

Scope



WINTER 2015



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

DR. L. MICHAEL BRUNT

"As the SAGES "calendar" reaches its 8th month and we turn to 2015, I'd like to take the opportunity to reflect on some of the highlights and accomplishments so far this year..."

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT	2
SAGES 2015-2016 SLATE	3
CONTINUING EDUCATION & CONFLICT OF INTEREST TASKFORCE	4
FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL UPDATE	4
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE.....	5
FLEXIBLE ENDOSCOPY COMMITTEE UPDATE.....	5
SAGES BRANDEIS AWARD WINNERS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE	6
THE FOUNDATION FOR SURGICAL FELLOWSHIPS	7
OPEN TO MIS COMMITTEE UPDATE	7
GLOBAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE UPDATE	8
SAGES MEMBERSHIP: JOIN SAGES TODAY!.....	9
FUNDAMENTALS & HERNIA TASK FORCE UPDATES.....	10.11
GUIDELINES COMMITTEE UPDATES & SAGES ADOPT PROGRAM.....	12
SAFE CHOLECYSTECTOMY TASK FORCE & SMART COMMITTEE	13
RESEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE & AMA MEMBERSHIP.....	14
THE 9 TH ANNUAL SAGES FOUNDATION AWARDS LUNCHEON.....	15
SAGES 2016 MEETING: SAVE-THE-DATE!	17
SAGES 2015 SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE.....	19

June 2014 - SAGES Go Global International Proctoring Course & Train the Trainers Course, Hospital Bocalandro, Buenos Aires, Argentina. See page 8.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT DR. L. MICHAEL BRUNT



L. Michael Brunt, MD
SAGES President 2014-2015

As the SAGES “calendar” reaches its 8th month and we turn to 2015, I’d like to take the opportunity to reflect on some of the highlights and accomplishments so far this year. It is amazing to consider how many projects, ideas, and activities are ongoing and continue to establish SAGES presence in the surgical community. In an effort to keep you better informed, we have instituted weekly email blasts highlighting SAGES initiatives and activities from our committees and work groups.

This year we celebrate the 10th anniversary of FLS, the story of which was detailed in the November Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons. I encourage you to read this remarkable story of vision and perseverance from SAGES leaders who brought this program into existence and turned it into the first validated, high stakes skills and knowledge assessment program in the field (www.flsprogram.org/anniversary-fls-program/). FLS has now been taken by over 10,000 residents, fellows and practicing surgeons since its inception, a truly remarkable accomplishment.

SAGES also officially launched two major patient safety initiatives this year: 1) the FUSE program which is now fully operational and ready for use and 2) the Safe Cholecystectomy program. The Safe Chole Task Force has begun work on a comprehensive web-based educational program, but there are already strategies surgeons can use now to minimize the risk of a bile duct injury. Please take a moment to review this short feature on our web site and, if you perform cholecystectomy, incorporate these approaches into your practice and spread the word about SAGES Safe Cholecystectomy program (<http://www.sages.org/safe-cholecystectomy-program/>).

In education and training, the American Board of Surgery has initiated discussions with the various specialty surgical societies about the need for a better definition of standards and assessment for non-ACGME post-residency fellowship training. SAGES has been working with the Fellowship Council and the SSAT to establish a joint task force to look at this issue led jointly by Lee Swanstrom (SAGES) and Nat Soper (SSAT) and with SAGES representation from Aurora Pryor, Danny Scott and John Mellinger. We fully support this initiative by the Board and are confident that this process will strengthen the fellowship training and certification process.

An important function of the society leadership is to set the short and long term agenda for the organization for the coming years. In August, the SAGES Executive Committee held a leadership retreat at Stone Mountain, Georgia, with the primary purpose of examining longer range issues of critical importance to SAGES that included a detailed review of finances, industry relations, the SAGES Education and Research Foundation, and the journal. The time was highly productive and from it emerged a number of action items that have been taken back to the committees for implementation. The SAGES Leadership Retreat and Board meetings were held in Charleston, SC, November 14-15. The six topics for discussion at the Leadership retreat along with the group leaders were:

- Membership (John Marks and Matt Goldblatt)
- Industry relations (Fred Brody and Gretchen Purcell-Jackson)
- SAGES education (Brent Matthews and Anne Lidor)
- Fellowships and the future of advanced GI-MIS training (Danny Scott and Aurora Pryor)
- Regulatory agencies and SAGES involvement (Brian Dunkin and Ben Poulouse)
- Annual meeting (Santiago Horgan and Andrew Wright)

Some of the key recommendations going forward from the fall retreat are:

- Better define and communicate the value of SAGES membership to our active and candidate member groups and the surgical community
- Initiate a membership recruitment campaign with the goal that every SAGES committee member will enroll 1-2 new members to SAGES by our Spring meeting
- Establish a SAGES education coordinator (Dan Jones will serve in this role) to foster cohesiveness in our numerous educational offerings and hire an information management expert to help organize our educational content
- Work to collaborate and partner with various other groups including the FDA, Joint Commission, other surgical organizations to impact quality of care in the field
- Update the SAGES white paper on industry and professional medical organizations
- Seek non-traditional funding opportunities to support SAGES educational and research initiatives
- Develop a mentoring/coach program in conjunction with the annual meeting

The slate of officers for the coming year was put forth at the November Board meeting by the Nominating Committee and congratulations go to the next President Brian Dunkin, President-Elect Danny Scott, to Aurora Pryor, Horacio Asbun and Jeff Marks who will be joining the Executive Committee in April, and to new Board members Rob Lim and Patricia Sylla. Brian Dunkin has already begun work on initiatives for his Presidential year and Drs. Dunkin, Scott and I are working together to ensure continuity in ongoing projects and development of new programs over the next 3 years. I would also like to acknowledge Tonia Young-Fadok and Adrian Park for their years of dedicated service on the Executive Committee and look forward to continuing to work with them on the SAGES Board. SAGES also thanks Eli Lerner for his years of service on as our AMA representative and who will be succeeded in this role by Paresh Shah.

Finally, an outstanding program has been out together for the annual meeting in Nashville April 15-18 by Aurora Pryor and Mike Holzman with the theme of “promoting a universal culture of innovation, safety, and improved outcomes in surgery.” Meeting highlights include Plenary addresses by Horacio Asbun (inaugural Humanitarian lecture), world famous high altitude mountaineer Ed Viesturs (Karl Storz lecturer) and Frank Lewis, Executive Director of the American Board of Surgery (Gerald Marks lecturer). We will, I remind you, be in Music City, USA, and the Friday night main event will not disappoint, I promise.

It has been a memorable year for me and I believe a productive one for our organization. I look forward to seeing you all in Nashville in April.

Respectfully submitted,
L. Michael Brunt, MD
SAGES President

SAGES 2015-2016 SLATE OF OFFICERS

The following Officers and new or re-appointed Board members were approved by SAGES Board of Governors in November, 2014. All new terms will begin upon conclusion of the SAGES annual meeting in Nashville.



PRESIDENT
Brian J. Dunkin, MD



PRESIDENT-ELECT
Daniel J. Scott, MD



1ST VICE PRESIDENT
Daniel B. Jones, MD, MS



2nd VICE PRESIDENT
Horacio J. Asbun, MD



TREASURER
Aurora Pryor, MD



SECRETARY
Jeffrey M. Marks, MD

BOARD MEMBERS: THREE-YEAR TERMS

RE-APPOINTMENTS (3-YEAR TERMS):

Santiago Horgan, MD
John D. Mellinger, MD
Adrian Park, MD
Thadeus L. Trus, MD
Tonia M. Young-Fadok, MD
Natan Zundel, MD

NEW MEMBERS:

Robert B. Lim, MD
Patricia Sylla, MD

SAGES REPRESENTATIVE TO THE AMA

HOUSE OF DELEGATES:

Paresh C. Shah, MD



ABOUT SAGES

The mission of the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) is to improve quality patient care through education, research, innovation and leadership, principally in gastrointestinal and endoscopic surgery. SAGES is a leading surgical society, representing a worldwide community of over 6,000 surgeons that can bring minimal access surgery, endoscopy and emerging techniques to patients worldwide. The organization sets the clinical and educational guidelines on standards of practice in various procedures, critical to enhancing patient safety and health.

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST TASKFORCE UPDATE



The Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgery (SAGES) has been resurveyed by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) and **awarded Accreditation with Commendation for 6 years** as a provider of continuing medical education for physicians. SAGES' accreditation has been extended until **November 30, 2020**.

The ACCME serves as the body accrediting institutions and organizations offering Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits to physicians and health care providers. ACCME accreditation seeks to assure the medical community and the public that SAGES provides physicians with relevant, effective, practice-based continuing medical education that supports US health care quality improvement.

The ACCME employs a rigorous, multilevel process for evaluating institutions' continuing medical education programs according to the high accreditation standards adopted by all seven ACCME member organizations. These organizations of medicine in the US are the American Board of Medical Specialties, the American Hospital Association, the American Medical Association, the Association for Hospital Medical Education, the Association of American Medical Colleges, the Council of Medical Specialty Societies, and the Federation of State Medical Boards of the US, Inc.

Timothy Farrell, MD, SAGES Continuing Education Committee Chair and Professor of Surgery at UNC School of Medicine, said, "This accolade places SAGES in the top tier of all CME providers, including some of the nation's most prestigious professional medical societies and medical schools." Approximately 20 percent of the nearly 2,000 medical education organizations currently accredited by the ACCME have achieved "Accreditation with Commendation" status.

"SAGES attainment of Accreditation with Commendation by the ACCME is a resounding endorsement of the value that our society places on bringing high quality CME programs to the surgical community. The SAGES CME committee and staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that our CME standards are at the highest level and are to be commended for their efforts on behalf of the entire organization," said L. Michael Brunt, MD, SAGES President and Professor of Surgery, Washington University School of Medicine.

SAGES Executive Director Sallie Matthews said, "SAGES continues to lead the way with innovative surgical education, and this accomplishment validates our efforts. For example, the SAGES Continuing Education Committee has published three manuscripts describing research in the field of continuing medical education. Our activities, such as the Fundamental Use of Surgical Energy, demonstrate SAGES' commitment to evidence-driven education based on professional practice gaps in our target audience and focused on the improvement of quality care and patient safety."

For more information, please visit SAGES website www.sages.org, or contact SAGES Education Department at 310-437-0544 ext 102.

FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL UPDATE



The Fellowship Council was created to foster the development of high quality fellowships in Minimally Invasive, Gastrointestinal, Flexible Endoscopy, Bariatric, Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary, Thoracic and Colorectal surgery.

The Fellowship Council is governed by leadership drawn from its component societies including SAGES, ASMB, SSAT, AHPBA, ASCRS. All fellowships within the Fellowship Council are subject to a rigorous accreditation process to ensure that a certain standard of educational experience for fellows is insured. Additional activities of the Fellowship Council include assurance of a fair and equitable match for all fellow applicants and fellowships, annual monitoring of fellow satisfaction, and development and validation of assessment tools for monitoring fellow progress.

The Fellowship Council continues to grow and currently represents 160 programs and over 200 fellowship positions.

The Fellowship Council's application and match process for surgical fellowships beginning **August 1, 2016** is now open and will close on **February 16, 2015**. For more information on applying, visit www.fellowshipcouncil.org.

For additional information about the application and match process, email info@fellowshipcouncil.org or call (310) 437-0555, ext. 125.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

SAGES began sending weekly e-blasts in September of this year highlighting the incredible work of the organization and the weekly format has been met with much interest and excitement. Below is a list of topics that have been covered.

- SAGES Awarded Accreditation with Commendation for 6 Years as Provider of CME for Physicians
- SAGES Go Global: Laparoscopy in Mongolia – A Model for Health Systems Strengthening by Dr. Raymond Price
- SAGES Go Global: Leveraging Laparoscopy and Endoscopy to Change Global Health
- SAGES Announces 2015 Medical Student Scholarship Award
- FLS – Celebrating a Decade of Skill-Based Surgical Education
- Get Well Sooner PSA and Media Campaign
- SAGES Launches Program to Reduce Bile Duct Injury
- SAGES 2015 Annual Meeting: Promoting a Universal Culture of Innovation, Safety & Improved Outcomes in GI Surgery
- SAGES Launches “Get Well Sooner” Health Education Initiative
- Attend SAGES Led Lectures at the ACS Meeting
- Surgical Protocol for Possible or Confirmed Ebola Cases
- FUSE Surgical Training Program Aims to Reduce OR Fires and Enhance Safety around Operating Room Use of Energy Devices
- Enhanced Recovery: The Tool You Need to Go Beyond Minimally Invasive Surgery
- SAGES Joins Pilot to Improve Colorectal Cancer Screening Rates



All e-blasts are published to the SAGES blog and can be viewed in entirety at <http://www.sages.org/blog-posts/>

If you have any story suggestions for an upcoming e-blast, please contact mary@sages.org.

FLEXIBLE ENDOSCOPY COMMITTEE UPDATE

THE SAGES VIDEO ATLAS OF ENDOSCOPY HAS ARRIVED!

Anyone who performs flexible endoscopy knows that recognizing pathology during the procedure in the dynamic environment of the GI tract is very different from looking at a static image on a page or screen. This is why the Flexible Endoscopy Committee has developed the Video Atlas of Endoscopy.

The atlas already contains nearly 200 video vignettes of normal and abnormal findings in the GI tract as viewed through the endoscope. Each clip is approximately 60 seconds or less and designed to give the viewer multiple examples of the same type of finding. The result is a product that provides a viewing experience similar to that of conducting hundreds of endoscopy procedures to see multiple examples of common GI findings (such as post bariatric surgery anatomy or different sessile polyps in the colon).

The SAGES Video Atlas of Endoscopy is divided into six categories: It can be found at: www.sages.org/sages-video-atlas-endoscopy

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Airway (as seen during upper endoscopy) | 4. Duodenum |
| 2. Esophagus | 5. Small Bowel |
| 3. Stomach | 6. Colon. |

THIS EXCITING PROGRAM IS STILL A WORK IN PROGRESS AND WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The Atlas is meant to be a living, growing educational tool with new videos added regularly. We are encouraging all members to upload their own videos.

A guide to the types of images needed for the Atlas and instructions for uploading can be found at: www.sages.org/video_atlas.

For contributing to this important program you will be given author credit within the atlas for your video. If you have any questions, please contact Christine Cahill at: Christine@sages.org.

WINTER 2015

SAGES BRANDEIS AWARD WINNERS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE



I recently attended the Brandeis University Leadership Program in Health Policy and Management. This was an information packed course that covered a wide variety of topics from healthcare economics and policy, to bundled payments, to operations, leadership, conflict negotiation, and financial literacy. This was basically everything I never learned in medical school but wish I had - in 6 days!

The course speakers were outstanding and truly experts on their subjects, often having played a major role in the evolution of the content they covered. There were a nice mix of lectures, small group work, and simulations. I especially enjoyed the simulations where I learned that I can be quick to make assumptions (assumptions destroy facts), the do's and don'ts of change management (I managed to irritate a number of simulated executives with poor communication and ill-advised pilot projects), and other valuable lessons.

Overall, I would highly recommend this course for anyone interested in healthcare leadership at any level.

Jon Gould, MD

Chief, Division of General Surgery
Walker Chair in General Surgery
Associate Professor of Surgery
Medical College of Wisconsin



I wanted to thank SAGES for the honor and opportunity of being one of the recipients of the 2014 scholarship to the Brandeis University Leadership Program in Health Policy and Management.

Led by Jon Chilingirian, PhD, this intense week-long course covered such topics as the history and current state of US Health Care policy and economics (led by Stuart Altman, PhD, a major participant in shaping US Health Care since the Nixon administration), leadership skill building, conflict negotiations and financial literacy for physician leaders while also providing the tools to empower surgeons to take on such challenges at their local institutions and beyond.

It gave big-picture perspective while still teaching techniques dealing with the minute details. It has personally opened my eyes on how I can approach a variety of issues, leading me down paths I did not know were previously available to me. Having the ability to work and interact with different surgeons in a variety of specialties from across the country was an asset to the program, and will also help to strengthen a core group of surgeon leaders to help guide us into the future.

I highly recommend this program to any interested, it was worth every minute.

Ross F. Goldberg, MD

Chief of Surgery
Maricopa Integrated Health System
Phoenix, AZ

THE FOUNDATION FOR SURGICAL FELLOWSHIPS: IMPACTING THE FUTURE OF SURGICAL TRAINING



In the early 1900's the first human diagnostic laparoscopy occurred; since then surgical innovation has grown by leaps and bounds. With each generation of progress, the need for advanced training for surgeons has also grown. The need for specialized surgical skills for general surgeons created a large demand for training that was not included in residency or ACGME-accredited Fellowships (1).

The need for advanced training in laparoscopic surgery resulted in the rapid development of fellowships for which there was no oversight. Different groups stepped up to try to bring order to the training process including SAGES, SSAT, AHPBA, ASMBS, ASCRS and later the Fellowship Council. For more than 15 years, an informal and unplanned coalition of hospitals, surgeon practices, and industry funded such fellowship training in these non ACGME accredited fellowship programs. Then in 2010, The Foundation for Surgical Fellowships (FSF) was founded due to the need for an independent institution to administer and distribute fellowship funds free of

Industry influence. For the past 4 years, through a merit based, blinded application and review process, the Foundation has distributed funds across the United States allowing programs to train over 600 fellows to date.

The availability of high quality complex surgical care throughout the U.S. in the future will be dependent on sustaining these fellowships.

Despite the training provided by these fellowships, some forms of complex surgical care are still not available to many patients (2). The need for training continues to increase yet the availability of funding becomes harder to come by. Unlike some Foundations that have a base of individual support, most patients treated by Fellowship trained physicians have no idea that their health benefitted from the efforts of the Foundation. The funding problem for the FSF and the fellowships they fund is serious. The FSF needs input and support from the surgical community at large to develop new sources of funding that will sustain the critical training currently being received by fellows. To read more about this topic please visit: <http://bariatrictimes.com/new-column-the-foundation-for-surgical-fellowships-impacting-the-future-of-surgical-training/>. To get involved or make a donation please visit www.surgicalfellowships.org or call the Foundation at (310) 424-3332.

(1) Fowler. D and Hogle. N. *Surgical Endoscopy*. 2013 Oct 25;27(10):3548-54. Epub 2013 May 25

(2) Cooper M, Hutfless S, Segev DL, Ibrahim A, Lyu H, Makary M. *Hospital level under-utilization of minimally invasive surgery in the United States: retrospective review*. *BMJ* 2014;349:g4198.

OPEN TO MIS COMMITTEE UPDATE



The Open to MIS Committee officially launched the Get Well Sooner Health Education Campaign (www.getwellsooner.org) and implemented the following activities in order to raise awareness and adoption of minimally invasive surgery:

- Published program brochures and distributed them along with other promotional items at the ACS Clinical Congress
- Prepared media kits for physicians and institutions <http://www.sages.org/get-well-sooner/media-kit/>
- Conducted a PR and social media campaign and fully updated and integrated the Get Well Sooner website within the overall SAGES website to maximize SEO (Search Engine Optimization)
- Published updates in the SAGES weekly e-blast and conducted a targeted e-mail campaign reaching an audience of over 1 million contacts in select demographics
- Reached over 95 million households with a national primetime TV spot on CNBC, and an additional 50+ million households with regional commercial airings during Prime Time on networks including but not limited to CNN, Fox News, MSNBC, CNBC, Family Channel and CNN Headline News in the top 100 DMAs (Designated Market Areas)
- Finalized a 6-minute segment that has been airing as part of the award-winning Breakthroughs series hosted by Martin Sheen on public television affiliates nationwide

The overall goals of the Get Well Sooner Initiative are to:

- Increase adoption rate in safe and effective MIS procedures
- Increase awareness among referring physicians of minimally invasive therapeutic options
- Enlighten and educate the public about benefits of MIS, what happens during a minimally invasive procedure, common MIS procedures and additional resources such as SAGES patient brochures
- Enlighten the press, employers and legislative bodies about the options and their patients as well as cost benefits

For more information, visit www.getwellsooner.org, Join "Get Well Sooner" on Facebook at www.facebook.com/gwsooner or on Twitter at @gwsooner

WINTER 2015

SAGES GLOBAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

LEVERAGING LAPAROSCOPY AND ENDOSCOPY TO CHANGE GLOBAL HEALTH

The mission of **SAGES Global Affairs Committee** (www.sages.org/projects/go-global) is to promote global collaboration and exchange of knowledge to optimize patient care.

SAGES Global Affairs Committee, since its founding in 2006, has:

- Held over 21 International Proctoring Courses (IPCs).
 - Collectively these sites have performed 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.
- Conducted an annual webcast from the SAGES Congress and broadcast content to over 35 countries internationally in areas such as Peru, the Philippines and Tanzania.
- Partnered with the U.S. Armed Forces and Royal Armed Forces to broadcast meeting content into remote locations in Iraq and Afghanistan that has engaged over 8,000 surgeons worldwide.
- Added telementoring to the IPC curriculum in 2009 as a means of expanding educational efforts and to enhance sustainability. The Haiti Telementoring Lecture Series pilot launch was conducted in March of 2014.
- Provided “Best International Paper Awards” which are travel grants that allow for international presenters to participate in SAGES at the annual congress, in hands-on courses, and as a member.
- Piloted a Train the Trainers course in Mongolia in 2013, led by Drs. Raymond Price and Mike Marohn, to assist local faculty with developing training techniques. In partnership with the Swanson Foundation, the Ministry of Health and the Mongolia Surgical Society, this program has now reached over 4,000 laparoscopic cases performed. A Train the Trainers Course was also officially launched in June of 2014 in Argentina.
- Launched the Academic Exchange program fall 2014, an observership exchange program with the Chinese Medical Association (CMA).
- In 2015, to further the Global mission, will introduce an IPC- Flexible Endoscopy curriculum.

For more information, please visit www.sages.org/projects/global_affairs.



Go Global International Proctoring Buenos Aires Argentina: Team Training

Join SAGES Today



"SAGES has been the most meaningful part of my surgical life. I can't imagine what I'd do without it."

"SAGES brought together a group of energetic, bold, visionaries who had the guts to do things that hadn't been done before and with that, they changed the history of the world and they changed surgery."

"SAGES is the place that I come in my professional life to get excited, to get energized, and to work on projects that have real meaning and are going to come to fruition and have impact. And, it's a place where I meet my friends and make meaningful professional connections."



See your membership pay for itself and beyond!

Join now and become eligible for the member rate at future meetings and enjoy the benefits of SAGES membership including:

- › Cutting-edge education and professional development programs
- › Networking with colleagues and experts in the field of gastrointestinal and endoscopic surgery
- › Support for achievement in laparoscopic and endoscopic surgery
- › Exposure to state of the art surgical technology and techniques
- › Annual subscription to the *Surgical Endoscopy Journal*
- › Member-only research awards and career development grants
- › Substantial savings on meeting fees
- › Leadership Opportunities
- › ... and so much more!

SAGES Mission

Improve quality patient care through education, research, innovation and leadership, principally in gastrointestinal and endoscopic surgery.

Visit www.sages.org/membership/benefits or call 310. 437.0544, ext. 156, to learn more.

WINTER 2015

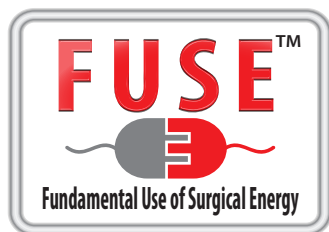
FUNDAMENTALS OF ENDOSCOPIC SURGERY



- FES Testing is now available at over 20 test centers across North America, and 20 more locations will be added in the next few months. A list of test centers is on www.fesprogram.org, plus testing will be available at the 2015 SAGES Annual Meeting in Nashville, TN.
- Special FES test voucher pricing for residents, surgeons in fellowships, and practicing surgeons is now available for a limited time. Visit www.surgicalfundamentals.org to purchase FES test vouchers. The FES web-based didactic curriculum is available free online at www.fundamentals-didactics.com
- Surgeons completing their residency in the 2017-2018 academic year or thereafter must complete the ABS Flexible Endoscopy Curriculum to be eligible for board certification in general surgery. The curriculum contains several milestones that must be attained through the course of general surgery residency training, one of which is successful completion of FES.



FUNDAMENTAL USE OF SURGICAL ENERGY



- SAGES proudly announces the launch of the FUSE program, designed to educate surgeons and affiliated staff about the safe use of surgical energy-based devices in the OR, endoscopy suite, and other procedural areas.
- The FUSE web-based didactic curriculum is available free online at www.fundamentals-didactics.com and covers topics such as principles of electrosurgical devices, integration of energy systems with other devices, and prevention of operating room fires.
- FUSE is directed toward practicing surgeons regardless of specialty, surgical nurses, and other Allied Health personnel working in the operating room and other procedural areas. Upon purchase, up to 12 CME and Continuing Nursing Education Contact Hours are available.
- FUSE testing will be available at the 2015 SAGES Annual Meeting in Nashville, TN. For more information on FUSE, please go to www.fuseprogram.org. To purchase FUSE test vouchers or CME/ Credit Hours, visit www.fuse.surgicalfundamentals.org or call 310-437-0544, ext. 140.

HERNIA TASK FORCE

Hernia Task Force members are developing a procedure-based training focused on decision-making in managing recurrent inguinal hernias. The program will be rooted in best evidence, aimed at practicing surgeons, and delivered through an interactive, web-based platform (virtual patient simulation) that is accessible to learners on demand and in a safe environment. The goal of the program is to provide surgeons with opportunities to practice and develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills through interactive virtual patient cases intended to enhance performance of inguinal surgery repair.

FUNDAMENTALS OF LAPAROSCOPIC SURGERY

- November 2014 marked the official ten-year anniversary of the launch of the FLS Program, and we are proud to announce that we reached another milestone exceeding over 10,000 successful FLS tests!
- The FLS committee recently surveyed SAGES members to collect data to update the FLS examination and to develop/revise FLS educational materials. Over 600 responses were submitted, and entered in a drawing for American Express gift cards. Winners include:
 - Ronnie Adams, Houston, Texas
 - Shahir Elkes Agaiby, Ridgefield Park, New Jersey
 - Scott Bloom, Staten Island, New York
 - Eric Canopy, Springfield, Illinois
 - John Ferrara, Roanoke, Virginia
 - Dominick Gadaleta, Manhasset, New York
 - Michael Gora, Kincardine, Ontario, Canada
 - Gabriel Guzman, Managua, Nicaragua
 - John Hagen, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
 - Caitlin Halbert, Northport, New York
 - Obinna Igwilo, Fayetteville, North Carolina
 - Tiffany Kittmer, Dundas, Ontario, Canada
 - Nathan LaFayette, Waterbury, Connecticut
 - Danny Liu, Joplin, Missouri
 - Satya Malladi, Edmond, Oklahoma
 - Francisco Reyes Martin, Fort Wayne, Indiana
 - Katherine Moreno, Seattle, Washington
 - Andrew Nunn, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 - Jaydeep Palep, Mumbai, India
 - Paolo Rossi, Perugia, Italy
 - Matthew Singer, Los Angeles, California
 - Ian Soriano, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 - Christopher Steffes, Detroit, Michigan
 - Alexander Sunad, Andhra Pradesh, India



The survey results were analyzed at a retreat in Charleston, SC by a group of dedicated experts, led by Dr. Melina Vassiliou. Thanks go to: L. Michael Brunt, David Earle, Gerald Fried, Jon Gould, John Mellinger, E. Matthew Ritter, Neal Seymour and Lelan Sillin for their participation.

FLS welcomes two new International Test Centers: IHU in Strasbourg, France, and King Fahad Medical City in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, joining the existing international test centers in Singapore and Israel.

There are now over 85 approved FLS Test Centers – see the full list at www.flsprogram.org/testing-information/fls-test-centers.

FLS testing will be available in Nashville, TN at the 2015 SAGES Annual Meeting – for more information visit www.flsprogram.org or call 310-437-0544, ext. 137.

GUIDELINES COMMITTEE

The Guidelines Committee has partnered with faculty from the Center of Evidence-based Medicine (CEBM) at the Brown University of Public Health (SPH) to achieve the highest quality standards in guideline development. Members of the SPH group have a breadth and depth of expertise in conducting reviews and meta-analyses, both for the government and private sector. The collaborative work will commence in January 2015. Guideline committee members will benefit from receiving assistance with formulating guidelines and training of work group members to further facilitate guideline development.

SAGES ADOPT PROGRAM

2015 – 2016: Advanced hernia techniques including open anterior and posterior components separation laparoscopic primary defect closure
GOAL: SAGES ADOPT Program will assist you to expand and/or improve your surgical practice through adoption of new procedures/techniques.

Participants in this 1-year-long program will receive the following:

- Instruction by SAGES experts during the 2015 Hernia Hands on Course utilizing a standardized teaching technique (Lapco TT),
- Mentorship through the year by SAGES experts and faculty,
- Mentor – mentee webinar to cover additional techniques,
- Follow up surveys and question & answer opportunities,
- Face-to-face interaction with mentors at the ACS Clinical Congress in October 2015,
- Opportunity to present your outcomes at the 2016 SAGES Annual Meeting.

At the 2016 SAGES Annual Meeting, those volunteer learners who have fully participated in the program will have the opportunity to present their outcome data as a podium presentation.

Mentors will be involved in the presentation development and submission process.

Mentors for this program include: Drs. Wil Cobb, William Hope, Mike Liang, Archana Ramaswamy, Dimitrios Stefanidis and Shawn Tsuda as well as CME Committee members John Paige, Jonathan Dort, and Lisa Mclemore.

Register today! There are only 12 spots available for this pilot program!

To participate:

STEP ONE: Register for the SAGES “All Things Hernia” Hands On Course: www.sages.org/meetings/registration/

STEP TWO: Select the ADOPT Program option



Questions? Contact Erin Schwarz, SAGES CME Manager, erin@bscmanage.com

WINTER 2015

SAFE CHOLECYSTECTOMY TASK FORCE



The Safe Cholecystectomy Task Force is hosting a panel focused on preventing Bile Duct Injuries and improving safety in Cholecystectomy during the 2015 SAGES meeting. The panel Avoiding Bile Duct Injury and Other Untoward Outcomes – Optimizing Your Approach to Cholecystectomy will reinforce the strategies on how to achieve a Culture of Safety for Cholecystectomy and minimize the risk of bile duct surgery.

The Safe Cholecystectomy Task Force has identified six strategies surgeons can employ to adopt a universal culture of safety for Cholecystectomy and minimize the risk of bile duct injury. You may find more information on the SAGES Safe Cholecystectomy Program and six strategies on the SAGES website.

1. Use the Critical View of Safety (CVS) method of identification of the cystic duct and cystic artery during laparoscopic cholecystectomy.
2. Perform an Intra-operative time-out during laparoscopic cholecystectomy prior to clipping, cutting or transecting any ductal structures.
3. Understand the potential for aberrant anatomy in all cases.
4. Make liberal use of cholangiography or other methods to image the biliary tree intraoperatively.
5. Recognize when the dissection is approaching a zone of great danger and halt the dissection before entering the zone. Finish the operation by a safe method other than cholecystectomy if conditions around the gallbladder are too dangerous.
6. Get help from another surgeon when the dissection or conditions are difficult.

SMART COMMITTEE UPDATE

On Saturday, November 22, 2014, SAGES SMART program (Surgical Multimodal Accelerated Recovery Trajectory), together with the Enhanced Recovery Society of Canada, held its annual course on enhanced recovery for gastrointestinal surgery.

Course directors Dr. Franco Carli, Dr. Liane Feldman and Dr. Sender Liberman led this one day symposium for surgeons, anesthesiologists and surgical nurses that addressed the issues related to the organization of enhanced recovery programs for gastrointestinal surgery from a multidisciplinary point of view.

Attendance was over 100 people and was webcast for those who could not attend in person. The course included a review of the evidence behind the interventions included in the SMART enhanced recovery approach, including patient education, reduction of metabolic stress, fluid management, multimodal analgesia, and early nutrition/mobilization.

The faculty included noted surgeons, anesthesiologists and nurses, as well as a patient who shared her personal story of enhanced recovery. The afternoon sessions included talks on implementation of enhanced recovery programs in colorectal, upper GI, bariatric and hepatobiliary surgery.



WINTER 2015

RESEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

SAGES Announces the 2015 Medical Student Summer Research Award!

SAGES is now accepting applications for a Medical Student Summer Research Award.
THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2015.

The research award is open to all medical students who plan to perform research under the supervision of SAGES Member Mentor. You do not need to be a SAGES member to apply. One medical student will be awarded a \$4,000 stipend to support a summer research proposal.

The research proposals will be reviewed by members of the SAGES Research and Career Development Committee. One winner will be notified by **April 24, 2015**.

To learn more about submission requirements, selection process and to apply, please visit www.sages.org/projects/medical-student-summer-research-award-application

WHY MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMA IS IMPORTANT

Are you concerned about reimbursement? What about healthcare reform? Do you wonder about patient's diminishing access to quality care? If you answered yes to any of these questions then your membership in the American Medical Association (AMA) is important.

YOUR AMA MEMBERSHIP – WHAT IT MEANS FOR SAGES

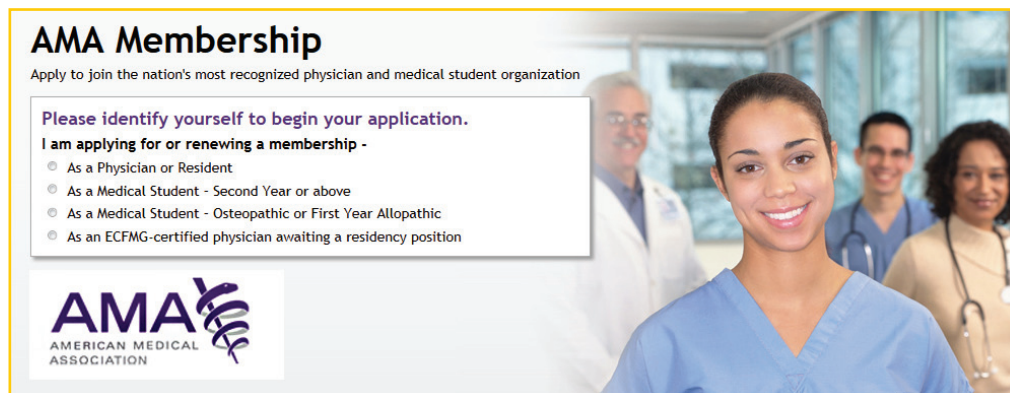
In order for SAGES to retain its seat in the HOD, a significant percentage of our members also have to be members of the AMA. Your membership in the AMA allows SAGES to:

- Keep our seat in the AMA House of Delegates (HOD)
- Have representation on the CPT Advisory Committee
- Have representation on the RUC Advisory Committee

But that is just a part of it. While SAGES continues to gain experience and recognition in the legislative arena, there is no denying that being a part of a larger organization has its benefits. The government recognizes the AMA as representing physicians across the country. They take the lead in tracking action on Capitol Hill and in organizing member associations and grass roots efforts to affect positive change.

Keep the SAGES voice strong. Please join the AMA or renew your membership by visiting the AMA website: <https://commerce.ama-assn.org/membership/> In addition, please visit www.ama-assn.org/go/ballot to designate SAGES as your specialty society for representation purposes.

www.commerce.ama-assn.org/membership



AMA Membership
Apply to join the nation's most recognized physician and medical student organization

Please identify yourself to begin your application.
I am applying for or renewing a membership -

- As a Physician or Resident
- As a Medical Student - Second Year or above
- As a Medical Student - Osteopathic or First Year Allopathic
- As an ECFMG-certified physician awaiting a residency position

AMA
AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

THE 9TH ANNUAL SAGES FOUNDATION AWARDS LUNCHEON *(NON-CME ACTIVITY)*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2015, 12:00-1:30 PM, DURING SAGES ANNUAL MEETING AT THE GAYLORD OPRYLAND HOTEL, NASHVILLE, TN



This annual ticketed event celebrates and honors distinguished leaders in minimally invasive surgery. Proceeds benefit the SAGES Foundation and its mission to advance endoscopic, laparoscopic and emerging minimal access surgical methods and patient care. The 2015 Awards Luncheon features awards and research grants presented to outstanding surgeons and educators for their work in minimally invasive surgery and raises funds to keep patient safety and surgical innovation in the forefront.

To become an event sponsor, purchase individual tickets, tables, or virtual ads, please contact the Foundation office at (310) 437-0544 ext. 113 or foundation@sages.org. Individual tickets \$150 each and tables of ten are available for \$1,275. Since this event benefits the SAGES Foundation, a portion of your purchase is tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

ANNOUNCING THE SAGES 2015 AWARDS RECIPIENTS:

SAGES Researcher in Training Award

Recipient: Edward Jones, MD

SAGES Young Researcher Award

Recipient: Rajesh Aggarwal, MD

SAGES IRCAD Fellowship Award

Recipient: Yulia Zak, MD

SAGES GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES SUPPORT BY KARL STORZ ENDOSCOPY

SAGES Brandeis Award

Recipients: Anne Lidor, MD & Brian Dunkin, MD

SAGES GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES SUPPORT BY SAGES FOUNDATION

SAGES Foundation - Excellence in Medical Leadership Award

Recipient: Danielle Walsh, MD

SAGES FOUNDATION GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES SUPPORT BY W.L. GORE AND ASSOCIATES

SAGES Foundation - Jeffrey L. Ponsky Master Educator in Endoscopy Award

Recipient: Kenneth Forde, MD

Arnold P. Gold Foundation - SAGES Award for Excellence in Humanistic Clinical Care

Recipient: Robert Lim, MD

SAGES GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES SUPPORT BY ARNOLD P. GOLD FOUNDATION

SAGES International Ambassador Award

Recipient: Natan Zundel, MD

SAGES Pioneer in Surgical Endoscopy Award

Recipient: Steven Rothenberg, MD

SAGES Distinguished Service Award

Recipient: Daniel Deziel, MD

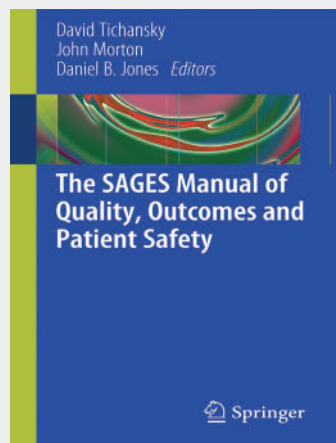
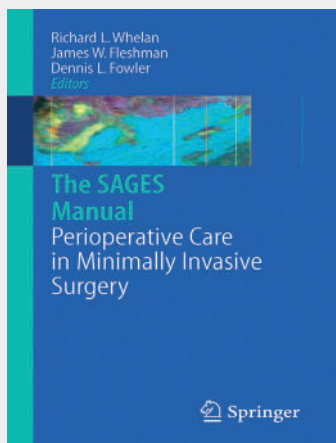
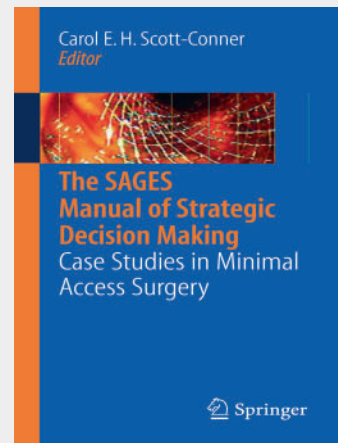
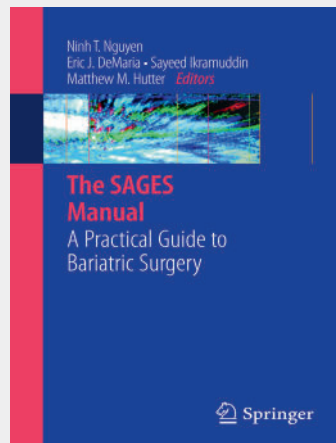
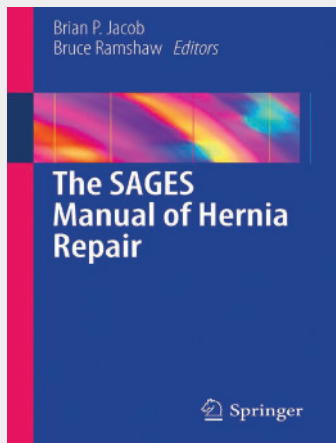
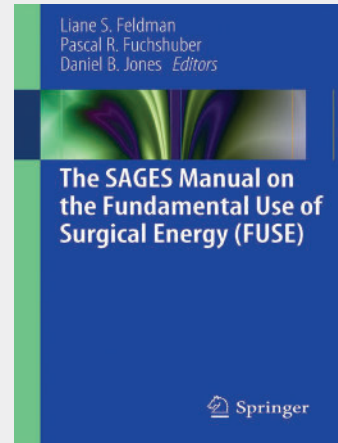
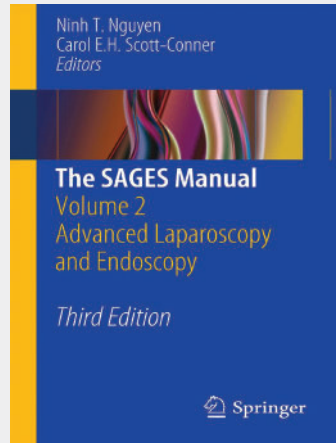
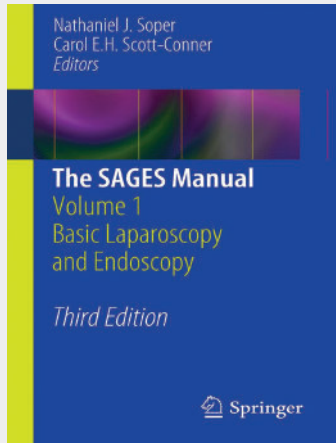
SAGES George Berci Lifetime Achievement Award

Recipient: Lee Swanstrom, MD

WINTER 2015

SAGES Manuals

The SAGES Manuals are portable, concise, beautifully illustrated manuals from the world's pioneering society of minimally invasive surgery.



Forthcoming SAGES Manuals:

The SAGES Manual Operating Through the Endoscope

Kroh, Reavis (Eds.)

The SAGES Manual of Groin Pain

Jacob, Chen, Ramshaw, Towfigh (Eds.)

The SAGES / ERAS Manual of Enhanced Recovery Programs for Gastrointestinal Surgery

Feldman, Delaney, Ljungqvist, Carli (Eds.)



Surgical Spring Week

SAGES 2016

Scientific Session & Postgraduate Courses

Save the Date!



PROGRAM CHAIRS:

Robert D. Fanelli, MD

Thadeus L. Trus, MD



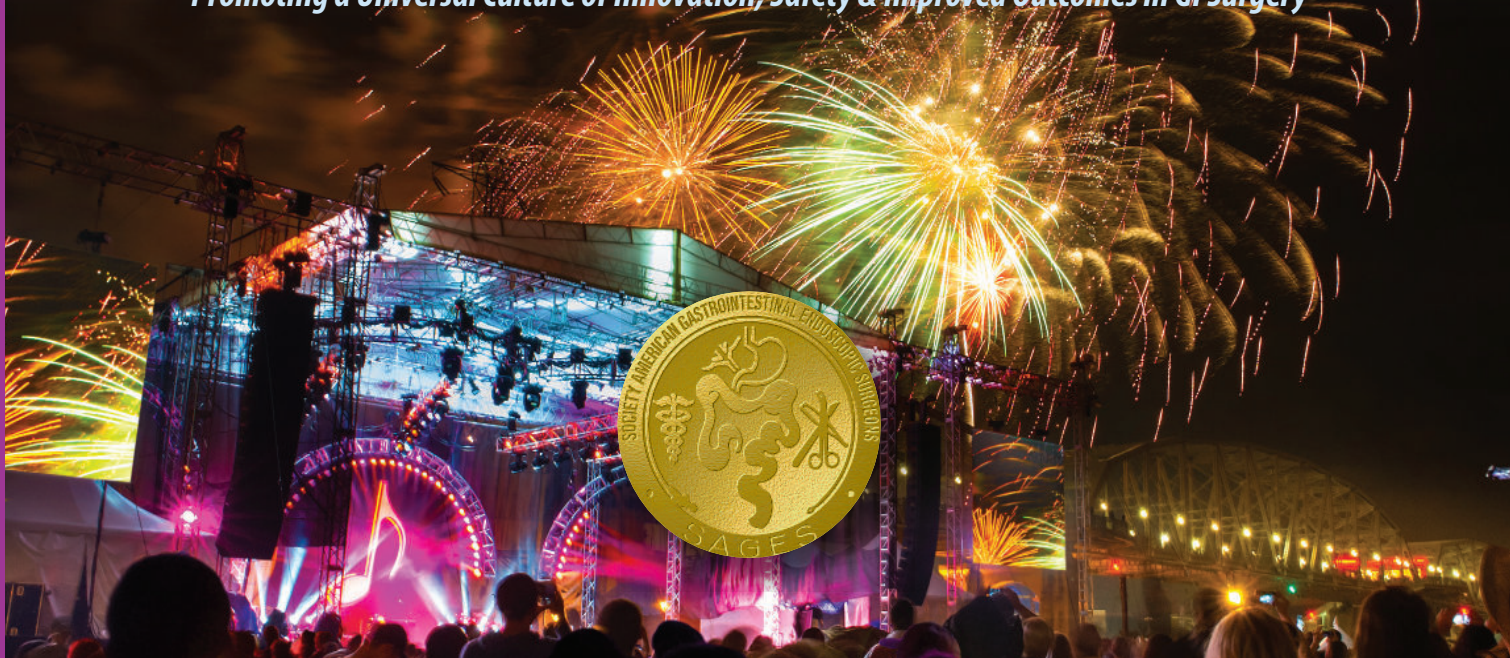
**HYNES VETERANS MEMORIAL CONVENTION CENTER,
BOSTON, MA ■ MARCH 16-19, 2016**

Surgical Spring Week

SAGES 2015

Scientific Session & Postgraduate Courses

Promoting a Universal Culture of Innovation, Safety & Improved Outcomes in GI Surgery



Program Chair: Aurora D. Pryor, MD
Program Co-Chair: Michael D. Holzman, MD

APRIL 15-18, 2015 NASHVILLE, TN

Early Housing & Registration Deadline: March 6, 2015

Held in conjunction with IPEG & Military Surgical Symposium



www.sages.org • www.sages2015.org



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SAGES 2015 Schedule at a Glance

(as of Oct. 2014)

Promoting a Universal Culture of Innovation, Safety and Improved Outcomes in GI Surgery

Program Chair: Aurora Dawn Pryor, MD; Co-Chair: Michael D. Holzman, MD, MPH

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

SAGES Scientific Sessions
Postgraduate Course: Current Common Dilemmas in Colorectal Surgery
Half-Day Postgraduate Course: Advances in Foregut Surgery
Half-Day Postgraduate Course: The Recurrent Hernia - Strategies for Success
Half-Day Postgraduate Course: Endolumenal Management of Complications
Career Development Seminar
Panel: Lessons Learned from Around the World (joint with EAES)
Panel: Perioperative Care – Evidence Based Practice in 2015
SAGES Foundation Awards Luncheon 12:00pm-1:30pm
Exhibits/Posters open 12:00pm-3:30pm
Half-Day Postgraduate Course: Bariatric Revisions from Historical Operations
Half-Day Hands-On Course: Endoscopic Management of Complications
Half-Day Hands-On Course: Career Breakouts
Debate: Inguinal Hernia Debates
Panel: Colorectal Strategies to Minimize the Impact of Surgery
Panel: Technology Innovation from Overseas (Program of the Americas)
Panel: Endocrine Surgery - Balancing Innovation and Quality
Panel: GI Cancer Management (joint with KSELS)
Panel: Innovation in the US - The Future of Surgical Innovation
Opening Session - History Movie
Exhibits Opening Welcome Reception 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Thursday, April 16, 2015

SAGES Scientific Sessions
Exhibits/Posters/Learning Center open 9:30am-4:00pm
Full-Day Military Surgical Symposium
Postgraduate Course: Updates in Abdominal Wall Management - Mesh Theory, Tissue Use, Complex Locations
Postgraduate Course: FUSE™ - Preparation/Refresher Course
Symposium: Minimal Access - Lessons from NOTES and Single Site Surgery
Panel: Complex and Unusual Esophageal Disorders (joint with SSAT)
Humanitarian Lecture – Horacio Asbun, MD
Karl Storz Lecture “No Shortcuts to the Top-Climbing the World’s Highest Peaks” – Ed Viesturs (non-CME)
Educator’s Luncheon “Milestones, Metrics, and Mastery – Focus on Surgical Trainee Education and Assessment”
Free Lunch in the Exhibit Hall for All Attendees
Postgraduate Course: HPB / Robotics - Current State of MIS Hepatopancreatobiliary Surgery
Half-Day Hands-On Course: All Things Hernia
Half-Day Hands-On Course: Minimal Access Tricks and Techniques
Panel: Management of Unusual and Complex Cases (joint with JSES)
Panel: SAGES Talks with Experiential Delivery
Panel: The Science Behind Diabetes Therapy - Surgery, Medical Updates and Mechanisms
Refreshment Break/ Happy ½ Hour in Exhibit Hall
Panel: Avoiding Bile Duct Injury and Other Untoward Outcomes - Optimizing Your Approach to Cholecystectomy
Panel: Open to MIS - What is Taking Us So Long?
Panel: Adolescent Bariatric Surgery - What Every Surgeon Should Know (joint with IPEG)
Industry Educational Events

Friday, April 17, 2015

SAGES Scientific Sessions
Exhibits/Posters/Learning Center open 9:30am-4:00pm
Mock Trial: See you in Court - Legal Consequences of Bile Duct Injury during Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy
Panel: MIS Jeopardy
Debate: Adolescent Achalasia - The Great Debate (joint with IPEG)
Presidential Address “SAGES Magical Mystery Tour” – L. Michael Brunt, MD
Gerald Marks Lecture – Frank R. Lewis, MD
Debate: Presidential Debates
Military Surgical Symposium
Fellowship Council Luncheon “The Future of Fellowships in a 4 + 2 General Surgery Residency Model”
Free Lunch in the Exhibit Hall for All Meeting Attendees
Panel: Acute Care Session - Maximizing Patient Care in Emergency General Surgery (joint with AAST)
Symposium: SAGES SMART™ Program
Refreshment Break/ Happy ½ Hour in Exhibit Hall
Session: Emerging Technology (non-CME)
Resident/Fellow Scientific Session
Panel: Complex Paraesophageal Hernias
Panel: Lessons Learned from Military Surgery - Transition Back into Practice
Main Event & International Sing-Off

Saturday, April 18, 2015

Exhibits, Posters, Learning Center CLOSED
SAGES Scientific Sessions
Panel: Simulation and Telerobotics - Partnering with the Military
Session: Video Shorts (Top Videos)
Advocacy Luncheon “Advocacy Boot Camp”
Session: Top 21 Video - Expecting the Unexpected
Panel: Building and Optimizing A Surgical Practice
Panel: Quality Practices in Surgical Education and Training

HOW DO I REGISTER & BOOK HOUSING?

Register on-line! www.sages.org/registration/
Book your Hotel at
www.sages2015.org/travel-information/hotel/
Email: registration@sages.org

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Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons

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SAVE THESE DATES! SAGES FUTURE ANNUAL MEETINGS

SAGES SCIENTIFIC SESSION & POSTGRADUATE COURSE (W/IPEG)

April 15-18, 2015, Gaylord Opryland Hotel & Convention Center, Nashville, TN

SAGES SCIENTIFIC SESSION & POSTGRADUATE COURSE

March 16-19, 2016, Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center, Boston, MA

SAGES SCIENTIFIC SESSION & POSTGRADUATE COURSE

March 22-25, 2017, George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston, TX

SAGES SCIENTIFIC SESSION & POSTGRADUATE COURSE / WORLD CONGRESS OF ENDOSCOPIC SURGERY W/CAGS

April 11-14, 2018, Washington State Convention Center, Seattle, WA

WINTER 2015