

The Society of America Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES)



Overall Mission and Background

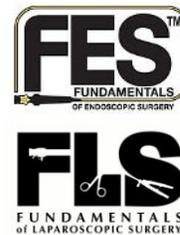
SAGES, the [Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons](http://www.sages.org), was founded 30 years ago with the mission of improving quality patient care through education, research, innovation and leadership, principally in gastrointestinal and endoscopic surgery. Representing a worldwide community of over 6,000 surgeons, SAGES seeks to bring excellence in and access to minimally invasive surgery (MIS) and emerging techniques to patients around the globe. You can read more about SAGES at www.sages.org.

SAGES Clinical Guidelines and Training for Standards of Practice in Surgical Procedures

SAGES has been at the forefront of best practices in laparoscopic and endoscopic surgery by researching, developing and disseminating the guidelines and training for standards of practice in surgical procedures. [Guidelines](#) are developed under the auspices of the organization and its various committees, and approved by the Board of Governors. Each clinical practice guideline has been systematically researched, reviewed and revised by the Guidelines Committee and also evaluated by an appropriate multidisciplinary team. Guidelines are scheduled for periodic review to allow incorporation of pertinent new developments in medical research knowledge, and practice. SAGES Clinical Guidelines are available at www.sages.org/publications/guidelines/.

SAGES Surgical Education

Five years ago, SAGES [Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery™](#) or FLS –the nation’s first ever hands-on skills test for performing minimally invasive surgery – became a requirement for board certification by the American Board of Surgery (ABS), the national certifying body for general surgeons and related specialists. FLS includes a comprehensive hands-on skills training component and assessment tool designed to teach the physiology, fundamental knowledge, and technical skills required in basic laparoscopic surgery.



FLS set the stage for FES, the [Fundamentals of Endoscopic Surgery™](#), also required by the ABS, and designed by SAGES to teach and evaluate the fundamental knowledge, clinical judgment and technical skills required in the performance of basic gastrointestinal (GI) endoscopic surgery (endoscopy). Both courses are required of graduating surgical residents in order to be eligible for board certification in general surgery. For more information, visit www.flsprogram.org and www.fesprogram.org.

SAGES Patient Information or Get Well Sooner

At [Getwellsooner.org](http://getwellsooner.org), a patient education project of SAGES, the mission is to improve the overall value of patient care through promoting the adoption of and access to minimally invasive surgical techniques. SAGES has developed [SAGES Patient Information Brochures](#) so patients can learn if they may be a candidate for less invasive surgery, questions to ask their surgeon or physician, common procedures, how to prepare, what happens during the operation and what to expect after surgery. More info at www.getwellsooner.org.



SAGES Education and Research Foundation

The [SAGES Education & Research Foundation](http://www.sagesfoundation.org) was created with the vision of a healthcare world in which all operative procedures are accomplished with the least possible physical trauma, discomfort, and loss of productive time for the patient. The mission of the SAGES Foundation is to advance laparoscopic, endoscopic, and emerging minimal access surgical methods by supporting reproducible scientific research, graduate and postgraduate education, and public information. For more information visit www.sagesfoundation.org.



SAGES Go Global

The mission of [SAGES Go Global](http://www.sages.org/projects/global-affairs/) is to promote global collaboration and exchange of knowledge to optimize patient care. Through its webcasting and International Proctoring Courses (IPC) SAGES operates on an international level providing surgical educational world-wide. SAGES Go Global has delivered webcasts to over 35 countries internationally – including Peru, Mongolia, Philippines and Tanzania. Over 8,000 surgeons worldwide have participated including US Military and the Royal Military. In addition, SAGES has conducted over 18 International Proctoring Courses and collectively these sites have conducted over 4,000 basic laparoscopic cases making the majority of the sites not only self-sustainable but a model for duplicating training efforts that expand across each country. In 2009, telementoring was added to the IPC curriculum to provide additional education and training between courses and as a means by which IPC sites could continue to be engaged with SAGES. For more information, please visit www.sages.org/projects/global-affairs/.



SAGES HELPS

Through [SAGES HELPS](http://www.sages.org/projects/humanitarian/), Humanity Education Leadership Perspective Support, SAGES Annual Meeting participants engage in several projects to support communities where the annual meeting is hosted. Projects have included blood drives, bone marrow drives, book drives, medical instrument drives, involvement in Habitat for Humanity projects and more. For more information, please visit www.sages.org/projects/humanitarian/.

SAGES Humanitarian Mission

As part of the [SAGES Humanitarian Mission](http://www.sages.org/humanitarian-service/), SAGES members generously participate in a variety of community and medical volunteering programs in the U.S. and abroad. By visiting the [Humanitarian Registry](http://www.sages.org/humanitarian-registry/), members can share their own experiences, perspectives and knowledge gained from volunteering and learn about others experiences as well. For more information, please visit www.sages.org/humanitarian-service/.