



## 5th Annual Professional Development Program for Women General Surgery Residents

AUGUST 14–16, 2025



Don't miss this Unique Networking Opportunity designed for Women General Surgery Residents

**August 14–16, 2025**

Tudor Arms Hotel Cleveland  
10660 Carnegie Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44106  
Phone: 216.455.1260

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a 1½ day course which will provide a high-level overview of many topics related to professional development for surgeons in early training. Specifically, there will be a strong emphasis on challenges that disproportionately affect women trainees, and strategies for navigating those challenges. Faculty will consist of a dynamic and relatable group of surgeons from across the country who are experienced in these areas. Attendees will have the opportunity to interact with the faculty in a friendly and casual environment both at the conference and at the accompanying events, while also meeting their peers and colleagues from around the country.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

*After completing this educational activity, the participant will be able to:*

- Gain understanding of challenges pertaining to women surgeons in training and strategies to address those challenges
- Have an introduction to the concept of professional development, including some strategies for being a successful resident, planning future career directions, and learning how to give a well-received presentation
- Network with peers and expert surgeons from around the country in a fun and relaxed environment

### TARGET AUDIENCE

Women General Surgery Residents – PGY-1 and PGY-2

### REGISTRATION

**\$100 registration fee.**

Register online at [www.ccfcmc.org/2025Women](http://www.ccfcmc.org/2025Women).

Preregistrations are required and accepted online until 9 a.m. ET, July 18, 2025. Note: This event has sold out previously – early registration is highly recommended.

In case of cancellation, a full refund will be made if canceled by June 30, 2025. No refunds will be issued after July 18, 2025.

### HOTEL

Reservations at the Tudor Arms Hotel Cleveland will be made for attendees for the evenings of Thursday, August 14 and Friday, August 15. Please note that attendees will be sharing rooms with another attendee. We will make every effort to accommodate room sharing requests made during the registration process. The cost of the attendees' hotel room (including taxes) will be expensed to the program master account. Attendees will be responsible for any additional charges to the room. All meals and entertainment provided during the course will also be covered.

### TRANSPORTATION

Attendees will be responsible for making transportation arrangements to/from Cleveland. The closest airport is Cleveland Hopkins Airport which is an approximate 30 minute drive to the hotel. Please note that the course will conclude by 12 p.m. on Saturday, August 16.

### TRAVEL STIPEND

All out-of-town participating attendees will be eligible for up to \$200 travel stipend to help with transportation-related costs. *Reimbursement details will be distributed just prior to the course start.*

**QUESTIONS? Contact Cheryl DiMattia, Education Coordinator, [dimattc@ccf.org](mailto:dimattc@ccf.org)**

## FACULTY

### ACTIVITY DIRECTOR

#### Ajita Prabhu, MD

Professor of Surgery,  
Cleveland Clinic Lerner of  
College of Medicine  
Program Director, Cleveland  
Clinic General Surgery  
Residency Program  
Cleveland Clinic Center for Abdominal  
Core Health  
Department of General Surgery



### KEYNOTE PRESENTERS

#### Kyla Terhune, MD

Vanderbilt University Medical Center  
Nashville, TN

#### Callisia Clarke, MD, MS

Medical College of Wisconsin  
Milwaukee, WI

### GUEST FACULTY

#### Alicia Adams, MD

University Hospitals, Cleveland, OH

#### Kaela Blake, MD

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

#### Alejandro Bribriesco, MD

VA Medical Center, Cleveland, OH

#### Jillian Ciocchetti, MD

Northpoint Surgery & Aesthetics,  
Denver, CO

#### Courtney Collins, MD

The Ohio State University  
Wexner Medical Center, Columbus, OH

#### Hope Jackson, MD

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

#### Christina Maser, MD

CMU Health Dept. of Surgery, Saginaw, MI

#### Megan Melland-Smith, MD

North York General Hospital  
Ontario, Canada

#### Lauren Paton, MD

Atrium Health Carolinas Medical Center,  
Charlotte, NC

#### Arielle Perez, MD

PeaceHealth Surgical Specialties at  
Northwest Specialty Clinics, Springfield, OR

#### Esther Tseng, MD

MetroHealth Medical, Cleveland, OH

### CCF FACULTY

#### Luke Beffa, MD

#### Doua Elamin, MD

#### Chelsea Feng, MD

#### Amy Han, MD

#### Ajaratu Keshinro, MD

#### Arielle Kanter, MD

#### Jeremy Lipman, MD

#### Benjamin Miller, MD

#### Clayton Petro, MD

#### Alejandro Pita, MD

#### Katie Stackhouse, MD

#### Stephanie Valente, DO

#### Rickesha Wilson, MD

## AGENDA

### Thursday, August 14, 2025

6:30 PM **Cocktail Reception**

7:00 PM **Dinner Presentation**

**KEYNOTE PRESENTATION:** Mentorship and Finding Athena

*Kyla Terhune*

9:00 PM **Adjourn**

### Friday, August 15, 2025

6:15 AM **Registration / Breakfast / Exhibits**

7:00 AM **Introduction to Course**

*Ajita Prabhu*

#### SESSION I: EXCEL

7:10 AM **Deliberate Practice**

*Ajita Prabhu*

7:40 AM **The Best Residents: Pearls for  
Success at Every Level**

*Doua Elamin*

8:00 AM **How to Improve Autonomy in the OR**

*Amy Han*

8:20 AM **Using Video to Up Your Operating Game**

*Chelsea Feng*

8:40 AM **Panel Discussion I**

*Session I Faculty and Cleveland Clinic  
Chief Residents Lorena Rincon Cruz,  
Doua Elamin and Corey Gentle*

9:05 AM **Networking Activity**

*Arielle Perez*

9:25 AM **Break / Exhibits**

#### SESSION II: STRATEGIZE

9:45 AM **BREAK-OUT SESSIONS**

– **Practice Models** (academic/private)

*Jillian Ciocchetti, Ben Miller, Arielle Perez*

– **How to Choose and Pursue Fellowships**

*Luke Beffa, Alex Bribriesco, Arielle  
Kanter, Ajaratu Keshinro, Jeremy  
Lipman, Alejandro Pita, Katie  
Stackhouse, Esther Tseng, Stephanie  
Valente, Rickesha Wilson*

– **Family Planning, Medical Leave,  
Dark Times**

*Alicia Adams, Hope Jackson*

12:00 PM **Lunch**

#### SESSION III: GROW

1:00 PM **Mentorship – Finding One and  
Being One**

*Lauren Paton*

1:20 PM **I Got Critical Feedback – Now What?**

*Callisia Clarke*

1:40 PM **What Is My Leadership Style?**

*Hope Jackson*

2:00 PM **Panel Discussion III**

*Session III faculty and CCF Chief  
Residents Shanaz Hossain and  
Avia Wilkerson*

2:20 PM **Networking Activity**

*Clayton Petro*

2:45 PM **Break / Exhibits**

#### SESSION IV: NAVIGATE

3:00 PM **Nontraditional Trainees in Surgery –  
Being and Advocating**

*Courtney Collins*

3:20 PM **Managing Your Finances**

*Jillian Ciocchetti*

3:50 PM **Crush Your ABSITE!**

*Rickesha Wilson*

4:15 PM **Panel Discussion IV**

*Session IV Faculty*

5:00 PM **Break / Exhibits**

6:00 PM **SOCIAL/NETWORKING EVENT**

*Punch Bowl Social*

### Saturday, August 16, 2025

#### SESSION V: ACKNOWLEDGE

7:30 AM **Continental Breakfast / Exhibits**

8:00 AM **Battling Imposterism**

*Megan Melland-Smith*

8:20 AM **Building Blocks for Success after Surgical  
Training – What Got You Here, Won't Get  
You There**

*Megan Melland-Smith*

8:50 AM **Stats of the Union: What is the Current  
Status of Women in General Surgery?**

*Courtney Collins*

9:10 AM **Complications and the Toll They Take**

*Christina Maser*

9:30 AM **Panel Discussion V**

*Session V Faculty*

10:00 AM **Break / Exhibits**

#### SESSION VI: SUCCEED

10:30 AM **The Top 3 Things I Learned in  
My First Year of Practice**

*Ajaratu Keshinro*

10:50 AM **Winning at M&M**

*Kaela Blake*

11:10 AM **KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**

**Hidden Figures: They Are All Around US**  
*Callisia Clarke*

12:00 PM **Adjourn**

## TESTIMONIALS

**“Fantastic program! I enjoyed meeting new people, learned a lot and the events that were put on after were great!”**

“The conference was truly outstanding. Every speaker was inspiring, sharing valuable insights drawn from their experiences. The event was well-organized, with a smooth flow and excellent networking opportunities.”



*“A friendly, casual setting; really smart design of the conference with short talks and opportunities to ask the speakers questions intermittently, in panels, which fostered great discussions; opportunities to socialize and talk with the other attendees and speakers.”*

**“Presentations were short and concise with tangible pieces of actionable advice.”**

*“Very informative and excellently organized.”*

*“Extremely valuable conference with a ton of topics in just a couple of days which will help me be a better resident, physician, spouse and friend. There were so many pieces of advice I will take with me moving forward.”*



**“Thoroughly enjoyed the program and will highly recommend it to other female surgery residents in the years to come.”**

“Overall concept, presentations, organization, opportunities to network and talk, very personal experience, faculty that was invested in resident’s education. Overall one of the best conferences I have ever attended.”