

### CME Accreditation

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education through the joint providership of CMEsolutions and Academic Surgical Congress. CMEsolutions is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

### AMA PRA Designation Statement

CMEsolutions designates this live educational activity for a maximum of 24.75 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*<sup>™</sup>. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

### International CME

International Physicians are formally eligible for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit*<sup>™</sup>.

### Physician Assistants

AAPA accepts Category 1 credit from AOACCME, Prescribed credit from AAFP, and *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit*<sup>™</sup> for the PRA from organizations accredited by ACCME.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2026

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM	<b>AAS/SUS Surgical Investigators Course (SIC): The Grant Writing Workshop</b>	Sago Ballroom 2-4
	<p>Join AAS and SUS for an intensive course designed to support your successful attainment of extramural grant funding.</p> <p>The course is ideal for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning the essential elements of a successful research proposal and how funding agencies work.</li> <li>• Obtaining an insider's view of the grant review process within a study section.</li> <li>• Garnering feedback and guidance on your current grant proposal.</li> </ul> <p>Who Should Attend?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faculty members or soon-to-be faculty members writing their first grant.</li> <li>• Faculty members writing a career development award or other grant.</li> <li>• K or other career development awardees looking to transition to an R01 or other major grant.</li> </ul>	
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	<b>AAS/SUS Surgical Investigators (SIC) Course Networking Reception</b>	Sago Ballroom 1

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	<b>SUS Mid-Career Academic Surgery Professional Development Course (MCC)</b>	Meyer 1-2
	<p>The SUS Mid-Career Academic Surgery Professional Development Course will provide personal guidance to develop your leadership skills and a road map for progression for aspiring leaders in academic surgery.</p> <p>The course is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ideal for mid-career surgeons (5-12 years in practice)</li> <li>• Designed to ensure interactivity and to maximize course participation by course attendees</li> <li>• Features updated content and more interactive sessions</li> <li>• Learn how to identify opportunities and negotiate successful offers</li> <li>• Discuss the skills and credentials needed to successfully advance your career</li> </ul>	

8:00 AM – 1:00 PM	<b>AAS/SUS Surgical Investigators Course (SIC): The Grant Writing Workshop</b>	Sago Ballroom 2-4
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM	<b>AAS Executive Committee Lunch (<i>Invitation only</i>)</b>	
2:00 PM – 6:00 PM	<b>Registration &amp; Check-in</b>	Citron Ballroom Foyer
2:00 PM – 9:00 PM	<b>Speaker Ready</b>	Palm Event Center H/I
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	<b>SUS Foundation Board Meeting (<i>Invitation only</i>)</b>	
3:00 PM – 6:00 PM	<b>SUS Executive Council Meeting (<i>Invitation only</i>)</b>	
3:00 PM – 6:00 PM	<b>AAS Executive Council Meeting (<i>Invitation only</i>)</b>	
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	<b>SUS Mid-Career Course Academic Surgery Professional Development Course (MCC) Meet the Faculty Reception</b>	Meyer 1-2
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	<b>AAS Nominating Committee Meeting (<i>Invitation only</i>)</b>	
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	<b>SUS Nominating Committee Meeting (<i>Invitation only</i>)</b>	
7:30 PM – 10:00 PM	<b>Joint Council Reception + International Guests Reception (<i>Invitation only</i>)</b>	

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026**

5:30 AM - 6:00 PM	<b>Speaker Ready</b>	Palm Event Center H/I
6:30 AM – 6:30 PM	<b>Registration &amp; Check-in</b>	Citron Ballroom Foyer
6:30 AM – 7:30 AM	<b>Continental Breakfast in the Exhibit Hall</b>	Sabal Ballroom D1/D2
6:30 AM – 7:30 AM	<b>Coffee &amp; Conversations: Discover Surgical Institutions</b>	Sabal Ballroom A/B/C
7:30 AM – 9:45 AM	<b>Integrated Quick Shot Session I (Sessions 1 – 21)</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Basic Science: Colorectal, Hepatopancreatobiliary and Oncology</li> <li>2. Basic Science: Multidisciplinary 1</li> <li>3. Clinical/Outcomes: Breast 1</li> <li>4. Clinical/Outcomes: Cardiothoracic 1</li> <li>5. Clinical/Outcomes: Colorectal 1</li> <li>6. Clinical/Outcomes: Cross Disciplinary 1</li> <li>7. Clinical/Outcomes: Endocrine 1</li> <li>8. Clinical/Outcomes: General Surgery 1</li> <li>9. Clinical/Outcomes: General Surgery 2</li> <li>10. Clinical/Outcomes: Global Surgery 1</li> <li>11. Clinical/Outcomes: Hepatopancreatobiliary 1</li> <li>12. Clinical/Outcomes: Oncology 1</li> <li>13. Clinical/Outcomes: Pediatrics 1</li> <li>14. Clinical/Outcomes: Pediatrics 2</li> <li>15. Clinical/Outcomes: Transplantation 1</li> <li>16. Clinical/Outcomes: Trauma/Critical Care 1</li> <li>17. Clinical/Outcomes: Trauma/Critical Care 2</li> <li>18. Clinical/Outcomes: Upper GI/Bariatric</li> <li>19. Clinical/Outcomes: Vascular 1</li> <li>20. Education: Cross Disciplinary</li> <li>21. Education: Global Surgery and Trauma/Critical Care</li> </ol>	Sago Ballroom 1 Sago Ballroom 2 Sago Ballroom 3 Sago Ballroom 4 Sunburst 1 Sabal D3 Areca Pindo A Pindo B Pindo C Palm Event Center M/N Palm Event Center O Palm Event Center E Palm Event Center F/G Palm Event Center P Palm Events Center A/B Palm Event Center C/D Palm Event Center K/L Sunburst 2 Meyer 1 Meyer 2
9:30 AM – 4:00 PM	<b>Exhibits Open</b>	Sabal Ballroom D1/D2
9:30 AM - 10:00 AM	<b>Coffee Break in the Exhibit Hall</b>	Sabal Ballroom D1/D2
10:00 AM - 10:15 AM	<b>Presidential Opening Comments</b> Brenessa Lindeman, MD, MEHP Danny Chu, MD	Citron Ballroom
10:15 AM - 10:30 AM	<b>SUS Lifetime Achievement Award</b> Dai Chung, MD, MBA Introduction by: Ankush Gosain, MD, PhD, MBA	Citron Ballroom
10:30 AM – 10:45 AM	<b>SUS Trailblazer Award</b>  <b>2025 Trailblazer Award Winner:</b> Raphael Pollock, MD, PhD  <b>2026 Trailblazer Award Winner:</b> Patricia Turner, MD, MBA, FACS Introduction by: Carla Pugh, MD, PhD	Citron Ballroom
10:45 AM - 11:30 AM	<b>SUS Presidential Address</b> “How Do You Define Success?” Danny Chu, MD Introduction by: Colin Martin, MD	Citron Ballroom

11:40 AM - 1:00 PM	<b>Lunch is available to grab and take to a Panel Session or Stay and Network with Exhibitors!</b>	Sabal D1/D2
11:40 AM - 1:00 PM	<p><b>Panel Lunch Session:</b>  “Leading Beyond the Operating Room: Reimagining Leadership Pathways in Academic Surgery”  Moderator: Denis Foretia, MD, MPH, MBA</p> <p>This dynamic 90-minute panel explores innovative leadership pathways in academic surgery, highlighting strategies to break traditional molds and develop inclusive, resilient leaders. Who Should Attend: Residents, early- and mid-career faculty, department leaders, and institutional administrators interested in faculty development, diversity, and advancing leadership in surgery will gain practical insights and inspiration from this interactive discussion.</p> <p>At the conclusion of this session, attendees will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify leadership roles/pathways (beyond the classic NIH K/RO1 -&gt; Division Chief -&gt; Chair track) and analyze how these roles can broaden career opportunities for academic surgeons. Prioritize relationship-building approaches that strengthen collaboration and mentorship across institutions and disciplines.</li> <li>• Evaluate key barriers – such as structural bias, limited mentorship, and institutional constraints – and formulate strategies to overcome them in their own departments or programs.</li> <li>• Develop a personal leadership action plan by applying best practices and insights from diverse Surgical leaders to advance inclusive and innovative leadership within their institutions.</li> </ul> <p>Session Overview</p> <p>Moderated Conversation with All Panelists</p> <p>Perspectives from a Vice Chair for Leadership &amp; Faculty Development</p> <p>Perspectives from a Division Chief</p> <p>Perspectives from a Chair of Surgery</p> <p>Perspectives from a Health System Leader</p> <p>Perspectives from a Medical School Dean</p> <p>Q&amp;A</p>	Sabal Ballroom A/B/C
11:40 AM - 1:00 PM	<p><b>Panel Lunch Session:</b>  “Academic Surgeon-Entrepreneurs: Turning Ideas into Impact”  Moderator: Mohamed Zayed, MD, PhD, MBA</p> <p>This session will highlight how academic surgeons can successfully transform clinical insights into diagnostics, devices, therapeutics, and startups. Attendees will hear from leading surgeon-entrepreneurs who have navigated the innovation process from idea to market, with practical lessons and strategies to inspire translational impact. The target audience includes academic and community surgeons, trainees, translational researchers, and technology transfer professionals.</p> <p>At the conclusion of this session, attendees will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify high-impact clinical problems and apply effective need-finding frameworks.</li> <li>• Differentiate between intellectual property strategies and funding mechanisms to support innovation.</li> <li>• Evaluate pathways for regulatory approval, commercialization, and successful academic–industry collaboration.</li> </ul>	Sabal Ballroom E/F/G

Introduction to Session

Defining the Clinical Problem: From Insight to Validated Need

Building the Surgeon-Innovation Ecosystem: From Idea to Execution

Digital Tools and Startups: Scaling Surgical Innovation

From Prototype to Product: Engineering and Clinical Translation in Vascular Innovation

The Surgeon-Founder: Balancing Academia, Surgery, and Innovation

Panel Discussion and Q&A

12:00 PM- 1:00 PM

**AAS Foundation Board Meeting (*Invitation Only*)**

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

**SUS Presidential Session:**

Citron Ballroom

“Non-traditional Pathways to Surgical Leadership”

Moderator: Danny Chu, MD

Panelists: Patricia Turner, MD, Amir Ghaferi, MD, MSc, MBA, FASMBS, Tien Ko, MD, Brian Zuckerbraun, MD, Susan Moffat-Bruce, MD, PhD, Carla Pugh, MD, PhD.

Fireside chat with academic surgical leaders in non-traditional pathways.

At the conclusion of this session, attendees will be able to:

- Identify role models of non-traditional academic surgical leaders.
- Illustrate pathways for surgeons to succeed in non-traditional academic surgical leadership roles.
- Formulate plans for growth in non-traditional academic surgical leadership roles.

2:30 PM - 3:00 PM

**SUS Joel J. Roslyn Lecture**

Citron Ballroom

“Discover. Develop. Deliver.”

Rachel Kelz, MD, MSCE

Introduction by: Danny Chu, MD

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

**Coffee Break in the Exhibit Hall**

Sabal Ballroom D1/D2

4:00 PM - 5:20 PM

**Panel Session:**

Sabal Ballroom A/B/C

“The Triple Threat in Crisis: Building and Funding Academic Surgical Research in Turbulent Times”

Moderators: Timothy Donahue, MD & Sara Sakowitz, MD, MPH, MBA

The traditional academic surgeon-scientist is under threat. NIH paylines are at historic lows, federal grants are unstable, and institutional support is shrinking amid financial pressures. Yet, the need for impactful surgical science has never been greater. This panel will explore how surgeon-scientists and leaders are adapting to today's funding landscape. Speakers will share practical strategies for sustaining labs, protecting personnel, and leveraging both traditional and nontraditional funding sources – including philanthropy, foundations, and industry partnerships. Through candid discussion and actionable solutions, the session will highlight concrete steps surgeons can take to preserve and grow research programs despite financial turbulence.

At the conclusion of this session, attendees will be able to:

- Understand the shifting landscape of surgical research funding and its implications for academic surgeon-scientists.
- Explore non-traditional funding sources, including philanthropy, foundations, and industry.
- Learn how academic RVU systems and team-based science can align incentives and foster collaboration.

- Identify leadership and practical strategies to stabilize labs and protect research personnel amid federal funding challenges.

Contemporary Challenges to the Academic Surgical Model

Impact of Funding Changes on Medical Schools

Academic RVU Systems to Incentive Academic Productivity

The Future of Science and Scientific Research in Academic Surgery

Industry Funding and Academic Surgical Research

Panel Discussion and Q&A

4:00 PM - 5:30 PM	<b>Clinical/Outcomes Plenary</b>	Citron Ballroom
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM	<b>SUS Business Meeting (<i>SUS Members Only</i>)</b>	Sabal Ballroom E/F/G
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM	<b>AAS Medical Student QuickShot Competition</b>	Pindo B
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM	<b>AAS Resident/Fellow QuickShot Competition</b>	Pindo C
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM	<b>Welcome Reception &amp; Exhibits</b> Join us for the opening Exhibit and Welcome Reception, take time to network and meet your colleagues.	Sabal Ballroom D1/D2
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM	<b>Surgical Family Feud</b>	Sabal Ballroom A/B/C

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026**

5:30 AM - 6:00 PM	<b>Speaker Ready</b>	Palm Event Center H/I
6:30 AM – 6:30 PM	<b>Registration &amp; Check-in</b>	Citron Ballroom Foyer
6:30 AM - 7:30 AM	<b>Continental Breakfast in the Exhibit Hall</b>	Sabal Ballroom D1/D2
6:30 AM – 7:30 AM	<b>AAS Panel:</b> “So You Want to be a Surgeon: Practical Advice for the Aspiring Academic Surgeon” Moderators: Jennfier Ku & Rahul Gorijavolu  This session offers medical students an overview of a career in academic surgery, including how to choose the right residency program, craft a strong and authentic application, and build meaningful mentorship. Attendees will gain practical advice and have the opportunity to participate in a Q&A panel with residents and faculty.  At the conclusion of this session, attendees will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce core principles of academic surgery and highlight key criteria for evaluating and selecting residency programs that align with personal and professional goals.</li> <li>• Refine medical students’ ability to craft clear, concise, and impactful application materials, highlighting personal statements and CVs that align with surgical career goals.</li> <li>• Guide medical students in identifying and fostering mentorship relationships that promote career development, academic growth, and success in academic surgery.</li> </ul> Picking a Residency Program That’s Right for You  Crafting a Competitive Residency Application: CV  Crafting a Competitive Residency Application: Personal Statement  Building Mentorship in Academic Surgery  Q&A	Sabal Ballroom A/B/C
6:30 AM – 7:30 AM	<b>SUS New Member Breakfast: Roadmap to Leadership (Invitation Only)</b>	
7:30 AM - 9:30 AM	<b>Integrated Oral Presentation Sessions I (Sessions 25-45)</b> 25. Basic Science: Breast, Plastics, Vascular 26. Basic Science: Cardiothoracic Transplantation 27. Basic Science: Oncology 28. Basic Science: Pediatrics 1 29. Basic Science: Trauma/Critical Care 30. Clinical/Outcomes: Cardiothoracic 31. Clinical/Outcomes: Colorectal 32. Clinical/Outcomes: Cross Disciplinary 33. Clinical/Outcomes: General Surgery 1 34. Clinical/Outcomes: General Surgery and Plastics 35. Clinical/Outcomes: Hepatopancreatobiliary 1 36. Clinical/Outcomes: Oncology 1 37. Clinical/Outcomes: Pediatrics 1 38. Clinical/Outcomes: Transplantation 1 39. Clinical/Outcomes: Trauma/Critical Care 1 40. Clinical/Outcomes: Trauma/Critical Care 2 41. Clinical/Outcomes: Trauma/Critical Care 3	Sago Ballroom 1 Sago Ballroom 2 Sago Ballroom 3 Sago Ballroom 4 Sunburst 1 Sunburst 2 Sabal D3 Areca Pindo A Pindo B Pindo C Palm Event Center E Palm Event Center F/G Palm Event Center A/B Palm Event Center C/D Palm Event Center K/L Palm Event Center M/N



- 42. Clinical/Outcomes: Multidisciplinary 1
- 43. Clinical/Outcomes: Multidisciplinary 2
- 44. Education: General Surgery 1
- 45. Education: Global Surgery, Trauma/Critical Care

Palm Event Center O  
Palm Event Center P  
Meyer 1  
Meyer 2

9:30 AM – 4:00 PM	<b>Exhibits Open</b>	Sabal Ballroom D1/D2
9:30 AM - 9:50 AM	<b>Coffee Break in the Exhibit Hall</b>	Sabal Ballroom D1/D2
9:50 AM - 10:00 AM	<b>AAS Pillar of Academic Surgery</b>	Citron Ballroom
10:00 AM -10:45 AM	<b>AAS Founders Lecture</b> “To Protect the Public and Enhance the Profession” Jo Buyske, MD Introduction by: Brenessa Lindeman, MD, MEHP	Citron Ballroom
10:45 AM – 11:30 AM	<b>AAS Presidential Address</b> “Interwoven Missions: Empowering All Academic Surgeons” Brenessa Lindeman, MD, MEHP Introduction by: Vikas Dudeja, MD, MBBS	Citron Ballroom
11:40 AM – 1:00 PM	<b>Lunch is available to grab and take to a Panel Session or Stay and Network with Exhibitors!</b>	Sabal Ballroom D1/D2
11:40 AM – 1:00 PM	<b>Panel Lunch Session:</b> “Anti-DEI Policies and Academic Surgery: Double-down or Pivot?” Moderators: Allison Martin, MD, MPH & Oluwadamilola Fayanju, MD, MA, MPHS	Sabal Ballroom A/B/C

The national landscape of efforts to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) has changed dramatically in recent months with an unclear impact of policy and rhetoric on the academic missions of equitable patient care, research, and education. The session will evaluate the immediate and projected effects of the January 2025 federal executive order ending DEI programs in government-funded institutions and assess the consequences of doubling down or pivoting in the areas of research and publishing, health equity, institutional infrastructure, and psychological wellbeing of those in academic surgery. Attendees will gain strategies to evaluate risks, uphold core values, and pursue mission-driven scholarships and care in an increasingly complex and politically charged environment.

At the conclusion of this session, attendees will be able to:

- Evaluate the impact of anti-DEI rhetoric on faculty and resident recruitment and retention.
- Prioritize relationship-building approaches that strengthen collaboration and mentorship across institutions and disciplines.
- Recognize and prepare for the impact on grant funding and the research enterprise.
- Respond to the impact of anti-DEI legislation on health equity research and editorial freedom.
- Examine the tension between supporting faculty and trainee well-being with adherence to policies.
- Articulate the need for legal compliance and institutional mission fulfillment.

Speaker Introduction

Impact on the Surgical Workforce Recruitment and Development

Impact on Research

Impact on Editorial Freedom

Departmental / Institutional Lens of DEI positions and Psychological



Wellbeing of Faculty, Residents, Staff

Introduction of Panel Discussion

Panel Discussion/Q&A

11:40 AM – 1:00 PM

**Panel Lunch Session:**

Sabal Ballroom E/F/G

“Defining Your Impact: Mastering Your Niche and Brand in Academic Surgery”

Moderator: Thomas Varghese, MD, MS, MBA

This session explores how surgical trainees and faculty can define their professional niche and cultivate a brand that authentically reflects their values, expertise, and contributions. Participants will gain practical strategies to clarify their career direction, increase visibility, and leverage opportunities for mentorship, collaboration, and advancement in academic surgery.

At the conclusion of this session, attendees will be able to:

- Differentiate between niche and brand and explain their role in academic career development.
- Apply frameworks to define their niche and align it with values and goals.
- Develop strategies to increase visibility, mentorship opportunities, and collaborations through branding.
- Evaluate potential risks and pitfalls of early branding and formulate approaches to navigate them thoughtfully.
- Integrate branding strategies into long-term career planning, including leadership development, promotions, and academic advancement.

Introduction

The Importance of Branding in the Surgical Career

Finding Your Professional Identity and Building Your Talent Stack

Building Your Career: Leadership and Promotions Through Branding

Leveraging Training to Create Your Niche (Trainee Perspective)

Panel Discussion/Q&A

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

**AAS Presidential Session**

Citron Ballroom

“From Scalpel to Story: Communicating the Work of Academic Surgery”

Moderator: Brenessa Lindeman, MD, MEHP

Panelist: Gideon Hertz

This interactive session will equip academic surgeons with practical skills to communicate the value and impact of their work to lay audiences, strengthening public trust in science and helping members effectively navigate today’s challenging funding and societal landscape.

At the conclusion of this session, attendees will be able to:

- Enumerate common barriers to public trust in science and research funding by identifying communication gaps between scientists and lay audiences.
- Apply message-framing techniques to translate their own research into clear, compelling statements understandable to non-scientific stakeholders.
- Create a brief, audience-appropriate communication product (e.g., elevator pitch, lay abstract, or media soundbite) that conveys the importance and impact of their work.

2:30 PM - 3:00 PM	<b>Coffee Break in the Exhibit Hall</b>	Sabal Ballroom D1/D2
2:45 PM - 5:00 PM	<b>Integrated Quick Shot Sessions II (Session 46-66)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>46. Basic Science: Plastics, Trauma/Critical Care</li> <li>47. Basic Science: General Surgery and Pediatrics</li> <li>48. Clinical/Outcomes: Breast 2</li> <li>49. Clinical/Outcomes: Cardiothoracic 2</li> <li>50. Clinical/Outcomes: Colorectal 2</li> <li>51. Clinical/Outcomes: Cross Disciplinary 2</li> <li>52. Clinical/Outcomes: Endocrine 2</li> <li>53. Clinical/Outcomes: General Surgery 3</li> <li>54. Clinical/Outcomes: Global Surgery 2</li> <li>55. Clinical/Outcomes: Hepatopancreatobiliary 2</li> <li>56. Clinical/Outcomes: Minimally Invasive Surgery</li> <li>57. Clinical/Outcomes: Oncology 2</li> <li>58. Clinical/Outcomes: Oncology 3</li> <li>59. Clinical/Outcomes: Pediatrics 3</li> <li>60. Clinical/Outcomes: Pediatrics 4</li> <li>61. Clinical/Outcomes: Transplantation 2</li> <li>62. Clinical/Outcomes: Trauma/Critical Care 3</li> <li>63. Clinical/Outcomes: Trauma/Critical Care 4</li> <li>64. Clinical/Outcomes: Vascular 2</li> <li>65. Education: Cross Disciplinary and Vascular</li> <li>66. Education: General Surgery and Minimally Invasive Surgery</li> </ul>	Sago Ballroom 1 Sago Ballroom 2 Sago Ballroom 3 Sago Ballroom 4 Sunburst 1 Sunburst 2 Sabal D3 Pindo A Pindo B Pindo C Areca Palm Event Center O Palm Event Center P Palm Event Center E Palm Event Center F/G Palm Event Center A/B Palm Event Center C/D Palm Event Center K/L Palm Event Center M/N Meyer 1 Meyer 2
3:00 PM - 4:20 PM	<b>Panel Session</b> “AI in the OR: The Potential of Artificial Intelligence in Redefining Surgical Training and Boosting Intraoperative Performance” Moderators: Peyman Benharash, MD & Sara Sakowitz, MD, MPH, MBA  Artificial intelligence (AI) has rapidly reshaped the world as we know it – and has the power to dramatically influence academic surgery and surgical training. Indeed, AI has the potential for contribution in the surgical landscape, from acquisition and practice of technical skills to intraoperative guidance, to even systems-level workflow optimization. This Panel Session will explore how AI is being integrated into contemporary surgical education, practice, and real-time operating room decision-making, discuss the challenges and ethics of its use, and explore what the intersecting future of AI and academic surgery may look like.  At the conclusion of this session, attendees will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn about current and emerging AI tools for surgical training and simulation, decision support, and OR efficiency, and hear how they are used in practice.</li> <li>• Consider the “pros and cons” of current AI tools in assessing surgical performance and guiding decision-making.</li> <li>• Evaluate key ethical and regulatory considerations that may challenge the place of AI, particularly in the operating room.</li> <li>• Understand future directions of AI-enabled surgical simulation and its role in surgical education.</li> <li>• Develop practical strategies for integrating AI into academic surgery, while maintaining surgeon autonomy and judgment and patient-centered care.</li> </ul> AI in Surgery: Promises and Pitfalls  AI and Computer Vision to Improve Surgeon Performance  Legal Implications of AI in Surgery  Simulation as a Tool to Improve Surgeon Technical Competency	Sabal Ballroom A/B/C

AI to Boost Patient Outcomes

Artificial Intelligence, Computer Vision, and Patient Safety

Panel Discussion

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM	<b>AAS Business Meeting (AAS Members Only)</b>	Sabal Ballroom E/F/G
5:15 PM - 6:15 PM	<b>SUS New Member and International Guests Poster Session</b>	20Seven
5:30PM - 6:30 PM	<b>AAS Meet the Leadership Reception (AAS Members Only)</b>	Sabal Ballroom E/F/G
5:45 PM - 6:45 PM	<b>Reception for Trainees hosted by the Society for Surgical Oncology</b>	Veranda & Patio
9:00 PM - 12:00 AM	<b>The Night Shift Party</b>	Sabal Ballroom A/B/C

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026**

5:30 AM – 2:30 PM	<b>Speaker Ready</b>	Palm Event Center H/I
6:30 AM – 7:30 AM	<b>Continental Breakfast in the Exhibit Hall</b>	Sabal Ballroom D1/D2
6:30 AM – 7:30 AM	<b>Coffee &amp; Conversations: Discover Surgical Institutions</b>	Sabal Ballroom A/B/C
7:00 AM – 12:00 PM	<b>Registration &amp; Check-in</b>	Citron Ballroom Foyer
7:30 AM - 9:30 AM	<b>Integrated Oral Presentation Sessions II (Sessions 67-87)</b> 67. Basic Science: Colorectal, Cross Disciplinary and General Surgery 68. Basic Science: Endocrine, Oncology and Hepatopancreatobiliary 69. Basic Science: Pediatrics 2 70. Basic Science: Trauma/Critical Care and Transplantation 71. Clinical/Outcomes: Cardiothoracic and Upper GI/Bariatric 72. Clinical/Outcomes: Cross Disciplinary and Endocrine 73. Clinical/Outcomes: Endocrine 74. Clinical/Outcomes: General Surgery 2 75. Clinical/Outcomes: Global Surgery and Plastics 76. Clinical/Outcomes: Oncology 2 77. Clinical/Outcomes: Oncology and Transplantation 78. Clinical/Outcomes: Pediatrics 2 79. Clinical/Outcomes: Transplantation 2 80. Clinical/Outcomes: Trauma/Critical Care 4 81. Clinical/Outcomes: Trauma/Critical Care 5 82. Clinical/Outcomes: Multidisciplinary 3 83. Clinical/Outcomes: Multidisciplinary 4 84. Clinical/Outcomes: Multidisciplinary 5 85. Education: Cross Disciplinary 86. Education: General Surgery 2 87. Education: Multidisciplinary	Sago 1 Sago 2 Sago 3 Sago 4 Sunburst 2 Sabal D3 Areca Pindo A Pindo B Pindo C Palm Event Center E Palm Event Center F/G Palm Event Center A/B Palm Event Center C/D Palm Event Center K/L Palm Event Center M/N Palm Event Center O Palm Event Center P Sunburst 1 Meyer 1 Meyer 2
7:30 AM – 8:30 AM	<b>SUS Grant Research Awards (Invitation Only)</b>	
9:15 AM – 1:30 PM	<b>Exhibits Open</b>	Sabal Ballroom D1/D2
9:15 AM – 9:45 AM	<b>Coffee Break in Exhibit Hall</b>	Sabal Ballroom D1/D2
9:30 AM – 10:45 AM	<b>AAS/SUS Research Awards</b>	Sabal A/B/C

9:30 AM – 10:50 AM **Panel Session:** Sabal E/F/G

**“The Scalpel and the Storm: Surviving and Thriving in Your Surgical Career While Navigating the Unexpected”**  
Moderators: Jennifer Whittington, MD, PhD, FSSO & Levi Procter, MD

When surgeons in training and early career surgeons encounter unexpected life circumstances, the balance of navigating these challenges while also managing a busy career as an academic surgeon may seem insurmountable. This panel is comprised of mid-career and early career surgeons who have successfully navigated their own storms and have a wealth of wisdom gained from their experiences. The goal for this session is to provide a safe space for honest discussion, open dialogue, and solidarity on issues with which many trainees and surgeons quietly and anonymously struggle. This session is open to students, residents, fellows, and surgical faculty aiming to gain insight on navigating their own storms and/or offer support to their peers navigating challenges.

At the conclusion of this session, attendees will be able to:

- Relate to other surgeons who are navigating caring for loved ones while maintaining their surgical career.
- Recognize how to best support colleagues who are experiencing their own health related experiences.
- Formulate strategies to protect their surgical career and personal life in the event they experience major life and/or family changes.

Navigating Caring for Family Members While Maintaining Your Surgical Career

Dealing with Divorce as an Academic Trauma Surgeon

When the Surgeon is the Patient

Navigating Narcissistic Relationships and Divorce as a Surgeon

Maintaining a Surgical Career During IVF

Embracing Thriving as a Surgeon after Divorce

How to Keep Going When It All Hits at Once

Q&A

10:55 AM – 11:55 AM **Education Plenary Session** Citron Ballroom

10:55 AM – 11:55 AM **Basic Science Plenary Session** Sabal E/F/G

12:05 PM – 1:30 PM **Committee Lunch Session** Sabal A/B/C

**“Interactive Mentoring Lunch to Advance Your Career for Medical Students”**

Grab your lunch and join us for round tables with AAS/SUS leadership designed for topics in academic surgery at three different levels (medical students, residents, and junior faculty). This is an interactive session where hot topics for each level will be addressed to be able to understand the challenges in the next part of your career and how to navigate preparation for the next phase in your career. Each level will attend two different mentoring sessions during the lunch hour and have the opportunity to ask questions and network in a smaller group setting.

At the conclusion of this session attendees will be able to:

- Organize a method to create wellness in residency and strategies for time management.

- Recognize how to prepare a fellowship application and understand the basics of first job negotiations.
- Plan how to organize financial income and assets to prepare for first time home purchase and retirement.

12:05 PM – 1:30 PM

**Committee Lunch Session**

Sabal E/F/G

“Interactive Mentoring Lunch to Advance Your Career for Residents, and Junior Faculty”

Grab your lunch and enjoy an interactive round table with AAS/SUS leaders who will discuss how to prepare for and navigate early career advancement as a resident or as junior faculty. The topics will facilitate understanding of transitioning into the next career phase by providing insights to future challenges and tools for successful navigation of those transitions. Each attendee will interact with two roundtables within the level appropriate to their career status, have the opportunity to ask questions and network in a small group setting.

At the conclusion of this session attendees will be able to:

- Organize a method to create wellness in residency and strategies for time management.
- Recognize how to prepare a fellowship application and understand the basics of first job negotiations.
- Plan how to organize financial income and assets to prepare for first time home purchase and retirement.

12:05 PM – 1:30 PM

**Panel Lunch Session:**

Citron Ballroom

“Navigating the Changing Tides of Academic Surgery as a New Faculty Member”

Moderators: Chandler Cortina, MD, MS, FSSO & Mediget Teshome, MD, MPH

This session will discuss how to best navigate the first decade of an academic surgical career, anticipated growth opportunities and challenges, and how the AAS and SUS can play fundamental and active roles in supporting one’s personal and professional growth in academic surgery.

At the conclusion of this session, attendees will be able to:

- Integrate strategies to effectively balance clinical responsibilities with long-term academic career development.
- Prioritize relationship-building approaches that strengthen collaboration and mentorship across institutions and disciplines.
- Evaluate opportunities and resources, including funding mechanisms, that support growth and sustainability in an academic career.

Building a Clinical Practice While Simultaneously Building an Academic Portfolio

Developing Internal and External Relationships to Support You’re Academic Goals

Seed Funding and Career Development Awards

Q&A

1:40 PM - 4:40 PM

**Integrated Quick Shot Sessions III (Sessions 90-97)**

- 90. Basic Science: Multidisciplinary 2
- 91. Clinical/Outcomes: Cardiothoracic 3
- 92. Clinical/Outcomes: General Surgery 4
- 93. Clinical/Outcomes: Plastics
- 94. Clinical/Outcomes: Trauma/Critical Care 5
- 95. Clinical/Outcomes: Trauma/Critical Care 6
- 96. Education: General Surgery and Hepatopancreatobiliary
- 97. Education: Multidisciplinary

Palm Events Center A/B  
Palm Events Center C/D  
Palm Events Center E  
Palm Events Center F/G  
Palm Events Center K/L  
Palm Events Center M/N  
Palm Events Center O  
Palm Events Center P