April 2023

2023 Meeting Recap and Virtual Content

It was great to see so many of you in Montreal! Attendance was up to pre-pandemic levels with great energy and enthusiasm throughout the entire program. Look for a full recap in May Messages.

And while we’re already starting to get inquiries about SAGES 2024 meeting in Cleveland, we want to remind everyone -- those who were unable to attend in person and attendees who might have missed certain sessions -- that the virtual meeting content will be available early next month.

RAFT Committee Awards Presented in Montreal

Best Resident/Fellow Abstract Presentation:
1. Michele S Saruwatari, MD - $500
   Presentation Title: Assessment of a novel biliary-specific near-infrared fluorescent dye (BL-760) for intraoperative detection of bile ducts and biliary leaks during hepatectomy in a preclinical swine model
2. Vanessa N VanDruff, MD - $300
   Presentation Title: LIBERTI Trial: Simulator-Based Training for Laparoscopic Management of Choledocholithiasis
3. Roberto Trasolini, MD - $200
   Presentation Title: Real-Time Visualization of Tissue Oxygen Saturation Levels Revolutionizes Surgical and Endoluminal Procedures

Best Resident and Fellow Scientific Session Presentation:
1. Yung Lee, MD - $500
   Presentation Title: Disparities in Access to Minimally Invasive Surgery for Inflammatory Bowel Disease and Outcome by Insurance Status
2. Gaurav Talwar, MD - $300
   Presentation Title: Using Prucalopride for Prevention of Post-Operative Ileus in Gastrointestinal Surgery: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Randomized Control Trials
3. Meagan Read, MD - $200
SAGES Member Spotlight and 2024 Meeting Co-Chair
Dr. Marylise Boutros

When Dr. Marylise Boutros’ first international society grant award came from SAGES, more than its monetary value, she says, “It meant that an international leading society believed in me, my trainee, my lab and my research question. It fueled my career with confidence and enthusiasm for clinical research and to serve the society.”

That confidence and enthusiasm has carried over to Dr. Boutros’ involvement on several SAGES committees. She’s been part of the Research and Career Development Committee since 2015, and in 2022 became the lead for the sub-Task Force on the SAGES Research Data Bank, a repository for all SAGES members interested in research.

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

AssistIQ Wins 2023 Shark Tank Competition

The Montreal-based AssistIQ (https://assistiq.ai/) is this year’s $30k Shark Tank winner at SAGES annual meeting in Montreal. AssistIQ delivers supply intelligence to health systems, reducing waste and carbon footprint without impacting patient quality and with no added work.

This year’s three other finalists included Xenocor, SHLL and RevMedical, all of whom presented their supporting business models to the Shark Tank judges that included Drs. Christopher Schlachta and Steven Schwartzberg (pictured here with AssistIQ’s Lisa Israelovitch).

Are You in SINC?

It was exciting to see so many investors inquiring about SINClast month in Montreal. Now you have the chance to follow up and invest in the SINC Opportunity Fund before it closes.

In partnership with Varia Ventures, the SINC was developed to give SAGES members and associates to opportunity to diversify your portfolio. Through the SINC Opportunity Fund 1, for a minimum of $10,000, you can invest like a venture capitalist in innovative start ups from the surgical technology and GI surgery space.
To learn more and begin your SINC investing, go [here](#). Andrea Vossler (avossler@varia.com) or Scott Friedman (sfriedman@varia.com) are available to answer your questions.

**SAGES Critical View of Safety Data Challenge**

The SAGES Critical View of Safety (CVS) Challenge is the first international data challenge led by a surgical society. The CVS Challenge aims to create a large, annotated, diverse dataset of laparoscopic cholecystectomy videos that will enable computer science teams from all over the world to develop AI capable of accurate and sensitive detection of the CVS. SAGES recently hosted a successful public summit that brought together experts at the intersection of AI and surgery to discuss surgical artificial intelligence, video and image annotation, data challenges, and the CVS Challenge.

Visit [www.cvschallenge.org](http://www.cvschallenge.org) to learn more about the CVS Challenge and how you can contribute to this multidisciplinary, international effort to advance surgical AI for safe cholecystectomy.

**Laparoscopic Common Bile Duct Exploration: State of the Art**

*Tuesday, May 16; 4-6pm PT/ 7-9pm ET*

Next in the series of FREE educational webinars presented by the RAFT committee and developed specifically for residents.

**Chair:** B. Fernando Santos, MD  
**Faculty:** Kevin El-Hayek, MD; Hope Jackson, MD; Peter Muscarella, MD and Ezra Teitelbaum, MD

- Cholangiography and “Classic” LCBDE  
- Laparoscopic Reverse Cholangiopancreatography (LRCP)  
- Lithotripsy: Laser or Electrohydraulic (EHL)  
- Fallback options: Lap-assisted ERCP (Rendezvous or transgastric ERCP)

To register for the webinar, go [here](#). Recordings of previous webinars are [here](#).

**SAGES/ASERNIP-S Evidence Guidance Research Scholarship**

The SAGES/ASERNIP-S Evidence Guidance Research Scholarship collaboration supports the recipient taking time away from a clinical position to participate in systematic review research and development of clinical practice guidelines (CPGs) in Adelaide. The recipient will work on projects both for RACS ASERNIP-S and SAGES. For more information, email [scholarships@surgeons.org](mailto:scholarships@surgeons.org). The application deadline is May 31.

**Coming Soon - SAGES CPT Committee**

Over the next several months SAGES will be putting together a new CPT committee similar to the ACS General Surgery Coding and Reimbursement committee. This committee will serve to educate SAGES members about the importance of CPT codes and provide a forum to submit requests for CPT codes. It will also create an opportunity for SAGES to align with other societies and take a leadership role in the discussion and creation of CPT policies in the future. Watch for more on this!