



MESSAGES

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Monthly Electronic SCOPE 2.0

January 2025



While we continue to think about all of those affected by the devastating Los Angeles fires, a reminder that Long Beach is 40 miles away from the fire ravaged areas. **THE MEETING IS NOT IMPACTED AND IS ON!**

Early bird registration ends on February 15.

The SAGES Got Talent deadline is extended through mid-February. No Vegas acts necessary, so check out application details.

Also in this issue:

2025 Award Winners; 2025 meeting course and Foundation Lunch registration; Member Spotlight Dr. Leena Khaitan; In Memoriam; and, other news.

IMPORTANT DATES/ALERTS

TAVAC Committee Tech Alerts

Upcoming Free Webinars

SAGES FUSE Webinar
Feb 25

SAGES Oral Exam Prep
Feb 24

SAGES 2025
Long Beach
March 12-15

Foundation Awards
Luncheon
March 12

Mini Med School 2025
March 15

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Congratulations to the SAGES 2025 Award Winners!

Congratulations to the SAGES 2025 Award winners! All will be honored during the SAGES Foundation Awards luncheon on Wednesday, March 12 in Long Beach. Celebrate the award recipients and support the Foundation with the purchase of your ticket, table or sponsorship. Learn more here.

Early Career Faculty Researcher Award – Dr. Sullivan Ayuso
Researcher in Training Award – Drs. Valentin Mocanu and Julia Amundson
Karl Storz IRCAD Award – Dr. Sullivan Ayuso
Excellence in Medical Leadership Award (SERF) – Dr. Christy Chai
Brandeis Award (Supported by SERF) – Drs. Maria Altieri and Nisha Narula
Jeff Ponsky Master Educator Award (SERF) – Dr. Michael Awad
Excellence in Humanistic Clinical Care Award – Dr. Matt Goldblatt
Social Justice and Health Equity Award – Dr. Butch Rosser

Excellence in Community Surgery Award – Dr. Shirin Towfigh
International Ambassador Award – Dr. Ana Carrasquilla
Distinguished Service Award – Dr. Aurora Pryor
Pioneer in Surgical Endoscopy Award – Dr. Silvana Perretta
Berci Lifetime Achievement Award – Dr. Bruce Schirmer

Hands-On Courses You Won't Want to Miss at SAGES 2025

Laparoscopic/Robotic Common Bile Duct Exploration and Imaging

March 4, 2025, 7-9pm ET, Virtual Pre-Course Webinar
March 12, 2025, 1:30-5:30 PT, Lab Course in Long Beach

This year-long course is designed to help you implement new common bile duct exploration and imaging skills in your practice safely. Participants may earn up to 20 CME credits for this course.

Endosuturing

March 3, 2025, 6-8:30pm ET, Virtual Pre-Course Webinar
March 13, 2025, 8am-12pm PT, Lab Course in Long Beach

This year-long course includes an introduction to the equipment, indications for surgery and video demonstrations of the procedures and associated techniques. Participants may earn up to 20 CME credits for this course.

Meeting registration is required to attend the courses. For more details, please contact Nicole Von Husen, nicole@sages.org.

The Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide Continuing Medical Education for physicians.

The Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) designates this Other (live, internet enduring, and live internet) CME activity for a maximum of 20 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

SAGES Member Spotlight

Leena Khaitan, MD
Lead Up Task Force Co-Chair



This month Dr. Leena Khaitan wanted to shine a spotlight on SAGES new Lead Up task force, the brainchild of SAGES president Dr. Christopher Schlachta. Drs. Kaitan, Ross Goldberg and Paresch Shah have been tasked with the goal of enabling SAGES surgeons to have a voice on how they can best advocate for their patients in the ever-changing 'corporate' healthcare environment.

Dr. Khaitan says, "In the current medical environment, surgeons are feeling increasingly minimized. Many feel they have no say in what happens to their practice, their environment or careers. We want to empower our members and fellow surgeons to maximize their effectiveness in making sure their voice is

Leena Khaitan, MD
Division Chief, General Surgery
Professor of Surgery, Metabolic and Bariatric
Treatment Center Director, Esophageal and
Swallowing Center, University Hospitals
Cleveland, OH

not only heard but enacted upon when it comes to the ability to practice the art and science of medicine and surgery.”
To read more about Dr. Khaitan, please go [here](#). To learn more about SAGES membership and access an online application form, please go [here](#).

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.

In Memoriam

SAGES has learned of the passing of the following members over the last year, and extends our deepest sympathy to their families and friends.

George Berci - Los Angeles, CA
Yo Kurashima - Sapporo, Japan
Debra Diana Lai - Puyallup, WA
Gary H. Leaverton - Portland, OR
Jacques J. Perissat - Bordeaux, France
Michael J. Pucci - Philadelphia, PA
Mark T. Savarise - South Jordan, UT
H. Kent Staheli - Salt Lake City, UT
Samantha Latoya Woolery - Marietta, GA



SAGES Presents SAGES First Cut Series

SAGES presents, SAGES First Cut, a new series featuring engaging surgical video analyses featuring insights and discussion from leading experts in the field. Episode 1: Laparoscopic Paraesophageal Hernia Repair and Toupet Fundoplasty is available now On the SAGES Subscription Service. View demo & subscription Details. at <https://www.sages.org/sages-video-catalog/>

Annual Foundation Awards Luncheon - Wednesday, March 12

We look forward to celebrating all the SAGES and Foundation awardees at the Annual Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, March 12 in Long Beach. Proceeds benefit the SAGES Foundation and its mission to advance endoscopic, laparoscopic and emerging minimal access surgical methods and patient care. Please go [here](#) to purchase tickets.

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www.sages.org / www.sages2025.org



Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons | 11300 West Olympic
Blvd Suite 600 | Los Angeles, CA 90064 US

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