MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Second Quarter Century

I am both exceptionally appreciative and incredibly humbled to follow in the footsteps of my 23 predecessors as the 24th President of SAGES. In particular, my immediate predecessors, Lee Swanstrom, David Rattner, and Daniel Deziel, were all exceptional leaders whose myriad qualities include being surgical masters, administrative authorities, and erudite well-rounded individuals. Most importantly, I consider them all to be my good friends. One of the many interesting facets of SAGES is that in addition to these three friends, SAGES is really like a large family. The over 5,000 members of SAGES emanate from many geographic areas, practice-types, and specialty interests. Nonetheless, we all share the common goal of ensuring that our Society, in its second quarter century, continues to be the world’s premier gastrointestinal and endoscopic surgical society. When our founding father’s, Drs. Gerald Marks, Kenneth Forde, and others, created what is now the second largest general surgery society in the United States, the common thread was surgical endoscopy. As we all know, that field has burgeoned and now includes natural orifice surgery, robotic surgery, and rigid and flexible intraperitoneal, intrathoracic transoral, and transanal procedures. Moreover, our stature within the world has been well recognized by our active participation in leadership roles with many other societies and organizations. We are routinely invited to have a voice in the American College of Surgeons, the American Board of Surgery, the Fellowship Council, the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract, the American Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association, and the International Pediatric Endosurgery Group, amongst others. SAGES is a pivotal cross pollinator of ideas amongst these various groups and all of the many laparoscopic and endoscopic societies throughout the world. Formal affiliation and joint meeting sponsorship is routine with Latin American, Chinese, Japanese, Indian, Asian, and other national and international societies. SAGES remains in a key central leadership role amongst our global colleagues in part due to our superlative educational offerings. In addition to our ever expanding annual meeting and Surgical Endoscopy, our textbooks, multimedia offerings, FLS, and cosponsored panels at other venues are some of the tangible fruits of the labors of our many hard working committees. Their exceptional energy, enthusiasm and high quality efforts benefit all of our members and, even more importantly, our patients. We owe a debt of gratitude to our committee chairs, co-chairs, and members for these accomplishments.

As we move forward during 2006 and beyond, we will continue to develop many tools, such as Fundamentals of Endoscopic Surgery (FES) that will be successor to our renowned Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery Continued on page 22.

Reminder!

If your contact information has changed recently (address, phone, fax, e-mail), you may easily update it online. Just go to www.sages.org and access the members’ area to make any changes to your information.
SAGES 2006 - 2007 Officers
Officers and Members of the Executive Committee:

**President**
Steven D. Wexner, MD

**President-Elect**
Steve Eubanks, MD

**1st Vice President**
(2 year term)
C. Daniel Smith, MD
(1 more year in this position)

**2nd Vice President**
(2 year term)
Jo Buyske, MD

**Secretary**
(3 year term)
W. Scott Melvin, MD

**Treasurer**
(3 year term)
Mark Talamini, MD
(1 more year in this position)

Re-Appointments:

B. Todd Heniford, MD
Daniel Herron, MD
Karen D. Horvath, MD
Daniel B. Jones, MD

New Members:

Horacio Asbun, MD
(1 year term, fulfilling unexpired term of Steve Eubanks)
L. Michael Brunt, MD
Brian J. Dunkin, MD
(1 year term, fulfilling unexpired term of Scott Melvin)
Paresh C. Shah, MD
Tonia M. Young-Fadok, MD

Our thanks to the following Board members, who completed their terms of service in April, 2006:

Robert W. Bailey, MD
David W. Easter, MD
Michael S. Nussbaum, MD

2006 - 2007 Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs

**Assets/Finance:**
- **Finance Chair:** Mark Talamini, MD
- **Assets Chair:** Barry Salky, MD

**Awards:**
- **Chair:** Bruce Schirmer, MD
- **By-Laws:**
  - **Chair:** Brent Matthews, MD
  - **Chair:** C. Daniel Smith, MD

**Conflict of Interest Task Force (CITF):**
- **Chair:** L. Michael Brunt, MD
- **Co-Chair:** Dennis Fowler, MD

**Continuing Education:**
- **Chair:** Katherin Mayer, MD
- **Co-Chair:** Sherry Wren, MD

**Educational Resources:**
- **Chair:** Daniel Jones, MD
- **Co-Chair:** Kenric Murayama, MD

**Endoluminal Task Force:**
- **Chair:** David Rattner, MD

**Flexible Endoscopy:**
- **Chair:** William Richards, MD
- **Co-Chair:** Brian Dunkin, MD

**FLS:**
- **Chair:** Nathaniel Soper, MD
- **Co-Chairs:** Lee Swanstrom, MD & Gerald Fried, MD

**Guidelines:**
- **Chair:** David Earle, MD
- **Co-Chair:** Robert Fanelli, MD

**Legislative:**
- **Chair:** Eli Lerner, MD
- **Co-Chair:** Paresh Shah, MD

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

**Nominating:**
- **Chair:** Daniel Deziel, MD

**NOTES Joint Committee:**
- **Chair:** David Rattner, MD

**Outcomes:**
- **Chair:** John Morton, MD
- **Co-Chair:** Vic Velanovich, MD

**Program:**
- **Chair:** Steven Schwartzberg, MD
- **Co-Chair:** Horacio Asbun, MD

**Public Information:**
- **Chair:** Paul Cirangle, MD
- **Co-Chair:** Bruce Ramshaw, MD

**Publications:**
- **Chair:** Frederick Greene, MD
- **Co-Chair:** Desmond Birkett, MD

**Research:**
- **Chair:** Karen Horvath, MD
- **Co-Chair:** Blair Jobe, MD

**Resident Education:**
- **Chair:** Raymond Onders, MD
- **Co-Chair:** Leena Khaitan, MD

**Technology:**
- **Chair:** Daniel Herron, MD
- **Co-Chair:** Michael Marohn, MD

**Liaison Groups –**
- **Bariatric:** Ninh Nguyen, MD & Matthew Hutter, MD
- **Ethics:** Michael Nussbaum, MD & Peter Crookes, MD
- **International Relations:** Raul Rosenthal, MD & Dimitrios Linos, MD
- **Pediatric:** Steven Rothenberg, MD & Thom Lobe, MD
- **Rural:** William Traverso, MD & Thomas Broughan, MD
- **Non-voting advisors to the Board:**
  - Desmond Birkett, MD,
  - Kenneth Forde, MD, Jeffrey Peters, MD

**Non-voting advisors to the Board:**
- Desmond Birkett, MD,
- Kenneth Forde, MD, Jeffrey Peters, MD
2006 Best Resident or Fellow 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 2006 Annual Meeting:
1st Place – Lauren Paton, MD – “Intra-Abdominal Pressure in Obese and Non-obese Individuals”
2nd Place – Khashayar Vaziri, MD – “Laparoscopic Gastric Electrical Stimulation for Gastroparesis”
3rd Place – Renee C. Minjarez, MD – “Endoscopic Ultrasound (EUS) in the Evaluation of Nissen Fundoplication Integrity: A Blinded Comparison with Conventional Testing”

AMA Membership – What It Really Means
Maintaining your membership in the AMA allows SAGES to:
• Keep our seat in the AMA House of Delegates (HOD)
• Have representation on the CPT Advisory Committee
• Have representation on the RUC Advisory Committee

In order for SAGES to retain its seat in the HOD, a significant percentage of our members also have to be members of the AMA.
But that is just a part of it. Like it or not, the AMA is the physician organization with the most influence with:
• Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS)
• US House of Delegates
• US Senate

While SAGES continues to gain experience and recognition in the legislative arena, there is no denying that being a part of a larger organization has its benefits. The government recognizes the AMA as representing physicians across the country. They take the lead in tracking action on Capitol Hill and in organizing member associations and grass roots efforts to affect positive change.

Keep the SAGES voice strong. Please check your AMA membership status and keep it current. To join the AMA or renew your membership, visit the AMA website: https://membership.ama-assn.org/JoinRenew/search.jsp

2006 SAGES Resident Courses

SAGES will be offering several basic and advanced courses this year for surgical residents. For course registration policies, please contact Christina Blaney at (310) 437-0544, ext. 109.

Advanced Laparoscopic Hernia Surgery Workshop
September 14 - 15, 2006
4th and 5th year residents only
Must be a SAGES Candidate Member
Norwalk, CT
Sponsored by Autosuture

Advanced Laparoscopic Techniques Surgery Workshop
September 25 - 26, 2006
Chief Residents and Fellows only
Must be a SAGES Candidate Member
Cincinnati, Ohio
Sponsored by Ethicon Endosurgery Institute

Advanced Laparoscopic Intestinal Surgery Workshop
November 2 - 3, 2006
4th and 5th year residents only
Must be a SAGES Candidate Member
Norwalk, CT
Sponsored by Autosuture

SAGES is looking for your interesting and challenging cases to present to a panel of experts during the Annual Meeting.
If you have a unique or controversial case (history, x-rays, labs, pathology) and wish to participate in this session, please e-mail a description of the case to Sallie at sallie@sages.org by October, 13, 2006.
COMMITTEE UPDATES

Guidelines Committee

The Guidelines Committee, co-chaired by Drs. David Earle and Robert Fanelli, has been working on creating evidence-based clinical practice guidelines. Committee members participating in the development of the recently established evidence-based guideline format will be granted authorship of a Surgical Endoscopy review article based on the guideline and may be offered a chance to speak at an evidence-based guidelines session at the SAGES meeting. Look for an upcoming article on the laparoscopic treatment of curable colon and rectal cancer. It's a lot of work to create and publish high quality clinical practice guidelines, and the team is constantly working on reviewing and revising existing guidelines, as well as creating new ones. SAGES members who would like more information on the guidelines development process should contact Jacqueline Narváez at the SAGES office at 310-437-0544 ext. 103 or jacqueline@sages.org.

Rural Liaison Group

Rural Surgeon Survey

SAGES is constantly looking for ways to improve communication and membership experience among our surgeons. Do you consider yourself a rural surgeon? SAGES would like to hear from you! Please type the following url into your browser and take the survey. Your feedback is important to us.
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=985072201237

Continuing Education Committee

The SAGES Continuing Education Committee has recently revised and updated the SAGES Laparoscopy Preparation and Troubleshooting Guide. The Guide is divided into two sections: 1) Preoperative Precautions and 2) Troubleshooting. The section on Preoperative Precautions outlines the essential duties and steps that the circulating RN and Scrub nurse/tech should undertake in preparation for a laparoscopic procedure, including a number of measures that relate to patient safety. The Troubleshooting portion of the Guide includes sections on loss of pneumoperitoneum, high insufflation pressure, poor lighting or image quality and the like. The Guide is now available on-line and in a printed, laminated version that can be attached to your laparoscopy cart or tower. A new addition to the Guide is the Laparoscopic Surgery Operative Checklist. This two page form lists the essential steps required of the operating room nursing and technical personnel prior to initiating a laparoscopic procedure in a checklist type format. Surgeons may find the Checklist useful in terms of enhancing the efficiency of preparation for laparoscopic procedures and emphasizing patient safety. It is hoped that use of the Checklist will reduce the instances of the absent cautery ground pad, unconnected cautery cords and suction/irrigation tubing, missing local anesthetic, etc. The Checklist can be accessed online at www.sages.org/ where it can be printed for use in the operating room. Laminated charts can be purchased by contacting the SAGES Office.

Outcomes Committee

The SAGES Outcomes Initiative has surpassed 22,500 cases and has added two new disease-specific modules to its repertoire. New for 2006 is the EGD registry. Developed by the Flexible Endoscopy Committee, this new registry is free to all SAGES members. Also new for 2006 is the Pediatric registry. Developed in conjunction with the International Pediatric Endosurgery Group (IPEG), both SAGES and IPEG members will have free access. Benefits of the program include: Real-time benchmarking, Web-based application, PDA software for the Palm, and the ability to meet present and future data requirements for credentialing, contracting and reimbursement. FREE TO ALL SAGES MEMBERS! To sign-up, contact Jennifer Clark in the SAGES office at jennifer@sages.org or (310) 437-0544, ext 100.

Public Information Committee

The SAGES Public Information Committee has completed a revision of the SAGES Patient Information web sites. These sites contain a presentation about a specific disease or minimally-invasive procedure as well as links to the relevant SAGES publications. SAGES members have the ability to download PowerPoint files from each site and to use them in presentations to patients or at conferences. The sites are:
- AdrenalSurgery.Info http://www.adrenalsurgery.info/
- Colonoscopy.Info http://www.colonoscopy.info/
- GERDSurgery.Info http://www.gerdsurgery.info/
- Morbid-Obesity.Info http://www.morbid-obesity.info/
- SpleenSurgery.Info http://www.spleensurgery.info/

Publications Committee

As a SAGES member, you can gain online access to Surgical Endoscopy. As an added benefit, you can also gain online access to any of the following Springer journals:
- Annals of Surgical Oncology
- Diseases of the Colon & Rectum
- World Journal of Surgery

You can gain online access to the journal by using the username and password provided below and by following these instructions:
1. Go to the SpringerLink website at www.springerlink.com
2. On the right side of the screen you will see a login area. Please enter your username and password just as you see them below as these are case sensitive. You will also need to be sure to click on the “Log In” button, and do
not press the “Enter” key on your keyboard. After you have logged in, you will be recognized as a SAGES member under the blue tool bar on the right side of the screen.

Username: sesages6  
Password: sesages6

3. After logging in, you can then go to the journals you have access to, by clicking the link “Browse Publications” and navigating through the alphabetical journal list.

In addition, if you would like to set up an individual account to get access to Surgical Endoscopy and the related journals, using your own personally created username and password, please follow the instructions below. If you already have an existing individual account, you will be required to re-register by following the instructions below:

1. Please follow steps 1 & 2 above and log in with the assigned username and password.
2. After you have logged in, please click the “Register” button located on the bottom-right side of the homepage beneath the “Login” box. This will display a page with the option to register as either an “Individual” or an “Institution” — please click on the “Individual” button.
3. On the following screen, you will be able to fill in simple contact information and create a username and password that you will use to access the site in the future.

After the creation of your username and password, you will be asked to accept the terms and conditions for using electronic content offered by Springer.

Once you have filled out all necessary fields and registration is complete, an e-mail notification with your new login credentials will be automatically sent to your email address.

The “Registration Complete” page reminds you of your username and provides you with an eight-digit identification number (ie, MetaPress ID) that will be handy if you ever need technical assistance at Springer.

Clicking on the “Continue” button will take you back to the SpringerLink homepage where you will be logged in as yourself and recognized as a Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons member.

You may also be recognized as any institution through which you have IP authentication if your institution already subscribes to the journal.

Your personal codes will also allow you to manage Table of Contents or Keyword Alerts and Favorites by clicking on the appropriate button in the blue tool bar.

The above codes are effective in 2006.

If you experience trouble logging in or registering, please contact Antoinette Cimino at antoinette.cimino@springer.com.

FLS Committee Update

The Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery (FLS) Committee met in Dallas this past April to discuss many new and exciting developments coming down the FLS pipeline. FLS 2.0 is currently in the works and will include updated content, new videos, illustrations, patient scenarios and practice test questions. FLS 2.0 will use a web-based platform making it easier for surgical residents and attendings to access the most up to date information and to brush up on their cognitive and technical skills.

An FLS Postgraduate Course is being developed for the 92nd Annual Clinical Congress being held in Chicago in October 2006. It will highlight the didactic material featured on the FLS CD-ROMs, including a hands-on component utilizing the FLS Trainer Boxes and the opportunity to take the FLS Test. Sign up now on the ACS website (www.facs.org)!

Another exciting project being finalized is an off-the-shelf, proficiency-based skills training curriculum that will allow candidates to practice more efficiently for the technical skills test. This will be made available to the surgical community on the FLS website and to anyone who purchases the FLS program. The FLS committee would like to thank and acknowledge Drs. Daniel Scott and E. Matt Ritter for their hard work on this project.

FLS is also continuing to work closely with Queensland Health Development Skills Centre (SDC) in Brisbane, Australia and with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) to develop a strategy for the implementation of FLS throughout Australia and New Zealand. At the recent RACS Clinical Congress in Sydney in May, the FLS program was featured in numerous scientific sessions and workshops, in addition to having a very popular booth in the exhibit hall.

Still haven’t taken the FLS Test? FLS Testing will be offered at the ACS Clinical Congress this October in Chicago! Sign up before space runs out. Visit www.flsprogram.org to download an order form and see what’s happening in the world of FLS. To request a new brochure, subscribe to the FLS Newsletter or if you have any questions, please contact the FLS Office at (310) 437-0544 ext 115 or fls@sages.org.

FES Committee Update

The Fundamentals of Endoscopic Surgery (FES) Committee, Chaired by Drs. Jeff Marks and Brian Dunkin, hit the ground running and has been working hard to complete the didactic component of the FES project. A small, but very productive, retreat focused solely on the manual skills component was held in July at McGill University, graciously hosted by Dr. Gerald M. Fried.

The next step for FES is the continued development and validation of the assessment tool. Similar to its predecessor FLS, FES will include a comprehensive and standardized curriculum in basic endoscopy that will incorporate a validated assessment tool and hands-on skills training.

Continued on page 9.
The 2007 SAGES Research Grant Application

The SAGES Research Grant application is currently available on the SAGES website, www.sages.org. The purpose of these grants is to stimulate original research. The study may be either “bench” research or clinical. Writing tips and techniques can be found on the website as well. Topics may include the following:

- Operating Room Technology
- Emerging Technology
- The Use of Biomaterials in Endoscopy Surgical Education
- Robotics
- Surgical Simulators
- Competence assessment in minimally invasive surgery
- The Basic Science of Laparoscopy
- Surgical Outcomes
- Transgastric Surgery
- Endoluminal Surgery

For information on SAGES Research Grants, please contact Jacqueline Narváez at the SAGES office at 310-437-0544 ext. 103 or research@sages.org.

2006 SAGES Research Grant Recipients

**Vivian E.M. Strong, MD**
Project Title: “A Novel Method for Staging and Resection of Intra-Abdominal Cancers with Laparoscopic Pet Probes”
Institution: Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Grant Support: Autosuture/Valleylab, a Division of TYCO

**Joseph S. Friedberg, MD**
Project Title: “Supplemental Oxygenation Utilizing Minimum Invasive Techniques of Peritoneal and Gastric Perfusion with Oxygenated Perfluoral Carbons”
Institution: University of Pennsylvania Medical Center - Presbyterian
Grant Support: Ethicon Endo Surgery

**Jeffrey Hagen, MD**
Project Title: “Competency Assessment of Advanced Laparoscopic Skills: Development of an Intra-operative Evaluation Tool for a Laparoscopic Nissen Fundoplication”
Institution: University of Southern California, Keck School of Medicine
Grant Support: SAGES Foundation

**Michael McGee, MD**
Project Title: “Natural Orifice Trans-Visceral Endoscopic Surgery (NOTES): Defining Safe and Reliable Access Techniques in the Chronic Pig Model”
Institution: University Hospital of Cleveland & Case Western Reserve University (CWRU)
Grant Support: Ethicon Endo Surgery

**Bin Zheng MD, PhD**
Project Title: “Constructive Validation Studies on Using a Bench Model for Laparoscopic Team Training”
Institution: Legacy Health System
Grant Support: Stryker Endosurgery

**Shu S. Lin, MD, PhD**
Project Title: “The effects of Gastroesophageal Reflux-Induced Chronic Aspiration on the Development of Asthma”
Institution: Duke University Medical Center
Grant Support: Autosuture/Valleylab a Division of TYCO

**Swee H. Teh, MD**
Project Title: “The impact of Laparoscopic Hepatic Resection on Tumors Angiogenisis in Hepatocellular Carcinoma”
Institution: Oregon Health & Science University
Grant Support: SAGES Foundation

**David M. Le, MD**
Project Title: “The Role of Leptin Receptor Expression in Non-Alcoholic Steatohepatitis in Bariatric Surgery Patients”
Institution: Oregon Health & Science University
Grant Support: Ethicon Endo Surgery

**Juliane Bingener-Casey, MD**
Project Title: “The Physiologic and Immunologic Effects of Natural Orifice Translumenal Endoscopic Surgery (NOTES) in a Porcine Model: A comparison of the cardiopulmonary and immunologic effects of NOTES with standard laparoscopy”
Institution: University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
Grant Support: Karl Storz Endoscopy

**David S. Tichansky, MD**
Project Title: “Taste Changes after Gastric Bypass Surgery”
Institution: University of Tennessee Health Science Center
Grant Support: Autosuture/Valleylab, a Division of TYCO
SAGES 2007 Awards Nominations

SAGES has three major awards that 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 2007 SAGES Annual Meeting next year in Las Vegas.

You may obtain a copy of the nomination forms by calling, faxing, or e-mailing Elspeth Llewellyn in the SAGES office (Phone: (310) 437-0544, Fax: (310) 437-0585, E-Mail: elspeth@sages.org). Additionally, they may be downloaded from the SAGES website. 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 8, 2006.

The awards that are open for your nomination are:

Pioneer in Endoscopy Award
- This award is designated for a person in industry or a physician/surgeon.
- It will be given to an individual, not to a company.
- It will be granted for a significant, long-term scientific or technological contribution to the field of surgical endoscopy.
- It 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; it is for a body of work, not for an individual achievement.

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.

SAGES Annual IRCAD Visiting Fellowship Award

Sponsored by Karl Storz Endoscopy

This Award is designated to give a fellow the opportunity to study at IRCAD, a private institute that is dedicated to the valorization of basic research against cancer. The visiting fellow will attend a two or three day intensive course and will receive a certificate upon completion. The award is available to an Active or Candidate member of SAGES, who is enrolled in a Fellowship Council recognized fellowship program.

Karl Storz will provide for all of the expenses (i.e. room/board, transportation and course tuition) for the award winner to attend the course at the IRCAD/EITS Facility.

The winner will be chosen by the SAGES Awards Committee based on merit and their desire to attend. The Applicant must submit the following by the September 8, 2006 deadline:
- One page statement of why they want to attend the course
- Copy of their current abbreviated Curriculum Vitae
- Note from their Program Director

Educational Resources

The Educational Resources Committee has developed excellent and beneficial informational tools for surgeons and patients. Our excellent selection of Patient Information Brochures can be ordered through sages.org. Test your skills with the SAGES Web Quizzes, also available on-line and updated monthly.

SAGES’ Top 14 Project, a revised collection of the top most common minimally invasive procedures performed by surgeons, is now available. The SAGES Nissen and Bariatric Pearls, a procedure-specific instructional series concentrating on different, important steps of a nissen and bariatric procedure and offering instructions, tips, tricks and alternatives for these steps, is available as well. Upcoming Pearls issues including Right/Left Hemicolectomy and Inguinal Hernia are scheduled for a Spring 07 release.

To order, please visit www.cine-med.com/sages/ or call 800-515-1542.

Committee Updates continued from page 7.
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 and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES). (Course information updated 7/18/06. For the most updated information, please visit www.sages.org/education/endorsed.html).

Institution: Carolinas Laparoscopic & Advanced Surgery Program (CLASP), Charlotte, NC
Director: B. Todd Heniford, MD; Kent W. Kercher, MD; Timothy Kuwada, MD; Keith S. Gersin, MD; Frederick L. Greene, MD; Richard L. White, MD; Chris Teigland, MD; Ronald F. Sing, DO; Pierce Irby, MD
Contact: Phone: 704-355-4823, Fax: 704-355-8147 CLASP@carolinasonline.org
Address: 1000 Blythe Blvd., P.O. Box 32861, Charlotte, NC 28203
Course Detail:
- COLORECTAL
  - Mini Fellowship for Laparoscopic & Hand-Assisted Colorectal Surgery with hands-on lab: November 5 & 6, 2006
- HERNIA
  - Laparoscopic Ventral & Incisional Herniorrhaphy: October 6, 2006

Institution: Emory University School of Medicine
Director: C. Daniel Smith, MD, FACS
Contact: Kendra Price
Phone: 404-727-1540, Fax: 404-712-5416 e-mail: kendra.price@emoryhealthcare.org
Address: Emory University School of Medicine 1364 Clifton Road, NE, Suite H124, Atlanta, GA 30322
Detail: Modern Management of Foregut Diseases September 22, 2006

Institution: IRCAD-EITS
Address: IRCAD-EITS Hopitaux Universitaires place de l’Hôpital, BP 426, Strasbourg, France F-67091

Institution: Harvard Medical School, Center for Minimally Invasive Surgery
Director: Daniel B. Jones, MD, FACS
Contact: Daniel B. Jones, MD, FACS
Phone: (617) 667-5100, Fax: (617) 667-5125 e-mail: djones1@bidmc.harvard.edu

Institution: Washington University School of Medicine
Director: Brent D. Matthews, MD; L. Michael Brunt, MD
Contact: Peggy Frisella, Course Administrator
Phone: 314-362-8371, Fax: 314-747-0591 e-mail: frisellap@wustl.edu
Address: Washington University School of Medicine Department of Surgery, 660 South Euclid Box 8109, Saint Louis, MO 63110
CME COURSES - Please contact 1-800-325-9862
Laparoscopic Foregut Surgery, September 29, 2006
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Minimally Invasive Surgical Centre (MISC)</strong></td>
<td>Davide Lomanto MD, PhD, Wei-Keat Cheah, MBBS, FRACS, Contact: Serene Tan, Phone: +65 67725264, Fax: +65 67754007, <a href="http://www.misc-asia.com">www.misc-asia.com</a>, Address: 5 Lower Kent Ridge Road, 119097 Singapore, Detail: Patient Safety in Obesity Surgery II, August 2006</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mayo Clinic Scottsdale</strong></td>
<td>Kristi Harold, MD; Tonia Young-Fadok, MD; Paul Andrews, MD, Contact: Phone: 480-301-4580, Address: Mayo Clinic Scottsdale 13400 East Shea Blvd., Scottsdale, AZ 85259, Detail: Basic Laparoscopic Surgery Courses: November 10 &amp; 11, 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MOET Institute- San Francisco, CA</strong></td>
<td>Zoltan Szabo, Director, Contact: Phone: 415-626-3400, <a href="http://www.moetinstitute.com">www.moetinstitute.com</a>, Detail: Advanced Laparoscopic Suturing &amp; Surgical Skills, Check with MOET Institute for dates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GEM Hospital India</strong></td>
<td>Dr. C. Palanivelu, MS, MCh(SGE0, MNAMS, FACS, FRCS (Edin), Contact: Phone: +91-422-2324100, Fax: +91-422-232-0879, Email: <a href="mailto:cp@gemhospital.net">cp@gemhospital.net</a>, Address: 45.A. Pankajamill Road Ramanathapuram, Coimbatore - 641 045, India, Details: Basic Laparoscopic Surgery Training July 17 - 22, 2006, August 21 - 26, 2006, September 11 - 16, 2006, October 16 - 21, 2006, November 20 - 25, 2006, December 18 - 23, 2006, Advanced Laparoscopic Surgery Training August 7 - 12, 2006</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Center for Advanced Laparoscopic Surgery (CALS), Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Singapore</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Richard Sim, MBBS, FRCS, Contact: Phone: +65-6357-7661, Fax: +65-6357-7809, e-mail: <a href="mailto:gloria_seah@ttsh.com.sg">gloria_seah@ttsh.com.sg</a>, <a href="http://www.ttsh.com.sg">http://www.ttsh.com.sg</a>, Address: No. 11 Jalan Tan Tock Seng, Singapore 308433, Details: Contact institution for upcoming courses.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Southwestern Center For Minimally Invasive Surgery (SCMIS), Dallas, TX</strong></td>
<td>David Provost, MD, Contact: phone: 1-800-688-8678, <a href="http://www.swmed.edu/home_pages/cmis/conted.htm">http://www.swmed.edu/home_pages/cmis/conted.htm</a>, Details: Contact institution for upcoming courses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Center of Excellence for Laparoscopic and Minimally Invasive Surgery University of Miami Miller School of Medicine</strong></td>
<td>Brian J. Dunkin, MD, FACS; Raymond J. Leveillee, MD, Michael D. Hellinger, MD, FACS; Patricia M. Byers, MD; Fahim Habib, MD; Peter Takacs, MD, PhD; Jose M. Marti, Directors, Contact: Susan G. Mazzola, Phone: 305-326-6480, Fax: 305-326-6328, email: <a href="mailto:SMazzola@med.miami.edu">SMazzola@med.miami.edu</a>, <a href="http://www.mis.med.miami.edu">http://www.mis.med.miami.edu</a>, Address: Center of Excellence for Laparoscopic and Minimally Invasive Surgery University of Miami Miller School of Medicine McKnight Research Building, Room 802 1638 N.W. 10th Avenue, Miami, FL 33136, Detail: Hand-Assisted Laparoscopic Nephrectomy Workshop: Director: Raymond J. Leveillee, MD, October 28, 2006, Laparoscopic Colon Surgery Course: Director: Michael D. Hellinger, MD, FACS, November 16 &amp; 17, 2006, Stretta® Physician Hands-on Workshop — RF Treatment of GERD: Director: Brian J. Dunkin, MD, FACS, September 15, 2006, Surgical Controversies and Patient Management Issues in Bariatric Surgery: Director: Patricia M. Byers, MD, Dates: To be announced, Advanced Trauma Operative Management course (ATOM): Director: Fahim Habib, MD, Dates: To be announced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Legacy Emanuel Hospital and Health Center</strong></td>
<td>Lee L. Swanstrom, MD, Contact: Virginia Hankins, 503-413-4343, <a href="mailto:boylear@lhs.org">boylear@lhs.org</a>, Address: Legacy Emanuel Hospital and Health Center 2801 N. Gantenbein, Portland, OR 97227, <a href="http://www.advancedlaparoscopy.com/">http://www.advancedlaparoscopy.com/</a>, Detail: Advanced Laparoscopic Surgery: September 20 - 26, 2006</td>
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SAGES/ASCRS Laparoscopic Colon Course Endorsement

SAGES and the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (ASCRS) have completed an agreement to jointly endorse postgraduate courses focusing on laparoscopic colon surgery. The Continuing Education Committee and the SAGES Board of Governors have approved the guidelines and requirements for endorsement. ASCRS has also approved these requirements. As is the case with any other type of course, SAGES endorsement is granted based on several requirements including facilities, qualifications of the faculty, and proposed content of the course.

Any institution or program desiring SAGES and ASCRS endorsement for a course focused on laparoscopic colon surgery may submit a request for endorsement to either society. The application will be reviewed by reviewers from both societies. If the reviewers agree that the proposed course is appropriate for endorsement, the course will become SAGES/ASCRS endorsed and may be advertised as such.

On-Line Update

SAGES has revamped, updated, and re-launched the Surgical Calendar page on its website. This page lists meetings of interest sponsored by other specialty societies. It is still a work in progress and we add meetings to it every week. To view the page, please go to:

http://www.sages.org/surgicalcalendar.php

If you know of a meeting that does not appear on that page, please email the information to sagesweb@sages.org so we can add it!

Membership

The SAGES Membership Committee and Board of Governors congratulates 347 new members who joined our ranks in April 2006: 56 Active, 5 Allied Health, 248 Candidate, and 38 International. Welcome to the SAGES family!

The winners of the Membership Drive award and prize for sponsoring the highest number of new members this year was given to Drs. Shawn Terry and Thomas Scott from the York Hospital in York, Pennsylvania. Award certificates and a prize were presented during the Awards Ceremony at the SAGES meeting in Dallas, Texas. The prize is a $500 voucher for the Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery (FLS) program. Recognition awards were also presented to Drs. Steven Wexner and Eric Weiss for the second highest number of sponsorships this year. Honorable mention was given to Drs. Steven Rothenberg and Marc Levitt for their extra effort to push all 39 Pediatric Course attendees to join SAGES in order to attend the course.

The next Membership Drive is from April 2006 to April 2007. This includes new member applicants for October 2006 and April 2007. Application files must be complete in order to qualify.

Category numbers as of July 2006 are:

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<td><strong>Total Membership</strong></td>
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Save the Date!!

SAGES Scientific Session & Postgraduate Course

April 18 - 22, 2007
Paris Las Vegas Hotel,
Las Vegas, NV
(will be held with AHPBA & consecutively with the ACS Spring Mtg.)

SAGES Scientific Session & Postgraduate Course

** PLEASE NOTE – REVISED DATE **
April 9 - 12, 2008
Pennsylvania Convention Center
Philadelphia, PA

SAGES Scientific Session & Postgraduate Course

April 22 - 25, 2009
Phoenix Convention Center
Phoenix, AZ (will be held with AHPBA & IPEG)

SAGES Scientific Session & Postgraduate Course

April 14 - 17, 2010
Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center
Landover, MD (just outside Washington, DC)
**SURVEY RESULTS**

**Flexible Endoscopy Survey**

*William Reed, MD*
Flexible Endoscopy Committee

SAGES was founded to promote the continued involvement of surgeons with flexible endoscopy, at a time when general surgeons were being discouraged from performing colonoscopy and upper endoscopy by credentialing criteria that favored trainees from GI fellowship programs and by fears about the negative consequences for referral that would result from being active in this arena. Early initiatives of the Society were training sessions and courses aimed at developing endoscopic skills among surgeons and at formulating credentialing criteria for endoscopy that would consider the knowledge of anatomy and gastrointestinal diseases derived from operative experience.

The explosive development of therapeutic laparoscopy in the 1980s and 1990s has diverted much of the energy of SAGES away from endoscopy, but recent developments in endoluminal and transluminal procedures suggest that, in the near future, general surgeons will need to be well grounded in flexible endoscopy to maintain their current position in the treatment of a number of common surgical abdominal conditions, such as appendicitis, cholecystitis and GERD.

The time seems apt, therefore, to assess the present status of training and of the experience of SAGES members in the area of flexible endoscopy. To this end, a survey was prepared by the Flexible Endoscopy Committee and circulated to the membership. To date, 360 responses have been received, mostly from general (84%) or pediatric (8.5%) surgeons, with smaller numbers from thoracic (8%) or GYN (2%) surgeons. Respondents were evenly divided between academicians and those in private practice, and most (60%) were from large urban areas, although 27% were from smaller cities and 12% were from rural settings. Half had been in practice for more than 5 years.

Although all surgeons responding to the survey were SAGES members, only 2/3 were actively involved with flexible endoscopy at the time of the survey and the most frequently cited level of activity for colonoscopy, flexible sigmoidoscopy and EGD was fewer than 12 cases per year for each. There were a few surgeons, however, that did perform high volumes of procedures, with 15% reporting more than 120 EGD’s per year and 21% reporting more than 120 colonoscopies per year. Clearly the majority of members are maintaining some level of endoscopic activity, but just barely at a volume of a case a month or less.

Among the remaining third of surgeons that were not performing endoscopic procedures, the reasons given were, in order of frequency: a lack of desire or time (29%), concern about losing referrals (26%), a lack of training (20%), and the inability to get privileges (7%) or sufficient training (4%). In one respect, these figures are encouraging. Considering the relatively small numbers of surgeons desiring to perform endoscopy but denied privileges, the efforts by SAGES to ease the process of credentialing seem to have paid off. That so many members would lack interest or training, however, shows the need for further educational efforts by SAGES to stress the importance of endoscopy in the armamentarium of the general surgeon. It also indicates a need to provide training opportunities for those surgeons who desire to add endoscopy to their surgical skills.

While it is distressing that some surgeons still feel threatened enough by the prospect of losing referrals that they refrain from performing endoscopic procedures, this no longer appears to be an issue for the majority of members surveyed, being cited by only 7% of the entire group.

When asked whether flexible endoscopy would play a larger role in their surgical practices in the future, 64% of the survey group responded in the affirmative, about the same proportion as were actively engaged in endoscopy now. The areas felt to offer the best opportunities for increased activity were: the treatment of GERD (40%), the endoluminal treatment of obesity (25.5%), the endoscopic approach to conditions such as high grade Barrett’s (17%), glue fistulas (7%), transluminal removal of the appendix (6%), and pseudocyst drainage (4%). Of interest was the overwhelmingly positive response (85%) to the question asking whether SAGES needs to do more to promote flexible endoscopy as an essential part of general surgery. This strong endorsement of the original aims of the Society should fuel renewed commitment to this vital arena. Such support was further echoed in the written comments of respondents who suggested that residents in general are not getting adequate training, especially with the limited work schedules now required, and that SAGES should develop “mini courses” with “hands on training” and continue to develop cooperative relationships with gastroenterologists to ease credentialing efforts.

Finally, the survey addressed the issue of outcomes tracking. Almost all respondents (95%) thought this was important, and 65% were doing so. Only a small proportion (17%) were using the program provided by SAGES to do their tracking. About 6% were using NSQIP and the rest were using other programs. The majority (62%) of surgeons were recording their own data. A few were assigning this to a resident or fellow (10%), and the rest were using non-physicians. The responses highlight another potential area for an educational effort to promote more extensive use of the SAGES program by the membership.
April 18 - 22, 2007
Las Vegas, Nevada
SAGES Call for Abstracts
Deadline for Submission is September 15, 2006

Dear Colleague,

You are invited to submit abstracts and videos to the SAGES 2007 Scientific Session. The meeting will be held April 18 - 22, in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Paris Las Vegas Hotel. You must be a member of SAGES or have a member of SAGES sponsor you to submit an abstract.

The program will consist of long (10 minutes) and short (5-7 minutes) oral & video presentations, and poster presentations. The program committee will be responsible for selecting the length of the oral and video presentations.

All Oral & Poster abstracts MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE. Please visit www.sages.org/abstracts for instructions.

Video abstracts must be mailed to the office along with submitting a brief summary of the video via our on-line system. All Videos must be submitted on CD-ROM or DVD. For complete digital guidelines and video submission instructions, etc., please visit www.sages.org/abstracts

* Important Notice: The following Abstract Submission Policies will be firmly enforced:

• No Previously Published Submissions: The abstract submitted must present original work that has not and will not be published or presented prior to the 2007 SAGES meeting.

• No Dual Submissions: The abstract submitted must not have been submitted to any subsequent meetings in North America.

• Manuscript Submission: Accepted Oral Abstract Presenters must submit a complete manuscript to Surgical Endoscopy.

If you have any questions, please contact the SAGES office at 310-437-0544, FAX: 310-437-0585 or email: abstracts@sages.org.

Sincerely,

Steven D. Schwatzberg, MD
2007 Program Director

Unit Coordinators

Program Chair: Steve Schwartzberg, MD
Colon HO Course Chair: Peter Marcello, MD
Colon HO Course Co-Chair: Tonia Young-Fadok, MD
SAGES Masters CBD HO Course Chair:
    James “Butch” Rosser, MD
CBD HO Course Co-Chair: Richard Vazquez, MD
Endolumenal & Transgastric HO Course Chair:
    William Richards, MD
Endolumenal & Transgastric HO Course Co-Chair:
    Theodore Saclarides, MD
Simulator HO Course SAGES Chair: Randy Haluck, MD
Simulator HO Course ACS Chair: Leonard Jacobs, MD
Digital Video Editing HO Course Chair:
    Daniel Herron, MD
Digital Video Editing HO Course Co-Chair:
    Patrick Reardon, MD
MIS & Cancer PG Course Chair: Steven Brower, MD
MIS & Cancer PG Course Co-Chair: Nancy Baxter, MD
FLS PG Course Chair: Nathaniel Soper, MD
FLS PG Course Co-Chairs:
    Lee Swanstrom, MD & Gerald Fried, MD
Allied Health Course Chair: Leena Khaitan, MD
Allied Health Course Co-Chair: Nancy Hogle, RN
“Rocky Horror” Complications Video Chair:
    Jo Buyske, MD
Poster Chair: Daniel Scott, MD
Poster Co-Chair: Michael Marohn, MD
Video Chair: Raul Rosenthal, MD
Video Co-Chair: Aurora Pryor, MD
Learning Center Chair: Gretchen Purcell, MD
Learning Center Co-Chair: Benjamin Schneider, MD
Educator’s Lunch Coordinator: John Mellinger, MD
Fellowship Council Lunch Coordinators:
    W. Scott Melvin, MD & Bruce Schirmer, MD
Emerging Technology Forum Coordinator:
    Daniel Herron, MD
Resident’s Day Coordinators: Benjamin Poulose, MD & Simon Bergman, MD
Storz Lecturer: Richard Heald, MD
Marks Lecturer: Lester Rosen, MD
• World class faculty…as usual!
• State-of-the-Art Postgraduate Courses
• Scientific Sessions
• Learning Center
• Technology Pavillion
• Exhibits debut the newest in minimal access and endoluminal technology and equipment
• The traditional (that means unconventional) SAGES Social Events and, of course, the Sing-Off.

• AHPBA (American Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association) will host its annual meeting once again concurrent with the SAGES meeting.
• The ACS Spring meeting will follow the SAGES meeting.
• Once again it is possible to attend three superb surgical meetings in the space of one week.
SAGES 2007 Program Outline
(Tentative, as of July, 2006)

Program Chair: Steven Schwitzberg, MD

Wednesday, April 18
SAGES Half Day Hands-On Course: Endolumenal & Transgastric
SAGES Panel: Reoperative MIS Surgery
SAGES Panel: Approaches to Solid Organ Resection – The Debates

Thursday, April 19
SAGES Full Day Postgraduate Course: MIS and Cancer
SAGES Full Day Hands-on Course: CBD
SAGES Full Day Hands-on Course: Colon
SAGES Poster Sessions and Learning Center Open
Exhibit Opening Welcome Reception
SAGES Satellite Symposia

Friday, April 20
SAGES Half Day Postgraduate Course: Inflammatory Bowel Disease
SAGES Half Day Postgraduate Course: Surgeon in the Digital Age Video Editing
SAGES Panel: Reoperative Bariatric Surgery
SAGES/AHPBA Joint Session: Ablative Therapies
SAGES Scientific Session
SAGES Frontiers of Medicine Lecture
SAGES Panel: Safety in Bariatric Surgery
SAGES/ASGE Panel: NOTES (Natural Orifice Translumenal Endoscopic Surgery)
SAGES/SLS Panel: Hernia Debates
SAGES Panel: Endolumenal
SAGES Poster Sessions and Learning Center Open
Exhibits Open
SAGES Evening Video Session: Complications

Saturday, April 21
SAGES Scientific Session
SAGES Presidential Address
SAGES Karl Storz Lecture in New Technology
SAGES Health Policy Lecture
SAGES Panel: Bariatric Emergencies for non Bariatric Surgeons
SAGES/AHPBA Joint Session: Evaluation of Pancreatic Neoplasms
SAGES Allied Health Course
SAGES/ASCRS Panel: Colon & Rectal Surgery
SAGES Panel: Payment for Innovative Therapies - Debate
SAGES Panel: Innovative Therapies You Will Use in the Future
SAGES Residents and Fellows Scientific Sessions
SAGES/Fellowship Council Lunch
SAGES Poster Sessions and Learning Center Open
Exhibits Open

Sunday, April 22
SAGES Scientific Session
SAGES Panel: Evidence Based Medicine – What’s Behind SAGES Guidelines?
SAGES/MIRA Session: Report of Robotics Consensus Conference
SAGES Panel: Real Cases from SAGES Members
SAGES Panel: Legislative Issues
SAGES Gerald Marks Lecture
SAGES Emerging Technology Session
SAGES Educators’ Lunch
SAGES Career Development Seminars
SAGES Full Day Postgraduate Course: FLS
SAGES/ACS Half Day Joint Symposium: Foregut
SAGES/ACS Half Day Joint Symposium: Simulation/Education

Preliminary program information will be available in Fall 2006. Check the SAGES website, www.sages.org often for updates.

Join us in Las Vegas for the meeting!
SAGES celebrates 25 years of Advancing Surgical Excellence during its Annual Meeting in Dallas, TX.

Barbara and Dr. George Berci enjoy a moment on the dance floor during Dr. Berci’s Festschrift, honoring him for his life’s work.

The Technology Pavilion demonstrated some of the most emerging platforms in laparoscopic surgery.

Dr. Daniel J. Deziel delivers an unforgettable Presidential Lecture.

A meeting attendee learns about a company product at the Exhibit Hall.

Dr. Daniel J. Deziel passes on good wishes to current President Dr. Steven Wexner.

Dr. Karen Horvath presents Dr. Leena Khaitan with the Young Researcher Award.

Dr. Kenneth Forde and wife, Kay, listen to endearing speeches during his tribute dinner.

Meeting registrants make sure to keep in touch while learning the most advanced surgical techniques.

Some of the more than 1,700 attendees at the meeting take part in one of the many sessions offered throughout the week.

The SAGES annual meeting boasts more than 136 scientific podium presentations, 420 posters, 54 special scientific presentations, four hands-on courses and four postgraduate courses.
The 2006 SAGES Sing-Off!

Led by MC Dr. Rick Greene, SAGES kept true to tradition during the 2006 SAGES Sing-off with outstanding and hilarious performances by SAGES members. In addition to the dancing and singing, guests enjoyed live music, a country western routine, and a chance to ride the mechanical bull!
The SAGES cookbook includes:

**Fabulous recipes:**
- appetizers & hors d’oeuvres
- beverages/drinks
- breakfast & brunch
- desserts
- meats, fish, seafood, poultry
- pasta
- salads
- side dishes & vegetables
- soups & stews
- unique fare

**Humorous vignettes:**
- how they learned to cook
- how they perfected their recipes
- how they secretly throw out the bad batches of batter!

**Delightful photos of the world’s leading surgeons trading in a trocar for a paring knife… Trading in a knot pusher for a whisk and other glories of the kitchen.**

**COOKBOOK ORDER FORM**

Name:

Address:

E-mail: Telephone:

☑ Check enclosed. Make check payable to the SAGES Education & Research Foundation.

Credit Card #: Credit Card Expiration Date:

Signature (for credit card orders):

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Please mail check and form to “Cookbook” at the address above.

For volume discounts, please call the Foundation Administrator at (310) 437-0544 ext. 114 or ext. 22
OR Fax the completed order form with credit card number to (310) 437-0585

Please note that $10.00 of your $40.00 payment is considered to be the value of the cookbook. The SAGES Education and Research Foundation is a tax exempt organization as determined by the Internal Revenue Service under Code section 501(c)(3). Therefore, your net contribution of $30.00 per cookbook is tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Please consult your legal or tax advisor with any questions.
SAGES Video Education Curriculum

SAGES Pearls Step-by-Step
Compilation of short video clips and expert narratives that offer tips, tricks and alternatives for important steps on specified procedures.

SAGES DVD Postgraduate Courses
Courses Currently Available:
- Complications in Bariatric Surgery and How to Manage Them
- Top to Bottom: GERD
- Surgeon in the Digital Age: PDA Workshop For Surgeons
- Surgeon in the Digital Age: Understanding your Video System
- Laparoscopic Colon Course
  * CME Available

SAGES TOP 14
Procedures Every Practicing Surgeon Should Know

SAGES Video Library
For product details and to order please visit:
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or call 800-515-1542 or 203-263-0006

FLS Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery
Joint Program with ACS: Multi-Media CD Rom based education module designed to teach physiology, fundamental knowledge & technical skills. *CME Available

For product details and to order FLS, please visit:
www.flsprogram.org
or call 310-437-0544 ext. 115
President’s Message continued from page 1.

(FLS) module. Our outcomes programs continue to thrive and are being evaluated by other organizations and groups. Our legislative activities and patient and public information materials are but a few of the activities in which we are leaders. None of these areas would be successful without the timeless contributions of every member of SAGES. During my year at the helm, I will have the privilege of working with some of the finest minds in surgery to maintain us on our current course and help plan the direction for future growth and development. Accordingly, I would like to use the opportunity of this first Presidential Address to extend my deepest and sincerest appreciation to all of you who have supported me and, more importantly, supported SAGES: all of the members, committee members, officers, and of course, Sallie Matthews and her legendary staff. I look forward to helping lead us into the second quarter century of our existence as we have matured (from infancy, childhood, and adolescence, and young adulthood) into a mature respected adult organization.

Support The Future of Surgical Care

If you are reading this newsletter, you already understand the benefits of further endoscopic and laparoscopic research. You know how critical it is to train surgeons on how to use the most current technology available to them. And you are aware that if patients are not educated about all their options, it can adversely affect their treatment. You probably also know that ensuring high-quality patient care is a continuous mission – one that the SAGES Education and Research Foundation was created to do.

In the past few years, the Foundation has helped institute breakthrough programs such as the Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery (FLS) module and the Robotics Consensus Conference. But none of this would have been possible without the support we receive from generous SAGES members. To continue our efforts of advancing minimal access surgery and maintaining the best medical care possible, we need your support. Contributors may have an amount deducted each month from their credit card, give appreciated stock, or make a straight donation online. There are many convenient options to choose from, so pick one and just give!

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☐ Yes, I’d like to make the endoscopic surgical community the best it can be. Please accept my donation of $_________________.

Credit Card #_________________________ Exp.____________________

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☐ Please accept my donation of $________ to be deducted every month from my credit card.

I’d like to make a pledge of $________. Please send me a reminder ☐ monthly, ☐ quarterly.

☐ My donation is to honor or memorialize a friend. Please send a note to ________________________ at the following address:

☐ I would like to find out other ways I can contribute. Please contact me with information.

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Phone (310) 437-0544, ext. 114 • Fax (310) 437-0585
teresa@sages.org • www.sagesfoundation.org
SAGES, SSAT and AHPBA Joint Symposium During ACS Clinical Congress

Don’t miss the joint SAGES, SSAT and AHPBA symposium, “Evidence-Based Approaches to Colorectal Cancer”, on Wednesday, October 11, 2006 from 5:15 PM - 7:20 PM at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. Chaired by Drs. Mark Callery, David Mahvi and William Jarnagin, the symposium will include topics on clinical and basic science updates for inflammatory bowel disease and colonic polyposis, oncologic efficacy of laparoscopic colectomy, technical aspects for open and minimally invasive colectomy and the multimodality treatment of hepatic colorectal metastases, among others. The symposium will be followed by a reception. There is no fee to attend, but registration is limited. To register, please go to www.sages.org/acs2006.php by October 2, 2006. For inquiries, please contact SAGES at 310-437-0544 or at registration@sages.org.