

# SCOPE



A Publication of the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons



**SAGES 2020**  
Vision 2020: Rockin' The Future with Innovation and Discovery · April 1-4, 2020 · Cleveland, OH



Message from the President



SAGES 2019 Meeting Highlights



Remembering Dr. Forde

# SUMMER 2019



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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Aurora Pryor, MD

I'd like to update the membership on the great spring we are having at SAGES. Since our April Annual Meeting, we have had some exciting news in philanthropy and advocacy and are continuing to make strides in education and innovation. It never fails to amaze me the number of incredible initiatives that this society takes on and drives to completion.

In May of this year, our SAGES Foundation received the largest individual philanthropic contribution to date. Dr. Pon donated \$1 million to be used to advance the SAGES initiatives for technology in education and innovation. We are working diligently to use this gift in a way that will maximize benefit for our patients and members. Although we have to work out the details, I anticipate using the gift at least in part towards our video-based assessment (VBA) project, led by Matt Ritter, and tying this in with our new artificial intelligence initiative. Through this, I hope to have a practical assessment of true surgical performance to offer surgeons in training and throughout their careers. You can

help with this initiative by sharing videos with us for fundoplication, cholecystectomy and inguinal hernia [here](#).

Our advocacy team, under the leadership of Ross Goldberg, John Marks (representing our Oncology Task Force), Kevin Reavis, and Paresh

Shah, had two big wins already this spring. First, we presented at the FDA regarding the surgical stapler approval process and labeling on these devices. The final panel recommendations mirrored our suggestions, and in fact led to the team from the FDA reaching out to SAGES to help reword the package labeling to appropriately safeguard our patients without inappropriately limiting surgical practice. Second, we identified an issue up for discussion at the AMA meeting regarding ethylene oxide (ETO) sterilization of surgical and endoscopic instruments. Although a potential link was recently identified between ETO and cancer, safeguards are in place to allow for continued safe sterilizations and there is an active investigation by the FDA to discover an alternative solution. A concern was raised at the AMA regarding this risk, and through our lobbying efforts, we were able to redirect a resolution proposing a ban on such practices into one that referred the issue to be reviewed by the AMA's Council on Science & Public Health and have them work with the FDA to find viable alternatives. This was



supported by many other surgical and state societies, including the FDA themselves, who also testified on this matter. This is advocacy at work – go team! If you want to be more involved in advocacy, please feel free to contact either our Chair of the Advocacy and Health Policy Committee, Ross Goldberg, at [rossfgoldberg@gmail.com](mailto:rossfgoldberg@gmail.com), or Shelley Ginsberg at [shelley@sages.org](mailto:shelley@sages.org).

In June, our executive committee had a retreat and reviewed Leena Khaitan and Matt Goldblatt's ideas for the upcoming SAGES Annual Meeting: Vision 2020: Rockin' the Future with Innovation & Discovery. Check out <http://www.sages2020.org/> and save April 1-4, 2020 on your calendar now! I was really excited about the proposal and we gave them the thumbs up. Some of the highlights will include Great Debate sessions, two days of non-CME content dedicated to innovation and technology, and the return of fan favorites like Devil's in the Details and Masters sessions. I am particularly excited to honor our new [SAGES certified fellows](#) in the

*(continued on next page)*

Opening Ceremony and celebrate during the Sing-Off at the Rock-n-Roll Hall of Fame. I look forward to seeing all of you there!

Other outcomes from the executive retreat include finalizing plans for a February Summit to discuss the "next big thing" under the leadership of Chris Schlachta, Artificial Intelligence led by Oz Meireles, and alternative avenues for reimbursement led by Ross Goldberg. We are also moving forward on the Masters Program and expect an early Fall rollout for the new Organizational Wide Learning System (OWLS), which has been led by Steve Schwaitzberg.

It was a great pleasure for me to represent SAGES at the recent EAES meeting (our European sister society, with whom we share the journal). Among many highlights was Pascal Fuchshuber's leadership of a FUSE course. Congratulations to Pascal and the FUSE team on that success!

I am busy working with Sallie Matthews to finalize committee appointments. We had an amazing response to our solicitation to get involved, with over 900 members expressing an interest in joining the leadership. Thanks to all of you for sharing your love and energy with SAGES.

I wish you all a great summer. I am always open to additional ideas and suggestions. Please feel free to email me at [President@sages.org](mailto:President@sages.org).

Sincerely,

Your President  
*Aurora Pryor, MD*



## SAGES FREE RESIDENT WEBINAR SERIES

The Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) Resident and Fellow Training Committee offers a series of FREE educational webinars throughout the year. The webinars are developed specifically for residents and feature four SAGES expert panelists. All webinars will be from 7PM to 9PM (Eastern Standard Time) and include didactic sessions plus an opportunity to chat online with the experts.

### UPCOMING WEBINARS

Wednesday, September 11, 2019  
Intra-Operative Ultrasound for Liver and Pancreas Surgery  
Chair: D. Rohan Jeyarajah, MD

\*\* Registration will open in August 2019

Tuesday, December 10, 2019  
ABSITE Preparation - Part 1  
Chair: Michael Awad, MD, PhD

Tuesday, January 14, 2020  
ABSITE Preparation - Part 2  
Chair: Michael Awad, MD, PhD

Tuesday, February 25, 2020  
Laparoscopic and Endoscopic Treatment for Peptic Ulcer Disease  
Chair: Ruchir Puri, MD

Tuesday, April 14, 2020  
Robotic Hernia Repair  
Chair: Garth Jacobsen, MD

Tuesday, May 12, 2020  
FUSE 3.0  
Chair: Thomas Robinson, MD

# RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Research & Career Development Committee congratulates the 2019 SAGES Research Grants, Investigative Robotic Surgery Grants, and Quality Improvement Project Awards recipients for exceptional work on their research proposals.

## 2019 SAGES RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENTS



**Recipient:** Denise W. Gee  
**Project Title:** Transfer of Virtual Reality Endoscopy Training to Live-Animal Colonoscopy: A Randomized Control Trial of Proficiency vs

Repetition Based Training

**Institution:** Massachusetts General Hospital

*Supported by Karl Storz*



**Recipient:** Essa M. Aleassa  
**Project Title:** Incidence of Exocrine Pancreatic Insufficiency Following Bariatric Surgery

**Institution:** Cleveland Clinic

Foundation

*Supported by SAGES Education and Research Foundation*



**Recipient:** Joshua John Weis  
**Project Title:** Do the SAGES Fundamentals of Safe Cholecystectomy Modules Improve Surgeons' Decision Making During

Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy?

**Institution:** University of Texas Southwestern

*Supported by SAGES Education and Research Foundation*



**Recipient:** Julio Flavio Fiore  
**Project Title:** Opioid-free analgesia after outpatient surgery: A pilot randomized controlled trial  
**Institution:** McGill University

*Supported by SAGES Education and Research Foundation*

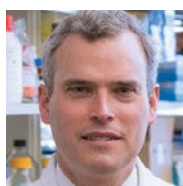


**Recipient:** Vishal Mayur Kothari  
**Project Title:** Feasibility of Bisphosphonate Use on Sleeve Gastrectomy Associated Bone Loss: Healthy Body, Healthy Bones Trial

**Institution:** University of Nebraska Medical Center

*Supported by SAGES Education and Research Foundation*

## 2019 INVESTIGATIVE ROBOTIC SURGERY GRANT RECIPIENTS



**Recipient:** Arthur James Moser  
**Project Title:** Systematic Intraoperative Assessment of Robotic Technology during High-complexity HPB-Surgery.

**Institution:** Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

*Supported by Intuitive Surgical*



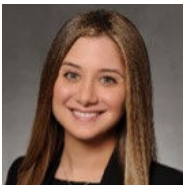
**Recipient:** Sara Monfared  
**Project Title:** Assessing Differences in Ergonomic Strain Between Laparoscopic and Robotic Surgery and Identifying Novel Methods for

Reducing Ergonomic Risk

**Institution:** Indiana University School of Medicine

*Supported by Intuitive Surgical*

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**Recipient:** Talar Tatariyan  
**Project Title:** Comparative Outcomes and Utilization Trends of Robotic Hernia Repair  
**Institution:** Stony Brook University

*Supported by Intuitive Surgical*

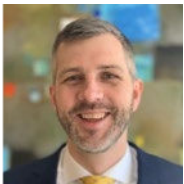
## 2019 QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AWARD RECIPIENTS



**Recipient:** Mojdeh Kappus  
**Project Title:** 10-Year Follow-Up of Patients Rejected From Undergoing Weight Loss Surgery  
**Institution:** Beth Israel Deaconess

Medical Center

*Supported by SAGES*



**Recipient:** Bradley Evans  
**Project Title:** Skills Enhancement for Endoscopy™ (SEE™) Program Improves Colonoscopy Quality  
**Institution:** Memorial University of

Newfoundland

*Supported by SAGES*

## 2019 MEDICAL STUDENT SUMMER RESEARCH AWARDS

2019 was another record-breaking year for the number of applications received for the Medical Student Summer Research Awards. A total of 44 applications were submitted and 3 students were selected as recipients. The Research & Career Development Committee is pleased to announce the winners for this award:

### **Jackson King**

**Project Title:** Pre-procedural Virtual Reality to Mitigate Peri-procedural Anxiety in Children Undergoing General Anesthesia: A Pilot Study  
**Institution:** Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine at Washington State University

### **Kessler Hurd**

**Project Title:** Impact of Enhance Recovery Programs for Bariatric Surgery  
**Institution:** The Ohio State University College of Medicine

### **Todd Brenner**

**Project Title:** Using Patient-Focused Video Education to Improve Referral to Weight Loss Surgery from a Primary Care Clinic at a Tertiary Academic Center  
**Institution:** Harvard Medical School



# 2020 GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Beginning Fall 2019, SAGES will accept applications for:

**General Research Grant – up to \$30,000**

**Investigative Robotic Surgery Grant – up to \$50,000**

**Career Development Award (CDA) – up to \$60,000**

*The CDA is awarded biennially and will be available starting this fall.*

*For more information, please visit <https://www.sages.org/research/>*



# JOIN SAGES TODAY!

*See your membership pay for itself*

Join now and enjoy the following benefits:

- Substantial discount for registration to SAGES annual meeting
- Discounts on annual dues for Active U.S. military members
- Discount on annual dues for 1st year surgeons upgrading from Candidate to Active membership
- Cutting-edge education and professional development
- Network with colleagues and surgical endoscopic experts
- Exposure to state-of-the-art surgical technology and techniques
- Member-only research grants and career development awards

Visit [www.sages.org/membership](http://www.sages.org/membership)  
or call 310.437.0544 ext. 110

# 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 check your AMA membership status and keep it current. To join the AMA or renew your membership, [visit the AMA website here](#).





# SAGES FOUNDATION RECEIVES \$1 MILLION GIFT FROM DR. PON SATITPUNWAYCHA

By Evelyn Rodewald

*An interview with the Foundation's largest individual donor*

## THE EARLY YEARS

At almost 83 years old, Dr. Pon Satitpunwaycha feels happy to be in relatively good health and be able to give back to SAGES.

Dr. Pon, as he prefers to be called, was born and raised in Thailand to parents of Chinese descent. He was the fifth of eight children. As a child he was often ill and spent a lot of his youth in doctors' offices. His mother encouraged him to become a doctor due to his health concerns and familiarity, as a patient, with the profession. In 1962, he graduated from Chulalongkorn University which was the top medical school in Thailand at the time.

Dr. Pon came to the United States in 1964 to complete his internship and residency at Northwestern University and returned to Thailand in 1969 to teach at Chulalongkorn University's medical school. For eight years,

he combined his teaching career with a small private practice.

In 1978, he returned to the United States for a fellowship with a world-renowned cardiovascular surgeon, Dr. Denton A. Cooley, at the Texas Heart Institute (now part of Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center) in Houston, Texas. When his fellowship ended, Dr. Pon accepted a position as the sole general surgeon at Waller County Memorial Hospital, a small hospital in a rural, underserved area located on the outskirts of Houston. Later, he started his own practice and opened Waller Medical Clinic P.A. For several decades, Dr. Pon had a busy and full schedule. Being the only surgeon at the clinic and having been part of the generation that was trained to put patients first, he often worked long hours and had little time for much else.

## SAGES CONNECTION

Without other surgeons at the hospital with whom to consult on cases, Dr. Pon sought out external education opportunities. He attended his first SAGES meeting



in 1992 and was greatly impressed by the dynamic leadership and the open sharing of knowledge. The chance to learn laparoscopy was especially exciting to him. He became a SAGES member in 1993 and began regularly attending the annual SAGES meetings. The MIS skills and techniques that he learned from the SAGES meetings enabled him to grow and expand his practice in laparoscopic approach procedures. In addition, he wrote 11 educational booklets that detailed topics within the scope of his practice that were presented at local health fairs to educate the public.

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Soon after he became a SAGES member, Dr. Pon made his first donation to the SAGES Foundation. He states, "I was so happy and appreciative to attend the SAGES Meetings because I learned so much that I wanted to give something." His first donation was a small amount, as were the subsequent donations that he continued to donate annually with his membership dues.

In 2008, following the suggestion of one of his patients, Dr. Pon started investing in the stock market. As a result of his investments, he was able to make major gifts to the SAGES Foundation with a \$500,000 donation in 2013, a \$500,000 donation in 2016, and a \$1,000,000 donation this year to support SAGES educational programs and initiatives. As a member, he wanted to do more to contribute to SAGES. Dr. Pon firmly asserts, "Giving back to our profession is the right thing to do. Investing in SAGES will have good results."

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Dr. Pon's most recent \$1 million gift will be used to further the application of technology in surgical education. He states, "I would like to see SAGES continue to be a leader using technology to reshape surgical education. Technology has changed surgery so much in the last 40 years and 5G wireless will add efficiency to surgical practices and allow communications to be streamlined. The potential application of AI in surgical education is a

good opportunity and SAGES will be able to be a leader."

SAGES has always been known as a society that embraces innovation and is on the cutting edge of new technology and applications that inform the evolution of surgery. Through Dr. Pon's generous and substantial contribution, SAGES programs in video assessment, artificial intelligence, and other cutting-edge technological applications will support the improvement of surgical education, clinical outcomes, and patient care. As Dr. Pon looks to the future of medicine, he remarks, "data has become the primary tool by which humans will drive our future in every sense." It is this visionary guidance and advocacy that will enable SAGES to continue to be a leader in the surgical world.

## LEGACY

For SAGES and the SAGES Foundation, Dr. Pon's legacy will be his transformative gifts that have enabled various SAGES projects and programs such as Go Global, OWLS, and technology in surgical education to be implemented and advanced. While Dr. Pon is proud of this legacy, he cites his patients as being the most rewarding aspect and biggest influence of his career. It was his personal motivation to ensure that patients did well before, during, and after surgery. He derived the most satisfaction from improving the lives of his patients. He recalls, "it was a gratifying experience to see my patients fully recover from surgery." If he could

give advice to young surgeons, it would be to "always look at the big picture, don't panic, don't be too greedy, and make decisions wisely."

Although Dr. Pon retired in 2011, he still works two days a week assisting a fellow surgeon in the Houston area on surgical procedures. When he isn't working, he enjoys reading surgical journals and studying the stock market. At this point in his life, he feels successful and is happy to give back.



# 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 this link](#) to complete your gift today!

## 2019 SAGES FOUNDATION AWARDS LUNCHEON RECAP:

The 13th Annual SAGES Foundation Awards Luncheon was held on Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at the Baltimore Convention Center. It was a successful fundraising with almost \$68,000 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.

## BARBARA BERCI MEMORIAL AWARD

The Barbara Berci Memorial Award is an award in honor of Barbara Berci, the founder of the SAGES Foundation, to recognize the passion, dedication, and vision that she brought to SAGES and her commitment to providing opportunities for young surgeons.

The purpose of the award is to accelerate leadership and career development of young surgeons and provide financial support for attendance at a designated leadership course that challenges the way one thinks and enhances ways to optimize leadership and effect/lead change in the surgical world. Additionally, the award recipient will be matched with a SAGES leader for mentoring and will be asked to attend various SAGES meetings and events and participate in a SAGES supported project.

This award will be funded from donations to the Barbara Berci Memorial Fund. To make a donation to the Memorial Fund, [please visit this link](#).

**Be a Member. Be a Leader. Be a Donor.**

## SAGES SAFE CHOLE AND COMMON BILE DUCT EXPLORATION COURSE

SAGES is hosting its first Common Bile Duct Exploration Course, August 24, 2019 in Los Angeles, CA! This course is open to a team consisting of a PGY 3, 4 & 5 resident plus attending surgeon (faculty member) from the same institution, both with a willingness to initiate a common bile duct exploration program at their home institution after course completion.

Registration is now closed. For ongoing information about this course, [visit this link](#).

# ADVOCACY & HEALTH POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE

After a successful health care policy session at the previous SAGES 2019 Annual Meeting, your AHP committee has been hard at work continuing to represent SAGES members on a variety of issues. Recently, working in conjunction with our SAGES President, Dr. Aurora Pryor, and other leadership within the organization, we were able to offer input and support as Dr. Pryor recently testified to an FDA panel about the use and oversight of surgical staplers. Her impressive and successful testimony will hopefully be another step in helping SAGES to continue to establish itself as the leading innovative, and always patient-centric, surgical society. For more information about Dr. Pryor's FDA testimony, please refer to her 'Message from the President' article.

In other news, thanks to our increased membership within the American Medical Association, we have now been afforded a second delegate to the AMA House of Delegates. This is a significant deal for us. Doubling our delegation size affords the ability to be in more places at once, interacting with a variety of different state and specialty groups to ensure that SAGES' concerns are being heard and addressed

within the larger AMA itself. The only way to affect policy is from the inside-out, and we are continuing to make inroads with that process. We thank all of those who joined the AMA, and we encourage all of you who are not members to seriously consider joining. Whether you like it or not, the AMA is viewed as the voice of the House of Medicine. Since they are already presumed to be speaking on your behalf, you should tell them what you would like them to say; to do that, you need to be a member.

Finally, as always, our representatives to the CPT and RUC work tirelessly on behalf of our members, ensuring that our practices remain adequately compensated for the work that we do.

As always, the AHP Committee is here on your behalf and always willing, ready and able to answer any concerns or tackle any issues that may come up in the future. For more information, contact AHP Committee Chair, Ross Goldberg at [Ross\\_Goldberg@dmgaz.org](mailto:Ross_Goldberg@dmgaz.org) or Shelley Ginsberg at [Shelley@sages.org](mailto:Shelley@sages.org).

# RESIDENT AND FELLOW TRAINING COMMITTEE CONTEST AND AWARDS

The Resident and Fellow Training Committee (RAFT) offers two awards for outstanding abstracts presented by Surgical Residents and Fellows at the SAGES Annual Meetings. 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 Residency/Fellowship completion date 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, 2019. Abstracts that do not include the anticipated Residency/Fellowship completion date 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 2020 Scientific Session, please [visit this link](#).

For more information regarding the RAFT awards, please [visit this link](#).

## ALL IN THE RECOVERY A PATIENT SITE ABOUT SURGICAL OPTIONS



Colon and rectal cancer often means surgery. Prepare yourself with knowledge by visiting the Colorectal Cancer Alliance's website to learn about surgical options for colon and rectal cancer.

[www.ccalliance.org/all-in-the-recovery](http://www.ccalliance.org/all-in-the-recovery)

This website was created in collaboration with SAGES and Medtronic.

Photo credit: Getty Images

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**Medtronic**



# RAFT AWARD WINNERS AT 2019 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): Kelly R. Haisley, MD – Endoscopic Resection of a Large Mediastinal Esophageal Leiomyoma

2nd Place (\$300): Kelly R. Haisley, MD – Neurectomy with Hybrid Laparoscopic-Robotic Device for Chronic Groin Pain After Open Inguinal Hernia Repair

3rd Place (\$200): David J. Morrell, MD – Endoscopic Management of Recurrent Anastomotic Leak Following Chemotherapy After Colorectal Surgery

## BEST RESIDENT/FELLOW SCIENTIFIC SESSION PRESENTATION AWARD FOR THE BEST

### PRESENTATION DELIVERED DURING THE RESIDENT AND FELLOW SESSION:

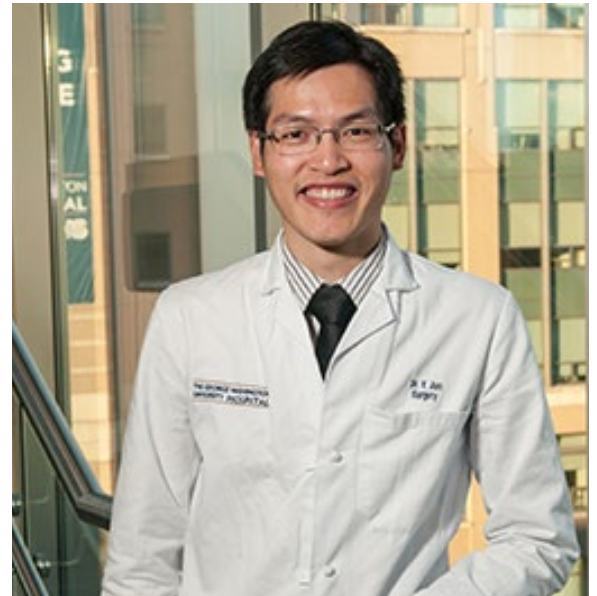
1st Place (\$500): Chantalle Grant, MD – Concurrent Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy with Bariatric Surgery: A Propensity-Matched Analysis of the MBSAQIP Database

2nd Place (\$300): Jin Sol Oh, MD – Artificial Intelligence in Surgery: Assessment of the Critical View of Safety Using Machine Learning

3rd Place (\$200): Nourah Alsharqawi, MBBS, MSc – Validity of the I-FEED Score for Postoperative Gastrointestinal Function in Patients Undergoing Colorectal Surgery

# SAGES 2019 EMERGING TECHNOLOGY AWARD WINNER

The TAVAC Committee congratulates Dr. Yen-Yi Juo on winning the Emerging Technology Award at SAGES 2019 for his presentation, titled “An Add-On Multi-Modal Haptic Feedback System for Robotic Surgical Systems.” The haptic feedback system at the Center for Advanced Surgical and Interventional Technology (CASIT), University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), began development in 2008. The project seeks to advance research in the field of haptics in surgical robotics and promote its clinical application. The system was designed as an add-on solution with compatibility in mind, thus most interfaces with the robotic surgical system were manufactured through a 3D printed process, allowing future customizations to fit onto different robotic consoles with a master-slave configuration without having to modify the core architecture of the haptic feedback system. The CASIT haptic feedback system also incorporated several feedback modalities including tactile, kinesthetic and vibratory feedback. The initial objective of the CASIT haptic feedback system was to reduce excessive grip force during robotic procedures. To this end, a prototype was developed utilizing water-resistant miniature piezoresistive sensors installed at the robotic grasper’s jaws and providing haptic feedback to the surgeon’s fingertips via customized pneumatic actuators. The CASIT system has since undergone numerous reiterations in order to be applied to a variety of applications. For example, adjusting the location of sensor placement and directionality of forces measured allow functionalities from reducing suture failure, increasing knot tying quality to providing artificial palpation for mapping of soft tissue characteristics.



## IN MEMORIAM

*SAGES has learned of the passing of the following member, and extends our condolences to their family and friends.*

Dr. Warren S. Grundfest



# SAGES

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*More Than Our Name*



From training and certificate programs, to hands-on courses, webinars, continuing education and more, SAGES offers learning opportunities for medical students, experienced surgeons, and everyone in between. We are proud to be a leader in surgical education. For more information, visit [www.sages.org](http://www.sages.org).



## SAGES LAUNCHES NEW CAMPAIGN: MORE THAN OUR NAME

SAGES has come a long way since it launched in 1981 as a small group of surgeons focused on emerging gastrointestinal and endoscopic techniques and education. While this focus is still at the heart of the society, SAGES has expanded into so much more. The SAGES 'More Than Our Name' campaign highlights this expansion through four major themes: Global, Education, Innovation, and Inclusive. Watch the video [on our website](#) to find out all the ways SAGES is More Than Our Name.



# REMEMBERING OUR SECOND SAGES PRESIDENT

We are sad to share with our SAGES family that Dr. Kenneth Forde passed away peacefully on Sunday morning, June 2. Dr. Forde was a giant in the world of surgery, the definition of grace and class, and a true statesman. He was the co-founder of SAGES (with Dr. Gerald Marks) and our second President. He



Dr. Forde with his wife, Kay

and other activities, including the American Board of Surgery, the American College of Surgeons, and the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy. A former President of the New York Surgical Society and the New York Society for Gastrointestinal Surgery, he served as Secretary of the SAGES Education and Research Foundation and was on the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Surgical Fellowships. He was an active colorectal surgeon, endoscopic surgeon, teacher and researcher at the Columbia

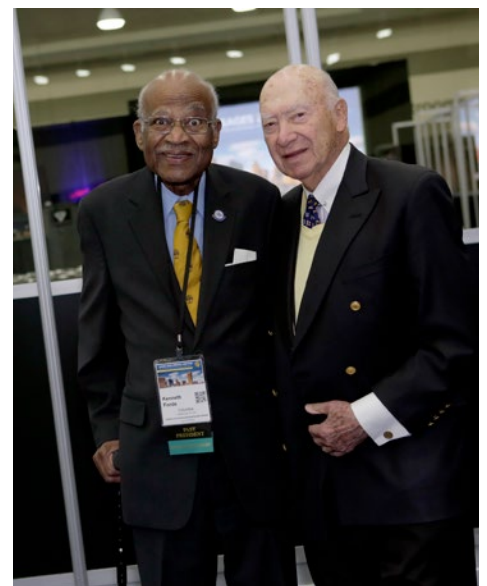
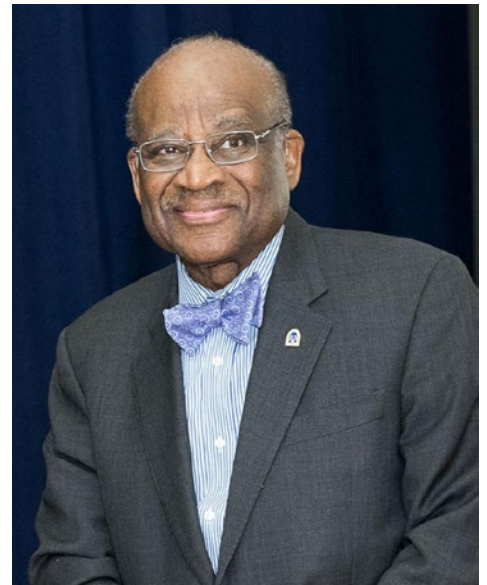
was Editor-in-Chief of *Surgical Endoscopy* for 10 years, Governor of the American College of Surgeons, and President of the 8th (2002) World Congress of Endoscopic Surgery. He was involved over the years in inter-organization deliberations

University College of Physicians and Surgeons, received countless honors for teaching, humanitarianism and alumni service. Dr. Forde was the recipient of the SAGES Distinguished Service Award and the George Berci Lifetime Achievement Award. He was active in his church, a friend and mentor to many, and married to his wife Kay (who predeceased him in April 2017) for 60 years. He will be missed, but never forgotten.

Dr. Forde asked that in lieu of flowers donations be made to two of his favorite causes:

The Kenneth and Kareitha Forde Endowment for Music at Christchurch Riverdale  
5030 Henry Hudson Parkway East  
Bronx, NY 10471

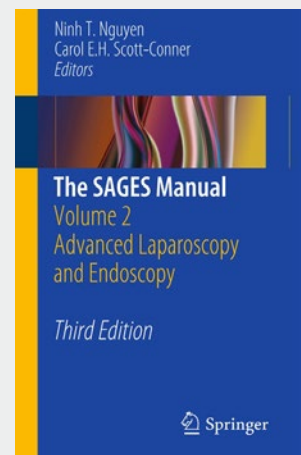
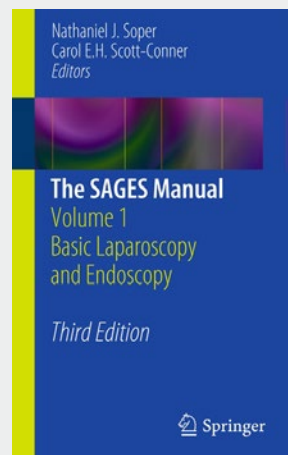
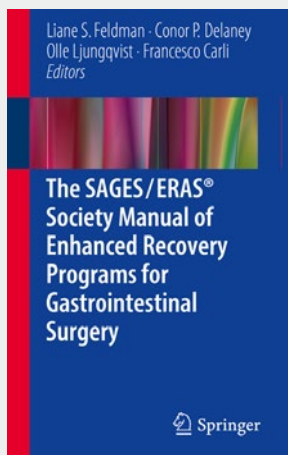
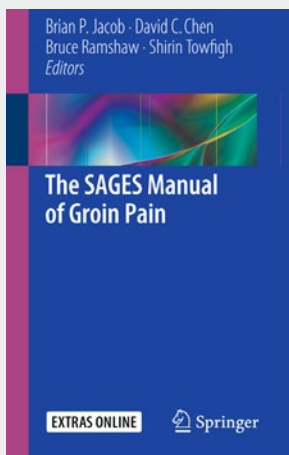
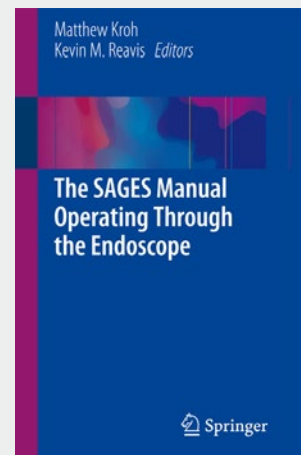
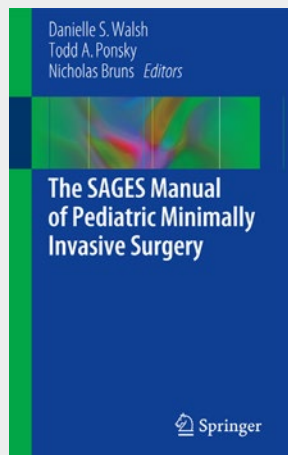
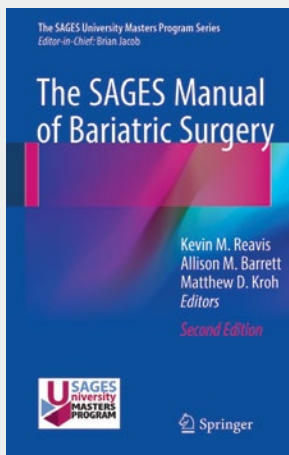
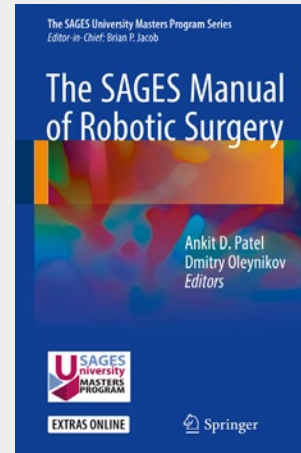
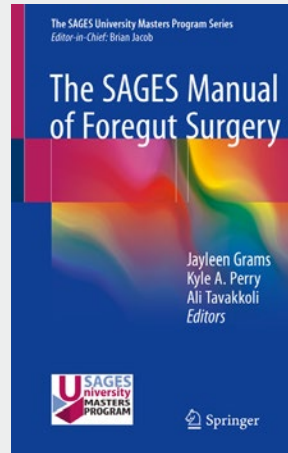
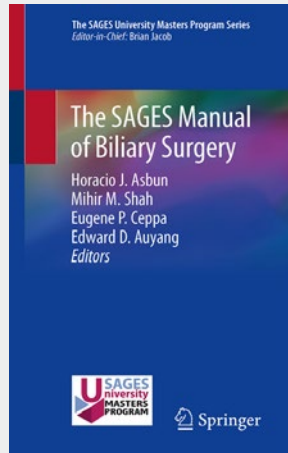
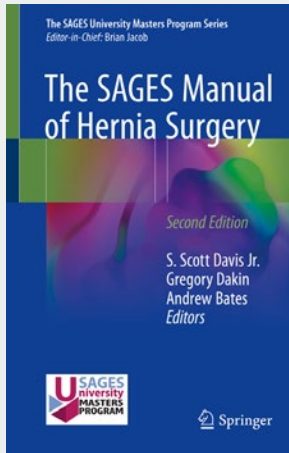
Kenneth A. Forde Scholarship  
Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons  
Attn: Laura Tenenbaum  
516 West 168th Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10032



Dr. Forde with Dr. Jerry Marks

# SAGES Manuals

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



# CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

SAGES 2020 Annual Meeting | April 1st-4th, 2020 | Cleveland, OH

Program Co-Chairs: Matthew Goldblatt, MD & Leena Khaitan, MD

Dear Colleague,

You are invited to submit paper and video abstracts to the SAGES 2020 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 [this web page](#) for instructions.**

**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 (state ACS chapter meeting, institutional or departmental research day for example) 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 2020 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 written 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 2020 SAGES meeting, you will be required to bring a final copy of your video with you to the meeting.
- A short (100-word maximum) 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](mailto:abstracts@sages.org).



# The Fellowship Council

11300 W Olympic Blvd, Ste. 600  
Los Angeles, CA 90064  
PHONE | 310-437-0555  
EMAIL | [info@fellowshipcouncil.org](mailto:info@fellowshipcouncil.org)

***For information on advanced fellowship surgical training, visit [www.fellowshipcouncil.org](http://www.fellowshipcouncil.org)***

## **Fellowship Council Accredited Fellowships Include:**

- Advanced Gastrointestinal Surgery (GI)
- Advanced GI Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS)
- Advanced GI MIS/Bariatrics
- Bariatric Surgery
- Colorectal Surgery (non-ACGME)
- Flexible Endoscopy
- Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery (HPB)
- Thoracic Surgery (non-ACGME)

## **Interested applicants are invited to visit the Fellowship Council website for further information on the following:**

- Application and Matching Process Information
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Universal Fellowship Application
- Directory of Available Fellowships
- Accreditation Status of Fellowships

## **Sponsoring Societies of the Fellowship Council:**

American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons/ASCRS  
Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association / AHPBA  
American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery / ASMBS  
Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons / SAGES  
Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract / SSAT

# A CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN SAGES & AWS

*By Maria Altieri, MD, MS, Co-chair, SAGES Membership Committee*

As you know, SAGES is dedicated to improving inclusion within the organization and the surgical community and fostering innovation through diversity. As a part of this important goal of the society, many initiatives with other societies have been developed. One of these collaborations is with the Association of Women Surgeons (AWS), which is one of the largest international organizations dedicated to encouraging and empowering women surgeons to realize their professional and personal goals. We are excited to announce that this partnership has been extremely successful for both organizations and is continuing for a second year.

This partnership has spurred many interactions between the two societies in the past year. There was a noticeable presence during each society's annual meetings. At the SAGES 2019 Annual Meeting, many of you may have noticed that the membership booths

for both organizations were adjacent to each other (pictured below is Jacob

Greenberg, MD, a joint SAGES/AWS member spreading the word at the AWS booth). In addition, there was a Women in Surgery social event which was advertised by AWS at the SAGES meeting. Similarly, SAGES had a significant presence during the 2018 AWS annual meeting in Boston, MA. Due to this collaboration, SAGES membership has increased in active, candidate and medical student membership.

Not a member of AWS yet? With the partnership between the two societies, you can now join AWS at a 30% discount. And YES, AWS membership is open to both women and men. For more information, details are available at [www.sages.org/membership](http://www.sages.org/membership), [www.womensurgeons.org](http://www.womensurgeons.org), or by contacting the membership staff at either association.



*Jacob Greenberg, MD (representing AWS at the SAGES 2019 Annual Meeting)*

**SAGES ROCKS CLEVELAND**

**SAGES  
2020**



**SAVE THE DATE**

**APRIL 1-4 2020**

*VISION 2020: ROCKIN' THE FUTURE WITH  
INNOVATION AND DISCOVERY*

**HUNTINGTON CONVENTION CENTER  
CLEVELAND, OHIO**

**PROGRAM CHAIRS:  
MATTHEW GOLDBLATT, MD & LEENA KHAITAN, MD**

**WWW.SAGES2020.ORG**



## 2020 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 20, 2019.

We encourage you to review the available awards and scholarships and submit your nomination online [at this link](#). 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 2020 SAGES Annual Meeting next year in Cleveland, OH.

For any questions, please email Jillian Kelly in the SAGES office at [jillian@sages.org](mailto: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!

John Romanelli, MD  
SAGES Awards Committee Chair



## HERNIA TASK FORCE VIRTUAL HERNIA CLINIC

Learn tips and tricks for managing inguinal hernia patients with the Virtual Hernia Clinic curriculum!

Identify areas of improved care for inguinal hernia patients with a curriculum that is specifically designed for the busy practicing surgeon. The Virtual Hernia Clinic (VHC) is an online education program that mirrors a real-life case and the consequences of patient care decisions. Increase your knowledge of hernia disease and gain expert insight through the VHC's interactive multi-media platform.

**Try out the module for FREE here**

Need CME? Complete the requirements of the VHC+CME option.

The Society of American Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) designates this material for a maximum of 4.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.



# FUSE

## Take the FUSE Exam Anywhere in the World!

How much do you know about the principles and properties of operating electrosurgical instruments safely? Test your knowledge with the FUSE curriculum.

**The FUSE educational modules are free of charge, and available in Chinese (Simplified), English and Spanish here.**

Thanks to our newly expanded testing network, becoming FUSE certified has never been easier:

Test takers residing outside the U.S. may now 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 this link](#).

U.S. military personnel stationed outside of the United States can also opt to take the FUSE exam online. For more information about online proctoring (OLP), [please visit this link](#).

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 safe use of surgical energy-based devices in the operating room, endoscopic suite and other procedural areas. 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 testing and to sign up for the exam, [please visit this link](#).



# SAGES 2019-2020

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Prabhu

# SAGES 2019-2020

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Jackson, Jason Keune

# SAGES 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

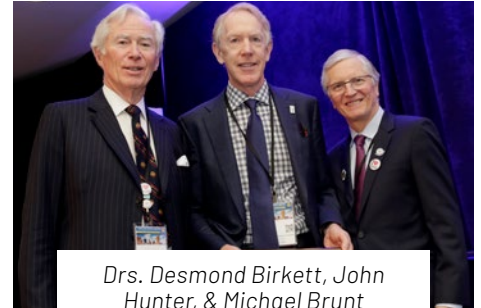
SAGES would like to thank everyone who attended this year's meeting. We look forward to seeing you in Cleveland in 2020!



*Drs. Jon Gould, Jeff Marks, & Patricia Sylla*  
SAGES President & 2019 Program Chairs



*Drs. Desmond Birkett & Ross Goldberg*  
Excellence in Medical Leadership Award



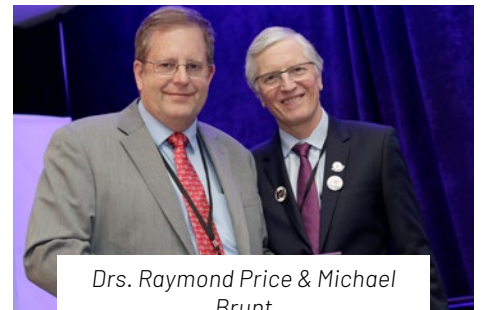
*Drs. Desmond Birkett, John Hunter, & Michael Brunt*  
Distinguished Service Award



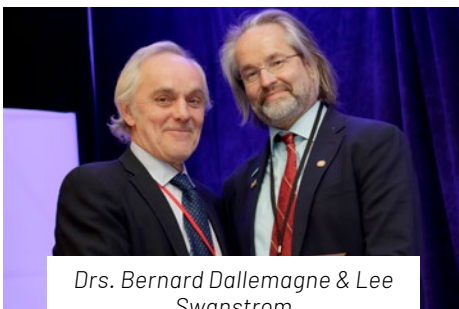
*Drs. Alberto Ferreres & Michael Brunt*  
International Ambassador Award



*Drs. Jeff Marks, John Mellinger, & David Duppler*  
Jeffrey L. Ponsky Master Educator in Endoscopy Award



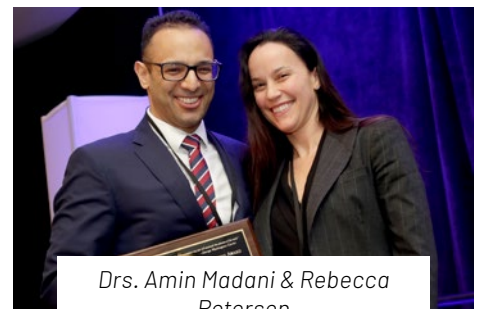
*Drs. Raymond Price & Michael Brunt*  
Excellence in Humanistic Clinical Care Award



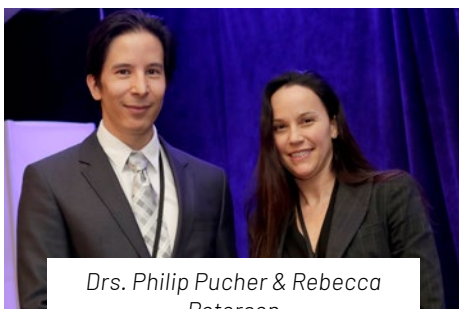
*Drs. Bernard Dallemagne & Lee Swanstrom*  
George Berci Lifetime Achievement Award



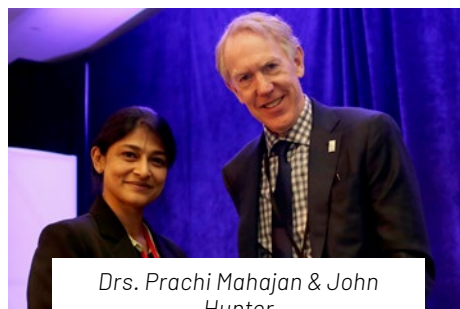
*Drs. Rebecca Petersen & Tammy Kindel*  
Young Researcher Award



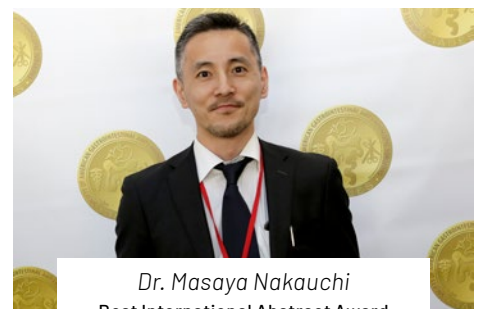
*Drs. Amin Madani & Rebecca Petersen*  
Researcher in Training Award



*Drs. Philip Pucher & Rebecca Petersen*  
Researcher in Training Award



*Drs. Prachi Mahajan & John Hunter*  
Margrét Oddsdóttir Traveling Fellowship Award

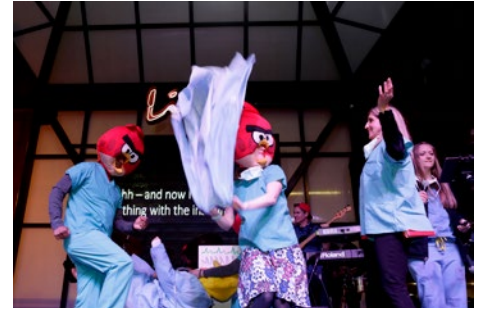


*Dr. Masaya Nakauchi*  
Best International Abstract Award

# SAGES 2019 HIGHLIGHTS



# SAGES 2019 HIGHLIGHTS



*Thank you to SAGES Immediate Past President, Dr. Jeff Marks, on a productive and inspiring year for the Society, and to the 2019 Program Chairs, Drs. Pat Sylla and Jon Gould, for a successful Annual Meeting!*