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Monthly Electronic SCOPE 2.0

December 2020

Are You Searching For the Holiday Spirit?

For many of us, finding that holiday spirit may be hard this year, but I choose to BELIEVE. To believe in hope, that after this unprecedented year of countless challenges, it's the holiday season that brings us a vaccine that will hopefully make the impact we have all been waiting and fighting for.



Regardless of what each of us believe in, or what we'll be celebrating this holiday season, let's not forget that it is up to us to keep that spirit alive. For us, and those around us.

As an organization, we at SAGES feel fortunate to have people like you in our constituency. It's because of you that SAGES has found a way to thrive and seize on the positives of 2020 despite the enormous challenges.

Please stay safe. Wishing you and your family an extra measure of comfort, joy and hope this holiday season.

And for health, happiness and a bright 2021!

Dr. Horacio Asbun, SAGES President

IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES

Research Grant Deadline Extension
Jan 5, 2021

SAGES 2021 Meeting, Las Vegas
Aug 31-Sept-3

New SAGES 2021 Annual Meeting Dates

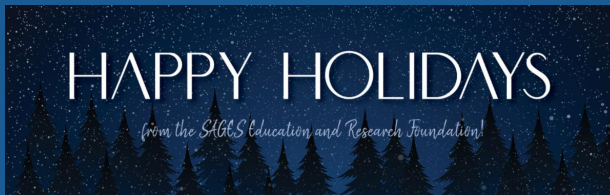


Great news! We were able to secure better dates for the SAGES 2021 Annual Meeting

in Las Vegas that will likely facilitate an in person meeting.

Here's a sneak preview of some exciting programs and sessions planned: Masters, Devils in the Details and Great Debates sessions for each of the nine Pathways; all-new ADOPT Hands-on Courses including Roux-en-Y to the Rescue; Innovation in MIS Oncology; Lessons Learned from the Pandemic; Advocacy and Community Practice; Reimagining Wellness presented by the new Reimagining the Practice of Surgery task force; and, an all new Shark Tank with a significant monetary award for the most promising innovation. Stay tuned for many more details and registration information in the new year!

SAGES Foundation – Your Gift Helps Advance Surgical Science



This year has brought many unexpected changes and challenges, but also some welcome constants. Our forced isolation has amplified connections with friends and family as well as the care we give to each other.

SAGES Education and Research Foundation demonstrates *our* care through supporting research, awards, education, and vital projects that help advance surgical science. All of these accomplishments have been realized thanks to you – our donors - and we are so grateful for your generous support.

As this unprecedented year comes to an end, we ask you to be constant with your support of the Foundation so that we continue make a difference in caring for patients in the U.S. and abroad.

You can make your donation via the Foundation [website](#), which also provide details about donating via check. Please also consider gifting Dr. Berci's "The Scope of my Life" to a friend or colleague.

End of Year Legislation Regarding Medicare Payment Cuts

On December 3, 2020, Chapters of the American College of Surgeons **sent a letter** to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) requesting that Congress include a solution to prevent drastic Medicare payment cuts in any must-pass legislation before the end of the year.

Additionally, the letter urges the passing of the Holding Providers Harmless From Medicare Cuts During COVID-19 Act of 2020, H.R. 8702. 100 percent of domestic chapters signed on to the letter!



Click [this link](#) for additional information and to urge congressional leadership to include ACS-supported solutions, such as H.R. 8702, in any must-pass legislation.

SAGES Member Spotlight Dr. Melissa Chang

Joining SAGES as Candidate member in 2017, upgrading to Active membership, and attending annual meetings allows Dr. Melissa Chang a way to stay connected to



Dr. Melissa Chang
Colon and Rectal Surgeon
Southeastern Michigan



her "extended family." This includes her many professional mentors and colleagues from Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, among them Dr. Pat Sylla, Dr. Brian Jacob and Dr. Dan Popowich.

As a member of SAGES Colorectal Facebook group, Dr. Chang moderated a webinar, "Colorectal Cancer Care Delivery in the Era of COVID-19," in April 2020. She is also actively involved in every SAGES meeting, co-chairing a millennial surgeon session at the SAGES 2019 meeting and chairing a session highlighting complex Facebook cases from the Facebook Masters Collaborations at the Virtual 2020 meeting.

Read more about Dr. Chang [here](#).

Have a suggestion for MesSAGES? Please submit your comments to julie@sages.org.

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