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Monthly Electronic SCOPE 2.0

March 2021

Synergy^{ID}
Near-Infrared Fluorescence Imaging



Happy Birthday, Dr. Berci!

Please join everyone at SAGES in wishing Dr. George Berci a very happy 100th birthday.



For those unfamiliar with his remarkable life, Dr. Berci is a Holocaust survivor who came to the U.S. in 1970. A surgical pioneer in his native Hungary, he has for decades continued to further the potential of minimally invasive surgery. His many achievements include partnering with Dr. Karl Storz to create the endoscopic technology used in operating rooms worldwide. A SAGES founding member and past president, Dr. Berci is being celebrated this week by his friends, family and colleagues at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

Dr. Berci met Barbara Saltzman (SAGES inaugural Executive Director, 1984-1998) through SAGES, and was married to Barbara from 1989 until her death in 2018. The pair were a dynamic duo and forces of nature-passionate about music, current events, travel and SAGES for three decades.

We invite you to honor Dr. Berci with a contribution to the SAGES Education and Research Foundation, about which he remains passionately committed. With a minimum donation of \$25 you can receive a copy of Dr. Berci's remarkable autobiography, *The Scope of My Life*. To make a donation of any amount, please visit the SAGES Foundation [website](http://www.sages.org): For questions regarding the Foundation, please contact Colleen Elkins at 310-437-0555, ext 114, or via email: colleen@sages.org

IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES

SAGES Free Resident Webinar
Apr 20, 2021

SAGES 2021 Meeting, Las Vegas
Aug 31-Sept 3

We're sad to report the passing of Prof. Alberto Montori, and extend our deepest sympathies to his family. Professor of Surgery at the University of Rome La Sapienza, Dr. Montori was one of the fathers of GI endoscopy and MIS in Europe, and a great humanitarian. He was a past president of our European sister society EAES, the 2016 recipient of the SAGES George Berci Lifetime Achievement Award, and a friend to SAGES. He will be missed.



SAGES Committee Membership Appointments

Incoming SAGES president Dr. Liane Feldman will make the 2021-2022 committee membership appointments in late spring. Please login to your SAGES member account [here](#) and indicate whether you'd like to serve on a new committee(s) or change a current assignment.

SAGES Guidelines Committee Update

Newly posted on the SAGES website are:

Guidelines in Progress: Visit the Members Only section of our website to view the active projects of the SAGES Guidelines Committee and the key questions for each project.

Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) Guidelines Development: Standard Operating Procedure. Rogers AT, Dirks R, Burt HA, Haggerty S, Kohn GP, Slater BJ, Walsh D, Stefanidis D., Pryor A. In press

This article documents the process we use to create our evidencebased guidelines. Look for it under Education/Training.

Infographic: Safe Cholecystectomy Multi-Society Practice Guideline and State of the Art Consensus Conference on Prevention of Bile Duct Injury during Cholecystectomy
Our first Infographic is now available and posted on the BDI guideline. Thanks go to Dr. Athanasiadis, Dr. Walsh and the Implementation Task Force for their work. Watch for more infographics to come.

SAGES Member Spotlight Dr. Shirin Towfigh



Shirin Towfigh, MD FACS (front right)
Hernia & Laparoscopic Surgery Specialist
Beverly Hills Hernia Center - Los Angeles

"The way SAGES has adapted to advances in technology, the addition of robotics and the growing specialty of hernia repairs; I plan to be a member for life," says Dr. Shirin Towfigh.

While Dr. Towfigh remembers some UCLA classmates choosing certain specialties to avoid laparoscopic surgery she says she was "super gung-ho," taking her first SAGES foregut course as a resident with former SAGES president Dr. Jeff Peters.

At her first position at USC, Dr. Towfigh worked closely with multiple SAGES leaders and members, including Dr. Peters, along with Drs. Namir Katkhouda, Peter Crookes and Cedric Brenner. At Cedars-Sinai, she worked with both Drs.



George Berci and Edward Phillips, adding "I am a great advocate of mentorship and learning from surgical history. I have been blessed to be in SAGES' Los Angeles hub."

Read more about Dr. Towfigh here.

To learn more about SAGES membership and access an online application form, please go here.

#WhySAGES 2021 - We Still Want to Hear from You

We're still calling on all SAGES meeting "groupies" to share a short (less than 1 minute) video of why you'll be attending SAGES 2021. With your permission, we plan to share these videos (along with written testimonials) in future meeting-related communications and the SAGES website. We also encourage you to share via your personal social media accounts with the hashtags #whySAGES2021 and @ReimaginingSurgery.



Please submit all testimonials to julie@sages.org.

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

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