

Scope



Summer, 2006
Volume 06, Issue 2

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,



SAGES President
Steven D. Wexner, MD

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.

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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)



Board Members—Three-Year Terms:

Re-Appointments:

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

Adrian E. Park, MD
Philip R. Schauer, MD
Steven D. Schwaitzberg, 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
Jeffrey L. Ponsky, MD
Bruce D. Schirmer, MD
Steven C. Stain, 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

Conflict of Interest Task Force (CITF):

Chair: C. Daniel Smith, MD

Continuing Education:

Chair: L. Michael Brunt, MD
Co-Chair: Dennis Fowler, MD

Development:

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

FES:

Chair: Jeffrey Marks, 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 Schwaitzberg, 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

2006 Best Resident or Fellow Presentation Awards

SAGES Resident Education Committee would like to congratulate the follow 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.

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 also 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 on-

line 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/>

Colon-Surgery.Info <http://www.colon-surgery.info/>

Gallbladder-Surgery.Info <http://www.gallbladder-surgery.info/>

GERDSurgery.Info <http://www.gerdsurgery.info/>

Hernia-Surgery.Info <http://www.hernia-surgery.info/>

Kidney-Donor.Info <http://www.kidney-donor.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 web site as well. Topics may include the following:

- Flexible GI Endoscopy
- Diagnostic and/or therapeutic laparoscopy
- Thoracoscopy
- Bariatric surgery
- Surgical Ultrasound
- Ergonomics

- 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 Perfluorated 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 Angiogenesis 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 Transluminal 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.
- Past winners include: Karl Storz 1995, Bob Quint 1997, Robert Anderson 1999, William Chang and Richard Newman 2001, Kurt Semm 2002, Basil Hirshowitz 2003, George Berci 2004, Jeffrey Ponsky 2005, Gregory Stiegmann 2006.

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.
- Past winners include: Sir Alfred Cuschieri in 2001, Gerald Marks in 2004, Kenneth Forde in 2005, George Berci in 2006.

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

Committee Updates continued from page 7.

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 pro-

cedure-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.

SAGES-Endorsed Courses

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@carolinas.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

ADVANCED LAPAROSCOPIC SURGERY

- Mini Fellowship for Advanced Laparoscopic Surgery to include: Laparoscopic Anti-Reflux, Laparoscopic Colectomy, Laparoscopic Gastric By-Pass, Laparoscopic Solid Organ and Laparoscopic Ventral Herniorrhaphy: September 17 - 19, 2006, December 10 - 12, 2006

UROLOGY AND ROBOTICS

- Mini Fellowship for Laparoscopic Urological Surgery Workshop* to include: Laparoscopic Nephrectomy & Robotic Prostatectomy: September 7 & 8, 2006

LYMPHATIC MAPPING AND SENTINEL NODE BIOPSY

- Mini Fellowship for Lymphatic Mapping and Sentinel Node Biopsy* to include: Case Observation in Radiology and CMC Main OR: November 2 & 3, 2006

GASTRIC-BY-PASS

- Gastric By-Pass Symposium:* September 22, 2006

MISCELLANEOUS

- Mini Fellowship for Flexible Endoscopy:* November 15, 2006

* Category I credits towards the AMA Physicians Recognition Award.

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

Director: Jacques Marescaux, MD, FRCS

Contact: Guy Temporal, Project Coordinator
Phone: +33 388 119 000, Fax: +33 388 119 099
e-mail: secretariat@ircad.u-strasbg.fr

Address: IRCAD-EITS
Hopitaux Universitaires
place de l'Hopital, BP 426, Strasbourg, France F-67091

Detail: IRCAD Program 2006
University Post-Graduate Courses in Laparoscopic Surgery

INTENSIVE COURSES 2006 – GENERAL SURGERY

Intensive Courses in Laparoscopic Surgery:
(English-speaking courses)

September 18 - 22, 2006, November 20 - 24, 2006

UROLOGICAL SURGERY

Intensive Courses in Laparoscopic Urological Surgery:
(English-speaking courses) December 11 - 15, 2006

Cours Intensifs en Chirurgie Laparoscopique

Urologique:

(French-speaking courses) October 2 - 6, 2006

ADVANCED COURSES 2006 – GENERAL SURGERY

Digestive Surgery:

(English-speaking courses) October 26 - 28, 2006

Colorectal Surgery:

(English-speaking courses) November 3 & 4, 2006

UROLOGICAL SURGERY

Laparoscopic Urological Surgery:

(English-speaking courses) September 14 - 16, 2006

PEDIATRIC SURGERY

Laparoscopic Pediatric Surgery:

(English-speaking courses) December 8 & 9, 2006

VASCULAR SURGERY

Laparoscopic Aorto Iliac Surgery:

(English-speaking courses) September 28 - 30, 2006

GYNAECOLOGY SURGERY

Master Suturing: How to Overcome our Limits in
Endoscopic Surgery:

(English-speaking courses) September 6 - 8, 2006

Laparoscopic Anatomy and Surgical Implications:

(English-speaking courses) November 6 - 8, 2006

Techniques Avancées en Endoscopie Gynécologique

Opératoire:

(French-speaking course) December 4 - 6, 2006

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

Detail: Laparoscopic and Hand Assisted Colorectal Surgery
September 16, 2006, November 11, 2006

Mini Fellowship for Advanced Laparoscopic Surgery

November 6 & 7, 2006

CME COURSES - Please contact 1-800-325-9862

Laparoscopic Foregut Surgery, September 29, 2006

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

Address: www.BIDMC.Harvard.edu/mis
Center for Minimally Invasive Surgery
Shapiro Building
330 Brookline Ave., Boston, MA 02215
Detail: Patient Safety in Obesity Surgery II, August 2006

Institution: Minimally Invasive Surgical Centre (MISC)

Director: Davide Lomanto MD, PhD
Wei-Keat Cheah, MBBS, FRACS
Contact: Serene Tan
Phone: +65 67725264, Fax: +65 67754007
www.misc-asia.com
Address: 5 Lower Kent Ridge Road, 119097 Singapore
Detail: Basic Laparoscopic Surgery Courses:
November 10 & 11, 2006

Institution: Mayo Clinic Scottsdale

Director: 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: Laparoscopic Colon Surgery
September 22, 2006, November 17, 2006
Laparoscopic Nephrectomy, September 28 & 29, 2006

Institution: MOET Institute- San Francisco, CA

Director: Zoltan Szabo
Contact: Phone: 415-626-3400
http://www.moetinstitute.com
Detail: Advanced Laparoscopic Suturing & Surgical Skills
Check with MOET Institute for dates

Institution: GEM Hospital India

Director: Dr. C. Palanivelu, MS, MCh(SGE0, MNAMS, FACS, FRCS (Edin)
Contact: Phone: +91-422-2324100, Fax: +91-422-232-0879
Email: cp@gemhospital.net
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

Institution: Center for Advanced Laparoscopic Surgery (CALs), Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Singapore

Director: Dr. Richard Sim, MBBS, FRCS
Contact: Phone: +65-6357-7661, Fax: +65-6357-7809
e-mail: gloria_seah@ttsh.com.sg
http://www.ttsh.com.sg
Address: No. 11 Jalan Tan Tock Seng, Singapore 308433
Details: Contact institution for upcoming courses.

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

Director: David Provost, MD
Contact: phone: 1-800-688-8678
http://www.swmed.edu/home_pages/cmis/conted.htm
Detail: Contact institution for upcoming courses.

**Institution: Center of Excellence for Laparoscopic and Minimally Invasive Surgery
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine**

Directors: Brian J. Dunkin, MD, FACS; Raymond J. Leveille, MD;
Michael D. Hellinger, MD, FACS; Patricia M. Byers, MD;
Fahim Habib, MD; Peter Takacs, MD, PhD; Jose M. Marti

Contact: Susan G. Mazzola
Phone: 305-326-6480, Fax: 305-326-6328
email: SMazzola@med.miami.edu
http://www.mis.med.miami.edu
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. Leveille, MD
October 28, 2006
Laparoscopic Colon Surgery Course:
Director: Michael D. Hellinger, MD, FACS
November 16 & 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

Institution: DS Institute

Director: Robert A. Rabkin, MD
Contact: Barbara Metealt
415-668-3200
barbara@paclap.com
Address: 2250 Hayes Street, Third Floor, San Francisco, CA 94117
Course is held at: University Club
800 Powell Street, San Francisco, CA
Detail: Contact institution for upcoming courses.

Institution: Legacy Emanuel Hospital and Health Center

Director: Lee L. Swanstrom, MD
Contact: Virginia Hankins
503-413-4343
boylear@lhs.org
Address: Legacy Emanuel Hospital and Health Center
2801 N. Gantenbein, Portland, OR 97227
http://www.advancedlaparoscopy.com/
Detail: Advanced Laparoscopic Surgery:
September 20 - 26, 2006

Institution: University of California, San Francisco

Director: Lawrence W. Way, MD
Contact: Videoscopic Surgery Training Center
Phone: 415-476-5808, Fax: 415-502-1795
http://www.cme.ucsf.edu
e-mail: videoscopicctr@surgery.ucsf.edu
Address: UCSF Office of CME
PO Box 45368, San Francisco, CA 94145-0368
Detail: Advance Videoscopic Surgery Training Course:
October 19 - 21, 2006, December 7 - 9, 2006, January 25 - 27, 2007, March 15 - 17, 2007, May 31 - June 2, 2007

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.

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)

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:

Active	3169
Associate Active	2
Candidate	1275
International	488
Allied Health	64
Senior	374
Hiatus	7
Honorary	21

Total Membership 5400

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.

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
IBD PG Course Chair: Barry Salky, 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 Poulouse, MD &
 Simon Bergman, MD
Storz Lecturer: Richard Heald, MD
Marks Lecturer: Lester Rosen, MD

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. Schwartzberg, MD
 2007 Program Director



SAGES 2007

Annual Scientific Session & Postgraduate Courses Part of Surgical Spring Week



- 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.

April 18 - 22, 2007 • Paris Las Vegas Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada

SAGES 2007 Program Outline (Tentative, as of July, 2006)

Program Chair: Steven Schwartzberg, 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 Transluminal
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!

SCENES FROM THE 2006 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.

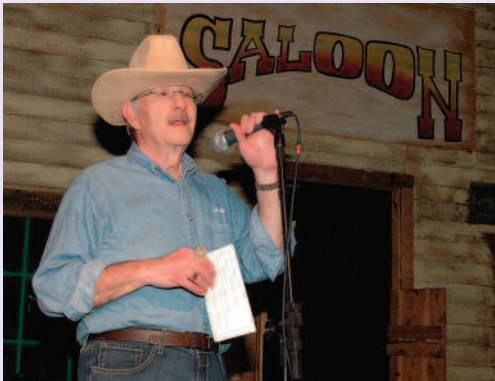
Some of the more than 1,700 attendees at the meeting take part in one of the many sessions offered throughout the week. The SAGES annual meeting boasts more than 136 scientific podium presentations, 420 posters, 54 special scientific presentations, four hands-on courses and four postgraduate courses.



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

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

The SAGES cookbook includes:

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- beverages/drinks
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- desserts
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- soups & stews
- unique fare

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SAGES Education & Research Foundation
11300 West Olympic Blvd., # 600
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Compilation of short video clips and expert narratives that offer tips, tricks and alternatives for important steps on specified procedures.



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



DVD Series, including video, slide presentations, and discussion. Each issue provides in depth education on one topic; available on a quarterly basis. * CME Available

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www.flsprogram.org

or call 310-437-0544 ext. 115



FLS

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



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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.



Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons

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