

## WOMEN'S MICROSURGERY GROUP

## Looking Forward to Hawaii!



**Joan E. Lipa, MD, MSc, FRCS(C), FACS**  
Women's  
Microsurgery  
Group Chair

**W**e are gearing up for the Big Island, with some Big Plans! The WMG has moved forward with its Mentorship program, and we are trying to better match Mentors and Mentees and involve all those who are willing. In order to sign up as a Mentor or Mentee, visit the ASRM homepage: [www.microsurg.org](http://www.microsurg.org) and follow the link to the Women's Microsurgery Group. We have new "BE A MENTOR" and "BE A MENTEE" buttons that lead you to the simple application forms. Please register as soon as possible if you would like to participate in the Mentorship Program during this upcoming meeting in Hawaii.

**"The WMG is moving forward with its Mentorship program by involving all those who are willing."**

We are continuing the ASRM WMG Lunch Series, and this year will feature a session on Conflict Resolution. This is a critical skill for all of us, and we will have the opportunity to glean some expertise from our past, present, and future leaders – Greg Evans, Paul Cederna, and Julie Park. We hope to have an

interactive 'informal chat' setting that will be sure to entertain and inform. Pre-register is required to ensure a seat at the luncheon on Sunday, January 15, 2017, but there is no extra charge.

The WMG Reception will be held on Monday, January 16, 2017 from 6–7 pm, leading directly into the ASRM Celebration. It will be a great opportunity for meeting established friends and making new acquaintances and contacts, and enjoying some time with family too. Everyone is welcome!

ViOptix has generously funded two travel scholarships for the Women's Microsurgery Group, in order to foster early interest in reconstruction microsurgery for women medical students or residents who would not normally be attending the meeting. This year we received 39 applications! This speaks to the highly competitive nature of this scholarship and a bright future for microsurgery. The successful candidates will be notified later this month, and will be introduced at the WMG events. Look out for these future stars in microsurgery. **RM**

## Reflections from a ViOptix Travel Fellowship Winner

**I**would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the Women's Microsurgery Group (WMG) and ViOptix for giving me the opportunity to attend the 2016 ASRM Annual Meeting in Scottsdale, AZ. The meeting truly exuded the warmth, collegiality, and innovation that transcends and defines the microsurgery community.

It was immediately apparent to me after attending the first few sessions why many attendees regard this meeting as "special" and "one of their favorites." Given my interest in peripheral nerve reconstruction, I was captivated by the "Mind the Gap" combined panel, in which leaders in microneurosurgery discussed the pros and cons of using autogenous nerve versus nerve substitutes to reconstruct nerve gaps. The panelists highlighted previous research on this controversial topic and emphasized the importance of continued scientific discovery to improve outcomes for patients who suffer from these injuries. Later in the day, I attended the ASRM Achieving Excellence in Microsurgery Series, where major contributors in microsurgery shared their valuable insight and experience with the audience. Admittedly, I was somewhat starstruck

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WMG *Continued*

watching experts and leaders in microsurgery discuss their thoughts and lessons learned. We then had the opportunity to enjoy great food with old and new friends and colleagues at the Welcome Reception.

Given my passion for academic plastic surgery and research, I thoroughly enjoyed learning from the many scientific paper presentations at the meeting. I was impressed and inspired by the quality of research being conducted to advance our field. During lunch, the WMG hosted a session that was incredibly honest and insightful. Drs. Susan Mackinnon and David Song, two very esteemed Chiefs in Plastic Surgery, discussed their thoughts and experiences on negotiating. They shared valuable advice that I will surely remember going forward in my career. Later, the “Best Case/Best Save Competition” ended another fantastic day at the meeting. This session not only showcased the passion and innovation within the microsurgery community, but also the collegiality and humor that pervades the field. It was certainly an entertaining and memorable event. Equally inspiring and educational were the several panel discussions, Presidential Address, Buncke and Godina Lectures. All of these sessions highlighted the ASRM’s commitment to mentorship, leadership, and discovery.

Although this was my first time at the meeting, I immediately felt comfortable and welcomed by the microsurgery community. The WMG Reception was in large part why. At this outdoor reception, I was able to catch-

up with former colleagues, and was introduced to many new faces (to me) within the community. Dr. Julie Park and other members of the WMG graciously introduced me to fellow attendees. I want to especially thank Dr. Julie Park for her kindness, wisdom, and mentorship during the meeting and beyond.

Finally, I need to thank my mentors at the University of Michigan and Washington University for encouraging me to apply for this travel scholarship and for supporting my endeavors. The WMG partnered with ViOptix should be applauded for supporting and mentoring future women microsurgical and reconstructive surgeons by offering this special travel scholarship. Following in the footsteps of the WMG, it is imperative that we all ignite the passion we have for reconstructive microsurgery in young scholars and clinicians from various cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds to ensure continued innovation in our awesome field.

Again, I am extremely appreciative for the Women’s Microsurgery Group ViOptix Travel Scholarship that afforded me the opportunity to attend the 2016 ASRM Meeting and look forward to attending future meetings for years to come!

Katherine B. Santosa, MD  
*House Officer, University of Michigan  
Research Fellow, Washington University  
School of Medicine*



*Katherine B. Santosa,  
MD*

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