



# MESSAGES

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Monthly Electronic SCOPE 2.0

## 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.

### IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES

Free Resident Webinar  
May 16

SAGES/ASERNIP-S  
Evidence Guidance  
Research Scholarship  
Application Deadline  
May 31

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### 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

## Thank You to SAGES 2023 Meeting Supporters!

**Diamond:** Intuitive, Medtronic  
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**Gold:** CareSyntax, Olympus  
**Silver:** Boston Scientific, Stryker  
**Bronze:** Ambu, Apollo Endosurgery, Applied Medical



Marylise Boutros, MD  
Associate Professor of Surgery  
Program Director Colon & Rectal Surgery,  
McGill University  
Division de Chirurgie Colorectale,  
Jewish General Hospital



## 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 Xenacor, 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](mailto:avossler@varia.com)) or Scott Friedman ([sfriedman@varia.com](mailto: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!



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