and Their Trainees. JACS 2005; 201:199.*
- ◆ The Governor's Committee on Chapter Activities recommended that an AWS representative be appointed to every Chapter Council.
- ◆ AWS successfully persuaded the American Board of Surgery change their training requirements and allow residents an additional 2 weeks off for maternity leave during their residency without having to make up the time.
- ◆ AWS developed two maternity/family leave policy guides: one for Practicing Surgeons and one for Residents to encourage flexibility for the expectant surgeon or resident, while maintaining the quality standards of the profession. These policy guides are available on the AWS Website:
www.womensurgeons.org/home/Public_Resources.asp#family
- ◆ A strategic planning meeting was held in the summer of 2003 leading to a restructuring of the AWS Council. As a result, strategic AWS committees were developed to increase member participation at a national level. An AWS executive committee was established to provide Council oversight.
- ◆ Resident and medical student representatives joined the AWS Council.
- ◆ The first AWS chapter was established in Virginia in 2003, with the leadership of Dr. Hilary Sanfey. As of 2011, this chapter has 73 members, the majority of whom are students or surgeons in training. An annual educational program is held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the ACS Virginia Chapter.
- ◆ AWS partnered with the International Surgical Society (ISS) to establish a joint educational networking venture for women surgeons. The first symposium took place in Durbin, South Africa in 2005.

THE HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN SURGEONS

2007 – 2011

I perceive AWS as a vision of what women could be and do, exemplified by many of our members. I always felt that AWS was an invisible but real anchor in my life, an interest – or more a passion – that has not diminished over time.

Dixie Mills MD, FACS
(1999 – 2000)

I learned all kinds of things from AWS members and staff about challenges in our various family and professional situations, and AWS gave meaning to my own hard-learned lessons as a vehicle for sharing them with others.

Kimberly Ephgrave MD, FACS
(2000 – 2001)

- ◆ The second ISS networking event took place in Montreal in 2007, a third in Adelaide, Australia in 2009, and a fourth in Yokokama, Japan in 2011. These events were hosted by Dr. Pat Numann.
- ◆ A mentoring program for junior faculty was established as a collaborative effort between the AWS and the ACS Women in Surgery Committee, initiated by Dr. Hilary Sanfey and Dr. M. Margaret Kemeny. To date 32 partnerships have been formed between junior women faculty and senior surgeons.
- ◆ A surgeon scientist mentoring program for minority residents interested in surgical oncology was established as a result of collaboration between Dr. Selwyn Vickers, Chair of Surgery at the University of Minnesota and Dr. Hilary Sanfey. Two residents have participated to date (one per year).
- ◆ The Past Presidents of the AWS established an honorary member award to recognize non-members who support the goals of AWS. All past presidents of AWS have contributed to the support of this award.
- ◆ A collaboration was established between the AWS and the Japanese Association of Women Surgeons (JAWS). AWS participated in a research study led by Dr. Kazumi Kawase, the Jikei University School of Medicine, comparing the career development of Japanese and American women surgeons.
- ◆ AWS presented two sessions at the International Surgical Society Annual Meeting in Yokohama in 2011. Dr. Yasuko Tomizawa, President of JAWS, hosted a reception for all women surgeons attending ISS in Yokokama.
- ◆ AWS has members in 15 countries, including: Australia, Beirut, Canada, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Malaysia, South Africa, Switzerland, and the United States.
- ◆ International members joined the AWS Council. The first was Dr. Debrah Wirtzfield from Canada, followed by Dr. Ava Kwong from Hong Kong.
- ◆ *The Pocket Mentor* was updated by a team led by Dr. Mary Hooks and Dr. Annesley J. Copeland.
- ◆ The ACS Web Portal was established for women surgeons. Dr. Rosemary Kozar serves as the Portal Editor.

THE HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN SURGEONS

2007 – 2011
CONTINUED

I think it is unlikely that I would have accomplished as much as I have during my surgical career without my involvement in AWS. AWS gave me opportunities to be a leader in the surgical field, to meet other leaders, to be visible and to make a difference.

Myriam Curet MD, FACS
(2001 – 2002)

- ◆ **The success of AWS in encouraging women to assume leadership positions and to seek promotion is evident in this partial list of AWS members in surgical leadership positions around the country and in the ACS:**

CURRENT DEPARTMENT CHAIRS IN SURGERY

- ◆ Julie Freischlag MD, FACS, The William Stewart Halsted Professor Chair, Department of Surgery Surgeon-in-Chief, The Johns Hopkins Hospital
- ◆ Mary McCarthy MD, FACS, Chair of the Department of Surgery in the Boonshoft School of Medicine, and Wright State University Endowed Chair in Trauma Surgery at Miami Valley Hospital
- ◆ Nancy Ascher MD, PhD, FACS, Chair of the Department of Surgery, University of California at San Francisco
- ◆ Barbara Bass MD, FACS, John F. and Carolyn Bookout Distinguished Endowed Chair of Surgery, The Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas

PAST DEPARTMENT CHAIRS IN SURGERY

- ◆ Olga Jonasson MD, FACS, Robert M. Zollinger Professor of Surgery, Ohio State University
- ◆ Carol Scott-Connor MD, PhD, FACS, Professor of Surgery, University of Iowa

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

- ◆ Patricia Numann MD, FACS
ACS President (2011)
ACS Second Vice President (1999 – 2000)
- ◆ Hilary Sanfey MB, BCh, MHPE, FACS
ACS Board of Governors (2006 – present)
Chair, ACS Women in Surgery Committee (2009 – present)
- ◆ Margaret Dunn MD, MBA, FACS
ACS Board of Regents (2010)
ACS Board of Governors (2000 – 2006)
- ◆ Beth Sutton MD, FACS
ACS Board of Governors (2004 – 2010)
- ◆ Leigh Neumayer MD, MS, FACS
ACS Board of Regents (2009)
ACS Board of Governors (2002 – 2008)
Vice Chair, ACS Board of Governors (2007 – 2008)
- ◆ M. Margaret Kemeny MD, FACS
ACS Board of Governors (2000 – 2006)
Vice Chair, ACS Board of Governors (2005 – 2006)
Chair, ACS Women in Surgery Committee (2003 – 2006)

THE HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN SURGEONS

2007 – 2011 CONTINUED

My friends and colleagues honored me with the Presidency of the Association, and I can never express how much that meant to me. You have helped me practically, professionally, personally, emotionally and spiritually.

Susan Kaiser MD, PhD, FACS
(2002 – 2003)

Being on the Executive Council and President of AWS was an amazing experience and allowed me growth personally and professionally.

Vivian Gahtan MD, FACS
(2003 – 2004)

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN THE ACS *Continued*

- ✧ Myriam Curet MD, FACS
Chair, ACS Com. on Resident Education (2003 – 2006)
- ✧ Susan Kaiser MD, PhD, FACS
Chair, ACS Com. on Medical Student Education
(2005 – 2009)
- ✧ Mary McCarthy MD, FACS
ACS Board of Governors (1995 – 2000)
- ◆ Selection of books published by AWS members
 - ✧ *A Few Small Moments: Short Stories* by Dr. Carol Scott-Connor
 - ✧ *Operative Anatomy* by Dr. Carol Scott-Connor, David L. Dawson
 - ✧ *Vascular Surgery: Surgery Requisites* by Dr. Julie A. Freischlag
 - ✧ *Meet Virginia: Biography of a Breast* by Dr. Leigh Neumayer, Dr. Jay Agarwal, Anne Vinsel, Ravinder Ahluwalia
 - ✧ *The Soul of a Doctor* by Drs. Susan Pories, Sachin Jain, Gordon Harper
 - ✧ *Cancer (Biographies of Disease)* by Drs. Susan Pories, Marsha Moses, Margaret Lotz
 - ✧ *The Scalpel and the Silver Bear* by Dr. Lori Alvord
 - ✧ *Forged by the Knife* by Dr. Patricia L. Dawson
 - ✧ *Final Examination* by Dr. Pauline Chen
 - ✧ *Thyroid Disease (Biographies of Disease)* by Drs. Sareh Parangi, Roy Phitayakorn
- ◆ The Medical Student and Resident Committees established the competitive Starr Award Scientific Poster Program for the annual AWS meeting. Named in honor of Dr. Nina Starr Braunwald, this program facilitates interaction and idea exchange between students interested in surgery, surgical residents, and faculty members of various institutions.
- ◆ The family and friends of the late Claude H. Organ, Jr. MD, FACS established an endowment through the American College of Surgeons Foundation to provide funding for an annual fellowship to be awarded to an outstanding surgeon who is a member of any one or all of the following organizations: Society of Black Academic Surgeons, the Association of Women Surgeons or the Surgical Section of the National Medical Association.

THE HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN SURGEONS

2007 – 2011 CONTINUED

AWS provided role models who showed me it was possible to become a surgeon. As a surgeon, AWS has provided me with encouragement, support and friendship, as well as an opportunity to “pay-it-forward” to young surgeons.

Susan Stuart MD, FACS
(2004 – 2005)

- ◆ AWS was invited to appoint a liaison to the ACS Women in Surgery Committee. The first liaison is Dr. Annesley J. Copeland.
- ◆ The ACS Resident and Associate Society was invited to appoint a liaison to the AWS Council. The first liaison is Dr. Rachel C. Danczyk from Oregon Health and Science University.
- ◆ AJS dedicated an issue to Dr. Olga Jonasson. Dr. Jonasson was also honored with a biography in the *National Library of Medicine Project: Changing the Face of Medicine:*

www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine/physicians/biography_174.html

- ◆ A number of AWS members have been honored with biographies in the *National Library of Medicine Project: Changing the Face of Medicine:*

www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine/physicians/biography_183.html

- ◆ Dr. Hilary Sanfey was invited to speak about the AWS at the Centenary Celebration of the first woman fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. Dr. Patricia Numann was invited to address the gathering at the Dinner Celebration.

AWS PAST PRESIDENTS

For me, the greatest benefits of AWS are the other women surgeons who provide support, encouragement, inspiration and keep me grounded.

Hilary Sanfey
MB, BCh, MHPE, FACS
(2005 – 2006)

The lasting friendships and the welcoming and responsive network that I acquired have helped me from the beginning of my career both professionally and with work-life balance.

Patricia Bergen MD, FACS
(2006 – 2007)

- Marilyn Marx MD, MBA, FACS (2010 – 2011)
Rosemary Kozar MD, PhD, FACS (2009 – 2010)
AJ Copeland MD, FACS (2008 – 2009)
Mary Hooks MD, MBA, FACS (2007 – 2008)
Patricia Bergen MD, FACS (2006 – 2007)
Hilary Sanfey MB, BCh, MHPE, FACS (2005 – 2006)
Susan Stuart MD, FACS (2004 – 2005)
Vivian Gahtan MD, FACS (2003 – 2004)
Susan Kaiser MD, PhD, FACS (2002 – 2003)
Myriam Curet MD, FACS (2001 – 2002)
Kim Ephgrave MD, FACS (2000 – 2001)
Dixie Mills MD, FACS (1999 – 2000)
Beth Sutton MD, FACS (1998 – 1999)
Leigh Neumayer MD, MS, FACS (1997 – 1998)
M. Margaret Kemeny MD, FACS (1996 – 1997)
Joyce Majure MD, FACS (1995 – 1996)
Margaret Dunn MD, MBA, FACS (1994 – 1995)*
Linda Philips MD, FACS (1992 – 1994)
Mary McCarthy MD, FACS (1990 – 1992)
Tamar Earnest MD, FACS (1988 – 1990)
Patricia Numann MD, FACS; AWS Founder (1981 – 1988)

* Changed to a one-year presidential term

NINA STARR BRAUNWALD AWARD

Named in honor of Dr. Nina Starr Braunwald, the first woman cardiac surgeon and a Deputy NIH Director, this award was established with an endowment from Dr. Eugene Braunwald. This is the most prestigious award granted by AWS and is given in recognition of outstanding contributions to the advancement of women in surgery.

Margaret Dunn MD, MBA, FACS (2011)
Julie Freischlag MD, FACS (2010)
Susan Miller Briggs MD, MPH, FACS (2009)
M. Margaret Kemeny MD, FACS (2008)
Nancy Ascher MD, FACS (2007)
The American College of Surgeons (2006)
Karin Muraszko MD, FACS (2005)
Barbara Lee Bass MD, FACS (2004)
Mary C. McCarthy MD, FACS (2003)
Susan M. Love MD, FACS (2002)
Linda G. Phillips MD, FACS (2001)
Anna Marie Ledgerwood MD, FACS (2000)
Patricia Numann MD, FACS (1998)
Leslie J. Kohman MD, FACS (1997)
Patricia K. Donahoe MD, FACS (1996)
Kathryn D. Anderson MD, FACS (1995)
Olga Jonasson MD, FACS (1994)
Claude Organ MD, FACS (1993)

OLGA JONASSON DISTINGUISHED MEMBER AWARD

This award is given to an AWS member who exemplifies the ideals and mission of the organization.

Since 2006, it has been named in honor of Dr. Olga Jonasson, the first woman to chair an academic Department of Surgery.

AWS is such an important part of my life that when I read Jim Collins book, Good to Great, I dreamt I was on a bus with several of the early leaders and friends from the organization.

*Mary Hooks MD, MBA, FACS
(2007 – 2008)*

Pauline Chen MD, FACS (2011)
Gayle Woodson MD, FACS (2010)
Kimberly Ephgrave MD, FACS (2009)
Dixie Mills MD, FACS (2008)
Myriam Curet MD, FACS (2007)
Leigh Neumayer MD, MS, FACS (2006)
Patricia Lowery MD, FACS (2005)
Linda Brodsky MD, FACS (2004)
Adrienne Krausz MD (2003)
Lena M. Napolitano MD, FACS (2002)
Margaret Dunn MD, MBA, FACS (2002)
Mary McCarthy MD, FACS (2001)
Sylvia Ramos MD, FACS, PC (2001)
Julie Ann Freischlag MD, FACS (2000)
Karen S. Guice MD, FACS, MPP (1999)
Joyce Majure MD, FACS (1998)
Gloria Sarto MD, PhD (1998)
Barbara Lee Bass MD, FACS (1997)
Carol Scott-Connor MD, PhD, FACS (1997)
Maria Allo MD, FACS (1996)
Barbara Kinder MD, FACS (1996)
Frances K. Conley MD, FACS (1995)
Sally Abston MD, FACS (1994)
Tamar Earnest MD, FACS (1994)
Jessie Ternberg MD, PhD, FACS (1994)
Hughenna Gauntlett MD, FACS (1993)
Nina Starr Braunwald MD, FACS (1992)
Olga Jonasson MD, FACS (1992)
Alma Dea Morani MD, FACS (1992)
Patricia Numann MD, FACS (1991)
Christine Haycock MD, FACS (1990)

AWS PAST PRESIDENTS' HONORARY MEMBER AWARD

The Honorary Member Award is given to individuals supportive of the goals of AWS. It was named in honor of Dr. Claude Organ from 2007 to 2010. In 2011 it was named the AWS Past Presidents' Honorary Member Award in acknowledgment of an endowment from all of the Past Presidents of AWS.

Margaret Tarpley MLS (2011)
John Tarpley MD, FACS (2011)
Lasalle D. Leffall, Jr. MD, FACS (2010)
John Davis MD, FACS (2009)
Carlos Pellegrini MD, FACS (2009)
Michael Zinner MD, FACS (2008)
Frank R. Lewis, Jr. MD, FACS (2007)
Averil Mansfield CBE, FRCS, FACS (2006)
Morris Kerstein MD, FACS (2005)
Courtney M. Townsend, Jr. MD, FACS (2004)
Ajit Sachdeva MD, FACS (2003)
Karen Licitra (2002)
Monica Maillet PhD (2001)
John T. Preskitt, Sr. MD, FACS (2000)
David Majure (1999)
Debra A. DaRosa PhD (1998)
Judith Keel (1997)
Linn Meyer (1995)
Marlys Witte MD (1994)
Janet Bickel MA (1992)
Ellen More PhD (1992)
Judith Briles PhD (1990)

PATRICIA NUMANN OUTSTANDING MEDICAL STUDENT AWARD

Named in honor of the founder of AWS, this award was established to encourage and support women medical students pursuing a career in surgery. The winner is chosen based on her expressed interest in surgery, potential leadership qualities or research contributions to the field of surgery, her personal statement, and letters of recommendation.

Rajshri Mainthia (2011)
Shelly Choo (2010)
Juliet Emamaulee (2009)
Aminata Sallah (2008)
Rebecca Snyder (2007)
Ann Vaughters (2006)
Erika Manning (2005)
Kelley Hutcheson (2004)
Sudha Jayaraman (2003)

HILARY SANFEY OUTSTANDING RESIDENT AWARD

The Outstanding Resident Award is given to a surgical trainee who demonstrates potential as a future leader in surgery. In 2010, this award was named in honor of Dr. Hilary Sanfey in acknowledgement of her generous endowment of this award.

Maureen Tedesco MD (2011)
Elizabeth David MD (2010)
Victoria Stager MD (2010)
Nancy Cho MD (2009)
Lesley Dossett MD (2009)
Traci Hedrick MD (2009)
Amy Vertrees MD (2009)
Jennifer Waljee MD (2009)
Jennifer LaFemina MD (2008)
Erika Adams Newman MD (2007)
Louisa L. Pecchioni MD (2006)
Leora Balsam MD (2005)
Gretchen P. Purcell MD, PhD (2004)
Patricia Turner MD (2003)
Melina Kibbe MD (2002)
Anna Santos-Quinones MD (2001)
Carol Sawmiller MD (2000)
Janice Cormier MD, MPH (1999)

AWS VISITING PROFESSOR AND HOST INSTITUTION PROGRAM

The AWS Visiting Professor Program provides medical schools with the opportunity to request top women surgeons as speakers and to receive funding from the AWS Foundation. Opportunities to lecture heighten the visibility of women surgeons while encouraging women medical students to pursue similar careers.

The reason I initially joined AWS was for the fellowship, however, I have found so much more in AWS: the opportunity to mentor and be mentored, to play an active role in shaping the future of the profession for today's medical students and residents, and yes, to enjoy the company of amazing women surgeons at all stages in their careers.

Annesley Copeland MD, FACS
(2008 – 2009)

- Mary Hooks MD, MBA, FACS
Hosted by Emory University (2011)
- Catherine Wittgen MD, FACS
Hosted by University of Wisconsin (2010)
- Therese Duane MD, FACS
Hosted by University of Arizona (2010)
- Karen Brasel MD, MPH, FACS
Hosted by Louisiana State University (2009)
- Pamela Lipsett MD, FACS
Hosted by University of California, Davis (2008)
- Margaret Dunn MD, FACS
Hosted by University of Connecticut (2008)
- Linda Phillips MD, FACS
Hosted by New York Presbyterian Hospital (2007)
- Mary McCarthy MD, FACS
Hosted by University of Texas, Dallas (2006)
- Kathryn Spanknebel MD, FACS
Hosted by Tufts New England Medical Center (2005)
- Nancy Harthun MD, FACS
Hosted by The Mayo Clinic (2005)
- Rosemary Duda MD, MPH, FACS
Hosted by University of Texas at Galveston (2004)
- Amy Friedman MD, FACS
Hosted by Medical College of Georgia (2004)
- Myriam Curet MD, FACS
Hosted by University of Texas HSC at San Antonio (2003)
- Leslie Kohman MD, FACS
Hosted by University of Hawaii (2003)
- M. Margaret Kemeny MD, FACS
Hosted by Duke University Medical Center (2002)
- Susan Mackinnon MD, FACS
Hosted by Northwestern University (2002)
- Julie Ann Freischlag MD, FACS
Hosted by University of Louisville (2001)

AWS GRANT RECIPIENTS

The Association of Women Surgeons and the AWS Foundation have provided funding for original surgical research since 1996. Since that time Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Inc. has provided support for these grants. In 2007 through 2011 Genomic Health also provided support, allowing for two individual grants during those five years.

*Getting your foot in
the door can sometimes
be the hardest step.
AWS has helped me
make that step. Most
important to me,
I have met amazing
women whom I can
now call my friends.*

*Rosemary Kozar MD, PhD,
FACS (2009 – 2010)*

- Erin W. Gilbert MD (2012)
supported by Ethicon Endo-Surgery
- Katie S. Nason MD, MPH (2011)
supported by Ethicon Endo-Surgery
- Nancy L. Cho MD (2011)
supported by Genomic Health
- Jacqueline S. Jeruss MD, PhD, FACS (2010)
supported by Ethicon Endo-Surgery
- Nanette R. Reed MD (2010)
supported by Genomic Health
- Ai-Xuan Holterman MD, FACS (2009)
supported by Ethicon Endo-Surgery
- Tari A. King MD, FACS (2009)
supported by Genomic Health
- Christina Roland MD (2008)
supported by Genomic Health
- Ann M. Rogers MD, FACS (2008)
supported by Ethicon Endo-Surgery
- Geeta Lal MD, FACS (2007)
supported by Genomic Health
- Kimberley Eden Steele MD, FACS (2007)
supported by Ethicon Endo-Surgery
- Anjali Kumar MD, MPH (2006)
supported by Ethicon Endo-Surgery
- Asha Bale MD, FACS (2005)
supported by Ethicon Endo-Surgery
- Lori Wilson MD, FACS (2004)
supported by Ethicon Endo-Surgery
- Rebecca Aft MD, PhD, FACS (2003)
supported by Ethicon Endo-Surgery
- Katie Nason MD, MPH (2002)
supported by Ethicon Endo-Surgery
- Celia Divino MD, FACS (2001)
supported by Ethicon Endo-Surgery
- Celeste Hollands MD, FACS (2000)
supported by Ethicon Endo-Surgery
- Danielle Walsh MD, FACS (1999)
supported by Ethicon Endo-Surgery
- Aphrodite M. Henderson MD, FACS (1998)
supported by Ethicon Endo-Surgery
- Alicia Silva MD, FACS (1997)
supported by Ethicon Endo-Surgery
- Karen Horvath MD, FACS (1996)
supported by Ethicon Endo-Surgery

CLAUDE ORGAN TRAVELING FELLOWSHIP

The family and friends of the late Claude H. Organ, Jr. MD, FACS established an endowment through the American College of Surgeons Foundation to provide funding for an annual fellowship to be awarded to an outstanding surgeon who is a member of any one of the following organizations: Society of Black Academic Surgeons, the Association of Women Surgeons or the Surgical Section of the National Medical Association.

AWS MEMBERS

Carla Pugh MD, FACS (2011)
Melina Kibbe MD, FACS (2010)
Bridget Fahy MD, FACS (2009)
Patricia Turner MD, FACS (2008)

STARR AWARD AWS POSTER CONTEST

Named in honor of Dr. Nina Starr Braunwald, annual awards are given to the winners of the Annual Medical Student and Resident Poster Competition. This program facilitates interaction and idea exchange between students interested in surgery, surgical residents, and faculty members of various institutions.

RESIDENT AWARD WINNERS

Elizabeth Malm-Buatsi MD (2010)
Jennifer Steiman MD (2009)
Mara Antonoff MD (2008)

STUDENT AWARD WINNERS

Eva Vertes (2010)
Stephanie Chang (2009)
Amy Fielder (2008)

AWS has inspired and encouraged me, enabling me to realize my professional and personal goals. It has been a true honor and an immense joy to serve as President this year. The AWS friendships I have made over the years are ones that will always remain an integral, important part of my life.

Marilyn Marx MD, MBA, FACS
(2010 – 2011)

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2011

Celeste Holland MD, FACS
Amalia Cochran MD, FACS
Therese Duane MD, FACS

2010

Amalia Cochran MD, FACS
Therese Duane MD, FACS
Amy Reed MD, FACS

2009

Therese Duane MD, FACS
Amy Reed MD, FACS
Susan Kaiser MD, PhD, FACS

2008

Amy Reed MD, FACS
Susan Kaiser MD, PhD, FACS
Rosemary Kozar MD, PhD, FACS

2007

Susan Kaiser MD, PhD, FACS
Rosemary Kozar MD, PhD, FACS
Vivian Gahtan MD, FACS

2006

Rosemary Kozar MD, PhD, FACS
Vivian Gahtan MD, FACS
Susan Kaiser MD, PhD, FACS

2005

Vivian Gahtan MD, FACS
Susan Kaiser MD, PhD, FACS
Denise Johnson Miller MD, FACS

2004

Susan Kaiser MD, PhD, FACS
Denise Johnson Miller MD, FACS
Rosemary Kozar MD PhD, FACS