



# MESSAGES

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Monthly Electronic SCOPE 2.0

## January 2024



We hope everyone is taking advantage of early bird registration and booking hotel rooms before they sell out! See below for meeting and hotel reservation details, and view session highlights on the SAGES 2024 website.

Also in this issue: NBT in Houston; Member Spotlight Dr. Andrea Pakula; SAGES 2024 Award Winners; new SAGES 2024-25 Roster of Officers and Board Members; and registration for courses in Cleveland.

### IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES

2024 Robotics Resident and Fellow Courses 2023-2024-Registration Open

2024 NBT Innovation Weekend Register Today! Feb 22-24, 2024

SAGES 2024 Meeting Early Bird Registration



### 2024 Meeting Registration and Hotel Reservations

Don't wait to register and book your hotel. Click on the button below for all details. And remember, this year we have childcare. Once registered, you'll receive details about how to sign up.

All attendees will have access to the entire meeting content 6-8 weeks following the Cleveland meeting. Once you register, be sure to get the word out via your personal social accounts, too, with the hashtag #sustainableSAGES.

[2024 Meeting Registration and Hotel Reservations](#)



### SAGES Member Spotlight Dr. Andrea Pakula

What Dr. Andrea Pakula values most about her SAGES membership is the ability to get involved in a variety of committees and meet people from all walks of surgery—from academia to community practice.

Andrea Pakula MD, MPH, FACS



An active member for the past 10 years, Dr. Pakula has been very involved in the robotic, acute care and hernia committees. These are also the three main areas of her practice as Medical Director of Robotic Surgery at Adventist Health Simi Valley Hospital, which she describes as a community private practice model.

To read more about Dr. Pakula, please go [here](#). To learn more about SAGES membership and access an online application form, please go [here](#).

## Congratulations to the SAGES 2024 Award Winners!

Congratulations to the SAGES 2024 Award winners! All will be honored during the SAGES Foundation Awards luncheon on Wednesday, April 17 in Cleveland. You can find ticket information on the [Foundation website](#).

**Early Career Faculty Researcher Award** – Amin Madani, MD

**Researcher in Training Award** – Heather Carmichael, MD; Ryan Howard, MD; and, Yung Lee, MD

**Karl Storz IRCAD Award** – Trevor Crafts, MD

**Excellence in Medical Leadership Award (SERF)** – John Romanelli, MD

**Brandeis Award (Supported by SERF)** – Jim Korndorffer, MD

**Jeff Ponsky Master Educator Award (SERF)** – Eric Pauli, MD

**Excellence in Humanistic Clinical Care Award** – Ervin Denham, MD

**Social Justice and Health Equity Award** – Brian Williams, MD

**SAGES Honorary Membership** – Nader Francis, MD

**Excellence in Community Surgery Award** – Seung Gwon, MD

**International Ambassador Award** – Jorge Daes, MD

**Distinguished Service Award** – L. Michael Brunt, MD

**Pioneer in Surgical Endoscopy Award** – Natan Zundel, MD

**Berci Lifetime Achievement Award** – Michel Gagner, MD

## SAGES 2024-25 Roster of Officers and New/Re-Appointed Board Members

Congratulations to the 2024/25 roster of SAGES Officers and new/reappointed Board Members. Terms are effective upon conclusion of the 2024 annual meeting.

### OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

**President** - Christopher Schlachta, MD

**President-Elect** - Brent Matthews, MD

**1st Vice President (2-year term)** - Dana Telem, MD

**2nd Vice President (2-year term)** - Archana Ramaswamy, MD

**Secretary (3-year term)** - Jon Gould, MD (2 more years in this position)

**Treasurer (3-year term)** - Robert Lim, MD (2 more years in this position)

### BOARD MEMBERS - 3-YEAR TERMS:

#### Re-Appointments (3-year terms):

Jonathan Dort, MD

Ozanan Meireles, MD

Jaisa Olasky, MD

Shawn Tsuda, MD

Michael Ujiki, MD

Melina Vassiliou, MD

Andrew Wright, MD

New Members (3-year terms):  
Matthew Goldblatt, MD  
Debby Keller, MD  
Anne Lidor, MD  
Linda Zhang, MD

## FLS, FES and FUSE Test Appointments Available at SAGES 2024

FLS, FES and FUSE Test Appointments are now available for SAGES 2024! Testing will take place Wednesday, April 17 - Friday, April 19 during the 2024 SAGES Annual Meeting in Cleveland, Ohio. For more information, to purchase test vouchers or schedule test appointments please click on the relevant link below:

- \* FLS <https://www.flsprogram.org/testing-events/>
- \* FES <https://www.fesprogram.org/testing-information/testing-events/>
- \* FUSE <https://www.fuseprogram.org/testing-information/sages-annual-meeting-2024/>

## Register Today for NBT Innovation Weekend in Houston!

Join us February 22-24 at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in Houston, TX for SAGES 5th **NBT Innovation Weekend**. This year's meeting highlights include the Surgical Disruptive Technology Summit (SDTS) featuring the popular "Innovators M&M" session, "My Favorites" session, the Innovation Dinner Panel: "The New Normal in Innovation from 2019-2024" and SAGES 2024 Shark Tank semifinals presentations. SAGES and the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) will also host the 18th International NOSCART Summit that includes discussions on NOTES in 2030, along with sessions on innovative approaches to bariatrics and anastomoses and a joint NOSCART/SDTS Session on AI, digital and robotics.

## SAGES FLS Testing in Egypt

Earlier this month, SAGES successfully administered its first ever FLS exams at its new remote test center in Cairo, Egypt. Dr. Ahmed Elshabrawy, lead for the Minimally Invasive Surgery Society of Egypt (MISSE), and colleague Dr. Hossam Abdou are both FLS certified. Together, they've worked to raise awareness about the FLS program in the region.

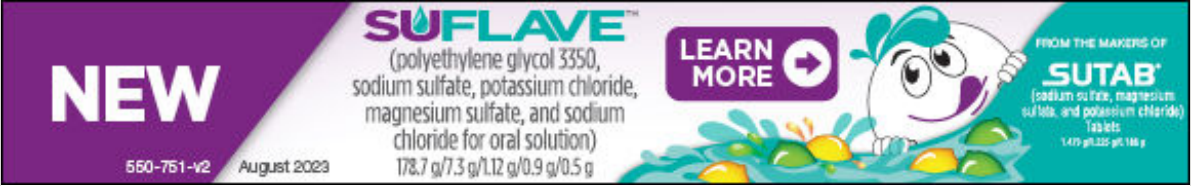


## ASMBS / SAGES Bariatric Endoscopy Verification Certificate The Bariatric Endoscopy - Skill Acquisition Focused Evaluation (BE-SAFE!) Available at the SAGES Annual Meeting Sign Up Today! Limited Space available

We strongly believe that surgeons should be performing endoscopy and hope to further strengthen our important role in endoscopic treatment of bariatric patients. Earn a BE-SAFE verification certificate, which will show your hospital that you have the necessary skills to perform bariatric endoscopy.

The next BE-SAFE! hands-on skills verification will be offered at the 2024 SAGES Annual Meeting in Cleveland, OH on Thursday, April 18th. Exam will be held at the Case Western Reserve University Surgical Training and Research Facility, and transportation will be provided. Registration is limited to nine!

Candidates are required to have performed at least 50 upper endoscopic procedures and then complete the video curriculum before taking the qualifying written exam. After passing the qualifying written exam, candidates will then be able to register for the BE-SAFE! hands-on skills verification exam in Cleveland. More information is available at: <https://besafe.asmbs.org/>



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[www.sages.org](http://www.sages.org) / [www.sages2024.org](http://www.sages2024.org)



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