



MESSAGES

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Monthly Electronic SCOPE 2.0

December 2024



SAGES 2025 registration is open. We can't wait to see everyone in Long Beach, March 12-15, 2025.

SAGES NBT Innovation Weekend

Registration for SAGES NBT Innovation Weekend, January 23-25 in Houston is open. See complete weekend details below and don't wait to register and book your hotel!

Also in this issue:

2025 Meeting updates and activity deadlines; Dr. Christopher Schlachta's year end message, FLS and FES Testing Sign Ups; 2025-26 Roster of Officers and Board Members; Margret Oddsdottir award details; SAGES ACCME Accreditation with Commendation; Member Spotlight Dr. Geoff Kohn; and other news.

IMPORTANT DATES/ALERTS

TAVAC Committee Tech Alerts

Upcoming Free Webinars Mark Your Calendars!

SAGES NBT Innovation Weekend 2025 Houston Jan 23-25

SAGES 2025 Long Beach March 12-15

Mini Med School 2025 March 15

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SAGES NBT Innovation Weekend - Register and Book Your Hotel Today!

2025 meeting highlights include:

- **Surgical Disruptive Technology Summit (SDTS)** – featuring the popular “Innovators M&M” session, “My Favorites” session, A Fireside Chat with Innovation Leaders, SAGES Shark Tank Semifinals and more.
- **19th International NOSCAR Summit** – Hosted by SAGES and the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE), with topics like POEM, innovative bariatric approaches, and non-operative cholelithiasis management.
- **Networking Receptions** – Thursday Welcome/Friday Pre-Dinner Receptions



Registration and hotel information can be found [here](#). The deadline for the contracted hotel rate is January 2, so don't wait!

SAGES 2025-2026 Roster of Officers and New/Re-Appointed Board Members

Congratulations to the 2025/26 roster of SAGES Officers and new/reappointed Board Members. Terms are effective upon conclusion of the 2025 annual meeting.

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President - Brent Matthews, MD

President-Elect - Dana Telem, MD

1st Vice President (2-year term) - Caitlin Halbert, DO

2nd Vice President (2-year term) - Archana Ramaswamy, MD (1 more year in this position)

Secretary (3-year term) - Jon Gould, MD (1 more year in this position)

Treasurer (3-year term) - Robert Lim, MD (1 more year in this position)

BOARD MEMBERS - 3-YEAR TERMS:

Re-Appointments (3-year terms):

Chris DuCoin, MD

Denise Gee, MD

Shaneeta Johnson, MD

New Members:

Amin Madani, MD

Kellie McFarlin, MD

Caroline Reinke, MD

Neal Seymour, MD

Margret Oddsdottir Award Application Deadline - January 15, 2025

SAGES Foundation is accepting applications for the Oddsdottir Traveling Fellowship. The award to attend SAGES 2025 provides up to \$5,000 for travel, lodging and registration expenses to a female surgeon from a low/middle income country. Awardees will be invited to attend the SAGES Awards luncheon to accept the award and make a 2-minute acceptance speech. Please complete the **brief application** and direct any questions to Colleen Elkins at colleen@sages.org, 310.437.0544, ext 114.



SAGES Member Spotlight Geoff Kohn, MD Guidelines Committee Co-Chair

Current co-chair of the Guidelines Committee Dr. Geoff Kohn is quick to make the pitch for Guidelines. "Our committee creates high-quality, evidence-based guidelines to inform our members' practice. When one encounters a difficult clinical problem in MIS, it's likely that SAGES has a guideline addressing it! You can find these guidelines on the SAGES website or published in *Surgical Endoscopy*."

Recent highlights from the committee have been publications regarding management of hiatal hernias, GERD, and the role for POEM in achalasia. Coming soon is publication of the *SAGES Manual of Surgical Referral for Primary and*

Geoff Kohn, MD
Melbourne Upper GI Surgical Group
Wantirna Australia

Emergency Care.

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



Mini Med School, SAGES Got Talent and Wellness Activity Details and Deadlines

Mini Med School Boot Camp & Interactive Experience, Saturday March 15, 2025 is open for student applications through February 4, 2025.

Share your hidden talent in this year's Sing-Off evolution, "SAGES Got Talent." Check out [application details](#). Deadline is January 13.

This year's wellness activities include: Goat Yoga; Morning Run; Strength/Resistance Beach Workout; Whiskey Tasting; Sushi/Sake Takeover; Matcha Tea Tasting; Tennis; and a Saturday Night Sports event (TBD). Watch for upcoming sign up details.



SAGES Earns Accreditation with Commendation

Great news! SAGES has achieved **Accreditation with Commendation** from the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME). This prestigious recognition places SAGES among the top CME providers nationwide, demonstrating our commitment to delivering high quality education and improving patient care, along with access to clinically relevant, accredited CME programs and enhanced opportunities for professional growth.

Open January 1: Public Comment for a New SAGES Guideline

The SAGES Guidelines Committee has completed "SAGES Guidelines for the Use of Intraoperative Imaging of the Common Bile Duct." Practicing SAGES surgeons, including members of the Guidelines Committee and Safe Cholecystectomy Task Force participated in this project. The guideline will be available for member comment January 1-15, 2025 and be linked from our [Publications page](#). Thank you for your input as part of our guideline development process.

NEW! The Guidelines for the Management of Comorbidities Relevant to Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery has been published in *Surgical Endoscopy* and is [available online](#).



Message From President Dr. Christopher Schlachta

In his **year end message**, Dr. Schlachta recaps highlights from the mid-term board meeting and strategic planning retreat in November, along with reminders to register for both SAGES NBT Innovation Weekend in January and SAGES 2025 in Long Beach.

FLS and FES Testing Appointments Available at SAGES 2025

Testing will take place Wednesday, March 12-Friday, March 14 during the SAGES annual meeting in Long Beach. For more information on how to purchase a test voucher or schedule a test appointment, please select **FES** or **FLS**.

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www.sages.org / www.sages2025.org



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