

Scope



Summer, 2003
Volume 03, Issue 2

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



SAGES President
Lee Swanstrom, MD

2003 Annual Meeting Attendance Tops Charts

The annual meeting of SAGES is, for many of us, the highlight of the surgical year. The recently concluded meeting in Los Angeles was no exception. In spite of grim economic times and the threat of a war – we had probably the most successful annual meeting to-date with almost 1500 surgeons and allied health members attending as well as strong support from our industry associates. I would like to sincerely thank all those involved in bringing this meeting to fruition, especially the Program Chairman, Steve Eubanks, the Program Committee led by committee chair Daniel Deziel, the hard working faculty and, it goes without saying, the incomparable SAGES staff.

It is becoming increasingly difficult for surgeons to get away for large national meetings. This is due to the deteriorating economics of surgery, demands for increased productivity in the hospital and office settings as well as a justified desire for a personal quality of life. Certainly, very few of us go to meetings for the pure joy of air travel and yet eliminating meetings doesn't seem to be the best answer either. Surgeons thrive on forums that allow them to present and hear new ideas as well as to have meaningful social interactions with mentors, peers, and friends. This is evidenced by the fact that, in spite of increasing "digital" education opportunities, surgeons are still coming to meetings and, for SAGES, in ever increasing numbers.

Because of this, SAGES remains committed to providing its members the best annual meeting we can. This requires a fine balance of growing the meeting in order to give the members the most "bang for the buck", and keeping it intimate and informal, which is certainly an aspect that distinguishes a SAGES meeting from most of the other ones *Continued on page 14.*

SAGES Has Moved!

Our new contact information is...

SAGES
11300 W. Olympic Boulevard, Suite 600
Los Angeles, CA 90064

Phone: (310) 437-0544 Fax: (310) 437-0585
Meeting Registration Phone: (310) 437-0581

All e-mail addresses will remain the same. Please change your records accordingly, and pass this on to secretaries, assistants, residents, etc.



Bruce Schirmer presents his Presidential Lecture at the 2003 SAGES Annual Meeting.



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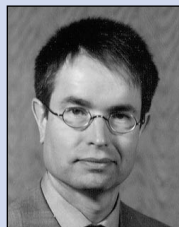
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COMMITTEE CHAIRS

SAGES 2003-2004 Slate of Officers

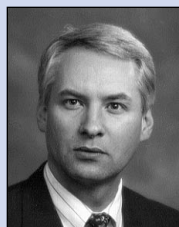
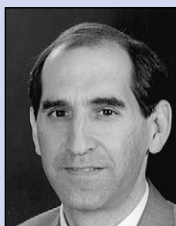
The following slate of officers was approved by the SAGES membership during the annual business meeting on Saturday, March 15.

Officers and Members of the Executive Committee:



◀ **PRESIDENT** - Lee Swanstrom, MD

PRESIDENT-ELECT ▶
David Rattner, MD



◀ **1ST VICE PRESIDENT**
(2 year term) - Steve Eubanks, MD (1 more year in this position)

2ND VICE PRESIDENT ▶
(2-year term) - Steven Wexner, MD



◀ **SECRETARY** (3-year term) - Jo Buyske, MD

TREASURER ▶
Mark Talamini, MD
(1 year term fulfilling unexpired 3 year term of David Rattner)



Board Members—Three-Year Terms:

Re-Appointments:

Robert Bailey, MD
Daniel Deziel, MD
Phil Schauer, MD
Steven Stain, MD

New Board Members:

David Easter, MD
Todd Heniford, MD
Daniel Herron, MD
Michael Holzman, MD (1 year term - fulfilling unexpired 3 year term of Mark Talamini)
Daniel Jones, MD
Michael Nussbaum, MD
Adrian Park, MD

Rotating Off the Board:

Keith Apelgren, MD
David Edelman, MD
Demetrius Litwin, MD
Jeff Peters, MD
Barry Salky, MD
Carol Scott-Conner, MD

2003-2004 Committee Chair/Co-Chair List

President Lee Swanstrom, MD made the following committee Chair/Co-Chair appointments for the 2003-2004 year.

Assets/Finance:

Finance Chair: Mark Talamini, MD
Assets Chair: Barry Salky, MD

Awards:

Chair: Bruce Schirmer, MD

By-Laws:

Chair: Steven Stain, MD

Continuing Education:

Chair: C. Daniel Smith, MD
Co-Chair: Daniel Herron, MD

Development:

Chair: Steve Schwaitzberg, MD
Co-Chair: Mark Callery, MD

Educational Resources:

Chair: Horacio Asbun, MD
Co-Chair: David Easter, MD

Flexible Endoscopy:

Chair: Gary Vitale, MD
Co-Chair: William Richards, MD

FLS:

Chair: Nathaniel Soper, MD
Co-Chairs: Bruce Schirmer, MD,
Lee Sillin, MD, Gerald Fried, MD

Guidelines:

Chair: Steve Eubanks, MD
Credentials Co-Chair: David Earle, MD
Standards Co-Chair: Robert Fanelli, MD

Legislative:

Chair: Aaron Fink, MD
Co-Chair: Rocco Orlando, MD

Membership:

Chair: Tonia Young-Fadok, MD
Co-Chair: Fredrick Brody, MD

Nominating:

Chair: Bruce Schirmer, MD

Outcomes:

Chair: William Traverso, MD
Co-Chair: Steven Demeester, MD

Program:

Chair: Daniel Deziel, MD
Co-Chair: Steven Wexner, MD

Public Information:

Chair: Paul Cirangle, MD
Co-Chair: Mohammed Kalan, MD

Publications:

Chair: Kenneth Forde, MD
Co-Chair: Frederick Greene, MD

Research:

Chair: Karen Horvath, MD
Co-Chair: Michael Holzman, MD

Resident Education:

Chair: Jeffrey Marks, MD
Co-Chair: Raymond Onders, MD

Technology:

Chair: W. Scott Melvin, MD
Co-Chair: Santiago Horgan, MD

Non-voting advisors to the Board:

George Berci, MD
Frederick Greene, MD
Jeffrey Peters, MD

Guidelines

SAGES Guidelines committee has made significant strides since the last issue of Scope.

One guideline has been revised and printed since the last issue of Scope:

- ▶ Guideline for the Clinical Application of Laparoscopic Biliary Surgery

Guidelines that are currently under revision:

- ▶ Granting of Ultrasonography Privileges for Surgeons
- ▶ Guidelines for Training in Diagnostic and Therapeutic Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography (ERCP)
- ▶ Guidelines for Collaborative Practice in Endoscopic/Thoracoscopic Spinal Surgery for the General Surgeon
- ▶ Guidelines for the Surgical Practice of Telemedicine

Guideline deleted from SAGES Guidelines list:

- ▶ Imaging Technologies and performance Standards

NEW Guidelines currently under development by the SAGES Guidelines Committee:

- ▶ Guidelines for Institutions Granting Bariatric Privileges Utilizing Laparoscopic Techniques.
SAGES Bariatric Task Force has taken the lead in developing this guideline, which was approved by the Board May, 2003.
- ▶ A Definitions & Principles Master Document.
This document will include all definitions and principles contained in SAGES current guidelines. Each SAGES guideline will reference this new guideline as they are reprinted.

ALL CURRENT SAGES GUIDELINES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE SAGES WEB-SITE, sages.org

If you are unable to access the guidelines on-line and wish a copy sent to you, please contact Joyce Hasper at the SAGES office, (310) 437-0544 or via e-mail at joyce@sages.org

Research

Applications for SAGES Research Grants are currently available online at <http://www.sages.org/research>. The grant submission guidelines and grant writing tips can also be found using this link. SAGES Research committee has requested electronic submission of applications. Please e-mail your applications to research@sages.org. If you cannot submit your application electronically, please contact the SAGES office at (310) 437-0544.

Young researchers and small to mid-sized institutions are encouraged to submit applications.

The deadline for submission will be October 31, 2003.

Bariatric

The SAGES Bariatric Task Force, Chaired by Sayeed Ikramuddin with Co-Chair Eric Demaria, recently took on the task of developing a new SAGES Guideline entitled "Guidelines for Institutions Granting Bariatric Privileges Utilizing Laparoscopic Techniques." This guideline was approved by the SAGES Board over the Summer.

This task force also served as faculty for the first ever "SAGES Bariatric Course" for Chiefs and Fellows, held at US Surgical in February, 2003.

The Bariatric Task Force has established 5 areas to impact SAGES role in the Bariatric community. These areas are listed below, along with the primary contact for each topic.

- ▶ Credentialing – Sayeed Ikramuddin, MD
- ▶ Courses/ Education – Scott Shikora, MD
- ▶ Bariatric Pearl – Ninh Nguyen, MD
- ▶ Codes – Mark Bessler, MD
- ▶ Outcomes – Eric Demaria, MD

Resident Education

During the Spring of 2003, SAGES Resident Education Committee offered 3 residents courses, its semiannual Basic Endoscopy and Laparoscopy Workshop, Advanced Foregut Surgery and Bariatric Surgery. There are 4 additional courses planned for the Fall, including the Basic Endoscopy and Laparoscopy Workshop and Advanced courses on Colon, Solid Organ and Laparoscopic Techniques.

SAGES would like to thank both Ethicon Endosurgery and United States Surgical for increasing their commitments to SAGES Resident Education.

SAGES Resident Course announcements are sent to Residency Program Directors approximately 3 months prior to the course. SAGES members who would like to serve as a secondary contact for their institution should contact Christina Blaney at christina@sages.org.

Membership

Since October, 167 Surgeons have become members of SAGES, bringing the membership total to 4,636 members. In addition, 70 Candidate members upgraded to Active Membership status.

Active	32
International	16
Candidate	108
Allied Health	11
TOTAL	167

Attention: Candidate Members

If you are a Candidate member, approaching the completion of your training, please make sure to notify us when you move. Please also send a copy of your Board certificate, when available, so that you may upgrade your membership to Active Status.

SAGES Endorsed Courses

(As of June, 2003)

As a service to members, SAGES offers Course and Program Directors the opportunity to have their courses reviewed and endorsed by the Continuing Education Committee. You may find the most up-to-date list at www.sages.org/endorsed.shtml.

These courses meet the guidelines established in the SAGES Framework for Post-Residency Surgical Education and Training and are endorsed by the Society of American Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES).

Course: Basic Foundation In Laparoscopic Surgery, Tamilandu, India
Director: Chinnasamy Palanivelu, MD
Dates: Sept. 01-07, 2003, Oct. 06-12, 2003, Nov. 03-09, 2003, Dec. 01-07, 2003
Address: Gem Hospital, Coimbatore, India 45-A, Pankaja Mill Road, Ramanathapuram
Phone: 91-42-223-24100
Email: drpc@ciges.org

Course: Second Annual Esophageal Conference, Omaha, NE
Director: Charles Filipi, MD
Dates: September 11 & 12, 2003
Address: Creighton University School of Medicine, Scott Conference Center, Omaha, NE
<http://medicine.creighton.edu/medschool/cme/>
Phone: 402-280-1830 or 1-800-548-2633
Fax: 402-280-5180

Course: Advanced Laparoscopic Suturing & Surgical Skills, San Francisco, CA
Director: Zoltan Szabo
Dates: Check with MOET Institute
Phone: 415-626-3400
www.moetinstitute.com/

The courses sponsored by these institutions meet the guidelines established in the SAGES Framework for Post-Residency Surgical Education and Training and are endorsed by the Society of American Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES).

Institution: Minimal Access Surgery Center, New York Presbyterian Hospital, New York, NY

Course: Dennis Fowler, MD; Mark M. Souweidane, MD; Joseph DelPizzo, MD & Ernest Sosa, MD; Stephen Cohen, MD & Tom Caputo, MD; Marc Bessler, MD; Lyall Gorenstein, MD; Jeffrey Milsom, MD & Richard L. Whelan, MD
Director:
Contact: phone: (212) 305-0577
<http://www.masc.cc>

Institution: Southwestern Center For Minimally Invasive Surgery (SCMIS), Dallas, TX

Course Dir.: Daniel B. Jones, MD
Contact: phone: 1-800-688-8678
www.swmed.edu/home_pages/cmismis/conted.htm
Courses: August 24-29, 2003, Laparoscopic Bariatric Surgery Mini-Fellowship
 September 26-27, 2003, Laparoscopic Bariatric Surgery.
 October 26-31, 2003, Laparoscopic Bariatric Surgery Mini-Fellowship
 November 14-15, 2003, Laparoscopic Bariatric Surgery Mini-Fellowship

Institution: Mount Sinai School of Medicine Minimally Invasive Surgery Center, New York, NY

Course: Michel Gagner, MD (Center Director); Daniel Herron, MD; William B. Inabnet, III, MD; L. Brian Katz, MD; Farr Nezhath, MD; Alfons Pomp, MD; Mark A. Reiner, MD; Barry Salky, MD; Scott J. Swanson, MD; Anthony Vine, MD
Directors:
Contact: Tel: 212-241-6509
www.mssm.edu/misc

Institution: Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA

Course Dir.: C. Daniel Smith, MD
Contact: Phone 404-727-1540
www.emoryendosurgery.org
Courses: August 7-8, 2003, Basic Laparoscopic Bariatric Surgery
 August 29, 2003, Basic Ventral Hernia
 September, 2003, Introduction to Using Simulators in Surgical Education and Training
 November 6-7, 2003, Basic Laparoscopic Bariatric Surgery
 November 22, 2003, Advanced Laparoscopic Ventral Herniorrhaphy Symposium
 December 12, 2003, Endoscopic Radiofrequency Treatment of Gastro-esophageal Reflux Disease (Stretta)

Institution: Minimally Invasive Surgery Center - University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

Course: James Luketich, MD,
Directors: Philip Schauer, MD
Contact: Phone 412-647-2845
www.surgery.upmc.edu/General/
Course: Contact institution for upcoming courses.

Institution: The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

Course Dir.: Scott Melvin, MD
Contact: Phone 614-293-7399
Courses: Contact institution for upcoming courses.

Institution: Carolinas Laparoscopy & Advanced Surgery Program "CLASP", Charlotte, NC

Course: Frederick Greene, MD; B. Todd Heniford, MD; Richard L. White, Jr. MD; Kent W. Kercher, MD; Ronald F. Sing, DO; Brent D. Matthews, MD
Directors:
Contact: phone: 704-355-4823
viper.med.unc.edu/surgery/index.html
Courses: September 5, 2003, Laparoscopic Renal Surgery Workshop
 September 12, 2003, Laparoscopic Ventral & Incisional Herniorrhaphy
 September 26, 2003, Laparoscopic Colorectal (Resident Training)
 November 7, 2003, IVC Filter Insertion/Cava Imaging
 November 21, 2003, Laparoscopic Ventral & Incisional Herniorrhaphy
 December 5, 2003, Lymphatic Mapping & Sentinel Node Biopsy

Institution: Medical Training Worldwide (U.S. non-profit organization)

Course Dir.: Ramon Berguer, MD (President and Executive Director)
Contact: Phone 415-892-1550
 Or contact Dr. Berguer via email
Courses: Courses will be held in different developing nations. Volunteers are needed to teach these courses. Laparoscopic equipment is also needed, which will be donated to hospitals where the courses are taught. Surgeons and corporate representatives are encouraged to contact Dr. Berguer for more information. An article about Medical Training Worldwide is included in the July, 2000 issue of SCOPE, available at ftp.sages.org.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SAGES 2003 MEETING



Congratulating the Pioneer in Endoscopy. Left to right: Dr. Steve Eubanks, Professor Basil Hirshowitz, the awardee, and President Bruce Schirmer.



The Distinguished service award is presented to former SAGES President Greg Stiegmann. L to R: Dr. Eubanks, Dr. Stiegmann, Dr. Bruce Schirmer.



A great Gerald Marks Lecture was presented. L to R: Dr. Gerald Marks, Dr. Scott Jones, Dr. Bruce Schirmer.



Dr. Bruce Schirmer congratulates Dr. Sam Wells on his Karl Storz Innovative Technology lecture.



Congratulating Bruce Schirmer on his superb president's lecture is his family. L to R: daughter Kate Lynn, Bruce, daughter Liza, and his wife Gerri.



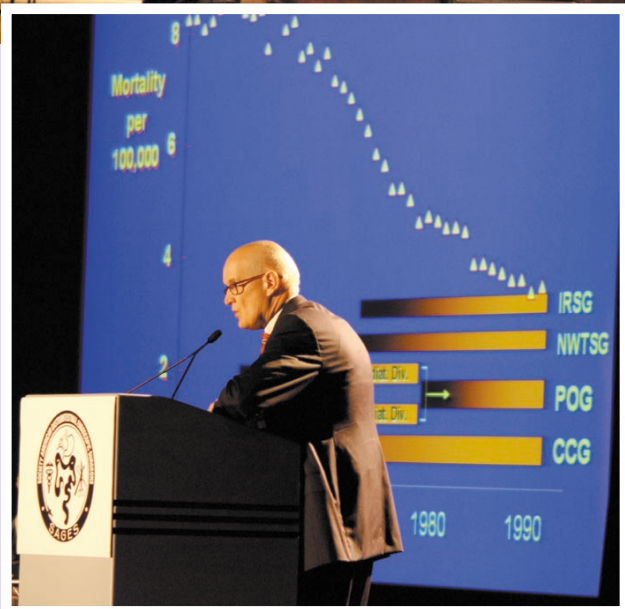
▲ Dr. Scott Jones presents the Karl Storz Lecture in Innovative Technology.



▲ Drs. Dan Smith, Steve Eubanks and Adrian Park (at lecturn) present a panel.



▲ Gathering after the awards are current and past officers of SAGES. Left to right Drs. Deziel, Marks, Collier, MacFadyen, Forde, Greene, Ponsky, Schirmer, Soper, Berci, Traverso, and Hunter.



▲ Dr. Sam Wells introduces data for the Gerald Mark Lecture.



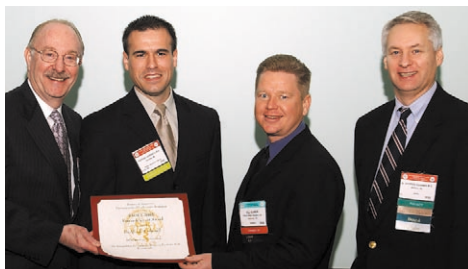
▲ The exhibit hall demonstrates the best of the present and the promise of tomorrow.



▲ During the introduction to the Presidential Speech, Bruce Schirmer as a young football star.



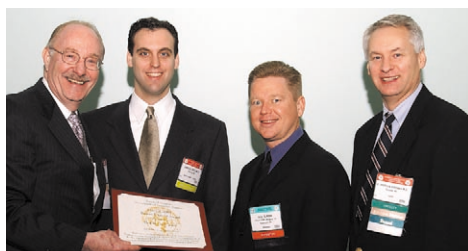
Guests gather for the Faculty Evening "at the Hollywood Casbah" ▶



Research Awards are presented by Dr. Rick Greene (left), to winner Alfredo Carbonell, Bill Glaser of Ethicon and Steve Eubanks.



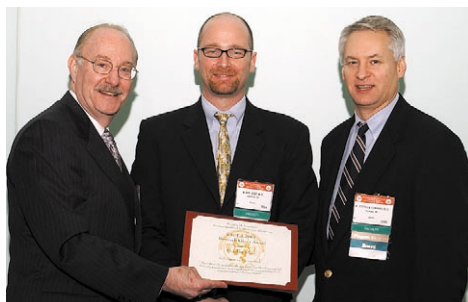
A 2nd Ethicon Research Award: Left to right Rick Greene, Research Chairman, Alfonso Tourquati, the grant winner, Bill Glaser of Ethicon and Steve Eubanks, Program Chairman.



The 3rd Ethicon grant is presented by Rick Greene to Charles Joet as Bill Glaser and Steve Eubanks extend their congratulations.



A grant supported by Karl Storz Endoscopy is presented by Rick Greene, John Davis (Storz) to David McClusky, the winner, with Steve Eubanks offering congratulations.



Rick Greene presents a research award to Blair Jobe, while Steve Eubanks looks on. The award is supported by the Merck Company.

2003 Research Grant Award Winners

Primary Investigator: Alfredo Carbonell, MD

Project Title: The Susceptibility To Infection Of Various Prosthetic Mesh Biomaterials

Institution: Carolinas Medical Center

Grant Support: Ethicon Endo_Surgery, Inc.

Primary Investigator: Charles S. Joels, MD

Project Title: Evaluation Of Mesh Fixation Strength And Adhesion Formation After Placement Of EPTFE Mesh Or Composite Mesh To The Abdominal Wall Using Titanium Spiral Tacks, Nitinol Anchors, Polypropylene Suture, And Polyglactin 910 Suture

Institution: Carolinas Medical Center

Grant Support: Ethicon Endo_Surgery, Inc.

Primary Investigator: Alfonso Torquati, MD

Project Title: Role Of RUNX3, A Tumor Suppressor Gene, In Barrett's Esophagus: Does Laparoscopic Nissen Fundoplication Reverse RUNX3 Gene Inactivation?

Institution: Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Grant Support: Ethicon Endo_Surgery, Inc.

Primary Investigator: David A. McClusky, MD

Project Title: A Comparison Between Fluoroscopically Guided Radiofrequency Energy Delivery And Standard Technique In The Treatment Of Fundoplication Disruption

Institution: Emory University School of Medicine

Grant Support: Karl Storz Endoscopy America

Primary Investigator: Blair Jobe, MD

Project Title: The Effect Of Antireflux Surgery On The Development Of Barrett's Esophagus And Esophageal Adenocarcinoma In A Gastroesophageal Reflux Model

Institution: Oregon Health Sciences University

Grant Support: Merck

Primary Investigator: Sharon L. Bachman, MD

Project Title: Laparoscopic Splenectomy In A Rodent Model: Further Evaluation Of CO2 Pneumoperitoneum Biology

Institution: John Hopkins University

Grant Support: United States Surgical

Primary Investigator: Daniel R. Cottam, MD

Project Title: The Effect Of Proinflammatory And Antiinflammatory Mediators On Obesity Comorbidity And The Results Of Bariatric Surgery On The Chronic Inflammatory Process

Institution: University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

Grant Support: United States Surgical

Primary Investigator: George M. Eid, MD

Project Title: The Effect Of Bariatric Surgery On Polycystic Ovary Syndrome And Markers Of Reproductive And Endocrine Function

Institution: University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

Grant Support: United States Surgical

Primary Investigator: Nathaniel J. Soper, MD

Project Title: Randomized, Prospective Trial Of Laparoscopic Heller Myotomy And Partial Fundoplication For The Treatment Of Idiopathic Esophageal Achalasia: Dor Versus Toupet Fundoplication

Institution: Washington University School of Medicine

Grant Support: United States Surgical

Primary Investigator: John G. Hunter, MD

Project Title: An Original Analysis Of National Trends In Biliary Tract Injury And Contributing Factors After Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy

Institution: Oregon Health Sciences University

Grant Support: Valleylab

SAGES 2004 Awards Nominations

SAGES has two major awards which are open for nomination from the general membership. Nomination forms will be reviewed by the Awards Committee prior to the ACS Clinical Congress in October. The Committee will recommend recipients to the Board of Governors during ACS. Awards will then be bestowed upon the recipients during the 2004 SAGES annual meeting next year in Denver.

You may obtain a copy of the nomination forms by calling, faxing, or e-mailing Mikki Weinstein in the SAGES office (Phone: (310) 437-0544, Fax: (310) 437-0585, E-Mail: mikki@sages.org). We encourage you to participate in this process so that we may honor those who have contributed a great deal to endoscopic surgery and to SAGES.

Please submit all nominations no later than September 5, 2003.

The awards that are open for your nomination are:

Pioneer in Endoscopy Award

- ▶ The award is designated for a person in industry, or a physician/surgeon.
- ▶ The award will be given to an individual, not to a company.
- ▶ The award will be granted for a significant, long-term scientific or technological contribution to the field of surgical endoscopy.
- ▶ The award will not be given every year, but bestowed when the Board determines a worthy nominee. It is intended for those whose efforts have substantively changed and improved the field of endoscopy.
- ▶ One person may not receive the award twice, as it is for a body of work as opposed to an individual achievement.
- ▶ Past winners include: Karl Storz 1995, Bob Quint 1997, Robert Anderson 1999, William Chang and Richard Newman 2001, Kurt Semm 2002, Basil Hirshowitz 2003.

The George Berci Lifetime Achievement Award in Endoscopic Surgery

- ▶ This is the highest honor SAGES bestows.
- ▶ It is bestowed for a lifetime contribution as an innovator in the field of endoscopic surgery which may be scientific, technological or educational.
- ▶ It is designated to be granted to an endoscopic surgeon who may or may not be a member of SAGES.
- ▶ The award will not necessarily be given every year, but bestowed when the Board determines a worthy nominee.
- ▶ The award has been granted only once, to Sir Alfred Cuschieri in 2001.

Meeting Presentation Awards

SAGES Resident Education Committee would like to congratulate the following Surgeons-in-Training for winning Best Resident or Fellow Presentation Awards at the 2003 Annual meeting.

- 1st Place** **Rod McKinlay**, UK Chandler Medical Center, Lexington, KY
- 2nd Place** **Christopher Sonnenday, MD**, Johns Hopkins Univ. School Of Medicine, Baltimore, MD
- 3rd Place** **Husein Moloo, MD**, St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, ON

SAGES Education and Research Foundation would like to thank Brent Matthews, SAGES 2003 Young Researcher Award Winner, for donating his monetary award to the Foundation.



One of four U.S. Surgical supported research grants is presented. Left to right Rick Greene, Sharon Kachman, Cindy Holloway of U.S. Surgical, Dr. Steve Eubanks.



2nd U.S. Surgical supported grant. Left to right: Rick Greene, Jeffrey Lord (accepting for Daniel Cottham) Cindy Holloway, of U.S. Surgical and Steve Eubanks.



3rd U.S. Surgical supported grant. Left to right: Rick Greene, Nathaniel Soper (award winner), Cindy Holloway, of U.S. Surgical, and Steve Eubanks.



Receiving SAGES Young Researcher of the Year Award. Left to right: Dr. Rick Greene, a representative of Stryker Endoscopy, the award supporter; Dr. Brent Matthews, the winner and Steve Eubanks.

MORE HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SAGES 2003 MEETING

A Spectacular Hollywood evening took almost 1,000 attendees to Universal Studios for a gala with dancing, entertainment, great food and, of course, the SAGES Annual Sing-off!



Abstract Forms Available for SAGES '04

The Deadline for Submissions of Oral, Poster & Video Abstracts is September 12, 2003.

Video abstracts must be mailed to the office. For video abstract forms or for more information about instructions, etc., please contact the SAGES office at 310-437-0544. Fax 310-437-0585 or email ed@sages.org.

Oral and Poster abstract submissions will only be accepted online this year! To submit oral, and poster abstracts electronically, please visit www.sages.org/abstracts for more information and instructions.

Abstracts which do not have complete submission information or do not conform to rules will not be accepted for review.

PLEASE DO NOT CALL ON ABSTRACT DEADLINE DAY to confirm receipt of your abstract. With 400-500 abstracts pouring in, there is no way to respond to these inquiries. Upon successful completion of the online submission, you should receive an automatic confirmation of receipt. If you are submitting a hard copy video submission, please send the abstract receipt confirmation postcard, and we will mail it back immediately to confirm receipt of your video.

Liaison Working Groups

In order to better represent the voices of unique interest groups in endoscopic surgery, five existing SAGES committees and/or task forces will be re-structured. They will become liaison working groups with representation to all those committees which deal with issues and activities that impact their group. The committees/task forces in question are Bariatric, Ethics, International Relations, Pediatric and Rural Surgery.

Various members of these new liaison groups have been re-assigned to existing SAGES committees to represent the perspective of the interest group. These five liaison groups will function as "virtual" committees, accomplishing their work primarily through their designated representative to other committees.

President Dr. Swanstrom made this change to create a mechanism for specialty groups to work throughout the year, without adding to our already large number of committees. The Liaison Groups will work with the 2nd Vice President (Dr. Steven Wexner) to identify issues, then seek input from constituents as well as seek volunteers for projects. Administrative support will be available to help coordinate conference calls, contact lists, letters or e-mails.

we all attend.

In an attempt to make life easier for surgeons, SAGES has been establishing relationships with other societies of similar interests. One of the reasons for this is the concept of holding meetings jointly in order to reduce the burden and cost of traveling for our attendees and our industry partners. We have already had two meetings with the pediatric endoscopic surgeons of the IPEG Group. At the 2005 meeting in Florida, we will be meeting in conjunction with both the American Hepato-Pancreo-Biliary Association (AHPBA) and the Spring Meeting of the American College of Surgeons. This will create a truly comprehensive week of surgical education. It is obvious that there is a possibility that such a large confluence of meetings would dilute what is special about current SAGES meetings. The Program Committee will carefully design these future joint meetings in order to preserve the intimate nature of SAGES' annual meeting and prevent it from becoming a "three ring circus." While SAGES and AHPBA will meet concurrently, the SAGES and ACS Spring Meeting will not overlap, and instead will be back-to-back with only a few sessions of common interests conducted together.

There are several things that the SAGES membership can do to help insure the continued success of our annual meeting. The first is to communicate your thoughts about the meeting, particularly regarding new topics, themes, and other ways to make the next meeting even better. A good way to accomplish this is to respond to surveys that are sent out to you or that are available at the meeting. You should take every opportunity to use these tools. They are your voice in your society.

Another way to show support is to attend the meeting. Surprisingly, only a small percentage of the 4600+ SAGES members come to the meeting each year. Come and participate. You will be glad you did.

The annual meeting continues to be the most prominent of the many services that SAGES does each year for its membership. The future success of the meetings depends on the support of the membership and on the creativity of the Program Chairman and Program Committee who remain dedicated to keeping the meetings relevant, fun and user friendly.

– Lee Swanstrom, MD, President



SAGES Annual Postgraduate Courses & Scientific Session

March 31 - April 3, 2004, Denver, CO

Jo Buyske, MD, Program Chair *Complete program will be mailed in November*

Meeting Highlights (Tentative, as of June, 2003)

HANDS-ON COURSES, INCLUDING LAB

Advanced Laparoscopic Techniques

(incl. foregut, bariatric, GERD, HPB, colon, suturing, stapling)

Chair: Sherry Wren, MD

Lab Coordinator: Paul Cirangle, MD

The Surgeon in the Digital Age: PDA

Chair: Steven Schwartzberg, MD

POSTGRADUATE COURSES, DIDACTIC ONLY

Complications in Bariatric Surgery–

Chair: Daniel Herron, MD,

Co-Chair: Santiago Horgan, MD

“Top to Bottom” Surgery, incl. GERD and Colon Surgery

Chairs: C. Daniel Smith, MD and Peter Marcello, MD

Co-Chairs: Jeffrey Marks, MD and Howard Ross, MD

Minimally Invasive Surgery in Hepatobiliary Cancer

Chair: Ricardo Rossi, MD, Co-Chair: Scott Helton, MD

ADDITIONAL CME OFFERINGS

Resident and Fellow Scientific Session

Chairs: Gretchen Purcell, MD and Edward Lin, MD

MIS Nurse and GI Assistant Course

Chair: Donna Stanbridge, RN

Co-Chair: Annette Wieslewski, RN

Evening Video Session

Chair: Horacio Asbun, MD

Presidential Lecture

Lee Swanstrom, MD

INVITED SCIENTIFIC SESSION

PANEL LECTURES

Clinical Trials 101

Patient Safety, Pros & Cons of MIS

Gut motility

“The Far Side” — Laparoscopy in other fields, New Technology, incl. Robotics

Save these Dates!

SAGES Upcoming Annual Meetings

March 31 - April 3, 2004

Denver, CO

April 13 - 16, 2005

Ft. Lauderdale, FL with AHPBA

Held consecutively with the ACS Spring Meeting

SAGES and ACS have agreed to convene our spring meetings together for three years, beginning with the 2005 meeting in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Tentatively, the 2006 meeting is scheduled for Texas (also with IPEG) and the 2007 meeting for Las Vegas, NV (also with AHPBA).

Other Meetings and Congresses

October 19 - 24, 2003 ACS Clinical Congress Chicago, IL

February 2 - 7, 2004 9th World Congress in
Endoscopic Surgery

(hosted by FELAC/ALACE) Cancun, Mexico

May 16 - 19, 2004 DDW

New Orleans, LA

May 8 - 13, 2004 ASCRS

Dallas, TX

June 9 - 12, 2004 EAES

Barcelona, Spain

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