

SCOPE



A Publication of the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons

Featured Articles



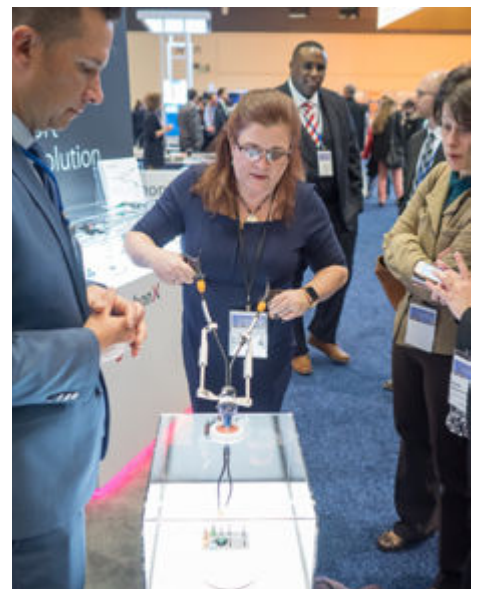
Message from the President

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Barbara Berci, 1942-2018

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SAGES 2018 Meeting Highlights

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SUMMER 2018

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Jeffrey Marks, MD, SAGES President

It's an honor to serve as the 2018-2019 President of SAGES, and I look forward to continuing the leadership and guidance that all of the prior presidents have so greatly provided. SAGES is a wonderfully active organization with an incredible number of ongoing initiatives that have come to fruition through the tireless work of so many of the productive members of this society.

Education and patient safety are at the forefront of the SAGES mission. As the Society has grown and the surgical field continues to rapidly change, SAGES' role in these two facets has become increasingly more critical. One of my primary focuses this year is to strengthen and enhance our educational offerings and structure,

following in the footsteps of my predecessors. Under the oversight of Matt Ritter, this initiative will kick off with a strategic retreat this summer where some of the key educational experts in SAGES will help identify the curriculum and organizational needs for the society. As we move through the year, the collaboration will manifest in the further development of the SAGES Masters Program, the principal goal of the Curriculum Task Force (CTF) and a major focus of our society. As important, the strategies outlined will help clarify overarching priorities and guide better integration and coordination across many of our hardworking, education-related committees and task forces. SAGES members who have a strong background and interest in surgical education are encouraged to volunteer to join this effort. Each month, we will highlight one of our SAGES Masters pathway groups or committees, starting with Foregut.

A prime example of how SAGES is already making a difference in education is in the area of Flexible Endoscopy. In 2014, the American Board of Surgery (ABS) announced that all board certification applicants who complete their residency training in the 2017-2018 academic year or thereafter would be held to a new requirement showing that they had completed a standard curriculum, known as

the Flexible Endoscopy Curriculum (FEC), in the use of endoscopic techniques. As part of that curriculum, all applicants must show successful completion of the Fundamentals of Endoscopic Surgery (FES) exam.

We have just completed the first year of residents affected by this mandate. I can proudly say that out of 1,218 general surgery PGY5 residents in the United States, 1,167 successfully passed the exam for a 95.81% passage rate, with a first time pass rate of 80.4%. Dr. Jo Buyske, Executive Director of the American Board of Surgery, notes, "The Flexible Endoscopy Curriculum has been a major contribution to surgical training. Residents who have completed the FEC and passed FES are confident and competent in their endoscopy skills, and entrustable as a group in this arena. Ensuring that future surgeons are capable of safe surgical endoscopy is our duty to the public and to the profession, and this program is a model of where we need to be in training."

Having chaired the FES committee for more than a decade, and serving on a myriad of other SAGES committees for 25+ years, I know first-hand how personally and professionally fulfilling it is to be an active participant in SAGES. Today, almost 800 members, over 12% of the entire SAGES membership, currently serve on a

committee. To join them for the 2018-2019 year, you can use our volunteer application process. Simply sign into the SAGES website as a member and click www.sages.org/leadership/committees/volunteer/ by August 30, 2018.

Be an integral part of SAGES by nominating yourself to serve on a committee or task force. Simply sign into the SAGES website as a member and click www.sages.org/leadership/committees/volunteer/ by August 30, 2018. Requests after that time will be appointed in late spring 2019.

We all have very busy lives with a multitude of personal and professional responsibilities, and being involved with SAGES can at times seem to be quite difficult. However, the satisfaction that comes from completing a new educational project or providing input into a novel surgical guideline fully offsets the time commitment required for these efforts. In addition, the opportunity to work with so many inspiring and innovative individuals can be an incredibly fun and gratifying endeavor, whether you are in a private practice setting or academic surgery. I'd like to recognize some important volunteer assignments available:

SAGES Guidelines are an important tool in our society. The Guidelines Committee is seeking members with the following background and commitment level:

- Prior experience with systematic review authorship
- Prior authorship of 5-10 peer reviewed publications
- Willing to devote time to the guideline development process and meet agreed upon deadlines
- Able to attend at least one of the two annual committee meetings (at SAGES and ACS) and actively participate in committee webinars and other educational offerings
- Able to participate in the mandatory methodologist workshop within first year of membership

SAGES also continues to break barriers in innovation and research with the introduction of two new task forces.

- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning will focus on its broad and dynamic applications in the field of surgery while becoming the leader in its development and implementation. This task force seeks members with diverse skills as well as knowledge from other committees, and will work in partnership with

engineers and data scientists to create an environment of progress and innovation.

- The Oncology Task Force will focus on the need for MIS techniques in the practice of oncologic surgery. The future of this task force will be to incorporate surgical oncology education into the SAGES program as well as to encourage acceptance, incorporation and innovation in the Oncology field.

Finally, I look forward to joining Program Co-Chairs, Jon Gould and Patricia Sylla, in welcoming you in Baltimore for the Annual SAGES meeting on April 3-6, 2019. The program, A View through the Scope: Past, Present & Future, will look back on our history in sessions like "Pearls from the Fathers of Foregut Surgery" where we will hear about what it was like in the early days of laparoscopy and foregut surgery from those who were there. There will be plenty of sessions designed to bring you up to speed on the latest in MIS through our Masters Series and Pathways in colorectal, foregut, hernia, robotics, bariatric surgery, and more! Envision our future as we think about what is next and what could be in sessions like "The next generation of NOTES" and "What's changing in robots and other new technology." Highlights will also include our #looklikealeader symposium, Moving Towards Opioid-less MIS session, and our second i3 Innovation Summit. We have created an incredibly comprehensive and stimulating program that we want you to come be a part of. See you in Baltimore!

Special thanks to SAGES Foundation for their continued support of SAGES initiatives the past two decades. We are especially grateful to Dr. Pon Satitpunwaycha for his generous donations in support of SAGES Global outreach and educational initiatives. We are able to further the mission of the Society through their generosity.

So much of what's to come for SAGES is owed in part to those who came before us. This past spring, we lost Barbara Berci, the inaugural Executive Director for SAGES, who with her business partner, Sallie Matthews, helped grow the society from 50 surgeons to what it is today. In the process, they helped create the culture and operational infrastructure that keep SAGES moving forward. I invite you to read Barbara's tribute on [page 19](#) and be inspired to find a way of making your own impact.

Jeffrey Marks, MD
2018/2019 SAGES President

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**past SAGES presidents*

SAGES FOUNDATION UPDATE

Thank you to the SAGES members who have contributed to the 80 by 20 Campaign. The goal of the campaign is to have 80% of SAGES members giving to the SAGES Foundation by the year 2020. Every donation, no matter the amount, counts toward the 80 by 20 Campaign. Visit <https://www.sagesfoundation.org/donate/> to complete your gift today!

SHOUT-OUT TO THE LARGEST INDIVIDUAL DONOR TO THE SAGES FOUNDATION

Dr. Pon Satitpunwaycha, a long-time SAGES member and philanthropist, has made two significant and transformative donations to the SAGES Foundation. His combined historical donations exceed \$1 million and have enabled the Foundation to fund several international and national MIS projects. He is a strong advocate of and the largest individual donor to the Foundation. The SAGES Foundation's Board of Directors extends their deepest thanks and gratitude to Dr. Pon.

2018 SAGES FOUNDATION AWARDS LUNCHEON RECAP:

The 12th Annual SAGES Foundation Awards Luncheon was held on Wednesday, April 11th at the Washington State Convention Center. It was the most successful fundraising luncheon to date with more than \$70,000 being raised to support minimally invasive research and educational opportunities! Thank you to those who attended the Awards Luncheon and helped to make it a great event.



Dr. Pon Satitpunwaycha, MD

SAGES FOUNDING FATHER, DR. GERALD MARKS, GIVES ARTWORK TO FOUNDATION DONORS



Dr. Gerald Marks, an accomplished surgeon and one of the founding fathers of SAGES, generously donated printed copies of artwork that he painted to donors who gave \$100 or more during the 2018 SAGES Meeting in Seattle. Through the gift of his artwork, the Foundation was able to raise close to \$13,000. Posters are still available for donations of \$100 for the regular print and \$500 for the limited edition print. To make a donation and receive a poster, please email foundation@sages.org.

BE A MEMBER. BE A LEADER. BE A DONOR.

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Research & Career Development Committee would like to congratulate all the recipients of the 2018 SAGES Research Grants, Career Development Award, Intuitive Surgical Robotic Surgery Grants, and Quality Improvement Project Awards.

2018 MEDICAL STUDENT SUMMER RESEARCH AWARDS

After a record-breaking 32 applications were received, the committee would like to recognize the two recipients of the Medical Student Summer Research Awards:

MADELINE LEMKE

Institution: Queen's University

Project Title: Optimizing Resource Utilization During Proficiency-Based Training of Suturing Skills to Medical Students

WALKER UELAND

Institution: University of Kentucky

Project Title: Two-Year Clinical Outcomes and Postoperative Pain in An Enhanced Recovery After Surgery Protocol for Open Ventral Hernia Repair

These grants were made possible by the generous donations from the SAGES Education & Research Foundation, Intuitive Surgical, and Karl Storz.

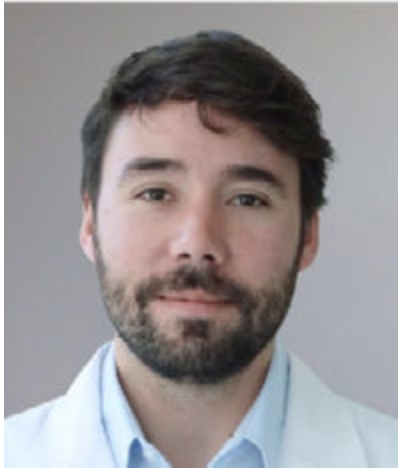
2018 SAGES CANDIDATE TOWN HALL NETWORKING EVENT



2018 Quality Improvement Project Winners recognized at the SAGES Candidate Town Hall Networking Event. Pictured with the Chair of the Research & Career Development Committee, Dr. Rebecca Petersen.

SAGES RESEARCH GRANTS SPOTLIGHT

The SAGES Research Grants have funded remarkable projects throughout the year. We'd like to highlight two previous projects that went on to receive additional recognition and external funding from notable institutions.



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

Julian Varas Sr., M.D.
General Surgeon
Assistant Professor
Simulation Center Medical coordinator
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

YEAR AWARDED: 2017

TITLE: The MITO project

Applying the funds provided by SAGES for our Minimally Invasive Tele-mentoring Opportunity (MITO) project has helped us further develop the program and make important affiliations between Chilean surgical societies and teaching hospitals throughout the country. The MITO project is developed around decentralizing laparoscopic simulation training to spread training from the capital city of Santiago

to more remote regions of Chile. A novel tele-simulation system for teaching advanced laparoscopy through smartphones was used to expand teaching to two large regions outside the capital in Chile. The SAGES support contributed to the approval of a second, complimentary three-year \$150,000 grant from the Chilean government. This grant was awarded through the The National Fund for Scientific and Technological Development (FONDECYT), the most important fund offered by the government of Chile. It will allow for the training in six different regional centers within our country with very positive early results.

By 2019, we aim to continue expanding our involvement in surgical training to other countries in Latin America. This will include collecting important data for the optimization of our teachings in laparoscopy. SAGES plays a very important role in the realization of our goals as well as future related projects.



PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

Thomas Schnelldorfer, M.D., Ph.D.
Director of Pancreatic Surgery
Lahey Hospital & Medical Center
Associate Professor of Surgery and Biomedical Engineering
Tufts University School of Medicine and School of Engineering

YEAR AWARDED: 2013

TITLE: Optical Properties of Peritoneal Cancer Metastases: A Prerequisite for Image-enhanced Staging Laparoscopy

It has been an enormous privilege to have been selected a recipient of the SAGES Research Grant. The grant was provided for a study evaluating optical properties of peritoneal cancer metastases. We utilized the resulting information for prototype development of a laparoscopy system that aims at identifying peritoneal micro-metastases. The SAGES Research Grant had a direct effect on securing additional funding, including an NIH R21 grant. Therefore, I would like to thank the Society for the generous support, which has helped me grow professionally, and which was a tremendous boost for our research efforts.

2019 RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATION NOW OPEN!

Deadline to submit: November 2, 2018

For more information, please visit www.sages.org/research/

SAGES 2018 FLEXIBLE ENDOSCOPY COURSE FOR FELLOWS

The SAGES Flexible Endoscopy Course for Fellows will take place September 20-22, 2018 in San Diego California, at the University of California San Diego (UCSD). The course is open to 1st and 2nd year fellows only. Registration is limited to 60 fellows and priority is given to SAGES Candidate members. Registration is now open. For more information please visit:

www.sages.org/2018mis-fellows-course/



Check out the preliminary agenda here!

SAFE CHOLE DIDACTIC MODULES

With a focus on enhancing a universal culture of safety in laparoscopic cholecystectomy, the SAGES Safe Cholecystectomy (Safe Chole) Task Force has developed a series of 12 web-based educational modules for practicing surgeons. The modules expand on basic LC safety concepts and are the building blocks of a larger safe cholecystectomy education program.

The Safe Chole didactic content will be available online, alongside FES and FUSE. Be on the lookout for this exciting new launch!

2019 CALL FOR AWARDS

SAGES has a number of major awards and scholarships available for nominations in the upcoming year. Please submit all nominations and/or applications no later than September 21, 2018.

We encourage you to review the available awards and scholarships and submit your nomination online at www.sages.org/about/awards/. You must be logged in to your SAGES account to submit nominations.

Nominations will be reviewed by the Awards Committee prior to the ACS Clinical Congress in October. The committee will recommend recipients to the Board of Governors in November. Awards will then be bestowed upon the recipients during the 2019 SAGES Annual Meeting next year in Baltimore, MD.

For any questions, please email Jillian Kelly in the SAGES office at jillian@sages.org. We hope that you participate in this process so that we may honor those who have contributed a great deal to endoscopic surgery and to SAGES.

Thank you!

L. Michael Brunt, MD
SAGES Awards Committee Chair

PLAN TO ATTEND!

State of the Art Consensus Conference on Prevention of Bile Duct Injury During Cholecystectomy

Saturday, October 20, 2018 • Boston, MA
Seaport Hotel & World Trade Center

Immediately prior to the 2018 ACS Clinical Congress

Presented by SAGES, AHPBA, EAES, IHPBA, and SSAT



For more information, visit
www.preventbdi.org

STATE OF THE ART CONSENSUS CONFERENCE ON PREVENTION OF BILE DUCT INJURY DURING CHOLECYSTECTOMY

The conference will provide a detailed evidence-based review of the current challenges and advances in reducing bile duct injuries (BDI) that occur during laparoscopic cholecystectomy and result in recommendations that should have a significant impact on future surgical practice and surgical research in this field.

International experts will convene to focus on management strategies and techniques surgeons can employ to reduce the incidence of this complication across the entire spectrum of gallstone disease, with the goal of establishing best practices and improving patient safety for this common operation. Attendees will participate in the discussions and voting on recommendations. The consensus conference proceedings will be used to generate practice guidelines manuscripts for publication in major surgical journals.

The conference, jointly hosted by the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES), the Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (AHPBA), the European Association of Endoscopic Surgeons (EAES), the International Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association

(IHPBA), and the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract (SSAT), is expected to attract general surgeons, GI, HPB, community and international surgeons, and is open to the public.

REGISTER TODAY!

www.cvent.com/d/tgq8fd

Questions about the conference may be directed to Brenda Castañeda at brenda@sages.org.

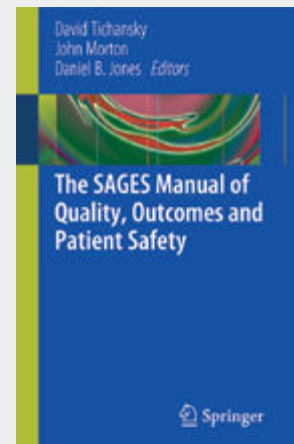
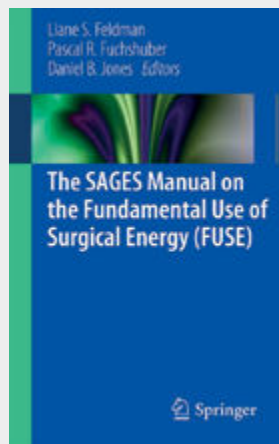
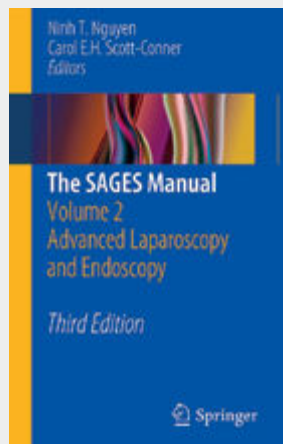
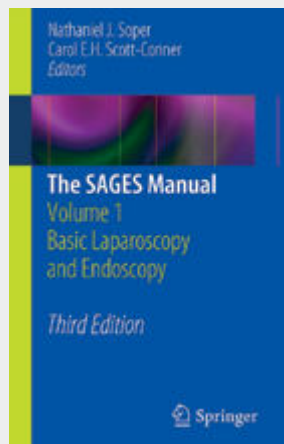
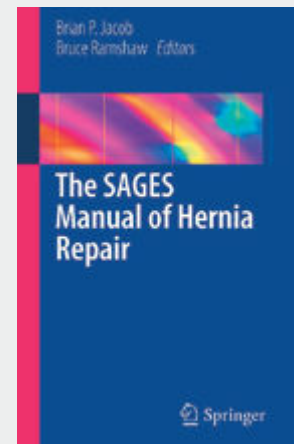
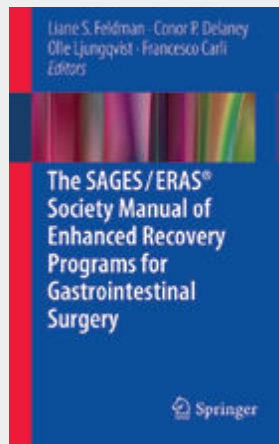
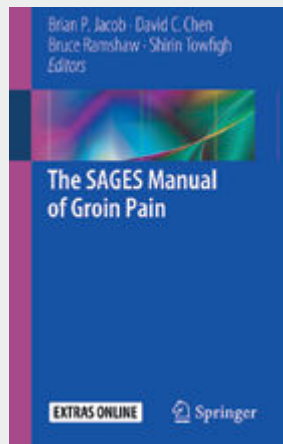
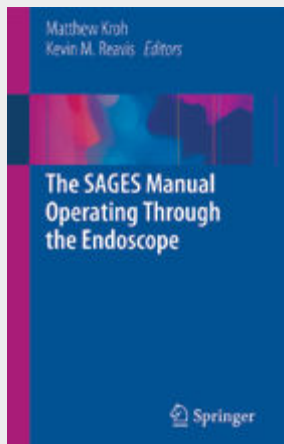
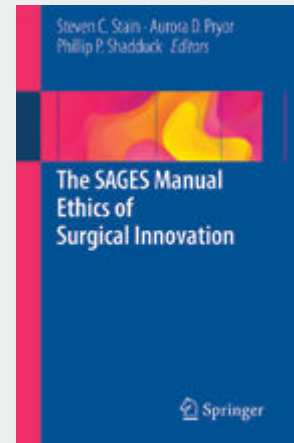
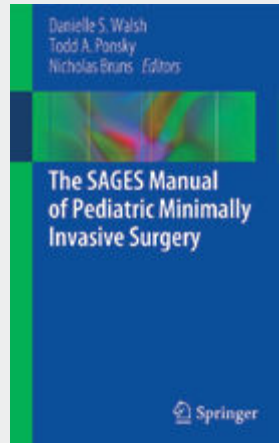
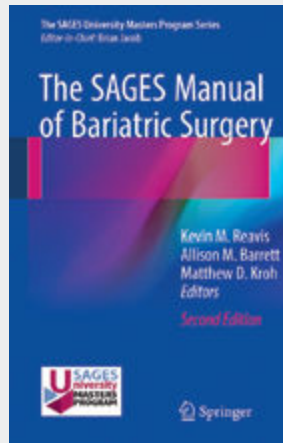
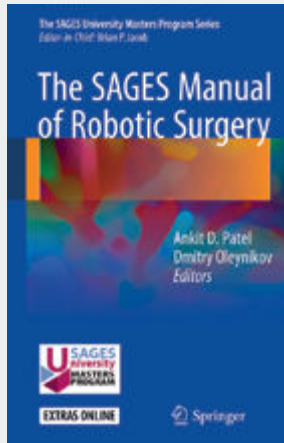
If you are interested in supporting the conference, please contact Shelley Ginsberg at shelley@sages.org.

To learn more, please visit: www.preventbdi.org/

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SAGES Manuals

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



SAGES HERNIA TASK FORCE

Virtual Hernia Clinic to Offer CME

The Virtual Hernia Clinic (VHC), an interactive education program, is scheduled to launch this August. Users can access the online case FREE of charge through the SAGES website: www.sages.org/virtual-hernia-clinic/. Learners can obtain CME after completing the case directly on the site. The case curriculum will be available for free to any SAGES member.

VHC uses virtual patient simulation to model the fundamental knowledge and decision making strategies utilized in caring for patients with hernias. Online cases mirror real-life patient care decisions and consequences.

Big thanks are in order to the hardworking VHC work group!

SAGES/ASMBS BARIATRIC ENDOSCOPY VERIFICATION CERTIFICATE

The Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) and the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) have worked together to develop a Bariatric Endoscopy - Skill Acquisition Fundamentals Exam (BE-SAFE!) verification process for surgeons.

Sign Up at <https://besafe.asmb.org/>

Skills verification exam dates are pending and will be announced once confirmed.

Requirements

Candidates are required to participate in at least 250 endoscopic procedures and complete the video curriculum before taking the qualifying written exam. After passing the exam, candidates will then be able to register for the BE-SAFE! hands-on skills verification exam.

BE-SAFE |
Bariatric Endoscopy Skill Acquisition Fundamentals Exam



ASMBS
SAGES

12

GROWING INTERNATIONAL INTEREST IN THE FUNDAMENTAL USE OF SURGICAL ENERGY PROGRAM

The European Association of Endoscopic Surgeons (EAES) has invited a contingency of SAGES faculty to lead a FUSE hands-on course at their 2019 Meeting in Sevilla, Spain. In addition, the Italian Society of Endoscopic Surgery decided to add a FUSE workshop to their annual meeting in 2019. The year 2019 is shaping up to be the European FUSE year.

The FUSE committee is delighted with the opportunity to promote the FUSE Program internationally and raise awareness of the safety issues associated with the use of energy-based devices in the operating room.

The Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) developed the Fundamental Use of Surgical Energy™ (FUSE) program to meet the need for increased education and training in the principles and properties of operating electrosurgical instruments safely. FUSE consists of an interactive, web-based, multimedia-enhanced, didactic curriculum and a computer-based, multiple-choice assessment to certify knowledge. For additional information about the FUSE Program, please visit: www.fuseprogram.org

FUSE Curriculum Now Available in Chinese and Spanish

SAGES is pleased to announce that the FUSE educational modules are available in Chinese (Simplified), English and Spanish, free-of-charge, at www.fusedidactic.org/.

The educational modules, which consist of a web-based multimedia presentation of didactic content, comprehensively cover the basic knowledge fundamental to the safe use of surgical energy-based devices in the operating room, endoscopic suite, and other procedural areas.

The FUSE didactic materials and exam were designed to inform and promote best practice for the use of electrosurgical, ultrasonic and other energy sources in the OR. Any healthcare professional who has ever used an

energy device in the OR will better understand how it works, when to apply it, and what possible hazards and errors can occur.

SAGES gratefully acknowledges Medtronic for its generous educational grant in support of the FUSE didactic translation project.

Take the FUSE Exam Anywhere in the World!

The FUSE program has expanded its testing network for Military Personnel Stationed Overseas and International Test Takers. Thousands of international test centers across the globe are now open for FUSE certification testing.

Becoming FUSE certified has never been easier! Test takers residing outside the U.S. may take the FUSE assessment at Kryterion Authorized Test Centers, a global network of 1,000+ testing locations. For more information about the Kryterion Testing Network (KTN), please visit: www.fuseprogram.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/FUSE-Flyer-International-Interactive.pdf

In addition to this expanded testing network, U.S. military personnel stationed outside of the United States may take the FUSE exam online using Kryterion's Online Proctoring (OLP) services. For more information about online proctoring (OLP), please visit: www.fuseprogram.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/FUSE-Flyers-Military-Personnel-Interactive.pdf

For additional information about the FUSE Testing and to sign up for the exam, please visit: www.fuseprogram.org/testing-information/

WHY MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMA IS IMPORTANT

Are you concerned about reimbursement? What about healthcare reform? Do you wonder about patients' 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 check your AMA membership status and keep it current. To join the AMA or renew your membership, [visit the AMA website here](#).

In addition, please visit <https://www.ama-assn.org/about-us/specialty-society-representation-ballot> to designate SAGES as your specialty society for representation purposes.





SAGES 2019

A View Through the Scope - Past, Present & Future

Save the Date

April 3-6, 2019

Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD

Program Chairs: Jon Gould, MD & Patricia Sylla, MD



A SAGES CANDIDATE MEMBER EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH GLOBAL AFFAIRS

By Laurie Baumann, MD

I have had the privilege over the past two years to work as a research resident and junior faculty with the GAC (Global Affairs Committee) members on the iLAP (International Laparoscopic Advancement Program) project, and the experience will stay with me well beyond my research years and long into my career. The opportunity to experience a new culture, learn a new perspective on surgical training, and work with talented and dedicated surgeons in

another country has been nothing short of incredible. I traveled with SAGES faculty to Mexico for three separate courses, and looking back, the most notable part about my experience was the enthusiasm and support demonstrated by the Mexican surgeons, on both the local and national level. At all of the sites we visited, we were graciously welcomed by the local faculty, who were both engaging and eager to learn new educational techniques

in order to advance surgical training in their country. One of the most rewarding parts is to see the evolution of these local surgeons as they progress through the course. On day one, they are scattered around the auditorium, seated in pairs, and hesitant to participate. By the final day of the course, they can be found seated as a group and itching to share their experiences and tips for educating residents. One local surgeon commented that he had



From left to right: Jordan Zamora, MD, President of the Mexican Board of Surgeons, Jacqueline Narvaez, SAGES Staff, Eduardo Moreno Paquentin, MD, President of AMCG, Laurie Baumann, MD, Miguel Angel Pasciano Garcia Bautista, MD

never collaborated so closely with his colleagues, despite working together for years. The education is also not one-sided, and local surgeons have enthusiastically shared the strategies they have created to use simulation in a resource-limited setting. This includes teaching the SAGES faculty how to make an FLS simulator with nothing more than a cardboard box, a bar of soap, some nails, and a smart phone.

Not only have we had strong support at the local hospitals, but the collaboration from our colleagues at the Asociación Mexicana de Cirugía General (AMCG) and from other national leadership is unparalleled. It is no secret that in order to have sustainable impact, strong local

champions are a must. Our Mexican SAGES colleagues have risen to the challenge, organizing all of the on-the-ground logistics, identifying local educators, performing data collection, and ensuring that we never run out of empanadas and salsa picante. These surgical leaders are passionate about surgical education and dedicated to improving the laparoscopic training in Mexico, and they are prepared to continue this work after the US-based faculty returns home. They are also an incredible group of individuals who are a pleasure to work with, and have instilled in us their passion for caring for the Mexican people and their infectious love of Mexican culture. From my experience with iLAP, it is apparent that not only are there clear opportunities to improve laparoscopic

surgical education in Mexico, but there are many local surgeons who are enthusiastic and invested in this mission. We must continue to strengthen this partnership to empower local leaders and have a lasting impact for the Mexican people, and I look forward to having a continued role in these efforts for many years to come.





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BARBARA BERCI, 1942-2018

By Sallie Matthews, SAGES Executive Director

Many of you knew Barbara Berci, SAGES dynamic Executive Director from 1984-1998. Barbara sadly succumbed to lung cancer on April 23, 2018 after an 8-month fierce battle.

Barbara handed over the SAGES "reins" to me in 1998 (I had worked with her and the group since 1993), after a formal Board review, approval, and transition. Barb remained actively involved in the background as a wise SAGES advisor, frequently signing her memos or messages of advice to the leadership simply "Love, Mama." While she had cut back her work significantly in recent years, she remained a fearless force of nature, passionate and visionary. She received SAGES Distinguished Service Award at the April 2018 meeting in Seattle, and Mike Brunt's intro so aptly captured her essence. Barb was unable to attend the Seattle meeting in person, but her video acceptance can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/Zfh6z0j74z4>

Some of you might not know Barbara as well outside of SAGES. She was married to George Berci for 29 years. She was a loving mother to her children, Liza Landsman Gold, Scott Landsman, Kitti Berci DeFevere and Winton Berci, and doting "Grandma Bobby" to Henry, Sarah, Jacqueline and Olivia. Last fall, Barbara received an award from the Masorti Foundation, an organization that advocates for conservative Jewry in Israel, for giving generously of her time, resources and heart. She and George immersed themselves in the Sinai Temple in Los Angeles, modeling themselves as people who care. She volunteered weekly at Sova, a food kitchen in LA. Barbara demonstrated compassion and generosity in her daily life.

It won't surprise many of you to know Barb not only planned her own funeral service, but also had an ethical living will. Part of her mandate to all of us was, "Remember that one person and one action do count." In turn, we will always remember Barb. Her legacy and the SAGES family culture she created will live on in the Society for years to come.



An image of the word cloud our staff created for her last December is below. For me personally, she was not only a business partner, but the closest friend and mentor. At her service, at her request, I sang "Because I knew you, I have been changed for good" from Wicked...I am not alone in that sentiment.

I'll leave you with a quote from David Wolpe, Barbara's Rabbi in Los Angeles: "The word compassion has 'passion' buried within it. But there are few who make compassion

their passion. Barbara was one of those chosen righteous people. She was brilliant, funny, self-effacing, confident, fervent and deeply moved by the plight of others who were suffering. Rare was the sermon or tweet that did not evoke a comment from her that was simultaneously wry

and insightful. Here was a special soul, who moved us to be better, to be wiser, to care more for all of God's creations. I know that I will miss her; she made me better. My dearest Barbara, after a lifetime of battling for what is good, what is right, may you Rest In Peace."



BARBARA BERCI MEMORIAL FUND

The leaders of the SAGES Education & Research Foundation are honored to announce the establishment of the Barbara Berci Memorial Fund. This fund will serve as an enduring tribute to the life and extraordinary legacy of Barbara Berci, the founder of the SAGES Foundation.

Donations to the Barbara Berci Memorial Fund will be used to further the goals and mission of the SAGES Education & Research Foundation.

To make a donation to the Barbara Berci Memorial Fund, please visit: www.sagesfoundation.org/donate/



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2019-2020 FELLOWSHIP YEAR

Colorectal Surgery

Thoracic Surgery

2018 Fellowship Application and Matching Calendar

AUGUST 1, 2018	Fellowship Application Process Opens
NOVEMBER 13, 2018	Fellowship Application Closes
NOVEMBER 13, 2018	Letters of Recommendation Deadline
NOVEMBER 27, 2018	Inform Applicants of Interview Status
JANUARY 3, 2019	Rank Order List Start
JANUARY 11, 2019	Rank Order Deadline
JANUARY 18, 2019	Announcement of Fellowship Matches
AUGUST 1, 2019	FELLOWSHIPS BEGIN

11300 W Olympic Blvd, Ste. 600, Los Angeles, CA 90064

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2020-2021 FELLOWSHIP YEAR

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Advanced GI MIS / Bariatrics

Bariatric Surgery

Flexible Endoscopy

Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery

2019 Fellowship Application and Matching Calendar

DECEMBER 3, 2018	Fellowship Application Process Opens
FEBRUARY 12, 2019	Fellowship Application Closes
FEBRUARY 12, 2019	Letters of Recommendation Deadline
MARCH 15, 2019	Inform Applicants of Interview Status
MAY 6, 2019	Rank Order List Start
MAY 23, 2019	Rank Order Deadline
JUNE 12, 2019	Announcement of Fellowship Matches
AUGUST 1, 2020	FELLOWSHIPS BEGIN

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Chair/Co-Chair List

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		FUNDAMENTALS OF ENDOSCOPIC SURGERY (FES)	Chair: Jose Martinez, MD Co-Chairs: Erika Fellingner, MD, Andrew Kastenmeier, MD, Ezra Teitelbaum, MD

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i3 SUMMIT	Chair: Dan Herron, MD Co-Chairs: Erik Wilson, MD, Dan Azagury, MD, Silvana Perretta, MD	ROBOTICS	Chair: Dmitry Oleynikov, MD Co-Chairs: Ankit Patel, MD, Yusef Kudsı, MD
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LEADERSHIP PROGRAM & HEALTH POLICY & MANAGEMENT

June 3-9, 2018, The Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University

The meeting kicked off with a dinner and speaker, John Armstrong, M.D. of the American College of Surgeons, who gave an update on advocacy issues facing surgeons. The topic was uniquely entitled "At the Table or On the Menu." The emphasis was on the fact that surgeons need to be involved in advocacy issues that affect not only patients but surgeons as well.

On Monday, June 4th, the course director, Jon Chilingierian, spoke on "Strategic Thinking and Decision Making." This session involved a breakout discussion amongst surgeon attendees who addressed the problem of whether or not to put a car into a race based on its performance in relation to temperatures at start time in the past. The take-away message emphasized learning to discern facts from assumptions and how this influences our decision-making. Interestingly enough, 50% of the attendees felt the car should be put on the track, and 50% felt the car should not be placed on the track for that particular race. The afternoon session included an overview of "Health Care Economics" by Stuart Altman, which addressed the history of health care from the Nixon era to present. This was

a powerful overview on health care policy and how it has affected the U.S. population. The evening ended with Frank Opelka giving a "Health Policy Update" from the American College of Surgeons.

On Tuesday, June 5th, Stuart Altman once again continued his review of "U.S. Health Policy," looking at different models of paying providers for health services, with emphasis on the gap between Medicare reimbursement rates and the private sector, and how this gap is resulting in an unsustainable economic model for the U.S. The afternoon session was once again led by Jon Chilingierian and entitled, "Managing Clinics, Care Processes and the Physics of Patient Flow." This was a fascinating session where we used mathematical equations to calculate "bottlenecks" within a health system to show which areas need to be focused on to improve patient throughput in any particular scenario.

On Wednesday, June 6th, Robert Mechanic gave an update on the "Medicare Physician Payment Models," including the proposed model by the American College of Surgeons in conjunction with Brandeis University,

showing various permutations of shared savings and shared loss across a health system. This was followed by a lecture by Christopher Tompkins on "Medicare Physician Payment." The afternoon session was led once again by the course director Jon Chilingierian, on "Affective Leadership Styles: Building Commitments to Goals." In this session we learned that studying leadership theory is of limited value, but studying leadership models that are very applicable has high value.

On Thursday, June 7th, Deborah Garnick gave an overview of "Quality and Performance Measures," including the difference between the administrative databases and risk adjusted databases, including MBSAQIP, as well as the process and structure components of measuring quality. This was followed by Jody Hoffer Gittel giving a talk entitled "High Performance Health Care" in which we studied the relational model of organizational change, and mapped out the different relations between a variety of disciplines, focusing on any one particular issue. This was followed by breakout sessions where the participants were asked to create a relational map on any one particular

issue. We then expanded upon this idea with an afternoon session entitled, "Leading Change in Complex Systems: A Simulation," once again led by Jon Chilingerian, in which we, in our breakout sessions, went through a proprietary computer algorithm and used our newfound knowledge to try and get buy-in from executive leadership of an organization to adopt a new quality metric initiative. The goal was to get all 24 top executives to "buy-in" to this idea. The results of the group breakout sessions ranged from getting buy-in from only one individual to the most of 22. Much insight was gained from each of the groups in how to deal with leading change and getting buy-in from executive leadership on a new initiative. Insights included things that work well and things that don't work well, the critical components of gaining information and facts prior to establishing relationships and getting buy-in, the negative effects of waiting too long to involve top leadership, as well as the deleterious effects of "upward lobbying," in which people go above their seniors and straight to, for example, the CEO, to try to gain support, and the downstream deleterious effects that this can have on buy-in from others.

On Friday, June 8th, Brenda Anderson led one of the most valuable sessions on "Financial Literacy: Measuring and Managing Success," in which she broke down the fundamental differences between financial terms such as fixed cost, variable costs, contribution margin and profit margin. We walked through how to write an interpretive balance sheet as well as interpreting profit and loss statements. This was probably one of the most valuable sessions of the entire week and was well received by all. Dr. Anderson led this session again in the afternoon with a breakout session in which we were given a mock scenario where we calculated variable costs, fixed costs, and contribution margins, as well as breakeven volume in a hypothetical situation in which we were bringing a medical device to market.

The final day was led by Jeffrey Prottas on "Conflict Negotiations" and negotiation strategies. This was a very valuable and applicable session in which we learned to negotiate conflict resolution between surgeons and the administration, utilizing the concept from the book "Getting to Yes," and using a mock scenario to role-play an

administrator and a surgeon trying to get to common goals. The course then ended with developing "New Negotiations Strategies for Health Care Leaders."

Overall, this was an extremely enlightening course for the surgeon who is interested in leadership, health policy, advocacy, and understanding the economics of our current health care system and ultimately trying to move it in a positive direction. I found it an extremely valuable use of my time. I would highly encourage other surgeons to apply for a scholarship to attend this unique course.

Respectfully,

*Shanu N. Kothari, MD, FACS
Fellowship Director of Minimally Invasive
Bariatric Surgery
Gundersen Health System
La Crosse, WI*



Submit your
application for
the Brandeis
Scholarship by
September 21, 2018!



Brandeis Course Participants

RESIDENT & FELLOW TRAINING COMMITTEE CONTEST & AWARDS

The Resident and Fellow Training Committee (RAFT) offers two awards for outstanding abstracts presented by surgical residents and fellows at the SAGES 2019 Annual Meeting. The purpose of these awards is to encourage the development of clinical and research-oriented work in the field of general surgery.

To qualify for these awards, the abstract presenter must be enrolled in a qualified residency or fellowship program. During the abstract submission process you must fill out the anticipated completion date of residency/fellowship and you must send proof of enrollment to the SAGES office via email (indicate the name of the resident/fellow and the title(s) of the abstracts being submitted). Proof of enrollment must be sent by October 8, 2018. Abstracts that do not include the anticipated completion date of residency/fellowship during the time of submission and do not submit proof of enrollment will not be considered for these awards.

To submit paper and video abstracts to the SAGES 2019 Scientific Session, please visit: www.sages.org/meetings/abstracts/

For more information regarding the RAFT awards, please visit: www.sages.org/about/awards/raft-annual-meeting-abstract-contest-and-awards/

RAFT AWARD WINNERS AT 2018 SAGES ANNUAL MEETING

The SAGES RAFT Committee would like to congratulate the following surgeons-in-training for winning the Best Resident/Fellow Presentation Awards at the 2018 SAGES Annual Meeting:

BEST RESIDENT/FELLOW PRESENTATION AWARDS for the best presentation delivered during the plenary/symposium/general meeting session:

1st Place (\$500): Rebecca Lopez, MD - Recurrent Achalasia After Myotomy: Diagnosis, Workup, and Technique

2nd Place (\$300): Gagandeep Talwar, MD - Endoscopic Parathyroidectomy - Why? When? Which?

3rd Place (\$200): Adam Weltz, MD - Giant Inguinal Hernia with Loss of Abdominal Domain

BEST RESIDENT/FELLOW SCIENTIFIC SESSION PRESENTATION AWARD for the best presentation delivered during the Resident and Fellow Session:

1st Place (\$500): Aristithes Doumouras, MD, MPH - The Long-term System and Surgeon Cost Efficiencies of Gastric Bypass

2nd Place (\$300): Joshua J. Weis, MD - FES Exam Outcomes In Year Two of A Proficiency-Based Endoscopic Skills Curriculum

3rd Place (\$200): Sn Zafar, MD, MPH - Staple Line Reinforcement Reduces Postoperative Bleeding After Laparoscopic Sleeve Gastrectomy - An Analysis of The MBSAQIP Dataset

SAGES MEETING 2018

AWARD WINNERS AND MORE!



Drs. Michael Brunt & Gagandeep Talwar
Best International Abstract



Drs. Sherry Wren, Dolores Lopez, Desmond Birkett, Margaret Oddsdottir
Traveling Fellowship Award



Drs. Michael Brunt, Dimitrios Stefanidis, Desmond Birkett
Excellence in Medical Leadership Award



Drs. Frank Lewis & Michael Brunt
The Arnold P. Gold Foundation - Excellence in Humanistic Clinical Care Award



Drs. Abe Fingerhut, Michael Brunt
International Ambassador Award



Drs. Yuman Fong & Dan Jones
Gerald Marks Lecturer



Drs. Phil Schauer & Dan Jones
Pioneer in Surgical Endoscopy Award



Drs. John Marks, Gerald Marks, Shoichi Fujii, & Desmond Birkett
Gerald Marks Rectal Cancer Award



Drs. Michael Brunt, Tyler Cohn, & Aurora Pryor
IRCAD Fellowship Award

SAGES MEETING 2018



Drs. Aurora Pryor, Maria Altieri, & Michael Brunt
Researcher in Training Award



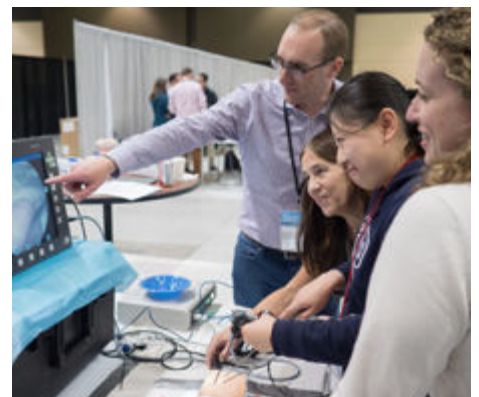
Drs. Luke Funk & Rebecca Petersen
Young Researcher Award



Drs. Jeffrey Blatnik & Michael Brunt
Investigative Robotic Surgery Grant



SAGES MEETING 2018



SAGES MEETING 2018

SAGES MEETING SING-OFF & MAIN EVENT



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

SAGES 2019 Annual Meeting

April 3rd – 6th, 2019, Baltimore, MD

Program Co-Chair: Jon C Gould, MD | Program Co-Chair: Patricia Sylla, MD

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 21, 2018 (11:59 PM PDT)

You are invited to submit paper and video abstracts to the SAGES 2019 Scientific Session. **You must be a member of SAGES or have a member of SAGES sponsor you to submit an abstract.**

The program will consist of oral presentations, video presentations, and poster presentations. The program committee will be responsible for selecting the length of the oral and video presentations.

All paper and video abstracts MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE VIA THE SAGES ABSTRACTS SUBMISSION SITE. Please visit the following web page for instructions: www.sages.org/meetings/abstracts/

NOTE: The SAGES Conflict of Interest Committee (CIC) declares that no employees/owners of a commercial interest may present or be a planner in SAGES CME accredited activities when the topic is relevant. For additional information, review SAGES Policy on Employees of Commercial Interests.

The following abstract submission policies will be firmly enforced:

- **Previously presented abstracts:** no abstracts may be submitted that have been previously presented at a regional (Central Surgical, Southwest Surgical, etc.), national, or international meeting. Abstracts that have been presented locally (i.e. state ACS chapter meeting, institutional or departmental research day) will be considered. If the abstract has been previously presented locally, where and when it was presented must be disclosed during the abstract submission process.
- **No previously published submissions:** the abstract submitted must present original work that has not and will not be published prior to the SAGES 2019 Scientific Session.
- **No dual submissions:** The abstract must not be submitted to any other upcoming regional, national, or international meeting.

- **No previously presented data:** all abstracts must be new and original content OR include at least 50% new data if previously presented at a meeting (unless presented locally as described above).
- There is no limit to the number of abstracts you may submit, but **you may not submit a video abstract and a written abstract on the same study/data set.** You must select either a written abstract submission or a video abstract submission.
- **Manuscript Submission:** accepted Oral Abstract Presenters must submit a complete manuscript to *Surgical Endoscopy*.
- The word limit for abstract submissions is **400 words** (not including title and authors).
- Images are allowed with abstract submissions. Images must be no larger than 1MB in file size, and no larger than 900 pixels wide by 900 pixels high.

Video Abstract Submissions

- The maximum length for submitted videos is seven (7) minutes. **SAGES is not accepting 3D video submissions.** If your video is accepted for presentation at the 2019 SAGES meeting, you will be required to bring a final copy of your video with you to the meeting.
- A short written description of your video should be included when submitting your video abstract.
- Videos may not include advertisement or promotion of products.
- Please DO NOT include any music, video clips or other materials/media copyrighted by any entity other than yourself.

If you have any questions, please contact the SAGES office at **310-437-0544 • FAX: 310-437-0585** or email: abstracts@sages.org

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IMPORTANT DATES CALENDAR

- SEPT. 6-7, 2018** SAGES Robotics Fellows Course at Intuitive Surgical in Atlanta, GA
www.sages.org/robotics-fellows-course/
- SEPT. 18, 2018** SAGES FREE Resident Webinar: Video Coaching vs. Telementoring: Extending the Training Envelope
www.sages.org/residents_courses/free_courses/
- SEPT. 21, 2018** Abstract and Video Submission deadline for SAGES 2019 Meeting
www.sages.org/meetings/abstracts/
- SEPT. 21, 2018** SAGES 2019 Award Nominations deadline
www.sages.org/about/awards/
- OCT. 20, 2018** State of the Art Consensus Conference on Prevention of Bile Duct Injury During Cholecystectomy in Boston, MA, immediately prior to the 2018 ACS Clinical Congress
www.preventbdi.org
- OCT. 21-24, 2018** SAGES Committee Meetings at ACS in Boston, MA. FES, FLS, and FUSE Testing also available.
*FLS
*FES
*FUSE
- NOV. 2, 2018** SAGES 2019 Research Grants submission deadline
www.sages.org/research/
- NOV. 19, 2018** Emerging Technology Abstract submissions for SAGES 2019 Meeting opens
www.sages.org/meetings/etabstracts/
- NOV. 29-30, 2018** SAGES Robotics Fellows Course at UCSD in San Diego, CA
www.sages.org/robotics-fellows-course/
- DEC. 18, 2018** SAGES FREE Resident Webinar: Preparing for ABSITE
www.sages.org/residents_courses/free_courses/
- JAN. 2019** Emerging Technology Abstract Submission deadline
www.sages.org/meetings/etabstracts/
- FEB. 11 2019** SAGES 2019 Meeting Early Bird Registration and Housing deadline
www.sages2019.org
- FEB. 19, 2019** SAGES FREE Resident Webinar: FUSE 2.0 Energy Based Tumor Ablation
www.sages.org/residents_courses/free_courses/
- APR. 16, 2019** SAGES FREE Resident Webinar: Safe Cholecystectomy Curriculum
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