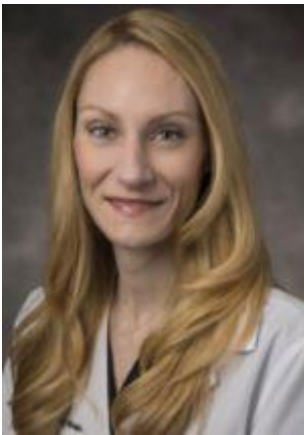




# ASSOCIATION FOR SURGICAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION



## Message from Megan Miller, MD New ASE Foundation President

### Dear ASE Foundation Donors and Friends,

I am excited and honored to serve as your ASE Foundation president for the next 2 years. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to **Dr. Amalia Cochran** for her service and contributions as our immediate past President. She has left big shoes to fill!

As we embark on this new academic year, I want to share some numbers with you that both highlight the Foundation's work and inspire us to do more:

- **\$71,000** – awarded in 2025 CESERT grants through your generous contributions and Intuitive's sponsorship, funding **14** innovative research projects.
- **2** – Dr. Deb DaRosa Scholarship recipients so far, including Dr. Minna Wieck, who will be using the funds to complete the SELF program.
- **\$12,200** and **\$100,000** – the amount raised and the total needed to fully endow the Dr. Patty Numann Scholarship, which supports surgical educators from low- and middle-income countries in international collaboration through a mentored project and attendance at the ASE meeting.
- **25** and **2** – total ASE Foundation Board members and new members, including Dr. Gurjit Sandhu, PhD (University of Michigan) and Dr. Ashlee Mills Duffy, PhD, MEd (University of Nebraska).
- **6%**– proportion of ASE members that donated to the Foundation in 2024-25
- **20%** – proportion of ASE members we hope to inspire to donate in 2025-26!

The ASE Foundation Board is working hard on several initiatives to help reach that last bullet point goal. The first is to improve your experience as donors by making it easier to access your contribution records for year-end tax purposes, and to ensure you know how every dollar is used—which is directly back to our members via grants and scholarships! The second is to elevate and better promote our CESERT grant program in order to solicit external sponsorship, potentially from industry partners, and to ensure diversity in the educational projects funded.

Together, we can grow the number of ASE member donors from 6% to 20%—every contribution counts!

👉 **Click below to support the Foundation's mission and help us reach this goal.**

Thank you as always for your support of the ASE and ASE Foundation.

Warm regards,  
Megan Miller, MD  
President, ASE Foundation

**Donate Now**



### **Dr. Debra DaRosa Career Development Scholarship Spotlight**

Dr. Justin Wagner, a pediatric surgeon at UCLA, was awarded the inaugural Dr. Debra DaRosa Career Development Scholarship in 2024. This Fall, he begins the Master of Health Professions Education program at the University of Illinois Chicago.

The scholarship, awarded annually, supports participation in advanced surgical education programs—from SERF to Surgeons as Educators to graduate degrees. **A heartfelt thank you to all contributors who made the DaRosa Scholarship possible!**

### **CESERT Grants Program - Did You Know?**

From 1999 to 2025, the ASE Foundation funded **96** grants totaling **\$1,470,000** to ASE members.

Past CESERT awardees have shared how the program has:

- Boosted recognition within their departments and supported academic promotion.
- Sparked multi-institutional collaborations leading to NIH grant submissions.
- Generated peer-reviewed publications and manuscripts in progress.
- Provided unmatched networking opportunities.
- Helped position them as experts in medical education.

**Applications for the next cycle open this Fall—stay tuned!**

**Commit to Supporting Grant Funding for ASE Members**

## ✦ Featuring our CESERT Awardees

**Dr. Amber Shada (2024)** is advancing surgical education with CESERT support by piloting a new communication curriculum across 10 residency programs to improve surgeon–patient interactions nationwide.



Members of the Fundamentals of Communication in Surgery workgroup (Top row: Gretchen Schwarze, Carly Sobol, Kimberly Kopecky; Middle row: Ana Newcomb, Amber Shada, Robert Bynum; Bottom row: Emily Rivet, Katherine Hill, Lauren Taylor) continue to meet monthly to oversee onboarding of additional residency programs.

### **Dr. Maya Lakshmi Srinivasan, 2024**

*Drawing for Surgical Anatomy and Autonomy in Cleft Palate Repairs*

"Receiving the CESERT grant has given me the opportunity to pursue investigation at the intersection of art and surgery, which I hope to continue to study and implement throughout my surgical career going forward."

### **Dr. Michael Kochis, 2024**

*Fostering Growth Mindsets in Surgical Interns: A Pilot Study*

"The CESERT program is an excellent means of providing valuable financial resources needed to translate research ideas into projects."

### **Dr. Robert Parker, 2023**

*Trainee Operative Autonomy in Emergency Gastrointestinal Surgery*

"Receiving the CESERT Grant provided the critical resources to complete our study, culminating in a peer-reviewed publication and strengthening my capacity to mentor future surgeon-educators."





Dr. Parker and the research team at Tenwek

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### **[Congratulations to the 2025 CESERT Pyramid Grants Recipients](#)**

Your dedication is shaping the future of surgical education, and we look forward to sharing updates on your progress in early 2026!

#### **Giant Robot (\$25,000) Sponsored by Intuitive**

##### **The Impact of Gesture Based Feedback on Trainee Intestinal Robotic Anastomosis Skills**

Diana Garces Palacios, MD (PI), UT Southwestern

Ganesh Sankaranarayanan, MD (Co-PI), UT Southwestern

##### **Determining the Effectiveness of Tailoring Robotic Surgery Skills Training to Learner Cognitive Load on Skill Acquisition: A Randomized Control Trial**

Noosha Deravi, MD, (PI), Indiana University

Dimitrios Stefanidis, MD, (Co-Pi), Indiana University

#### **Platinum (\$10,000)**

##### **Quality and Equitability of Surgical Subinternships**

Jonah Thomas, MD, MS (PI), Mass General/ Harvard

## **Diamond (\$2,500)**

### **Transforming operative notes into large-volume assessment tools using natural language processing**

Ruchi Thanawala, MD, MS, (PI), Oregon Health & Science University

Phillip Jenkins MD, (PI), Oregon Health & Science University

Julie Doberne, PhD, (Co-PI), Oregon Health & Science University

Steven Bedrick, PhD, (Co-PI), Oregon Health & Science University

### **Decoding the Impact of Preference Signals on General Surgery Residency Selection: A Mixed Methods Analysis of Program Directors, Applicants, and Medical Student Advisors**

Sarah Lund, MD (PI), Mayo Clinic

Trenton Foster, MD (Co-PI), Mayo Clinic

## **Gold (up to \$1,000)**

### **Creation of an Artificial Intelligence Tutor for Promoting Surgical Educator Use of Growth Mindset Language**

Rebecca Hoffman, MD (PI), Geisinger Medical Center

Michael Furey, DO (Co-PI), Geisinger

Medical Center

### **Educational scholarship as a pathway for promotion in academic surgery: An assessment 20 years later**

Jennifer Yu MD, MPH, (PI), Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis

Nicole Santucci, MD, MA, (Co-PI), Paul E. Wise, MD, (Co-PI), Washington University School of Medicine in St.

Louis

### **Defining Operative Autonomy: Perspectives from Surgical Residents and Faculty**

Nina Zhao MD, MAEd, (PI), University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center/Case Western Reserve University

Hayley Baker, MD, (Co-PI), University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center

### **Examining national trends of surgery resident participation in patient safety and quality improvement**

Jasmine Estrada MD, (PI), University of Iowa

Hassan Aziz, MD, (Co-PI), University of Iowa

### **Comprehensive Evaluation of the Vascular Surgery Leadership Development Program**

Tiffany Bellomo MD, (PI), Mass General/Harvard Medical School

Babak Abai, MD (Co-PI), Roy Phitayakorn, MD, (Co-PI), Mass General/ Harvard Medical School

### **Development of Robotic Surgery Curriculum for Cardiothoracic Surgery Training**

Chase Marso, (PI), Mass General/Harvard Medical School

Roy Phitayakorn, MD, (Co-PI), Mass General/ Harvard Medical School

### **Behind a Mask of Shame: A Hermeneutic Phenomenologic Exploration of Surgical Residents' Experiences with Shame**

Steven Thornton MD, (PI), Duke University

Jacob A. Greenberg, MD, (Co-PI), William Bynum, MD, (Co-PI), Duke University

### **Simulation-based Verbal De-escalation Training for Surgery Residents: A Needs Assessment**

Melissa Brunsvold MD, FACS, FCCM, (PI), University of Minnesota

Lauren Weaver, MD, (Co-PI), University of Minnesota

### **From the Perspective of Graduates: Exploring Participation and Impact of the ACS-AEI Accredited Fellowship Program**

Michael Healy EdD, (PI), Mass General/Harvard

Dandan Chen, PhD, (Co-PI), Mass General/Harvard

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# INTUITIVE™

We would like to extend a special  
THANK YOU  
to Dr. Myriam Curet and Intuitive  
for their support of our CESERT Pyramid Grant program  
and funding two robotic surgery research grants  
for 2025!

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## Your Support Makes the Difference

Every gift—big or small—advances surgical education research and helps ASE members shape the future of surgery.

### 3 Ways to Give:

- One-time gift
- Monthly donation
- Annual pledge

*All donations are tax-deductible.*

[Donate Now](#)

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