



AOSA Connections

Pride in Action

July 2026 | Building Community. Advancing Leadership. Strengthening Surgery.

==== *A publication of the Association of Out Surgeons and Allies* ====

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Pride Is More Than a Month

Dear AOSA Members, Friends, and Allies,

As Pride Month comes to a close, we find ourselves reflecting not only on the celebrations of the past several weeks, but also on the remarkable community that continues to grow through AOSA.

Throughout June, members gathered across the country to celebrate Pride, reconnect with colleagues, mentor students and trainees, and strengthen the professional relationships that make our organization unique. From informal conversations over coffee to large community gatherings, each event reinforced something we have always believed: AOSA is more than a professional society. It is a community where surgeons, trainees, researchers, educators, and allies support one another, celebrate one another's successes, and work together to create a profession where everyone belongs.



This issue also marks an important milestone for our organization. With the launch of our redesigned website and the inaugural issue of **AOSA Connections**, we are taking meaningful steps toward strengthening communication and engagement throughout the year. Our hope is that this publication becomes more than a newsletter. We envision it as a place where members can celebrate accomplishments, learn about new opportunities, discover resources, and remain connected with colleagues across the country.

The momentum generated during Pride Month reminds us that visibility matters, mentorship matters, advocacy matters, and community matters. Every member who attended a regional Pride gathering, volunteered on a committee, mentored a trainee, welcomed a new colleague, or simply encouraged someone to join AOSA contributed to that momentum: Thank you!

Looking ahead, we are excited about the months to come. We will continue expanding our mentorship program, welcoming new institutional partners, preparing for our upcoming Annual Meeting, and creating additional opportunities for members to connect throughout the year. We also encourage you to consider serving in leadership as elections approach. The continued success of AOSA depends upon the dedication and generosity of members who are willing to help shape the organization's future.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for everything you do to strengthen AOSA and the surgical profession. We are honored to serve alongside you, and we look forward to seeing what we can accomplish together.

Warm regards,

The AOSA Board of Directors

COMMUNITY WITHOUT BORDERS

Celebrating Pride, Building Community

One of AOSA's greatest strengths has always been the relationships we build with one another.

Throughout this year's Pride season, those relationships came to life as members gathered in cities across the United States to celebrate visibility, friendship, mentorship, and the shared experiences that unite us as LGBTQIA+ surgeons, trainees, researchers, educators, and allies.

What began as a series of regional meetups quickly became something much larger. Across institutions, specialties, and career stages, members reconnected with longtime colleagues, welcomed new faces into the organization, and created new opportunities for mentorship and collaboration. These gatherings served as a reminder that while we work in different hospitals and communities, we remain part of a single professional family.

This year's Pride gatherings brought AOSA members together in:

- **New York City**
- **Philadelphia**
- **Chicago**
- **Dallas**
- **Madison, Wisconsin**
- **Edmonton, Alberta**



Our Pride celebration continues with an upcoming regional gathering in [Portland](#), and we look forward to welcoming members for another opportunity to connect, celebrate, and build community.

While each city had its own unique character, every event reflected the same spirit of inclusion, generosity, and belonging. Medical students met residents, residents met faculty, faculty reconnected with longtime colleagues, and new friendships were formed that will continue well beyond Pride Month.

For many participants, these events were their first introduction to AOSA. For others, they were an opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and reaffirm why organizations like ours remain so important. Surgery can be demanding, and professional communities that foster mentorship, support, and authentic connection are invaluable. Pride Month reminds us not only to celebrate who we are but also to invest in one another and in the future of our profession.

As AOSA continues to grow, we hope to expand regional programming throughout the year. Whether through



Pride gatherings, networking events, educational programs, or mentorship opportunities, our goal is to create spaces where members can connect in meaningful ways regardless of where they live or practice.

If you are interested in hosting a future regional event in your city, we would love to hear from you. Every gathering begins with a member willing to

bring colleagues together, and AOSA is committed to supporting those efforts.

Thank you to everyone who organized, hosted, attended, and photographed this year's events. Your enthusiasm and generosity made this Pride season one of the most successful in our organization's history.

Together, we continue building a stronger, more connected surgical community.

Pride 2026 by the Numbers

📍 6 Regional meetups completed
👥 Countless new professional connections

🎉 1 Upcoming Portland celebration
🌈 One growing national community



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Investing in Tomorrow's Leaders

Celebrating the Inaugural Recipient of the AOSA Presidential Pride Scholarship

This Pride season marked another milestone for the Association of Out Surgeons and Allies with the presentation of the **AOSA Presidential Pride Scholarship**.

Created to support LGBTQ+ surgical trainees and allies pursuing educational and professional development opportunities, the scholarship reflects AOSA's continued investment in cultivating future leaders in surgery. More than financial support, the award represents the organization's commitment to mentorship, visibility, and ensuring that talented individuals have opportunities to grow professionally while remaining connected to a supportive national community.

We are proud to recognize **Tai Miller** as the inaugural recipient of this distinguished award.

Tai exemplifies the qualities that AOSA strives to foster in every generation of surgeons: academic excellence, dedication to service, leadership, and a commitment to creating a more inclusive future for our profession. We congratulate Tai on this well-deserved recognition and look forward to following their continued accomplishments in the years ahead.



As our organization continues to grow, we hope this scholarship will expand in both scope and impact. Supporting emerging leaders today strengthens the surgical community of tomorrow, ensuring that future generations of LGBTQ+ surgeons and allies have access to mentorship, professional development, and a network that celebrates their success.

Congratulations again to Tai Miller on this inaugural achievement. We are honored to recognize your accomplishments and look forward to seeing the many contributions you will make to our profession.

About the Presidential Pride Scholarship

The Presidential Pride Scholarship was established with a simple but powerful goal: to help remove barriers that may prevent talented trainees from accessing educational opportunities, national meetings, and professional experiences that can shape the trajectory of a career. For many trainees, attending conferences, networking with mentors, and participating in leadership development programs can be transformative experiences. By investing in these opportunities, AOSA is investing in the future of surgery itself.

The scholarship reflects AOSA's ongoing commitment to:

- Supporting the next generation of surgical leaders
- Expanding access to educational opportunities
- Promoting mentorship and professional growth
- Investing in diversity, inclusion, and excellence within surgery

Additional information about future scholarship opportunities, eligibility, and application timelines will be shared through the AOSA website and social media channels.

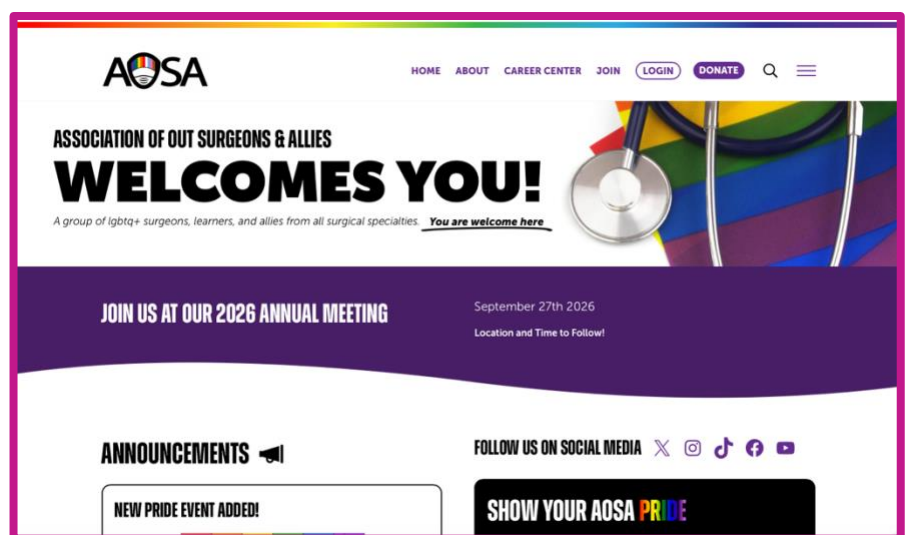
A NEW DIGITAL HOME FOR OUR COMMUNITY

A Home for Connection, Learning, and Leadership.

One of the most exciting milestones for AOSA this year has been the launch of our completely redesigned website.

While the refreshed appearance is immediately noticeable, the new site represents much more than an updated look. It was designed to become the central hub for everything AOSA, making it easier than ever for members to stay informed, engage with the organization, and discover opportunities for professional growth.

Whether you are a medical student exploring a career in surgery, a resident searching for mentorship, a practicing surgeon interested in leadership opportunities, or an institutional partner looking to connect with colleagues across the country, the new website was built with you in mind.



As AOSA continues to expand its educational programming, advocacy efforts, and member services, the website will serve as the primary destination for news, events, committee activities, scholarships, and organizational resources.

We are grateful to our members for their patience during the redevelopment process and excited to share this new platform with our community.

Explore What's New

Stay Current

Keep up with the latest organizational news, upcoming events, scholarship announcements, committee activities, and Annual Meeting updates.

Visit the [AOSA Homepage](#)

Join the Community

Whether you're a medical student, resident, fellow, practicing surgeon, researcher, or ally, becoming an AOSA member opens the door to mentorship, leadership opportunities, networking, educational programming, and a vibrant national community.

Become a [Member](#)

Grow Through Mentorship

Mentorship has always been one of the defining strengths of AOSA. Our newly relaunched Mentorship Program connects learners and early-career surgeons with experienced mentors committed to supporting professional development and long-term success.

Whether you are seeking guidance or looking to mentor others, we encourage you to participate.

Apply for the [Mentorship Program](#)

Celebrate Institutional Excellence

Learn more about institutions that are helping foster inclusive learning environments and supporting LGBTQ+ surgeons and trainees across the country.

The website highlights institutional partnerships, collaborative initiatives, and opportunities for additional programs to become involved.

Learn more about [Institutional Membership](#)

Scholarships and Awards

Stay informed about scholarship opportunities, travel awards, leadership initiatives, and future applications, including updates to the Presidential Pride Scholarship.

Learn more about [Scholarships and Awards](#)

Show Your AOSA Pride

The AOSA Swag Store allows members to represent the organization while supporting its mission.

Whether at conferences, regional meetups, or around your institution, AOSA apparel helps build visibility and community.

Visit the [Swag Store](#)

Support the Mission

Your generosity helps expand mentorship, educational programming, scholarships, advocacy initiatives, and member engagement.

Every contribution helps strengthen the future of AOSA.

Support [AOSA](#)

We Built This Site For YOU!

The website is more than an online resource. It is an extension of our community.

It is where new members discover AOSA for the first time.

It is where trainees find mentors.

It is where institutions learn about PRISM.

It is where scholarship opportunities are announced.

It is where future leaders begin getting involved.

As our organization continues to grow, the website will evolve alongside us, serving as the central destination for information, collaboration, and connection.

We encourage every member to bookmark the site, explore its resources, and share it with colleagues who may be interested in becoming part of the AOSA community.

Reminder

📌 Save the date: 2026 AOSA Annual Meeting is September 27, 2026! Time and location to follow!

Quick Links

Resource	Link
AOSA Home	https://www.outsurgeons.org
Join AOSA	https://www.outsurgeons.org/join-with-pride/
Mentorship Program	https://www.outsurgeons.org/mentorship-program/
Donate to AOSA	https://www.outsurgeons.org/donate-with-pride/
Scholarships	https://www.outsurgeons.org/past-scholarship-winners/
Career Center	https://aosa.mcjobboard.net/jobs

Connect with us!

			
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The strength of AOSA has always been its members. Whether you are just beginning your surgical journey or have spent decades in practice, there is a place for you to contribute, connect, and lead. We invite you to become part of the next chapter of AOSA.