

# Scope



Winter, 2007  
Volume 07, Issue 1

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Reflections of Appreciation to SAGES Membership



SAGES President  
Steven D. Wexner, MD

It is hard for me to imagine that 9 of the 12 months of my presidential term have already been completed. The old adage that “time flies when you are having fun” has never been truer for me than that during these past 9 months. The honor and privilege to serve each and every member of SAGES has been a tremendously gratifying and humbling experience. The constant amount of work and activity of the largest general surgery organization in the United States would be daunting were it not for the diligence of all of our committee chairs, co-chairs, and members, as well as, of course, Sallie Matthews and her superlative administrative team. Without the energy and enthusiasm of all of these individuals, the job of the SAGES President would be completely impossible. However, conversely, because of the devotion and diligence of our committee members and of our support staff, my job has been an extremely pleasant experience.

Many significant accomplishments have been achieved over these last 9 months, including the organization of a search committee, headed by Dr. Desmond Birkett, to identify the individual who will fill the next term as the Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Surgical Endoscopy*. We have a journal that has the potential to be one of the most highly utilized surgical journals, especially given the complete immersion of all surgical specialties in minimally invasive surgery. The additional advent of robotics and natural orifice surgery can help catapult *Surgical Endoscopy* to one of the top cited surgical journals. I am very grateful to the Search Committee for the significant amount of work that they will undertake over these next few months to insure the continued success and growth of our journal. I also want to thank Dr. Bruce MacFadyen for his pivotal leadership role as the

North American Co-Editor of *Surgical Endoscopy*. His guidance and vision have been an impetus and a stimulus to us all. Under the direction of Dr. Mike Brunt, the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) completed and gave a very positive review to SAGES as a provider of CME activities. The amount of time and effort that went into preparing these documents and overseeing the review was indeed formidable. I wish to thank Mike Brunt and his committee, as well as Mrs. Erin Schwarz, for all of their hard work in this regard. The high caliber of our CME programs was clearly reflected in the clarity of the documentation and noted by the ACCME.

The Research Committee, under the direction of Drs. Karen Horvath and Blair Jobe, have been busy preparing for the next round of awards and I wish to thank them for all of their hard work. This year, the committee received 28 applications and will award up to nine \$20,000 grants during the review process in February. The detailed in-depth review and face-to-face meeting that is necessary to decide upon the grant recipients is considerable and I wish to thank the Research Committee, as well as Jacqueline Narváez, for their work in *Continued on page 18.*

### 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](http://www.sages.org) and access the members' area to make any changes to your information.

## IN THIS ISSUE

Journal Editor Search .....	Page 2	Committee Updates .....	Page 8
NOSCAR Research Grants .....	Page 6	2007 Annual Meeting .....	Pages 12 - 16

# SAGES 2007-2008 Slate of Officers

The SAGES Nominating Committee and Board of Governors are pleased to announce the 2007-2008 slate of new Officers and Board members. SAGES members will receive a ballot to ratify this slate in February, 2007.

## Officers and Members of the Executive Committee:



◀ **PRESIDENT**  
Steve Eubanks, MD



**PRESIDENT-ELECT** ▶  
Mark Talamini, MD



◀ **1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**  
(2 year term)  
Steve Schwartzberg, M.D.



**2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT** ▶  
(2 year term) Jo Buyske, MD



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



**TREASURER** ▶  
(3 year term)  
Gerald Fried, MD

## Board Members—Three-Year Terms:

### *Re-Appointments:*

Horacio Asbun, MD  
Mark Callery, MD (2 year term, fulfilling unexpired term of Steve Schwartzberg)

Brian Dunkin, MD  
Michael Holzman, MD  
William Richards, MD  
C. Daniel Smith, MD

### *New Members:*

Craig Albanese, MD  
Michael Edye, MD  
Ninh Nguyen, MD  
Brant Oelschlager, MD  
(1 year term, fulfilling unexpired term of Gerald Fried)

### *Rotating Off:*

Dennis Fowler, MD  
Steven Rothenberg, MD  
Nathaniel Soper, MD  
Lee Swanstrom, MD  
L. William Traverso, MD

**Congratulations, SAGES, for receiving another 4-year re-accreditation from the ACCME! Thanks to the SAGES Continuing Education Committee and staff for their work to make this happen.**

## SAGES Seeks Editor-in-Chief for *Surgical Endoscopy*

At its October meeting in Chicago, the SAGES Board of Governors approved the formation of a Search Committee for an Editor-in-Chief of SAGES' official journal, *Surgical Endoscopy*. SAGES President, Dr. Steven Wexner, appointed Dr. Desmond Birkett to chair the Search Committee. Application details, including a job description, can be found in the Members only section of the SAGES website. Whoever is selected as SAGES Editor-in-Chief will begin as Associate Editor in January 2008, serving for a year with Dr. MacFadyen. The official 5-year term as Editor-in-Chief, serving with the EAES Editor-in-Chief, Sir Alfred Cuschieri, will commence in January 2009.

Interested applicants must be US or Canadian Active members of SAGES. They should send a letter outlining their qualifications, their views on the current status of the journal, and the challenges and opportunities that face the next editor. As well, they should include a recent (abbreviated) curriculum vitae, and two letters of recommendation from individuals aware of the applicant's editorial experience and skills. Selected applicants will be interviewed at the SAGES Annual meeting in Las Vegas, NV in April 2007. A decision will be made by the SAGES Board of Governors soon after. All applications are due March 1, 2007.

# Report from 2006 IRCAD Traveling Fellowship Award Recipient

I would like to thank Storz and IRCAD, as well as the SAGES Awards Committee, for the opportunity to visit Strasbourg, France as a traveling fellow. I attended the Advanced Laparoscopic Colorectal Surgery course at IRCAD November 3 – 4, which was hosted by Professor Jacques Marescaux, president of IRCAD, and moderated by Dr Richard J. Heald, and Dr. Mehran Anvari. They, along with the world's most renowned experts, including Dr. Jeffrey Milsom, Dr. John Marks, and Dr. Joel Leroy delivered an outstanding program centered on live colorectal surgery all at the IRCAD's state of the art facilities.

I have to confess that I had attended the "Intensive Course of Laparoscopic and Thoracoscopic Surgery" at the IRCAD in September 1999 while I was a third year resident. At the time I spent 7 beautiful days in Strasburg with a fellow resident, who today happens to be my wife. As a third year resident, of course, I was amazed by the IRCAD and the quality of their courses. However, in retrospect I did not take advantage of the course as much as I did this time around.

I arrived the day before the course began after a very interesting journey. I flew non-stop from Chicago to Zurich airport, in which I had a rental car waiting for me, because I was offered to drive from Zurich to Strasburg. Of course, after I accepted the challenge first thing I requested was a GPS. Secondly, as soon as I got to the car I switched the GPS to English. After three hours of driving through 3 countries and many beautiful small towns I arrived to Strasbourg. That night I enjoyed a walking tour of Strasbourg, and a typical dinner with excellent local beer, both of which brought back a lot of memories of when I was there before.

The next day was the first day of the course, and consisted mostly of case presentations and live surgeries on sigmoidectomy, left colectomy and total mesorectal excision, to name a few. Interaction between the audience and the panel of experts was very interesting. It was also out of the ordinary to watch all these skilled surgeons performing live surgery, as well as to learn some of the useful tricks. The afternoon program included hands-on training on live tissue in their really nice lab.

Friday night we were taken to a typical restaurant in a very nice area of Strasbourg called "la petite France", and we tasted some of the most emblematic meals of the area. Everyone was there that night, including all the course participants and faculty. It was very interesting to hear the way other surgeons practice around the world.

The next day was the last day of the course, and started off with an additional session of live tissue training, followed by several plenary sessions discussing primarily specific strategies in

laparoscopic colorectal surgery. Some of the topics discussed were complications in laparoscopic colorectal surgery, sigmoiditis, inflammatory bowel disease, cancer, and new technologies.

I do have to admit that the main reason I selected this course is because I wanted to know more about the latest advances in colorectal surgery. By all means, this was an eye opening experience for me, which fulfilled and exceeded all my expectations.

Again, I am thankful to Storz, IRCAD and SAGES for the opportunity to participate in such a prestigious program. I also want to thank Dr. Santiago Horgan for his mentorship and for proposing me for this award.

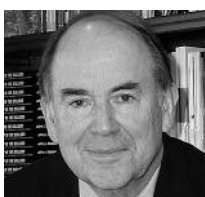
Best Regards,  
Carlos Galvani, MD

## 2007 Awards

The SAGES Awards Committee and Board of Governors are pleased to announce the four major 2007 award recipients:



**The Distinguished Service Award –**  
Desmond H. Birkett, MD,  
SAGES Past President



**The SAGES Pioneer  
in Endoscopy Award –**  
John Abele, Founder, Boston Scientific



**The Young Researcher Award –**  
Atul Madan, MD



**The Karl Storz/IRCAD  
Fellowship Award –**  
Kevin Reavis, MD

These awards will be presented at SAGES Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, during the SAGES Foundation Awards Luncheon on Thursday, April 19, from 12:00-1:00 PM. To register for the luncheon, please visit [www.sages.org/registration/](http://www.sages.org/registration/).

# NOTES™/NOSCAR™ Grants Awarded

## Ethicon Endo-Surgery Supports Groundbreaking Research

The Natural Orifice Surgery Consortium for Assessment and Research (NOSCAR™) Research Subcommittee announced 13 recipients of its first research grants. The funds, granted by Ethicon Endo-Surgery, support fundamental research in an emerging transdisciplinary therapy known as Natural Orifice Transluminal Endoscopic Surgery (NOTES™), an approach that could ultimately represent a major paradigm shift in minimally invasive therapy and patient care.

More than 80 requests were submitted for the nearly \$1,000,000 in research funds. The recipients were notified in early January and will conduct their research in the months ahead. Additional grant opportunities will be announced; visit [www.noscar.org](http://www.noscar.org) regularly for information.

### **Julian Bingener, MD**

University of Texas Health Sciences Center  
San Antonio, TX

*Randomized controlled trial evaluating the hemodynamic and immunologic impact of NOTES™*

### **William Brugge, MD**

Massachusetts General Hospital  
Boston, MA

*Leaks & Endoscopic Assessment of Break of Integrity after NOTES™ Gastrostomy: the LEAKING Study*

### **Sergey Kantsevov, MD**

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine  
Baltimore, MD

*Randomized Controlled Study Comparing Safety Of Different Techniques Of Transgastric And Transcolonic Access To The Peritoneal Cavity*

### **Michael Kochman, MD**

University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, PA

*Assessment of Immune Response Patterns and Peritoneal Contamination with Alternative Peritoneal Access Strategies*

### **Richard Kwon, MD**

University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, MI

*Ex vivo and in vivo assessment of gastric closure integrity with sulfur hexafluoride (SF6): a feasibility study*

### **Michael McGee, MD**

Case Medical Center  
Cleveland, OH

*Grant #1 - Systemic Inflammation and Physiologic Burden of Natural Orifice Transluminal Endoscopic Surgery (NOTES™): Determining the Degree of Invasiveness of a New Minimally Invasive Procedure*

and

*Grant #2 - Closure Integrity in NOTES™ Gastrostomy: A Prospective Quantitative Evaluation of Contemporary Closure Techniques*

### **Sonia Ramamoorthy, MD**

The Regents of the University of California San Diego  
San Diego, CA

*Physiology of Transgastric Surgery*

### **Joseph Romagnuolo, MD**

Medical University of South Carolina  
Charleston, SC

*A Comparison of Adhesion Development after Transgastric versus Laparoscopic Colonic Perforation Repair in a Pig Model*

### **Michelle Savu, MD**

The Regents of the University of California San Diego  
San Diego, CA

*Transluminal Restrictive Bariatric Procedure Feasibility and Survival Study*

### **Mark Talamini, MD**

The Regents of the University of California San Diego  
San Diego, CA

*Controlling the Adverse Effects of Peritoneal Spillage During NOTES™*

### **Christopher Thompson, MD**

Brigham and Women's Hospital  
Boston, MA

*Comparison of Physiological Effects of Natural Orifice Transluminal Endoscopic Surgery (NOTES™) vs. Traditional Laparoscopy*

### **Bin Zheng, MD**

Legacy Health System  
Portland, OR

*Mind Control: The Challenges of Perception and Manipulation in Natural Orifice Surgery*

## NOSCAR™ Joint Committee

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual International Conference on NOTES™, sponsored by SAGES & ASGE, will be held July 13 - 14, 2007 in Boston, Massachusetts at the Westin Copley Place.**

**Abstracts are now being accepted - March 30, 2007 deadline**

**For more information on the abstract submission process or meeting information log on to [www.noscar.org](http://www.noscar.org)**

# 2007 SAGES Resident Courses

There are currently 7 courses in 2007.

## March 8 - 9, 2007

### *Advanced Hernia Surgery*

Norwalk, CT, Sponsored by US Surgical  
4th and 5th year residents – must be SAGES candidate members

## May 17 - 18, 2007

### *Advanced Foregut Surgery*

Cincinnati, OH, Sponsored by Ethicon Endosurgery  
4th and 5th year residents – must be SAGES candidate members

## June 21 - 22, 2007

### *Advanced Foregut and Solid Organ*

Norwalk, CT, Sponsored by US Surgical  
4th and 5th year residents – must be SAGES candidate members

## August 9 - 10, 2007

### *Basic Endoscopy and Laparoscopy Workshop*

Cincinnati, OH, Sponsored by Ethicon Endosurgery  
2nd and 3rd year residents

## September 20 - 21, 2007:

### *TBD*

Cincinnati, OH, Sponsored by Ethicon Endosurgery  
Chiefs and Fellows – must be SAGES candidate members

## November 8 - 9, 2007

### *Advanced Intestinal Surgery*

Norwalk, CT, Sponsored by US Surgical  
4th and 5th year residents – must be SAGES candidate members

## SAGES Program for the Americas

The International Liaison Group has formed a subcommittee that has been tasked with the SAGES Program for the Americas. This is a great project lead by Ramon Berguer, MD, David Earle, MD, and Raul Rosenthal, MD. The program will officially launch at the 2007 SAGES meeting with Teleconference Sessions into Latin America.

### *The Vision*

For all patients in the America's to have access to minimal access surgery and endoscopy.

### *The Mission*

To teach minimal access surgery and endoscopy to surgeons throughout the Americas through an international collaborative volunteer program.

### *The Philosophy*

SAGES will work with volunteer surgeons from the Americas, regional endoscopic surgery societies, academia, and industry to teach basic and advanced laparoscopy and endoscopy in locations where there is currently limited access to training and equipment. The program will project a philosophy of good will and international cooperation. It will promote the highest ethical standards and focus on patient safety through the tracking of clinical outcomes of the program.

Would you like more information on how you can become involved in the program? Stop by the SAGES booth in Las Vegas or contact Jacqueline Narváez at [Jacqueline@sages.org](mailto:Jacqueline@sages.org).

## AMA Membership –

### *What It Really Means for SAGES*

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>

### Outcomes

The SAGES Outcomes Initiative is celebrating 10 years in 2007! The Task Force on Outcomes was formed in the Fall of 1997 to explore the feasibility of developing a national outcomes initiative for SAGES members. Today the program has garnered a landmark 25,000 cases, all due to our dedicated SAGES participants. The Taskforce remains committed to the original mission of establishing a national repository of outcomes data by which SAGES members can target improvement of their outcomes following evaluation of comparative performance, improving the quality of healthcare by measuring what we do.

**FREE TO ALL SAGES MEMBERS!** To sign-up, contact Jennifer Clark in the SAGES office at [jennifer@sages.org](mailto:jennifer@sages.org) or (310) 437-0544, ext. 105.

### SAGES Guidelines Committee

The SAGES Guidelines Committee has been hard at work revising several guidelines. Recently completed are the Guidelines For Training In Diagnostic And Therapeutic Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) and the conversion of the SAGES "Global statement on Deep Venous Thrombosis Prophylaxis during Laparoscopic Surgery" into an evidence-based clinical practice guideline. Both have been sent to print and will be available soon. The revisions are currently available on the SAGES website, [www.sages.org/publications](http://www.sages.org/publications). Make sure you register for the "Evidence-Based Medicine: What's Behind SAGES Guidelines?" Session at the 2007 SAGES Annual Meeting in Las Vegas!

### SAGES Research Committee

The 2007 grant applications are currently in the review process. Grant winners will be notified in early February. Grants will be awarded at the 2007 SAGES meeting. The purpose of SAGES' grants is to stimulate original research. The study may be either "bench" research or clinical.

You are also invited to attend the Research committee Career Development Seminar, The Bricks and Mortar of Academic Career Development; A Small Group Symposium for SAGES Residents, Fellows, and Junior Faculty, **NEW TIME: Friday, April 20, 2007 2:30-5:30 PM at the 2007 SAGES meeting, in Las Vegas!**

### Membership

The SAGES Membership Committee and Board of Governors congratulate 275 new members who joined our ranks in October: 28 Active, 5 Associate Active, 8 Allied Health, 197 Candidate, and 38 International. Welcome to the SAGES family!

The Membership Drive winners will be announced at the SAGES Foundation Awards Lunch during the April 2007 conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. This membership drive is from April 2006 to April 2007 and includes new member applicants for October 2006 and April 2007. Application files must be complete in order to qualify.

Category numbers as of January 2007 are:

Active	3264
Associate Active	7
Candidate	1178
International	491
Allied Health	64
Senior	381
Hiatus	13
Honorary	21
<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>5419</b>

## International Liaison Group

**O**n behalf of the SAGES Board of Governors and the International Liaison Group, we are very proud to announce the 2007 International Traveling Fellowship Award, sponsored by a very generous educational grant from Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Inc.

The purpose of the International Traveling Fellowship Award is to provide outstanding investigators with the opportunity to gather experience, training, and expertise from some of the many courses SAGES has to offer.

SAGES will be granting four Traveling Fellowship Awards to the most deserving international surgeons who are recent

graduates from surgical training programs. Preference will be given based upon financial need and preference will be given to SAGES members.

Potential award recipients will be selected from among the outstanding podium, poster, or video presentations at the annual SAGES meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada April 18-22, 2007.

All potential candidates will be notified and receive an application form. For consideration, application forms must be returned to SAGES by Monday, February 12, 2007.

For more information regarding the traveling grant please contact Jacqueline Narváez at [Jacqueline@sages.org](mailto:Jacqueline@sages.org)

# SAGES Legislative Committee Report

## Our Role in Organized Medicine

It has been a strange year in medical politics. A general reduction of physicians' fees of 5% across the boards has once again been stopped. We enter a new balance of power on Capitol Hill, which will affect us all in our practices. SAGES is becoming recognized as a resource for standards, quality and fees in our specialty area. Pay for Performance continues to move forward slowly. There is a new, interesting discussion group forming up in the AMA.

During the closing moments of 2006, Congress passed HR – 6111. Generally speaking, we have all been relieved of a 5% reduction in fees in the year 2007. It sounds good, but General Surgery (and us by inclusion) actually has a 1% reduction due to imaging cuts. Yes, once again a way has been found to reduce our fees but not our expenses.

However, a defining moment marked this year's struggle to avoid fee reduction. For a few moments, all surgeons worked together to present a single face to Washington on a single issue. I don't think that this has occurred before. I hope that this is a sign of what we will be able to do in the future.

Always remember that these cutbacks are still on the books and can come roaring back to us all at one time instead of 5% cuts yearly. To the best of my knowledge, nothing has been done to stop that.

Thanks to the good work of Drs. Paresh Shah, Michael Edey, and others, SAGES is considered among the leadership in coding resources today for MIS procedures. We are instrumental in defining new codes for hiatus hernia repair and others in the Minimally Invasive field that touch us all.

Pay for Performance continues to try to move forward. It is currently being armed by private insurers who were among the first to latch on to the program, since it offered them a way to reduce surgical fees under the mantle of improving practice habits while wearing the white hat of patient protection. The examples that come to mind are the node counts. That is, in order to have done a "good" colonic operation, a certain number of local lymph nodes must be resected. Failure to do so will remove you from the "good" panel to the "not so good" panel, where you will still be reimbursed for the procedure, but for a fee of 1-2% less. Furthermore, you will not be named on the insurer's select panel for getting referrals. The physical condition of the patient and their ability to withstand more surgery apparently does not count and judgment will certainly go out the window. The Texas Medical Association is currently fighting this battle with litigation against one of the national insurance carriers. Several other cracks are beginning to appear across the country and we will continue to monitor them.

We are represented on the Surgical Quality Alliance by Dr. Rocco Orlando, who reports that PVRP will begin this year. Surgeons will be able to receive a 1.5% payment for their participation. This will involve SCIP measures, including administration of prophylactic antibiotics, VTE prophylaxis and beta-blocker utilization for patients at risk for cardiac events. Processes for developing compensation methods are being developed now. The program so far is voluntary.

CMS has successfully sought National Provider Identification. All charges submitted after May 23, 2007 will require each provider to bill with his National Provider Number. I have not heard much discussion about this issue yet. If anyone sees negative aspects to this plan (such as total monitoring of the individual physician through a single resource leading to total control of the compensation aspects of his practice), I have heard nothing yet.

Malpractice issues are currently on the backburner because of the more pressing issues of reimbursement. Some areas, however, are showing improvement. Medical liability reform legislation passed the District of Columbia City Council. This legislation puts a new regulatory scheme in place to control medical liability rates, require early mediation and make inadmissible at trial certain benevolent gestures. A 90-day notice of intent to file suit now will become District law.

I do not believe Congress will enter the malpractice arena this session, but I expect that there will be an effort to resolve the Sustainable Growth Rate issue. Both sides of the aisle are in tune with trying to change the system. This will become an important issue to us because it will help resolve the outcome of the financial rollbacks that we have created by our yearly fighting against the yearly Medicare cutbacks.

Finally, a new ex-officio discussion group composed of members of the AMA (but not directly related to the AMA) has surfaced. It seems to be composed of most of the leadership, current and past, of the AMA, the majority of whom are surgeons. Their general theme is to allow the physicians to once again control the practice of medicine. All aspects of P4P, entitlement programs and governmental issues in the practice of medicine are on their plate. I believe that they will be active through the AMA (several past Presidents are active in the group) as well as specialty societies. For those among us who feel that a single voice cannot make a difference, please note that the group was begun by a young neurosurgeon from Florida with very little previous experience but a passionate belief in the need for true private medicine in America.

Finally, as Chairman of the Legislative Committee, I ask each and every one of you to join in the development of our future as surgeons. Become active at a local, state, or national level in organized medicine. Join the fight - it's your future.

– ELI N. LERNER, MD

## Foundation Receives Largest Gift Ever From SAGES Member

The SAGES Education & Research Foundation supporters are truly some of the most devoted donors of any organization. Dr. Pon Satitpunwaycha is certainly an example of that. A SAGES member since 1994, Dr. Pon (as he likes to be called) made his first pledge to the Foundation in 1999, the same time he joined the Membership Committee. Giving regularly and loyally every year, he surprised us with a \$100,000 donation this past October! When asked about such a significant and generous gift, he responded simply, "The SAGES Foundation is very important to the work that we do. Without SAGES, I don't know where I would be. I would like to support our profession as much as I can. We must set an example for others to give as well." Dr. Pon has most certainly set an example, and we wholeheartedly thank him for this wonderful gift!

## SAGES Foundation Quick Update

The SAGES Education and Research Foundation thanks and welcomes Microline Pentax for contributing \$50,000 and joining other respected industry leaders in the organization's circle of friends. Thanks to all who gave generously last year. As of December 2006, the SAGES Foundation has raised more than \$4.7 million toward the goal of \$10 million.

## First Annual SAGES Foundation Awards Luncheon

For the first time, many of the SAGES awards and grants will be presented at a luncheon benefiting the SAGES Education and Research Foundation. The inaugural event will be held during SAGES Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 19, 2007, from noon to 1:00 pm at the Paris Las Vegas Hotel. The luncheon will recognize leaders for their work in minimally invasive surgery and raise funds that will keep patient safety in the forefront. Individual tickets are \$95 each with tables of ten discounted to \$900.

The following awards will be presented.

- **The SAGES Pioneer in Endoscopy Award – John Abele, Founder, Boston Scientific**
- **The Distinguished Service Award – Desmond H. Birkett, MD, SAGES Past President**
- **The Young Researcher Award – Atul Madan, MD**
- **The Karl Storz / IRCAD Fellowship Award – Kevin Reavis, MD**
- **SAGES Education & Research Foundation Grant Awards**
- **Industry Research Grant Awards**

To attend, you may register online at [www.sages.org/registration/](http://www.sages.org/registration/) or simply check the first box of "Social Events & Tour Registration" on page 59 of your SAGES Advance Program. Or you may contact Teresa Chien at (310) 437-0544 x114 and [teresa@sages.org](mailto:teresa@sages.org) for reservations and further information. A portion of your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

## SAGES Education & Research Foundation Contribution Pledge Form

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

- Yes, I'd like to make the endoscopic surgical community the best it can be. Please accept my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.  
Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_
- My check is enclosed, made out to the SAGES Education & Research Foundation.
- 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.
- Length of pledge: \_\_\_\_\_
- 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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## 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).

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

**Directors:** 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  
**Detail:** Contact facility for upcoming courses.

**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@emory-healthcare.org  
**Address:** Emory University School of Medicine  
 1364 Clifton Road, NE, Suite H124  
 Atlanta, GA 30322  
**Detail:** Contact facility for upcoming courses.

**Institution: Ohio State University & Case Western Reserve University**

**Directors:** W. Scott Melvin, MD & Jeffrey L. Ponsky, MD  
**Contact:** Lisa Yeater  
 Phone: 614-293-9072  
 Fax: 614-293-7852  
 email: lisa.yeater@osumc.edu  
**Address:** Ohio State University  
 558 Dean Hall  
 410 West 10th Avenue  
 Columbus, OH 43210  
**Detail:** Advances Minimally Invasive Surgery 2007, March 2-4, 2007

**Institution: IRCAD-EITS**

**Director:** Jacques Marescaux, MD, FRCS  
**Contact:** Guy Temporal, Project Coordinator  
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 Fax: +33 388 119 099  
 e-mail: secretariat@ircad.u-strasbg.fr  
**Address:** IRCAD-EITS  
 Hopitaux Universitaires  
 1 place de l'Hopital, BP 426

Detail:

Strasbourg, France F-67091  
 IRCAD Program 2007  
 University Post-Graduate Courses in Laparoscopic Surgery  
 INTENSIVE COURSES 2007  
 GENERAL SURGERY  
 Intensive Courses in Laparoscopic Surgery:  
 (English-speaking courses)  
 February 12-16, 2007  
 May 21-25, 2007, July 9-13, 2007  
 September 17-21, 2007  
 November 19-23, 2007  
 UROLOGICAL SURGERY  
 Intensive Courses in Laparoscopic Urological Surgery:  
 (English-speaking courses)  
 June 18-22, 2007  
 December 3-7, 2007  
 (French-speaking courses)  
 January 22-26, 2007  
 October 1-5, 2007  
 ADVANCED COURSES 2007  
 GENERAL SURGERY  
 Digestive Surgery:  
 (English-speaking courses)  
 March 1-3, 2007, June 28-30, 2007  
 December 17-19, 2007  
 Colorectal Surgery:  
 (English-speaking courses)  
 March 23 & 24, 2007  
 June 8 & 9, 2007  
 November 16 & 17, 2007  
 Natural Orifice Transluminal Endoscopic Surgery (NOTES)  
 Hands-On Course  
 (English-speaking course)  
 May 4 & 5, 2007  
 Morbid Obesity Surgery  
 (English-speaking course)  
 October 12 & 13, 2007  
 INTERVENTIONAL GI ENDOSCOPY TECHNIQUES  
 (English-speaking course)  
 June 4-6, 2007  
 UROLOGICAL SURGERY  
 Prostatectomie Radicale Laparoscopique  
 (French-speaking course)  
 March 16 & 17, 2007  
 Laparoscopic Treatment of Kidney Tumors  
 (English-speaking course)  
 September 14 & 15, 2007  
 AORTOILIAC SURGERY  
 Laparoscopic Aortoiliac Surgery  
 (English-speaking course)  
 September 27-29, 2007  
 PEDIATRIC SURGERY  
 Videosurgery in Pediatric Urology: (English-speaking course)  
 October 25-27, 2007  
 GYNAECOLOGY SURGERY  
 Tips and Tricks, Anatomy Suture and more...

(English-speaking course)  
 April 2-4, 2007  
 Advanced Techniques in Operative Gynecological Endoscopy: (English-speaking course), May 14-16, 2007  
 Gynecological Cancer and Laparoscopic Approach: State of the Art: (English-speaking course)  
 June 25-27, 2007  
 Current Techniques in the Treatment of Severe Endometriosis: (English-speaking course)  
 September 10-12, 2007  
 Techniques Avancées en Endoscopie Gynécologique Opératoire: (French-speaking course)  
 December 10-12, 2007

**Institution: UT Southwestern Center for Minimally Invasive Surgery**

**Director:** Daniel Scott, MD  
**Contact:** Jennifer Leedy, Course Administrator  
 Phone: 214-648-3792  
 Fax: 214-648-2317  
 e-mail: Jennifer.Leedy@utsouthwestern.edu  
**Address:** UT Southwestern  
 5323 Harry Hines Blvd  
 Dallas, TX 75390-9059  
**Detail:** Laparoscopic Colorectal Surgery, February 16, 2007  
 Ventral Hernia Repair, March 9, 2007  
 Revisional Gastric Bypass Surgery, October 20-21, 2007

**Institution: University of Minnesota, Medical School**

**Director:** David Rothenberger, MD  
**Contact:** Kara Bryant  
 Phone: (612) 624-1132  
 Fax: (612) 626-7766  
 kbryant@umn.edu  
 www.cme.umn.edu  
**Address:** University of Minnesota  
 200 Oak Street SE, Suite 190  
 Minneapolis, MN 55455  
**Detail:** Contact University for upcoming courses.

**Institution: Mayo Clinic Scottsdale**

**Directors:** 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  
 November 2007  
 Colon Surgery With Procedures for Fecal Incont., March 2007  
 Ventral Hernia Repair, May 2007  
 Nephrectomy, September 2007  
 Gastric Bypass, November 2007

*continued on page 16.*

# Annual Meeting Offers Three Unique and Innovative Hands-On Courses

Behind the glitz and the glamour of the City of Lights, SAGES will feature three groundbreaking hands-on courses during Surgical Spring Week in Las Vegas. One will focus on Endolumenal Surgery for GERD and Barrett's Esophagus, another is a course designed to teach MIS management tips of common bile duct stones and the third is a laparoscopic colectomy cadaver lab and didactic session. More about each course is described below and for detailed information, please review the advance program. Space is limited for all hands on courses, so please reserve your spot soon by registering on-line at [http://sages.org/registration/!](http://sages.org/registration/)

## Endolumenal Surgery for GERD and Barrett's Esophagus

This year's hands-on course will highlight techniques that have been demonstrated to be of value in the treatment of gastrointestinal diseases such as gastroesophageal reflux, Barrett's esophagus, and the like. This is an exciting, emerging field, in which gastrointestinal surgeons who treat these diseases must stay on top of.

## Masters Common Bile Duct

This is SAGES first true masters level course. Every surgeon, from the novice to the expert, will have something to learn by taking this course. Part of this new format will be the exciting opportunity to access course materials on-line to help the surgeon assess how much they know on this topic and make the didactic portion of the course more useful. The hands-on portion of the course will focus on true skills acquisition, enabling the surgeon to gain confidence with trans-cystic stone extraction, formal laparoscopic common bile duct exploration and cholecystoenterostomy. This course really raises the bar for teaching surgeons common bile duct management techniques.

## Hand Assisted Laparoscopic Colorectal Surgery

The hands-on colon course team is comprised of true experts in the field. This is an opportunity to learn from real experts the fine points of the techniques of laparoscopic colectomy, with an emphasis on the hand-assisted technique.

1/2 page Ad

# Are You a Rural or Community Surgeon?

## Help Us To Understand Your Practice – Complete the Rural Surgery Survey

(Sponsored by the SAGES Rural Surgery Liaison Group)

Are you a Rural Surgeon? The SAGES Rural Liaison Group is conducting a survey and invites any rural or community surgeon to participate, whether or not they are a SAGES member. Please ask your rural surgeon colleagues to complete this survey, even if they are not a member of SAGES. Your feedback will help SAGES understand the rural surgeon and better serve the rural and community surgeons. To participate, please log on to: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=142282857035>

## Announcing:

## Rural Surgery Panel at the SAGES Annual Meeting (Las Vegas)

We also invite you to attend the SAGES and Rural Surgery Panel Symposium. This is an exploration of rural surgery and how SAGES can come to serve the needs of practicing rural surgeons. The panel takes place on Wednesday, April 18, 2007 at the SAGES annual meeting in Las Vegas. We hope to see you there!

L. William Traverso and Thomas A. Broughan, Co-Chairs Rural Surgery Committee

The Transanal Endoscopy Microsurgery (TEM) Luncheon was inadvertently omitted from the printed SAGES 2007 Advance Program. We apologize for this error, and please find the outline listed below for your review.

## Transanal Endoscopic Microsurgery (TEM) Luncheon

Friday, April 20, 2007

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Chair: Theodore Saclarides, M.D.

"Transanal Endoscopic Microsurgery" (TEM) has emerged as a means of transanally excising selected rectal neoplasms. Its advantages over conventional instrumentation include better visibility, longer reach, and a more precise excision and closure of the wound. Lesions beyond the reach of conventional instruments heretofore have been treated with radical transabdominal surgery. TEM offers a less invasive approach with less morbidity and a faster return to baseline function. This 1.5 hour didactic course will introduce participants to the indications for TEM, its equipment and technique, a review of published literature regarding results and

complications, an insight into extended TEM application, and a review of coding and billing issues.

### Objectives:

During this session, participants will:

- Learn the indications for TEM.
- Become familiar with the basic TEM instrumentation and the technique for excising selected rectal neoplasms.
- Be exposed to published literature regarding the results and complications of TEM surgery.
- Understand potential extended applications of TEM and see current coding and billing issues.

### SCHEDULE

11:30 AM	<b>Introduction</b>	Theodore Saclarides, M.D.
11:45 AM	<b>Instrumentation: What Makes TEM Special</b>	Theodore Saclarides, MD
12:00 PM	<b>Operative Technique for Polyps, Cancer</b>	Dana Sands, M.D.
12:15 PM	<b>Results, Complications, and a Review of the Literature</b>	Lee Swanstrom, M.D.
12:30 PM	<b>Extended Applications, Coding, Billing</b>	Theodore Saclarides, M.D.
12:45 PM	<b>Q &amp; A</b>	Theodore Saclarides, M.D. (Moderator)

To register for this lunch as part of the annual meeting, please visit [www.sages.org/registration/](http://www.sages.org/registration/).



# 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.

**Register on-line by March 16, 2007 • [www.sages.org/registration](http://www.sages.org/registration)  
April 18 - 22, 2007 • Paris Las Vegas Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada**

# SAGES 2007 Program Outline

**Program Chair: Steven Schwartzberg, MD**

## Wednesday, April 18

Half Day Hands-On Course: Endolumenal & Transgastric  
Panel: Reoperative MIS Surgery  
SAGES/SLS Panel: Approaches to Solid Organ Resection –  
The Debates  
Rural Surgery Panel

## Thursday, April 19

Full Day Postgraduate Course: MIS and Cancer  
Full Day Hands-on Course: CBD  
Full Day Hands-on Course: Colon  
Poster Sessions and Learning Center Open  
SAGES Foundation Awards Lunch  
SAGES/IPEG Pediatric Panels  
Exhibit Opening Welcome Reception  
Satellite Symposia

## Friday, April 20

Half Day Postgraduate Course: Inflammatory Bowel Disease  
Half Day Hands-On Course: Surgeon in the Digital Age  
Video Editing  
SAGES/ASBS Panel: Reoperative Bariatric Surgery  
SAGES/AHPBA Joint Session: Ablative Therapies  
Transanal Endoscopic Microsurgery (TEM) Lunch  
Scientific Session  
Frontiers of Medicine Lecture: Eliot Winer, PhD  
Panel: Safety in Bariatric Surgery  
SAGES/ASGE Panel: NOTES (Natural Orifice Transluminal  
Endoscopic Surgery)  
SAGES/AHS Panel: Hernia Debates  
Panel: Endolumenal  
Career Development Seminar  
Poster Sessions and Learning Center Open  
Exhibits Open  
Evening Video Session: "Rocky Horror" Complications

## Saturday, April 21

Scientific Session  
Presidential Address: Steven D. Wexner, MD  
Karl Storz Lecture in New Technology: Richard J. Heald, OBE  
Health Policy Lecture: Congresswoman Shelley Berkley  
Panel: Bariatric Emergencies for non Bariatric Surgeons  
SAGES/AHPBA Joint Session: Evaluation of  
Pancreatic Neoplasms  
Allied Health Course  
SAGES/ASCRS Panel: Colon & Rectal Surgery  
Panel: Payment for Innovative Therapies - Debate  
Panel: Innovative Therapies You Will Use in the Future  
Residents and Fellows Scientific Sessions  
SAGES/Fellowship Council Lunch  
Poster Sessions and Learning Center Open  
Exhibits Open  
Main Event & Sing-Off

## Sunday, April 22

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

**Advance Program available at <http://sages.org/07program/>**

**Visit <http://sages.org/registration/> to register & book housing by the March 16 deadline.**

Join us in Las Vegas for the

**SAGES 2007**

meeting!

# SAGES 2007 Meeting Exhibitors

AESCLAP, INC.  
 ALLERGAN  
 ALLIED SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS  
 ALOKA ULTRASOUND  
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 ACS-SURGEONS DIVERSIFIED INVEST-  
 MENT FUND  
 AMERIPATH INC.  
 ANGIOTECH  
 ATRIUM MEDICAL  
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 AUTOSUTURE AND VALLEYLAB  
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 BARIATRIC TIMES  
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 B-K MEDICAL SYSTEMS  
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 ETHICON PRODUCTS  
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 MEDTRONIC, INC.  
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 MENTS  
 RITA MEDICAL SYSTEMS, INC.  
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 SANDHILL SCIENTIFIC  
 SANOFI-AVENTIS  
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 SOLVAY PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.  
 SONY MEDICAL ELECTRONICS INC  
 SPRINGER-VERLAG  
 STARION INSTRUMENTS CORP.  
 STAT!REF  
 STRYKER ENDOSCOPY  
 SURGICAL PRODUCTS MAGAZINE  
 SURGICAL SCIENCE AB  
 SURGRX  
 SUTTER HEALTH  
 SYNOVIS SURGICAL INNOVATIONS  
 THOMPSON SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS  
 TISSUE SCIENCE LABORATORIES (TSL)  
 TISSUELINK MEDICAL  
 TITAN HEALTH CORPORATION  
 TOSHIBA AMERICA MEDICAL SYSTEMS  
 VEREFI TECHNOLOGIES  
 VORTEK SURGICAL  
 WORLD CONGRESS OF ENDOSCOPIC  
 SURGERY

## Endorsed Courses continued from page 11.

### 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 Contact for upcoming courses.

### Institution: University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

Center of Excellence for  
 Laparoscopic and Minimally  
 Invasive Surgery  
 Directors: Michael D. Hellinger, MD, FACS;  
 Fahim Habib, MD; Raymond J.  
 Leveillee, MD; Jose M. Martinez,

MD; Laurence R. Sands, MD,  
 FACS, FACRS; Peter Takacs, MD,  
 PhD.  
 Contact: Susan G. Mazzola  
 Phone: 305-326-6480  
 Fax: 305-326-6328  
 email: smazzola@med.miami.edu  
 http://www.mis.med.miami.edu  
 Address: University of Miami Miller  
 School of Medicine  
 Center of Excellence for  
 Laparoscopic and Minimally  
 Invasive Surgery  
 McKnight Research Building,  
 Room 802  
 1638 N.W. 10th Avenue  
 Miami, FL 33136  
 Detail: Hand-Assisted Laparoscopic  
 Nephrectomy Workshop:  
 Director: Raymond J. Leveillee, MD

March 24, 2007  
 October 20, 2007  
 Laparoscopic Ventral Hernia:  
 Director: Jose M. Martinez, MD  
 February 10, 2007  
 Laparoscopic Colon Surgery:  
 Director: Michael D. Hellinger, MD, FACS  
 February 8 & 9, 2007  
 May 3 & 4, 2007  
 Laparoscopic Training for  
 Ob/Gyn Residents:  
 Director: Peter Takacs, MD, PhD TBD  
 Hand-Access Laparoscopic  
 Colon and Rectal Workshop:  
 March 3, 2007  
 Laparoscopic Inguinal and Ventral  
 Hernia Symposium:  
 February 23, 2007

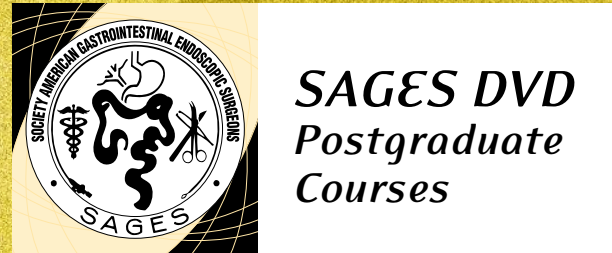
continued on page 18.



# SAGES Video Education Curriculum



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

## SAGES TOP 14

Procedures Every Practicing Surgeon Should Know



## 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

### SAGES Video Library

For product details and to order please visit:

[www.cine-med.com/lap](http://www.cine-med.com/lap)  
or call 800-515-1542 or 203-263-0006

\* To order FLS, please visit:

[www.flsprogram.org](http://www.flsprogram.org)  
or call 310-437-0544 ext. 115

**President's Message** continued from page 1.

this regard

As a possible result of the 2006 elections, the Legislative Committee may certainly have some additional challenges in Washington, D.C. I am very appreciative of the efforts of Drs. Eli Lerner, Paresh Shah, Michael Edye, and John Coller for all of their efforts to help SAGES, and all surgeons, to insure optimal legislative interaction.

Dr. David Rattner is to be congratulated for organization and implementation of the NOTES and NOSCARG groups as well as helping to obtain the \$1 million industry grant to help initiate research in this space. We are all optimistic about the future of NOTES as a cornerstone of SAGES and of surgery of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Lastly, but certainly not least, I owe a huge debt of gratitude to Dr. Steven Schwartzberg who has been indefatigable in his preparation of the upcoming annual scientific session and postgraduate courses from April 18-22, 2007 in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Surgical Spring Week meeting will be combined with the American Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association and with the Spring Meeting of the American College of Surgeons. Dr. Schwartzberg has spent countless hours on a daily basis organizing what I know is the finest SAGES program to date. Some of the superb offerings include a half-day course on endoluminal and transgastric surgery, a panel on re-operative minimally invasive surgery, another panel on approaches to solid organ resection, and a panel on rural surgery. Postgraduate and hands-on courses include MIS on cancer, common bile duct, colon, inflammatory bowel disease, re-operative bariatric surgery, transanal endoscopic microsurgery, natural orifice transluminal endoscopic surgery (NOTES), hernia, and many others. Several other new offerings include the SAGES evening video session

entitled "Rocky Horror" complications and the Surgeon in the Digital Age, a report from the June, 2006 consensus conference with MIRA, another emerging technology session, a career development seminar, and a legislative panel along with a legislative lecture. This legislative lecture will be delivered by Congresswoman Shelley Berkley, who represents Las Vegas on Capitol Hill. Two additional keynote speakers will be Dr. Richard "Bill" Heald, OBE, of Basingstoke, England. Dr. Heald is best known for his observations, teachings, and technique of total mesorectal excision. Perhaps less known to some members of SAGES, Bill is also a pioneer in video based surgical education, having developed this technology well before advent of laparoscopy. Dr. Lester Rosen, President of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, will address us on some of his high quality work on outcomes research, one of his many areas of universally acclaimed expertise. The entire SAGES Program Committee, along with all of the Chairs of the various sections is to be commended for having assembled a phenomenal program for Las Vegas. I know that each and every attendee will marvel at the number and depth of the offerings at this year's meeting.

As I previously stated, the last 9 months have passed very quickly and I know that the next 3 months will also rapidly draw to a conclusion. I look forward to welcoming each and every one of you at the SAGES in April in Las Vegas. I also wish to thank each and every member of SAGES for your vote of confidence in having allowed me to serve you during the 2006-2007 year. I hope to have the opportunity to thank each of you in person during the upcoming Las Vegas meeting. This year has been the most gratifying of my life because of the opportunity to have been your President.

**Endorsed Courses** continued from page 16.

**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:** Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine  
**Director:** Anthony Kalloo, MD  
**Contact:** Carol Kowarski  
410-614-0148  
410-614-8613 (fax)  
ckowarski@jhmi.edu  
**Address:** John Hopkins University School of Medicine

**Detail:** 720 Rutland Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21205  
Seventh Annual  
Gastroenterology and  
Hepatology: March 14-17, 2007

**Institution:** Legacy Emanuel Hospital and Health Center  
**Director:** Lee L. Swanstrom, MD  
**Contact:** Bev Oylear  
503-413-4343  
boylear@lhs.org  
**Address:** Legacy Emanuel Hospital and Health Center  
2801 N. Gantenbein  
Portland, OR 97227  
http://www.advancedlaparoscopy.com/  
**Detail:** Contact institution for upcoming courses.

**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:  
January 25-27, 2007  
March 15-17, 2007  
May 31-June 2, 2007



# Save the Date!!

## SAGES Scientific Session & Postgraduate Course

April 19 - 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 IPEG)

## 12<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Endoscopic Surgery Hosted by SAGES & CAGS

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



### Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons

11300 W. Olympic Boulevard, Suite 600  
Los Angeles, CA 90064  
Phone: (310) 437-0544  
Fax: (310) 437-0585  
E-mail: [sagesweb@sages.org](mailto:sagesweb@sages.org)  
[www.sages.org](http://www.sages.org)

### SAGES EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Executive Director: Sallie Matthews

Director Emeritus: Barbara Berci

11300 W. Olympic Boulevard, Suite 600  
Los Angeles, CA 90064, U.S.A.

Tel: (310) 437-0544

Fax: (310) 437-0585

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