Health and safety remain our primary concern at this year’s meeting, and SAGES is trying to set the standard for meetings moving forward. In accordance with both the Las Vegas and state of Nevada’s reinstated mask mandate on July 30, specific safety measures include:

- SAGES and the MGM will enforce the mask mandate at all times, except while actively eating or drinking.
- Masks and hand sanitizer stations are located throughout the hotel and conference space.
- COVID vaccines are required. All registrants, exhibitors and staff will be required to complete a self-attestation of vaccination status before being issued a badge for meeting access.

For those unable to travel this year, it’s not too late to register for the virtual option here.

SAGES 2021: Fluorescence Image Guided Surgery

SAGES, the Japan Society for Surgical Endoscopy (JSES) and the International Society for Fluorescent Guided Surgery (ISFGS) are jointly presenting the session “Update on Fluorescent Image Guided Surgery” on Wednesday September 1. In this non-CME course, attendees will learn about fluorescent image guided surgery - a novel interoperative imaging modality that enables surgeons to identify anatomical structures that are otherwise not visible to the human eye when shining white light alone.

To see the entire SAGES 2021 advance registration program, please go here.

Dr. Horacio Asbun Featured on SAGES Debut Podcast

You can’t spell minimally invasive surgery without SAGES. And you can’t get more up
close and personal than SAGES new monthly podcast SAGES Stories. Beginning this month, co-hosts Dr. Shirin Towfigh and Dr. Kevin El-Hayek share their interviews with SAGES leaders and influencers whose contributions have impacted the society. Listeners can look forward to episodes that feature a diverse group of SAGES members talking about a wide range of professional and personal topics. Immediate past president Dr. Horacio Asbun kicks off SAGES Stories in a wide-ranging interview with Dr. Asbun discussing his mentors, the professional philosophy he shared with his children and some of his most memorable SAGES moments. Listen to Dr. Asbun and all upcoming podcasts here.

**SAGES Member Spotlight**

**Dr. Robert Catania**

Dr. Robert Catania recalls that when he joined SAGES in 2002, "it was a small society filled with members who were thinking big thoughts and dreaming big dreams about the future of surgery." At the time, laparoscopic surgery was still struggling to gain acceptance and Dr. Catania relied on SAGES videos to give him a glimpse into the future.

He was "hooked" after his first meeting. "The same surgeons performing laparoscopic feats in the videos were walking around the meeting hall in shorts and flip flops. It was a totally different experience than I had been exposed to at other meetings. The work that SAGES is doing in surgical education to promote safe, reproducible, complex surgery is what means the most to me." Read more about Dr. Catania here.

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

**OpiVoid.Org is Live! Providing Pain Management Without Opioids**

The SAGES Opioid Task Force is excited to announce the launch of OpiVoid.org, an online resource providing practical tips and information for surgeons to reduce opioid prescriptions while ensuring pain management for their patients after surgery. The website includes a wealth of information, including: preoperative patient education; techniques for intraoperative nerve blocks; recommendations for multimodal analgesia; opioid-prescribing guidelines; and, links to prescription drug monitoring programs in your state. Access videos, downloadable patient education and additional materials at www.opiVoid.org.

**Call for Awards - Nomination Deadline October 29**

The 2022 Call for Awards Nominations and Scholarships is now open! SAGES has 11 major awards and five scholarships available. Please go here to review available awards and submit your nominations.