

SOCIETY of ASIAN
ACADEMIC SURGEONS



◆ Conference Schedule ◆

SAAS 10th Annual Meeting and Inaugural SAAS/LSS Joint Meeting

THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

6:00 – 7:00 AM **REGISTRATION/BREAKFAST/EXHIBITS**

7:00 – 9:00 AM

*** Disruptive Surgical Innovation**

Opening Remarks

Yuman Fong, MD | *City of Hope*

Emerging Cellular Therapies for Brain Tumors

Behnam Badie, MD | *City of Hope*

Socio-Precision Surgery

Loretta Erhunmwunsee, MD | *City of Hope*

Novel Therapeutic Approaches in Refractory GI Cancers

Mustafa Raoof, MD, MS | *City of Hope*

Building a Research Program in Digital Tech: An Exploration of Sensors and Wearable Technology

Carla M. Pugh, MD, PhD | *Stanford University School of Medicine*

TBD

Jen Jen Yeh, MD | *University of North Carolina School of Medicine*

Panel Discussion: How to Start a Research Program and How to Sustain It

Moderators: Laleh G. Melstrom, MD, MSCI & Yanghee Woo, MD | *City of Hope*

9:00 – 9:15 AM

BREAK/EXHIBITS

9:15 – 9:30 AM

Welcome & Opening Address

Ankush Gosain, MD, PhD | *UVA Health Children's Hospital*

Minerva A. Romero Arenas, MD, MPH | *Weill Cornell Medicine*

9:30 – 10:15 AM

Kui and Wai Fong Lectureship

Innovation in Healthcare: From the Community to AMCs to VA

Mark Zhang, DO, MMSc | *U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs*

10:15 – 11:15 AM

***Concurrent Scientific Abstract Sessions I**

60-minute sessions to choose from:

Room 1	Breast/Plastic Surgery
Room 2	Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery
Room 3	Trauma Surgery/Critical Care/Orthopedic Surgery
Room 4	Health Delivery/Education
Room 5	Surgical Oncology
Room 6	Colorectal Surgery

11:15 – 11:45 AM

NETWORKING BREAK/EXHIBITS

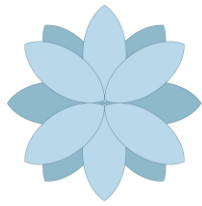
11:45 AM – 12:30 PM

LSS President's Address

Minerva A. Romero Arenas, MD, MPH | *Weill Cornell Medicine*

EMPOWERING CURRENT & FUTURE SURGICAL LEADERS





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THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 4, 2025 *Cont'd.*

12:30 – 2:00 PM

LUNCH/EXHIBITS

**Trainee Networking Luncheon*

Maximizing the Trainee Experience – How to Make the Most of Your Time in Training

2:00 – 3:30 PM

***Concurrent Career Professional Development Sessions**

90-minute sessions to choose from:

Trainee/Junior Faculty Breakout Session Options	
Room 1	Planning Your Research Years
Room 2	Being a Good Mentee
Room 3	Finding Your First Job
Mid to Senior Faculty Breakout Session Options	
Room 4	Managing Conflicts and Critical Conversations
Room 5	Healthcare Finance in Today's World

3:30 – 4:00 PM

NETWORKING BREAK/EXHIBITS

4:00 – 5:30 PM

360 Leadership: Leading & Developing High-Performing Teams

Connie Tang | *Gritty Executive Consulting*

5:30 PM

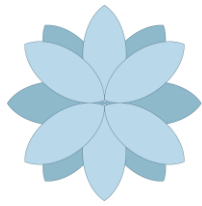
ADJOURN FOR THE DAY

5:30 – 6:30 PM

Trainee Networking Social

6:30 – 9:00 PM

GALA WELCOME RECEPTION



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FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 5, 2025

6:00 – 7:30 AM **REGISTRATION/BREAKFAST/EXHIBITS**

6:30 – 7:30 AM ***Women in Surgery Breakfast Session**
Moderator: Annabelle Fonseca, MD, MHS | *University of Alabama at Birmingham*

7:30 – 7:45 AM **BREAK/EXHIBITS**

7:45 – 9:00 AM ***Concurrent Scientific Abstract Sessions I**
75-minute sessions to choose from:

Room 1	Colorectal Surgery
Room 2	General Surgery/Bariatric/Foregut Surgery/Global Surgery
Room 3	Transplant/Hepatobiliary/Surgical Oncology
Room 4	Breast
Room 5	Trauma/Critical Care
Room 6	Pediatric Surgery

9:00 – 9:15 AM **BREAK/EXHIBITS**

9:15 – 10:15 AM **Plenary Session**

10:15 – 11:00 AM **Kuo Family Lectureship**
Jackie Wong | *McKinsey & Company*

11:00 – 11:30 AM **NETWORKING BREAK/EXHIBITS**

11:30 AM – 12:15 PM **SAAS President's Address**
Ankush Gosain, MD, PhD | *UVA Health Children's Hospital*

12:15 – 1:15 PM **LUNCH/EXHIBITS**

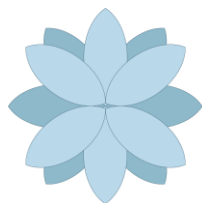
1:15 – 2:00 PM **LSS Keynote Speaker**
Christian de Virgilio, MD | *Harbor-UCLA Medical Center*

2:00 – 3:00 PM **Chair Panel**

3:00 – 3:15 PM **BREAK/EXHIBITS**

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FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 5, 2025 *Cont'd.*

3:15 – 4:30 PM

***Concurrent Career Development Sessions**

75-minute sessions to choose from:

Trainee/Junior Faculty Breakout Session Options	
Room 1	Bouncing Back from the Challenges of Training
Room 2	Lessons Learned from Being a New Attending
Mid Career Faculty Session	
Room 3	Network Development: Mentors, Sponsors, Kitchen Cabinet How to Build a Strategic Plan
Senior Faculty Breakout Sessions	
General Session Room	A Surgical Leader is Still a Middle Manager: How to Effectively Manage Stakeholders
	Assembling My Dream Team: Best Hiring Practices and Bringing Out the Best from the People I Have
	How to Smell Trouble: Staying Ahead of the Curve

4:30 – 5:30 PM

***SAAS Business Meeting**

5:30 PM

ADJOURN FOR THE DAY

5:30 – 7:30 PM

FAREWELL RECEPTION

Hosted by



City of Hope®

**Optional and breakout/concurrent sessions are non-CME accredited.*

The conference may find it necessary to substitute faculty with comparable expertise on those rare occasions necessitated by illness, unforeseen scheduling conflicts or extraordinary occurrences.