

## WOMEN'S MICROSURGERY GROUP

*Continued*

friends and welcome new members in a family-friendly atmosphere.

WMG continues to enjoy support from ViOptix for a travel scholarship that helps two award recipients attend the meeting. The spirit of the scholarship is to foster interest in careers in plastic surgery. The large number of highly competitive applicants demonstrates the high level of interest in this coveted scholarship. The Resident/Fellow award went to Dr. Stephanie Koonce of the Cleveland Clinic Florida. The medical student scholarship went to Ms. Alexandra Keane of Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. You can read about her experience in this issue of *Reconstructive Microsurgery*.

The mentorship program is going strong and continues to cultivate many fruitful mentee/mentor relationships. It is an opportunity for medical students, residents, fellows, and faculty just beginning their practice to get advice and support from more experienced faculty. If you would like to become a mentor, mentee, or get more information, please check out our webpage: [www.microsurg.org/WMG](http://www.microsurg.org/WMG). **RM**



*Past WMG Chairs Joan Lipa, MD (left) and Julie Park, MD at the WMG Reception*

## Reflections from a ViOptix Travel Fellowship Winner

By Alexandra Keane

I would like to extend my sincerest appreciation to the Women's Microsurgery Group and ViOptix for providing to me the opportunity to attend the 2018 American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery Annual Meeting. The meeting was invigorating, highlighting the collegiality, collaboration and scholarship within the field of plastic and reconstructive surgery.

The first combined panel that kicked off the meeting was titled "Targeted Muscle Reinnervation," that discussed the indications and operative approaches for targeted muscle reinnervation in the control of upper limb prosthetic devices. Additionally, this panel discussed



*Alexandra Keane with Dr. Alison Snyder-Warwick*

the integral role that sensory feedback will play in optimizing the function of future prostheses. I later attended the "Facial Reanimation" combined panel, where approaches to improving the cross face nerve



*Alexandra M. Keane*

graft were presented, along with the key factors considered in determining motor nerve selection for facial reanimation. Finally, I attended "CPR vs DNR: Reviving the Failing Flap vs. Throwing It in the Bucket." The panelists reviewed their approach to the failing flap, offered their thought processes in deciding to revise versus abandon, and provided techniques for salvage and improvement of flap outcomes. These panels were composed of leaders within these microsurgical fields, and it was a privilege for me to learn from their experiences and expertise.

Given my strong interest in research, I was enthused by the innovative, forward-thinking research presented by surgeon-scientists and trainees during the scientific paper presentations. The "Best Case/Best Save" portion of the program highlighted the humor and sense of camaraderie within the field of microsurgery, while also exhibiting the abundant creativity and awe-inspiring

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## WOMEN'S MICROSURGERY GROUP

## REFLECTIONS OF A TRAVEL FELLOWSHIP WINNER

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surgeries that have forever changed the lives of the presenters' patients. The "Presidential Panel: Achieving Excellence Through Serving and Sharing" provided a global perspective on plastic and reconstructive surgery, and shone a spotlight on the incredibly important work being done in the most underserved communities across the globe. Apart from the panels, lectures, and research presentations, all attendees were offered the opportunity to "Sew with the Masters," an incredible experience for attendees to improve upon, perfect, or learn new techniques in private one-on-one sessions with master microsurgeons.



*Ms. Keane speaking at the 2018 Annual Meeting*

One of the highlights of the meeting was the Women's Microsurgery Lunch Series, "Work Life Balance or Juggling Act?" Drs. Joan Lipa, Liza Wu, Anu Bajaj, and Aldona Spiegel discussed their personal approaches to maintaining a balance between their busy surgical practices, family, and



*Hiking above the resort*

hobbies that suits their personality and values. They then fielded questions from an audience of talented and ambitious young female microsurgeons (and aspiring medical students!), and provided candid, insightful, and valuable answers and advice.

I wish to extend a special thank you to Dr. Joan Lipa and Dr. Julie Park for their warm welcome, keen insights, and thoughtful mentorship during the conference, and for eagerly introducing me to fellow meeting attendees. Additionally, I would like to thank my mentors at Washington University School of Medicine, most notably Dr. Alison Snyder-Warwick and Dr. Katherine Santosa, for encouraging me to apply for the Women's Microsurgery Group ViOptix Travel Scholarship, and for providing unwavering support of my academic and research endeavors. I am incredibly

appreciative of ViOptix for their continued partnership with the Women's Microsurgery Group as they have supported countless aspiring women microsurgeons such as myself, thereby laying the groundwork for the future of the field of microsurgery.

I hope to be given the opportunity to become a member of the plastic and reconstructive surgery community in the future, and look forward to the possibility of attending the American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery Annual Meeting for years to come!

Alexandra M. Keane  
*Washington University School of  
 Medicine, MD Candidate*

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