

SOCIETY of ASIAN  
ACADEMIC SURGEONS



◆ Conference Schedule ◆

## SAAS 10<sup>th</sup> 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*

**My Journey to Break Down Pancreatic Cancer**

Jen Jen Yeh, MD | *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

**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**

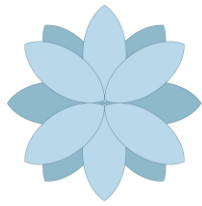
11:45 AM – 12:30 PM

**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

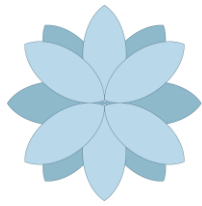
**ADJOURN FOR THE DAY**

5:30 – 6:30 PM

*Trainee Networking Social*

6:30 – 9:00 PM

**GALA WELCOME RECEPTION**



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## SAAS 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Inaugural SAAS/LSS Joint Meeting

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**

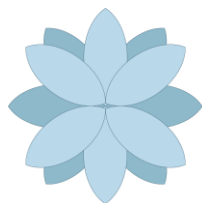
1:15 – 2:00 PM **LSS Keynote Speaker**  
Christian de Virgilio, MD | *Harbor-UCLA Medical Center*

2:00 – 3:00 PM **Chair Panel**

3:00 – 3:15 PM **BREAK/EXHIBITS**

**EMPOWERING CURRENT & FUTURE SURGICAL LEADERS**





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## SAAS 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Inaugural SAAS/LSS Joint Meeting

**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.*