



## 6th Annual Professional Development Program for Women General Surgery Residents



Don't Miss This Unique Networking Opportunity Specifically Designed for Women General Surgery Residents!

**August 13–15, 2026**

InterContinental Hotel Cleveland  
9801 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44106  
216.279.4116

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This 1½-day course provides a dynamic, high-level overview of key professional development topics for surgeons in the early stages of training. **New this year, the program has expanded eligibility to include surgical trainees from PGY-1 through PGY-4.**

The curriculum places a strong focus on challenges that disproportionately affect women in surgery, offering practical strategies and insights to help navigate and overcome them.

Participants will learn from an engaging and relatable lineup of faculty – experienced surgeons from across the country who bring real-world perspectives and expertise. Attendees will also enjoy valuable opportunities to connect with faculty in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere, both during the sessions and at accompanying social events, while building meaningful relationships with peers and colleagues from programs nationwide.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

- Develop a stronger understanding of challenges commonly experienced by women surgeons in training, along with effective strategies for addressing and navigating those challenges.
- Gain foundational knowledge in professional development, including skills for thriving as a resident, planning for future career pathways, and delivering polished, well-received presentations.
- Build meaningful connections with peers and experienced surgeons from across the country in a supportive, engaging, and relaxed learning environment.

### TARGET AUDIENCE

Women General Surgery Residents, PGY-1 through PGY-4

### REGISTRATION

**\$100 registration fee.**

Register online at [www.ccfcm.org/2026Women](http://www.ccfcm.org/2026Women). Preregistrations are required and accepted online until 9 a.m. ET, July 31, 2026. 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 July 17, 2026. No refunds will be issued after July 17, 2026.

### HOTEL

Reservations at the InterContinental Hotel Cleveland will be made for attendees for the evenings of Thursday, August 13 and Friday, August 14. 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 15.

### 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, [dimmattc@ccf.org](mailto:dimmattc@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

**Courtney Collins, MD**  
The Ohio State University  
Wexner Medical Center, Columbus, OH

**Kari Rosenkranz, MD**  
Dartmouth Health  
Lebanon, NH

### GUEST FACULTY

**Jillian Ciocchetti, MD**  
Northpoint Surgery & Aesthetics  
Denver, CO

**Marcie Feinman, MD**  
LifeBridge Health, Baltimore, MD

**Ivy Haskins, MD**  
University of Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha, NE

**Rana Higgins, MD**  
Froedtert Hospital, Milwaukee, WI

**Andrew Ibrahim, MD**  
University of Michigan Medical Center  
Ann Arbor, MI

**Aneesah McClinton, MD**  
MetroHealth System, Cleveland, OH

**Lauren Paton, MD**  
Atrium Health Carolinas Medical Center  
Charlotte, NC

**Arielle Perez, MD**  
PeaceHealth Surgical Specialties at  
Northwest Specialty Clinics  
Springfield, OR

**Brianna Slatnick, MD**  
UT Southwestern Med Center, Dallas, TX

**Esther Tseng, MD**  
MetroHealth System, Cleveland, OH

### CCF FACULTY

**Luke Beffa, MD**  
**Gayana De Silva, MD**  
**Anthony Deross, MD**  
**Chelsea Feng, MD**  
**Judy Jin, MD**  
**Ajaratu Keshinro, MD**  
**David Krpata, MD**  
**Jeremy Lipman, MD**  
**Benjamin Miller, MD**  
**Clayton Petro, MD**  
**Andrea Schlegel, MD**  
**Rob Simon, MD**  
**Katie Stackhouse, MD**  
**Stephanie Valente, DO**  
**Rickesha Wilson, MD**

## AGENDA

### Thursday, August 13, 2026

- 6:00 PM **Networking Reception**
- 7:00 PM **Dinner Presentation**  
**KEYNOTE PRESENTATION:**  
**Everything I Needed to Know I Learned 10 Years Too Late – Lessons You Can Use Now**  
*Courtney Collins*
- 9:00 PM **Adjourn**

### Friday, August 14, 2026

- 6:30 AM **Registration / Breakfast / Exhibits**
- 7:00 AM **Industry Presentation**
- 7:30 AM **Introduction to Course**  
*Ajita Prabhu*
- SESSION I**
- 7:40 AM **10 Lessons to Live by as a Surgeon**  
*Ajita Prabhu*
- 8:10 AM **Battling Imposterism**  
*Chelsea Feng*
- 8:25 AM **Establishing Strong Study Habits**  
*Rickesha Wilson*
- 8:40 AM **Preparing for Cases: The Importance of the Mental Model**  
*Gayana De Silva*
- 8:55 AM **Panel Discussion I**  
*Session I Faculty plus*  
*CCF Chief Resident Sara Maskal*
- 9:25 AM **Networking Activity**  
*Arielle Perez*
- 9:55 AM **Break / Exhibits**
- SESSION II**
- 10:15 AM **Residency Roadmap – When to Do What**  
*Rana Higgins*
- 10:30 AM **To Pursue or Not to Pursue Fellowship**  
*Lauren Paton*
- 10:45 AM **Learning How to Teach**  
*Arielle Perez*
- 11:00 AM **Panel Discussion II**  
*Session II Faculty plus*  
*CCF Chief Resident Sadia Tasnim*
- 11:30 AM **Networking Activity**  
*Clayton Petro*
- 12:00 PM **Lunch / Exhibits**
- 1:00 PM **BREAK-OUT SESSIONS**
- Practice Models (academic/private)**  
*Ben Miller, Arielle Perez*
- How to Choose and Pursue Fellowships**  
*Luke Beffa, Anthony Deross, Gayana De Silva, Judy Jin, AJ Keshinro, Jeremy Lipman, Aneesah McClinton, Andrea Schlegel, Rob Simon, Esther Tseng, Stephanie Valente*
- Family Planning, Medical Leave, Dark Times**  
*Jillian Ciocchetti, Katie Stackhouse*
- 2:45 PM **Break / Exhibits**
- SESSION III**
- 3:05 PM **Research 101: Why and How**  
*Ivy Haskins*
- 3:25 PM **Managing Your Finances**  
*Jillian Ciocchetti*
- 3:45 PM **Building Leadership Skills**  
*Andrew Ibrahim*
- 4:05 PM **Panel Discussion III**  
*Session III Faculty plus*  
*CCF Chief Residents Jenny Chang & Nicole Brooks*
- 4:25 PM **Reflection Time / Day 1 Survey**
- 6:30 PM **Social / Networking Event**  
*Venue – TBD*

### Saturday, August 15, 2026

- SESSION IV**
- 7:15 AM **Breakfast / Exhibits**
- 8:00 AM **I Received Critical Feedback – Now What?**  
*Marcie Feinman*
- 8:25 AM **Complications and the Toll They Take**  
*Ajita Prabhu*
- 8:55 AM **Navigating Burnout**  
*David Krpata*
- 9:00 AM **Panel Discussion IV**  
*Session IV Faculty plus*  
*CCF Chief Resident Megan Obi*
- 10:00 AM **Break / Exhibits**
- SESSION V**
- 10:30 AM **Finding Joy in Life Outside of Work**  
*Katie Stackhouse*
- 10:45 AM **The Top 3 Things I Learned in My First Year of Practice**  
*Brianna Slatnick*
- 11:00 AM **Reflection Time / Day 2 Survey**
- 11:15 AM **Keynote Presentation:**  
**We Are Who We Are: Wisdom from My Mother**  
*Kari Rosenkranz*
- 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.”