MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Reflections of Appreciation to SAGES Membership

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 and access the members’ area to make any changes to your information.
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

- **1st VICE PRESIDENT**
  (2 year term)
  Steve Schwartzberg, M.D.

- **2nd 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 Schwatzberg)
- 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

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.
AWARDS

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 Strasbourg 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 Strasbourg. 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/.

4
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 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™ Gastrotomy: the LEAKING Study

Sergey Kantsevoy, 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

Grant #2 - Closure Integrity in NOTES™ Gastrotomy: 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 2nd 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
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

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**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.

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**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 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 Prophlaxis 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. 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:

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International Liaison Group

On 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
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 Edye, 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 government 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/ 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 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 $______________.

☐ 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.

I 1300 West Olympic Boulevard, Ste. 600, Los Angeles, CA 90064
Phone (310) 437-0544, ext. 114 • Fax (310) 437-0585
teresa@sages.org • www.sagesfoundation.org
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 Kowada, 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

**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
Phone: +33 388 119 000
Fax: +33 388 119 099
e-mail: secrétariat@ircad. u-strasbg.fr

**Address:** IRCAD-EITS
Hopitaux Universitaires
1 place de l‘Hospital, BP 426

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
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
(German-speaking courses)
January 22-26, 2007
October 1-5, 2007
ADVANCED COURSES 2007
GENERAL SURGERY
Digestive Surgery:
(English-speaking courses)
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 courses)
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
AORTOILAC 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...

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
5333 Harry Hines Blvd
Dallas, TX 75390-9059

**Detail:** Laparoscopic Colorectal Surgery, February 16, 2007
Ventral Hernia Repair, March 9, 2007
Revisinal 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@cme.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/!

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.
**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

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**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**

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

To register for this lunch as part of the annual meeting, please visit www.sages.org/registration/.

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**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.**

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**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
World class faculty…as usual!
State-of-the-Art Postgraduate Courses
Scientific Sessions
Learning Center
Technology Pavilion
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
April 18 - 22, 2007 · Paris Las Vegas Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada
SAGES 2007 Program Outline

Program Chair: Steven Schwartzberg, MD

Wednesday, April 18

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

Saturday, April 21

Sunday, April 22

Advance Program available at http://sages.org/07program/
Visit http://sages.org/registration/ to register & book housing by the March 16 deadline.
### SAGES 2007 Meeting Exhibitors

AESCULAP, INC.  
ALLERGAN  
ALLIED SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS  
ALOKA ULTRASOUND  
ALPINE BIOMED  
ACS-SURGEONS DIVERSIFIED INVESTMENT FUND  
AMERIPATH INC.  
ANGIOTECH  
ATRIUM MEDICAL  
AUTOMATED MEDICAL PRODUCTS  
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BARCO  
BARIATRIC TIMES  
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BOSTON SCIENTIFIC  
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BUFFALO FILTER  
CALMOSEPTINE, INC  
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CINE-MED, INC.  
COMMUNITY HEALTH SYSTEMS  
COMPVIEW MEDICAL  
CONMED CORPORATION  
CONTEMPORARY SURGERY  
COOK SURGICAL  
DAVOL  
ELSEVIER  
ENCISION, INC.  
ERBE-USA  
ETHICON ENDO-SURGERY, INC.  
ETHICON PRODUCTS  
EXEMPLO MEDICAL LLC  
FUJINON INC.  
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GORE & ASSOCIATES  
GYRUS ACMI  
HAPTICA LTD  
HCA PHYSICIAN SERVICES  
HIVISION, INC.  
I-FLOW CORP  
IHBA  
IMMERSION MEDICAL  
INTEGRA JARIT  
INTUITIVE SURGICAL  
KARL STORZ ENDOSCOPY-AMERICA  
KENWOOD THERAPEUTICS  
KINETIC SURGICAL LLC  
LEXION MEDICAL  
LIFECELL  
LIPPINCOTT, WILLIAMS & WILKINS  
MAHE INTERNATIONAL, INC.  
MARKET ACCESS PARTNERS  
MARY ANN LIEBERT, INC.  
MEDCHANNEL, LLC  
METI-MEDICAL EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC.  
MEDICARE MEDICAL SYSTEMS, INC.  
MEDIFLEX  
MEDTRONIC, INC.  
MICROLINE PENTAX, INC.  
MINNESOTA MEDICAL DEVELOPMENT  
NASHVILLE SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS  
NDO SURGICAL INC.  
NEW WAVE SURGICAL  
NOVARE SURGICAL SYSTEMS, INC.  
NOVID SURGICAL LLC  
OBESITY HELP  
OLYMPUS SURGICAL AMERICA  
PAJUNK MEDICAL SYSTEMS  
PM DEVICES  
QUEST MEDICAL, INC.  
REDFIELD CORPORATION  
RICHARD WOLF MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS  
RITA MEDICAL SYSTEMS, INC.  
SALIX PHARMACEUTICALS  
SANOFI-AVENTIS  
SEVENTH DIMENSION DESIGN, INC.  
SIMULAB CORPORATION  
SIEX MEDICAL  
SOLVAY PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.  
SONY MEDICAL ELECTRONICS INC  
SPRINGER-VERLAG  
STARION INSTRUMENTS CORP.  
STAT!REF  
STRAKER ENDOSCOPY  
SURGICAL PRODUCTS MAGAZINE  
SURGICAL SCIENCE AB  
SURGRX  
SUTTER HEALTH  
SYNOVIS SURGICAL INNOVATIONS  
THOMPSON SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS  
Tissue Science Laboratories (TSL)  
TISSUEINK MEDICAL  
TITAN HEALTH CORPORATION  
TOSHIBA AMERICA MEDICAL SYSTEMS  
VERVE TECHNOLOGIES  
VOREK 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:** 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  
1638 N.W. 10th Avenue  
Miami, FL 33136  
**Detail:** Contact for upcoming courses.

**Director:** Peter Takacs, MD, PhD TBD  
**Detail:** Hand-Assisted Laparoscopic Nephrectomy Workshop:  
**Director:** Raymond J. Leveillee, MD  
March 24, 2007  
October 20, 2007  
Laparoscopic Vential 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: Ob/Gyn Residents  
Hand-Access Laparoscopic Colon and Rectal Workshop:  
March 3, 2007  
Laparoscopic Inguinal and Vential Hernia Symposium:  
February 23, 2007  
continued on page 18.
SAGES Video Education Curriculum

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

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

SAGES TOP 14
Procedures Every Practicing Surgeon Should Know

SAGES Video Library
For product details and to order please visit:
www.cine-med.com/lap
or call 800-515-1542 or 203-263-0006

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

* To order FLS, please visit:
www.flsprogram.org
or call 310-437-0544 ext. 115

For product details and to order please visit:
www.flsprogram.org
or call 310-437-0544 ext. 115
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 NOSCAR 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 21st century.

Lastly, but certainly not least, I owe a huge debt of gratitude to Dr. Steven Schwitzberg 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. Schwitzberg 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 endolumen al 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.
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)

12th World Congress of Endoscopic Surgery
Hosted by SAGES & CAGS
April 14 - 17, 2010, Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, Landover, MD (just outside Washington, DC)