SAGES 2022-Register and Book Your Hotel!

Excitement is building for SAGES 2022 in Denver, March 16-19!

This year's program topics are geared towards surgeons at all career stages, practices and specialties, along with the Next Big Thing (formerly known as Emerging Tech), keynote lectures by award-winning researcher Dr. KMarie King and *New York Times* tech columnist Kevin Roose (pictured); Dr. Liane Feldman's presidential address; and, the Main Event and Sing-Off at The Grizzly Rose.

To register for the meeting and book your hotel, please go [here](#). To see the full meeting program, go [here](#). For those who will be in Denver, your safety remains our top priority and we will follow the COVID protocol, which you can view [here](#).

**IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES**

- **Bariatrics Webinar**
  - Feb 8, 2022
- **Oncology Webinar**
  - Feb 23, 2022
- **SAGES 2022**
  - March 16-19, 2022

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**Congratulations to SAGES 2022 Award Winners!**

- **Early Career Faculty Researcher Award** – Melissa Hogg, MD
- **Researcher in Training Award** – Jerry Dang, MD PhD & Amelia Collings, MD
- **Karl Storz IRCAD Award** – Eduardo Vega, MD
- **Excellence in Medical Leadership Award (SERF)** – E. Matthew Ritter, MD MHPE
- **Brandeis Award** – Jacob Greenberg, MD EdM & Kinga Powers, MD PhD
- **Barbara Berci Scholarship Award (SERF)** – Maria Altieri, MD MS
- **Jeff Ponsky Master Educator Award (SERF)** – James Ellsmere, MD MSc
- **Excellence in Humanistic Clinical Care Award** – Anjali Kumar, MD MPH
- **Social Justice and Health Equity** – Karole Collier, MD & Joseph Sakran, MD MPH MPA
- **Excellence in Community Surgery** – Caitlin Ann Halbert, DO MS
- **International Ambassador Award** – Ho-Seong Han, MD PhD
- **Distinguished Service Award** – Jeffrey Marks, MD
SAGES Member Spotlight
Dr. Laura Fischer

Dr. Laura Fischer initially joined SAGES as a resident at the University of Wisconsin after Dr. Jacob Greenberg told her it was the “best national organization” for minimally invasive surgeons. When Dr. Fischer joined the University of Oklahoma in 2016, she was the only fellowship-trained MIS surgeon and remembers that without local mentorship, she really leaned on the SAGES community for support and feedback.

With that support and mentors like Dr. Greenberg over the last several years, Dr. Fischer has been both an active member and integral part of the SAGES Global Affairs Committee. This includes writing the GLAP manual and travel to other countries as part of a curriculum teaching group.

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

SAGES Guidelines Committee Update

- **COVID Guideline Update.** A big thank you to all who submitted comments on the new 2022 Guidance Statement Regarding the Use of Laparoscopy in the Era of COVID-19. Public comment closed on January 7. The updated version has been submitted to Surgical Endoscopy and is available for members on the SAGES website here.

- **SAGES Guideline Development Fellow.** We are excited to announce that Sunjay Kumar, MD, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia has accepted the position of Guidelines Fellow. Welcome Dr. Kumar! We look forward to working with you!

- Visit our new Guidelines Visual Abstracts Gallery here. Led by Dr. Danielle Walsh, our Implementation team has created infographics for seven guidelines that are included both on their individual guideline and in the gallery.

SAGES 2022 Membership Campaign

SAGES year-long membership campaign is back! The member who recruits the most new members this year will win a $500 gift card, and runners-up will have the chance to win one of several $100 gift cards. Your name is entered into a drawing each time you sponsor a new member. Here’s how it works:

1. Encourage non-members to join SAGES by filling out an online application https://www.sages.org/membership/
2. Make sure the applicant lists your name as their SAGES member sponsor

Campaign winners will be notified this time next year. Contact Member Services at membership@sages.org for more details.

Listen to SAGES President-Elect Dr. John Mellinger on the
Latest SAGES Stories Podcast

SAGES President-Elect and newly elected American Board of Surgery Vice President Dr. John Mellinger is the most recent member featured on SAGES Stories podcast. In the latest podcast, Dr. Mellinger, often lauded for his unfailing humility, says that SAGES focus on education is a grounding influence that helps surgeons maintain patient-centered empathy and compassion. You can listen and subscribe to all monthly episodes here.

SAGES Military Committee Members Featured in January Issue of General Surgery News

SAGES members Dr. Daniel Walrath and Dr. Robert Lim are featured in this month's issue of General Surgery News that includes the story of how retired major general Dr. Walrath's life-threatening injuries in Afghanistan were treated by a team of military surgeons, including Dr. Lim. Dr. Lim and Dr. Walrath, the SAGES 2021 Military Symposium keynote speaker, are both members of SAGES Military committee that was started in 2009 to provide surgical combat education for its military members. To read the entire story, please go here.