

# Scope



Winter, 2008  
Volume 08, Issue 1

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



SAGES President  
Steve Eubanks, MD

## Oh The Places We'll Go

SAGES has embarked upon a Global Initiative that formally takes our educational programs to parts of the world we have previously not reached. We have committed resources to provide training to surgeons in parts of the world where laparoscopic and endoscopic techniques and technologies have not been available at a level known by much of the world. We have successfully completed training courses in Chinandega, Nicaragua and Piura, Peru in the past year, and we are currently working on a course schedule for 2008 in Peru, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, and Eastern Europe. In October, the Board of Governors at SAGES voted to double the budget for our global efforts, now dubbed the Global Initiative. This work has been led by Ramon Buerger, Raul Rosenthal, Dimitrios Linos, and David Earle with strong support from Jacqueline Narváez at the SAGES office.

We perceive that we, as SAGES members, are very blessed with resources and educational opportunities. We possess a strong desire to share these advantages with many of our colleagues who find themselves in less fortunate environments or circumstances. Whenever possible, we work with local or regional minimally invasive surgery organizations to arrange and execute the training courses. Our focus is to train those capable of teaching local surgeons what they have learned. We also attempt to provide the equipment needed to allow this knowledge to be propagated and the effort sustained. The Global Initiative has been inspired and facilitated by SAGES International liaison members and international attendees at SAGES annual meetings. More than 700 international surgeons representing more than 70 countries attended the 2007 SAGES Annual Meeting in Las Vegas. Additionally, there are approximately 750

SAGES members from countries other than the U.S.

SAGES has been a contributing member of the global community for many years. SAGES participation in international courses has occurred in locations such as Japan, China and South America to name a few. Furthermore, individual SAGES members have covered the globe in exchanging knowledge and techniques with friends from many countries. Some of my closest, lasting friendships have been developed through such trips. Many of these trips have also led to opportunities for formal surgical training in the U.S. for individuals who were introduced through these international efforts. The mindset that we Americans are always going to teach rather than learn and exchange information has never been more inappropriate than in current times. We have many reasons to have confidence in our medical training and advances but no reason for an arrogant or isolationist perspective. An important aspect of our current global initiative is to learn from those who have surpassed us in various areas and to bring these advances back to members of SAGES. One can cite examples such as NOTES work in India, gastric surgery in Japan, and numerous examples of **(continued on p. 13)**

## 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

2008 Awards .....	Page 4	Committee Updates.....	Page 8 - 10
Endorsed Courses .....	Page 12 - 13	2008 Surgical Spring Week .....	Page 18 - 19

# SAGES 2008 - 2009 Slate of Officers

The SAGES Nominating Committee and Board of Governors are pleased to announce the 2008-2009 slate of new officers and Board members. SAGES members will receive a ballot to ratify this slate in February, 2008.

## Officers and Members of the Executive Committee:



◀ **PRESIDENT**  
Mark Talamini, MD



**PRESIDENT-ELECT** ▶  
C. Daniel Smith, MD



◀ **1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**  
(2 year term)  
Steve Schwaitzberg, MD  
(1 more year in this position)



**2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT** ▶  
(2 year term)  
Daniel M. Herron, MD



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



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

## Board Members—Three-Year Terms:

### Re-Appointments:

Jo Buyske, MD  
Jeffrey M. Marks, MD  
Brant K. Oelschlager, MD  
David W. Rattner, MD

### New Members:

Fredrick J. Brody, MD  
Raul J. Rosenthal, MD  
Daniel J. Scott, MD (2 year term, fulfilling unexpired term of Daniel Smith)

### Rotating Off:

John Coller, MD (October 2008)  
Namir Katkhouda, MD  
Greg Stiegmann, MD

## SAGES LEADERS HONORED

**Steven C. Stain, M.D.**, was elected this summer as Vice-Chair of the ABS for 2008-2009. He will serve as ABS chair in 2009-2010. Dr. Stain is currently the Neil Lempert Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery at Albany Medical College in Albany, N.Y. A native of Fresno, California, Dr. Stain attended medical school at the University of California - Irvine, and completed his residency at Los Angeles County/University of Southern California Medical Center. He was appointed to the ABS in 2002 as a representative of the Western Surgical Association. Dr. Stain is currently president of the Society of Black Academic Surgeons and is a past member of the Board of Governors of the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons.

On December 17, 2007, **Dr. Namir Katkhouda**, SAGES Board member since 2004, was awarded the insignia of Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur (French Legion of Honor). The ceremony took place at the USC Town & Gown, and the award was presented by His Excellency Pierre Vimont, the Honorable Philippe Larrieu and C.L. Max Nikias. Dr. Katkhouda is Professor of Surgery, Chief of the Division of Emergency Non-Trauma Surgery and Director of the Minimally Invasive Surgery Program at the University of Southern California Medical Center.

To congratulate or pay tribute to Dr. Katkhouda for this award, you may send donations to the SAGES Education and Research Foundation in his honor. Dr. Katkhouda will be notified of all gifts. Please contact the Foundation office for more information or email [foundation@sages.org](mailto:foundation@sages.org).

**Dr. Nathaniel J. Soper** was announced as SAGES new representative to the American College of Surgeons Board of Governors. His initial three-year term began in October, 2007. Dr. Soper is currently Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago, IL. He was one of the founders of SAGES FLS program, and still serves as FLS committee chair. He served as SAGES President from 2000-2001.

With the appointment of Dr. Jo Buyske to Associate Executive Director of the American Board of Surgery last year, SAGES needed to appoint a new representative to the ABS Board. **Dr. Bruce D. Schirmer** was recently appointed as SAGES new representative to the ABS, with a six-year term beginning this spring. Dr. Schirmer is currently Stephen H. Watts Professor of Surgery at the University of Virginia Health System in Charlottesville, VA. He is current Chair of SAGES Awards Committee, and served as SAGES President from 2002-2003.

SAGES congratulates these leaders on their respective achievements.

Covidien Advertisement

Page 3

## 2008 SAGES Award Recipients

The SAGES Awards Committee and Board of Governors are pleased to announce the four major 2008 award recipients:



*The Distinguished Service Award –  
Barry Salky, MD*



*The Young Researcher Award –  
John Morton, MD*



*The Pioneer in Endoscopy Award –  
Gerald Marks, MD, SAGES Founder*



*The Karl Storz/IRCAD  
Fellowship Award –  
Patricia Sylla, MD*

These awards will be presented at the SAGES Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, during the SAGES Foundation Awards Luncheon on Thursday, April 10, from 12:00-1:30 PM. To register for the luncheon, please visit [www.sages.org/registration](http://www.sages.org/registration). To become an event sponsor or reserve a table for the luncheon, contact Teresa Chien at (310) 437-0544, ext. 114 or [teresa@sages.org](mailto:teresa@sages.org).

# AMA Membership – What It 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. The AMA is still the physician organization with the most influence in the:

- 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>

## 2008 SAGES Resident Courses

### 1. February 28-29, 2008: Basic Endoscopy and Laparoscopy Workshop

Cincinnati, OH

Sponsored by Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Inc.

*2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year residents*

### 2. March 13-14, 2008: Advanced Laparoscopic Foregut Surgery and FLS Workshop

Norwalk, CT

Sponsored by Covidien

*4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year residents – must be SAGES candidate members*

### 3. May 1-2, 2008: Basic Endoscopy and Laparoscopy Workshop (limited to Canadian residents only)

CSTAR, London, ON Canada

Supported by Ethicon Endo-Surgery Canada

*2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year Canadian residents*

### 4. May 15-16, 2008: Advanced Laparoscopic GERD/Bariatric Surgery Workshop

Cincinnati, OH

Sponsored by Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Inc.

*4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year residents – must be SAGES candidate members*

### 5. June 5-6, 2008: Advanced Laparoscopic Solid Organ and Foregut Surgery Workshop

Norwalk, CT

Sponsored by Covidien

*4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year residents – must be SAGES candidate members*

### 6. August 14-15, 2008: Basic Endoscopy and Laparoscopy Workshop

Cincinnati, OH

Sponsored by Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Inc.

*2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year residents*

### 7. September 25-26, 2008: Advanced Laparoscopic Hernia Surgery Workshop

Norwalk, CT

Sponsored by Covidien

*4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year residents – must be SAGES candidate members*

### 8. October 2 - 3, 2008: Advanced Laparoscopic Foregut Surgery Workshop

Cincinnati, OH

Sponsored by Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Inc.

*4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year residents – must be SAGES candidate members*

### 9. November 13-14, 2008: Advanced Laparoscopic Colorectal Surgery Workshop

Norwalk, CT

Sponsored by Covidien

*4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year residents – must be SAGES candidate members*

For more information, visit [www.sages.org](http://www.sages.org) and click on Meetings & Symposia.

**Save the Date:  
SAGES 2009 Meeting – April 22 - 25, Phoenix, AZ**

# Annual Meeting to Feature Five Innovative Hands-On Courses

## Solid Organ Surgery

This course will consist of a hands-on cadaver laboratory session in which participants will receive instruction by experts in laparoscopic solid organ surgery on laparoscopic splenectomy, adrenalectomy, nephrectomy, and pancreatic resection. Participants will have the opportunity to utilize a variety of surgical devices used in these procedures for hemostasis, stapling, specimen extraction, and hand-assisted techniques. Lab stations will have a 1:3 faculty to participant ratio.

## Surgeon in the Digital Age: Video Editing

### Basic Video Editing with an Introduction to Advanced Techniques

This course is a hands-on (1 participant to a station) Macintosh-based workshop using the latest video editing software. It is designed to take users of at least modest computer facility through the basic steps of digital video editing. The skills learned in this course will be applicable to digital video editing on most Windows-based computers and editing programs. Led in real time by an experienced surgeon facilitator, participants will import clips, edit them, create transitions and add voice-over sound tracks. Additional advanced techniques, which are useful in medical videos, will be reviewed. Final products will be transcoded for a variety of purposes. A CD with the course files is included for later practice. Once this course is completed, users should be able to have the skills necessary to create edited digital videos for medical meetings, education and personal use.

## Endolumenal Surgery

This four hour hands-on course will provide exposure to multiple advanced endoscopic techniques in porcine explant models. Participants will rotate through stations that will include training in tissue ablation, enteral stent placement, endoscopic mucosal resection (EMR), thermal and nonthermal management of GI bleeding, and endoscopic suturing techniques. Faculty will include nationally and internationally recognized experts in the field of advanced surgical endoscopy.

## Colorectal Surgery

This half-day technique-based, practical cadaver lab course is designed for the general and colon/rectal surgeons and senior residents who are familiar with laparoscopic techniques, and wish

to expand their skills in laparoscopic colon and rectal surgery. Techniques for bowel mobilization, vessel division, and intra- and extracorporeal anastomoses will be taught, with an emphasis on oncologic principles. The course will emphasize alternative approaches including lateral-to-medial, medial-to-lateral, and hand-assisted techniques, to facilitate resection of the entire intra-abdominal colon and the rectum. All faculty members are expert laparoscopic colon and rectal surgeons with established reputations for teaching hands-on courses. All attempts will be made to tailor the approach to the needs and prior experience of the participants. Principles of laparoscopic rectal dissection discussed in the preceding Postgraduate course on MIS rectal disease will be emphasized. Participants should realistically anticipate an annual volume of at least 20 colon cases per year to successfully implement the techniques demonstrated.

## Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery

The course will be based on the Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery (FLS) Program, a collaborative effort between Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons and the American College of Surgeons. This introductory course will begin with an overview of the history, science, and development of the FLS Program. It will continue with various chapters from the FLS curriculum, such as physiology, intraoperative considerations, basic laparoscopic procedures, and procedural complications. Part of the course will also cover the psychomotor and technical skills required in basic laparoscopic surgery. The course syllabus will outline the content of both FLS CD-ROMs.

After completing the course, those participants who registered for the examination and received the advance materials will be able to take the FLS examination directly following the course or at the FLS Testing Center throughout the SAGES meeting. These candidates will receive the FLS CD-ROMs before the course and will be expected to review the materials. Other participants will be given the CD-ROMs at the time of the course. Approximately 10 FLS trainer boxes will be available for training and practice during the Hands-On Session, at the conclusion of the course and throughout the SAGES meeting.

For additional information, please review the Advanced Program. Space is limited for all hands-on courses so plan to reserve your spot soon by registering online at <http://www.sages.org/registration/>.



# SAGES 2008

## *Surgical Spring Week*

### April 9 - 12, 2008

*Postgraduate Course and Scientific Session*  
 Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA

### ***2008 SAGES-ALACE International Webcast Sessions- Part of the SAGES Go Global Initiative***

International SAGES Members - Sign-up your institution TODAY to be part of the 2008 SAGES meeting by participating in the SAGES International Webcast Sessions. For registration information, please contact Jacqueline Narváez via email at [Jacqueline@sages.org](mailto:Jacqueline@sages.org)

#### **Friday, April 11, 2008**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>SESSION</b>	<b>CHAIR (S)/SPEAKER</b>
9:00am - 9:45am	SAGES Presidential Address	Steve Eubanks, MD
9:45am -10:30am	Gerald Marks Lecture	James "Butch" Rosser, MD
10:30am -11:30am	SAGES/ASCRS Panel: Emerging Technology in the Future of Laparoscopic Colorectal Surgery	Chair: James Fleshman, MD Co-Chair: Jeffrey Milsom, MD
12:30pm -3:00pm	Presidential Debates	Chair: John Hunter, MD Co-Chair: Frederick Greene, MD
3:00pm -4:30pm	SAGES/ASGE Panel: Complications of Flexible Endoscopy	Chair: Brian Dunkin, MD Co-Chair: Christopher Thompson, MD

#### **Saturday April 12, 2008**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>SESSION</b>	<b>CHAIR (S)/SPEAKER</b>
1:00pm -2:30pm	GERD/LERD Panel: Evolving Role of Laparoscopic/Endoscopic Surgery for GERD	Chair: Mehran Anvari, MD Co-Chair: Bernard Dallmagne, MD
2:30pm- 4:00pm	Hernia Debates Panel	Chair: Karl LeBlanc, MD Co-Chair: Salvadore Morales-Conde, MD

### Continuing Education

#### *SAGES ASCRS Laparoscopic Colon Course Endorsement Applications*

As an additional service to their members, SAGES and ASCRS offer course and program directors the opportunity to have their lap colon courses reviewed and endorsed. Endorsement by SAGES and ASCRS brings the following benefits to course directors:

- Courses will be listed on the SAGES and the ASCRS websites.
- Courses will be included in SCOPE, SAGES bi-annual newsletter and ASCRS News, ASCRS's bi-annual newsletter.
- The Course Director may include the Joint SAGES and ASCRS Endorsement Statement on promotional brochures and course materials.

**For more information visit:**

<http://www.sages.org/education/endorsedcourses.html>

The SAGES Medscape page has continued to provide updates and information to health care professionals about the world of minimally invasive gastrointestinal surgery. It highlights new technology, featured articles and the latest in SAGES video education. To date, the site has garnered over 20,000 page views and continues to be a portal to the Society:

<http://www.medscape.com/partners/sages/public/sages>

### Educational Resources

The SAGES Educational Resources Committee is proud to introduce the "Case of the Month" module, an exciting new resource for all SAGES members. Replacing the SAGES web quiz function, the Case of the Month will feature an interesting or unusual case presentation which may include images or video. This module has been designed for the surgeon and general practitioner, providing a quick and easy to use method of sharing relevant information and experiences.

In order to facilitate a new featured case per month we kindly ask all SAGES members to take a few minutes to submit any interesting cases they would like to share with the membership. In addition to providing a great source of information, this module also provides an excellent opportunity for residents, fellows, and/or other faculty members to gain exposure to the SAGES audience. Submitting authors will have a choice of displaying their name with the case or submitting anonymously. Each case will be reviewed by an appointed reviewer from the Educational Resource committee, and if selected will be put in queue for presentation.

With your help we hope to feature the first Case of the Month in February, launching yet another great SAGES resource.

**To submit a case please log in to the SAGES Members Only section of the website:**

<http://sages.org/memberlogin.php>

A link to the Case of the Month submission module is featured on the front page of the members only area.

### Flexible Endoscopy

#### *2008 SAGES Regional Course Offerings*

SAGES presented the New Modalities in Therapeutic Flexible Endoscopy Course at the Southeastern Surgical Congress Annual Scientific Meeting on Saturday, February 9 in Birmingham, Alabama.

#### *SAGES Flexible Endoscopic Surgery Course for MIS Fellows*

This year SAGES held three Flexible Endoscopic Surgery Courses for MIS Fellows: Case Western Reserve in Cleveland, Ohio (November 8-9, 2007); The Ohio State University Medical Center in Columbus, Ohio (January 24-25, 2008) and at the Methodist Institute for Technology, Innovation and Education (MITIE) in Houston, Texas (February 7-8, 2008). These courses are designed for attendees to learn the fundamentals of Flexible Endoscopy through the faculty's presentations and through the time spent in the lab.

SAGES gratefully acknowledges the following companies for their generous educational grant support and contributions in-kind:

KARL STORZ ENDOSCOPY  
 COVIDIEN  
 BÂRXX MEDICAL  
 BOSTON SCIENTIFIC  
 ETHICON ENDO-SURGERY INC.  
 OLYMPUS SURGICAL AMERICA

In kind support:

COOK INC. • ENDOGASTRIC SOLUTIONS  
 NDO SURGICAL • US ENDOSCOPY

### FES

The Fundamentals of Endoscopic Surgery (FES) Task Force, chaired by Jeff Marks and Brian Dunkin, continues to make great progress on the didactic, manual skills and assessment components of the FES program. In September, a retreat was held in Chicago that resulted in a record-breaking 240 test questions written for the cognitive assessment, followed by a December meeting at Methodist Hospital in Houston to review accuracy and congruency with the program's learning objectives. The last step will be a strict beta testing process. A select group has also been working diligently on the development of a valid and reliable global assessment tool to measure flexible endoscopic skills. Lastly, after a rigorous screening process, the FES Task Force has chosen to work collaboratively with Simbionix to develop a simulator for the hands-on skills component.

### FLS

The Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery (FLS) Committee and program continue to make great progress and forge ahead. The most exciting news is the announcement that Covidien, through a historic grant, will support all graduating chief residents and first year HPB, MIS and colorectal fellows in the U.S. and Canada by providing access to the FLS curriculum and the opportunity to



become FLS certified. All Program Directors will receive a customized e-mail with information on how to participate, and more information will be available on [www.flsprogram.org](http://www.flsprogram.org).

In other news, the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) has recently mandated FLS for all senior surgical residents in both Australia and New Zealand. A collaborative agreement with RACS and Queensland Health Skills Development Centre, the impetus for this arrangement, is now being finalized and will help ensure a successful implementation.

On January 5, 2008, another milestone was added to the list of growing accomplishments for FLS. CRICO/RMF, the Harvard medical community's professional liability insurer, became the first organization of its kind to not only sponsor an FLS course as an overt commitment to patient safety, but offer a \$500 rebate per surgeon to the originating surgical department. This is truly a landmark event representing a partnership between surgeons, the Harvard medical community's medical malpractice insurance program, and the FLS program. Both the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and the Cambridge Health Alliance in Boston have mandated FLS training for those general surgeons who perform laparoscopy, recognizing this represents a very high standard not commonly employed (yet), but a growing trend towards increased patient safety in surgery.

## Guidelines

### *New SAGES Guidelines available:*

- *A Consensus Document on Robotic Surgery:* Prepared by the SAGES-MIRA Robotic Surgery Consensus Group
- *Diagnostic Laparoscopy Guidelines*
- *Granting of Privileges for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*
- *Guidelines for Diagnosis, Treatment, and Use of Laparoscopy for Surgical Problems During Pregnancy*

All current SAGES guidelines are available on the SAGES website at <http://www.sages.org/publications.HTML#guide>.

Please note that the Committee is now creating guidelines to correspond with the release of new CPT codes. For additional guidelines that you would like to see developed, or if you are unable to access the guidelines on line and wish a copy to be sent to you, please contact Yumi Horii at the SAGES office, (310) 437-0544, ext. 102 or via e-mail at [Yumi@sages.org](mailto:Yumi@sages.org).

## Membership

The SAGES Membership Committee and Board of Governors congratulate 239 new members who joined our ranks in October: 22 Active, 1 Associate Active, 6 Allied Health, 173 Candidate, and 37 International. Welcome to the SAGES family!

Our Membership Drive results will be announced after the Spring review period this April. If any SAGES members know a colleague who could benefit from the knowledge and resources that our organization offers, and we bet you know several, ask them to apply! Thank you to all members who have taken the time to write recommendation letters and for spreading the word about the

association. The prize is a \$500 voucher for the Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery (FLS) Program. Remember: the deadline for Spring 2008 applicants is February 29, 2008. The Membership Drive award and prize will be given to the member who sponsors the most new members in the Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 review cycles. Application files must be complete in order to qualify.

SAGES is quickly closing in on another milestone – reaching 6,000 members! The Membership Committee and membership staff always want to hear from the members to make sure that your personal needs are being met. Give us your input, ideas, and why you consider your membership valuable. Is it education, networking, publications, or the opportunity to let your true talents be shown in the annual Sing-Off? You can send your comments to the Membership Dept at [membership@sages.org](mailto:membership@sages.org). **Always remember to notify the Membership Dept of any changes to your member profile: Are you moving? Have you recently become board certified and need to be upgraded to Active status?**

Category numbers as of December 2007 are:

Active	3491
Associate Active	11
Candidate	1177
International	535
Allied Health	61
Senior	398
Hiatus	15
Honorary	21
<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>5709</b>

## In Memorium

**Daniel J. Feinstein MD**, Houston, Texas

**Barun A. Mukherji MD**, McMinnville, Tennessee

**G. Russell Shearer MD**, Lexington, Kentucky

To make a donation in memory of these members, contact the SAGES Foundation office at [foundation@sages.org](mailto:foundation@sages.org).

## Research & Career Development

The SAGES Research Committee has now become the Research and Career Development Committee. The Committee's new mission statement is:

*The mission of the SAGES Research and Career Development Committee is to foster excellence in gastrointestinal and endoscopic surgery research and collaboration to improve patient care.*

### *New August 2008 Academic Career Development Workshop*

This workshop has been designed by the SAGES Research Committee in order to provide its membership with education and personalized training on obtaining the skill set required for academic success. The overarching goal of this 1 ½ day program is to provide fellows and junior faculty with a venue for interaction with experienced faculty who have a track record of successful publication, funding, and mentorship. This experience will

serve to “set the bar” for a formalized career development effort at the participants home institution. Topics will range from developing and organizing research studies to successful grant and manuscript writing strategies. Each participant will bring the specific aims portion of a research grant that will be edited, revised, and improved for submission to SAGES and/or other funding sources. Small group discussions on such protocols will provide practical training in research methodology, proposal writing, and manuscript preparation. Additional information on this workshop will be available in the spring.

### *New 2008 Early Career Development Award*

The focus of this SAGES Foundation supported award is to provide funding for a young surgeon or surgeon-in-training for the development of critical skills required for their academic career in gastrointestinal and endoscopic surgery. The intent of this award is to delay the start of a faculty role or ongoing residency training for supplemental training/traveling fellowship or intense research time. This grant will provide the awardee with a unique educational opportunity that would not otherwise be available. Awards are conferred on a competitive basis by submission of a grant application, which is reviewed and evaluated by the SAGES Research and Career Development Committee and approved by the Governing Board. The award will be \$60,000 to support travel/salary/tuition. It is not intended to be used for research supplies. The time commitment for the project is to be at least 6 months. Awardees will present results/report at the SAGES Annual Meeting and submit results to *Surgical Endoscopy* or *Mini Scope*.

### **Outcomes**

In 2007 the SAGES Board of Governors voted to expand the role of the SAGES Outcomes Taskforce and has been renamed the Committee on Quality, Outcomes and Safety. Work continues on its original mission – the development of a Core Data Set and outcomes collection for SAGES members. Currently, several disease-specific modules (GERD, Hernia, Gallbladder and Morbid Obesity) are being updated and are expected to be completed by the SAGES 2008 meeting. A new NOSCAR database is undergoing beta-testing and is also expected to be ready for the SAGES membership in April 2008. The National Surgical Outcomes Database (NSOD), an outcomes alliance between SAGES and ACS, is synchronizing the surgical log to allow both SAGES and ACS members to record their individual cases using the same data structure. Furthermore, the committee is integrating a mechanism into the database for Practice Based Learning that satisfies Maintenance of Certification and Category I CME credit.

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

over 28,000 cases, all due to our dedicated SAGES participants. To register, contact Jennifer Clark in the SAGES office at [jennifer@sages.org](mailto:jennifer@sages.org) or (310) 437-0544, ext. 105.

### **Publications**

As your Publications Committee chair, I wanted to give you a further update on the exciting improvements occurring in your journal, *Surgical Endoscopy*.

A new benefit to *Surgical Endoscopy* authors is the “Citation Email Alerts”. This new benefit will allow the corresponding authors to be notified when their article has been cited in other publications. The email alert will be sent to the corresponding author directly from the Institute of Scientific Information, the organization responsible for the calculation of the impact factor. Springer has already signed up all the corresponding authors from October 2006 to the present. If you have been a corresponding author, you will receive an email informing you that Springer will sign you up for this benefit. You will then have one week to respond if you want to opt out of the service. Other Springer journals are participating in this benefit – to date, they have signed up over 1,000 corresponding authors.

The online visibility of our journal has significantly increased over the last year. *Surgical Endoscopy* receives on average 22,000 full-text hits per month!

Our journal’s impact factor has gone up from 1.746 (in 2005) to 1.969 in 2006 and is now ranked 40 out of 139 titles in surgery.

Springer has recently implemented a new production workflow which has significantly reduced the time from receipt of the manuscript at Springer to online publication. The average turnaround time from when an accepted manuscript was received at Springer to online publication is 6.3 weeks! In addition, articles published online are included in the indexing services (such as PubMed) within 48 hours of online publication.

The best and most visible publication improvement for our members is that all SAGES members will receive the listing of the Table of Contents of *Surgical Endoscopy* electronically each month. The Board of Governors agreed to have Springer pilot this project. You, of course, will have the opportunity to opt out of this benefit if you desire, but I hope all of our members will see this as an added benefit and as a way of highlighting the articles that are published monthly.

A link to access *Surgical Endoscopy* can be found on the Members Only portion of the SAGES website.

I hope the above exciting additions will encourage you not only to read *Surgical Endoscopy* each month, but to send your best work to our journal. Only we can make our publication better and I urge all of our members to join with me, Bruce MacFadyen, our editor and the editorial board in this venture. See you in Philadelphia!!

–Frederick L. (Rick) Greene, Chair, Publications Committee

# **11<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Endoscopic Surgery**

**Hosted by JSES**

**September 2 - 5, 2008 in Yokohama, Japan**

The 11<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Endoscopic Surgery will convene in Yokohama, Japan, from September 2 to 5, 2008, in conjunction with the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of Japan Society for Endoscopic Surgery (JSES) and is incorporated with Endoscopic and Laparoscopic Surgeons of Asia 2008 (ELSA). The deadline for abstract submission is March 17, 2008.

For more information, visit: <http://www.wces2008.com/index.html>

## **Fellowship Council Website Now Open for New Member Applications**

The Fellowship Council was created to foster the development of high quality fellowships in MIS, GI, Flexible Endoscopy, Bariatric and Hepatobiliary/Pancreatic surgery. Stringent guidelines were created for the optimal education experience and implemented an accreditation process to ensure that our programs live up to these high aspirations. In 2004, the FC Match was instituted to facilitate the application process and to level the playing field for programs and applicants.

The Fellowship Council continues to grow both in numbers and in influence. Currently representing 130 programs, the Council represents almost 90% of the postgraduate training

programs in Advanced GI surgery in North America. The Council's influence is reflected in its close ties with the leading surgical specialty societies including: SAGES, SSAT, AHBPA, and ASMBS.

The Fellowship Council is accepting new member applications now through **May 1, 2008**. To apply for membership, go to <https://fellowshipcouncil.org/programs/index2.php> and click on the Create New Program Director Account link.

For additional information, email [info@fellowshipcouncil.org](mailto:info@fellowshipcouncil.org) or call (310) 437-0555.

## **Save the Date!!**

### **SAGES Scientific Session & Postgraduate Course**

**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)**

### **SAGES & CAGS host the 12<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Endoscopic Surgery**

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

### **SAGES Scientific Session & Postgraduate Course**

**March 30 – April 2, 2011, San Antonio Convention Center, San Antonio, TX**

### **SAGES Scientific Session & Postgraduate Course**

**March 7-10, 2012, San Diego Convention Center, San Diego, CA**

# 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). For the most updated information, please visit [www.sages.org/education/endorsed.html](http://www.sages.org/education/endorsed.html)

**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: Judy Quesenberry  
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: New York-Presbyterian Hospital/The University of Columbia and Cornell**

Directors: Marc Bessler, MD  
Contact: Nicole Kail or Josephine Caputo  
Phone: 212-305-1496 Fax: 212-746-8539  
Email: mb28@columbia.edu or jc2768@columbia.edu

Address: New York-Presbyterian Hospital  
161 Washington Avenue, Room 6-620  
New York, NY 10032

Detail: Contact facility for upcoming courses.

**Institution: Brigham & Women's Hospital; Massachusetts General Hospital**

Directors: Christopher C. Thompson, MD; David W. Rattner, MD  
Contact: Michele Ryan  
Phone: 617-525-8266 Fax: 617-264-5183  
email: MRyan15@partners.org

Address: Brigham & Women's Hospital  
75 Francis Street, Thorn 1017, Boston, MA 02115

Detail: Contact facility for upcoming courses.

**Institution: IRCAD-EITS**

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

Address: IRCAD-EITS  
Hopitaux Universitaires, 1 place de l'Hopital, BP 426  
Strasbourg, France F-67091

Detail: IRCAD Program 2007, University Post-Graduate Courses in Laparoscopic Surgery

**INTENSIVE COURSES 2008**

**GENERAL SURGERY**

Intensive Courses in Laparoscopic Surgery:  
(English-speaking courses) March 10-14, 2008  
May 19-23, 2008, September 22-26, 2008,  
December 8-12, 2008

**UROLOGICAL SURGERY**

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

June 9-13, 2008, December 1-5, 2008  
Cours Intensifs en Chirurgie Laparoscopique  
Urologique: (French-speaking courses)  
October 6-10, 2008

**ADVANCED COURSES 2008**

**GENERAL SURGERY**

Digestive Surgery: (English-speaking courses)  
April 3-5, 2008, November 27-29, 2008  
Colorectal Surgery: (English-speaking courses)  
June 27 & 28, 2008, November 7 & 8, 2008  
N.O.T.E.S. (Natural Orifice Transluminal Endoscopic Surgery)  
March 28 & 29, 2008, June 6 & 7, 2008,  
October 3 & 4, 2008

**UROLOGICAL SURGERY**

Laparoscopic Treatment of Kidney Tumors  
April 24-26, 2008  
International Advanced Symposium: "Laparoscopic Treatment of Urological Pelvic Cancers: Prostate and Bladder" September 18-20, 2008

**PEDIATRIC SURGERY**

Pediatric Endosurgery: October 16-18, 2008

**INTERVENTIONAL GI ENDOSURGERY TECHNIQUES**

Interventional GI Endoscopy Techniques, July 3-5, 2008

**GYNAECOLOGY SURGERY**

Tips and Tricks, Anatomy Suture and more...  
March 25-27, 2008  
Advanced Techniques in Operative Gynecological Endoscopy: May 5-7, 2008  
Gynecological Cancer and Laparoscopic Approach: State of the Art June 23-25, 2008  
Current Techniques in the Treatment of Severe Endometriosis, September 8-10, 2008  
Techniques avancées en Endoscopie Gynécologique Opératoire: (French-speaking course)  
December 15-17, 2008

**Institution: CUHK Jockey Club Minimally Invasive Surgical Skills Centre**

Director: Professor Enders KW NG  
Contact: Joanne Hui  
Executive Officer, Department of Surgery  
Phone: +011 (852) 2632-2644  
Fax: +011 (852) 2632-4708  
joannehui@surgery.cuhk.edu.hk

Address: CUHK Jockey Club Minimally Invasive Surgical Skills Centre

3/F, La Ka Shing Specialist Clinic (North Wing)  
Prince of Wales Hospital, Hong Kong

Detail: Contact facility for upcoming courses.

**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

Details Ramanathapuram, Coimbatore - 641 045, India  
Contact University for upcoming courses.

**Institution: Creighton University**

Director: Sumeet K. Mittal, MD  
Contact: Sally O'Neil, MD  
Phone: 402-280-1830 Fax: 402-280-5180  
Address: Creighton University  
601 N. 30th Street, Suite 2130, Omaha, NE 68131  
Detail: Contact University for upcoming courses.

**Institution: Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center**

Director: Daniel B. Jones, M.D. and David Feinstein, M.D.  
Contact: Carol Hughes  
Phone: 617-667-5494 Fax: 617-667-9122  
cahughes@bidmc.harvard.edu  
Address: Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center  
330 Brookline Avenue, ES206, Boston, MA 02215  
Detail: Establishing a Simulation and Skills Training Center  
March 14-16, 2008

**Institution: Cine-Med, Inc.**

Director: Michel Gagner, MD, FACS  
Contact: Kevin McGovern  
Phone: 203-263-0006 Fax: 203-263-4839  
kmcgovern@cine-med.net  
Address: Cine-Med, Inc.  
127 Main Street North, Woodbury, CT 06798  
Detail: Contact University for upcoming courses.

**Institution: University Hospitals Case Medical Center**

Director: Jeffrey Ponsky, MD  
Contact: Cynthia Shega  
Phone: 216-844-3209 Fax: 216-844-8201  
Address: University Hospitals Case Medical Center  
11100 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44106  
Detail: Contact University for upcoming courses.

**Institution: Legacy Emanuel Hospital and Health Center**

Director: Lee L. Swanstrom, MD  
Contact: Yash Khajanchee, MD and Bev Oylear  
Phone: 503-413-4343 Fax: 503-413-5080  
Vhankins@lhs.org  
Address: Legacy Health System MIS Research Program  
1225 NE Second Avenue, Portland, OR 97232  
Detail: Contact institution for upcoming courses.

**Institution: National University Hospital- Minimally Invasive Surgical Centre**

Director: Davide Lomanto, MD, PhD  
Contact: Serene Tan KH  
Phone: +65 6772 5264 Fax: +65 67754007  
Email: misc@nuh.com.sg  
Address: National University Hospital- Minimally Invasive  
Surgical Centre  
5 Lower Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 11907  
Detail: Contact institution for upcoming courses.

**Institution: Mount Sinai School of Medicine**

Directors: Barry Salky, MD; Anthony Vine, MD; Daniel Herron,  
MD; Subhash Kini, MD  
Contact: Carmine Novembre, MPH  
Address: 5 East 98th Street, 15th Floor  
New York, NY 10029

Phone: 212-241-5871 Fax: 212-410-0111  
Email: carmine.novembre@mssm.edu

Detail: Laparoscopic Colon Surgery  
February 1 & 2, 2008, May 9 & 10, 2008  
Critical Update in Bariatric Surgery  
March 14, 2008

**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: Advanced Videoscopic Surgery Training Course  
March 13-15, 2008, May 29-31, 2008

**President's Message – (continued from p. 1)**

creativity and ingenuity from various areas of South America where those of us in the US have much to learn.

As we consider the non medical aspects of our position in the global community, one needs little time with a newspaper or television news program to encounter natural disasters, wars, and stories of people attempting to survive in tragic conditions. We are often inundated with so much of this type of news that we can face it with a cold or hard heart. It is virtually impossible to remain disinterested when we can put the face of a friend in the midst of such situations. When these events strike those we know or love, we passionately desire to aid those in need through many mechanisms. Those of us in the U.S are not immune from such disasters, and I received an outpouring of concern and prayers from friends throughout the world when the events of September 11, 2001 occurred. I have never received as much support from so many countries as I did through calls, e-mail messages, and letters expressing a deep concern and shared pain as we faced a dark hour in this country.

Our goals through the SAGES Global Initiative are centered around surgery and education. I am certain many friendships and relationships will develop through these efforts and will be sustained long after the information we share is viewed as historical and our current technologies are obsolete.

– Steve Eubanks, MD

# NOTES™/NOSCAR™ New Grants Awarded

ASGE and SAGES would like to thank Covidien for their generous support towards NOTES™ Research.

The Natural Orifice Surgery Consortium for Assessment and Research™ (NOSCAR) Research Subcommittee announced an additional 14 grant recipients. The funds, granted by Covidien, 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 45 requests were submitted for the nearly \$500,000 in research funds. The recipients were notified in late December 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.

## Grant Recipients:

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Edward D. Auyang, MD</b>
<b>Institution:</b>	Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Department of Surgery
<b>Project Title:</b>	<i>Improving Patient Safety and Multidisciplinary Team Efficiency in NOTES™</i>
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Stacy A. Brethauer, MD</b>
<b>Institution:</b>	Cleveland Clinic Foundation
<b>Project Title:</b>	<i>Transgastric and Transcolonic Peritonoscopy and Drainage of Abdominal Abscess in a Canine Model</i>
<b>Name:</b>	<b>David Desilets, MD</b>
<b>Institution:</b>	Baystate Medical Center, Tuft University
<b>Project Title:</b>	<i>Gastric Transmural Pressure Measurements in vivo: Implications for Natural Orifice Transluminal Endoscopic Surgery™ (NOTES™)</i>
<b>Name:</b>	<b>David Desilets, MD</b>
<b>Institution:</b>	Baystate Medical Center, Tuft University
<b>Project Title:</b>	<i>Endoluminal Stapled Gastrojejunostomy Using a Flexible Stapling Device</i>
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Annette Fritscher-Ravens, MD</b>
<b>Institution:</b>	Institute for Animal Breeding
<b>Project Title:</b>	<i>Transesophageal NOTES™ for Mediastinal Lymph Node Removal and Full Thickness Esophageal Wall Resection: A Comparative Study of Feasibility and Safety</i>
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Jeffrey Hazey, MD</b>
<b>Institution:</b>	Ohio State University Medical Center
<b>Project Title:</b>	<i>Randomized Human Clinical Trial of Diagnostic Laparoscopy Compared to Diagnostic Transgastric Endoscopic Peritoneoscopy for Staging of Pancreatic and Esophageal Cancer</i>
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Kai Matthes, MD</b>
<b>Institution:</b>	Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School
<b>Project Title:</b>	<i>Development of a Pancreatic Tumor Animal Model and Evaluation of the Long-term Safety of NOTES™ Tumor Enucleation as a Multidisciplinary Approach</i>
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Robert O'Rourke, MD</b>
<b>Institution:</b>	Oregon Health and Sciences University
<b>Project Title:</b>	<i>Physiologic Effects of Prolonged Combined Insufflation of the Peritoneal Cavity and Intestine: Validating the Use of Carbon Dioxide as the Insufflating Agent of Choice in NOTES™ and Endoluminal Therapies</i>
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Eric M. Pauli, MD</b>
<b>Institution:</b>	Penn State, Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
<b>Project Title:</b>	<i>Durability of the Self-Approximating Transluminal Access Technique (STAT) for Transgastric Organ Resection</i>
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Cyrus Piraka, MD</b>
<b>Institution:</b>	University of Michigan
<b>Project Title:</b>	<i>Full Thickness Luminal Resection Using the Assistance of a Novel Device: A Feasibility Study</i>
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Benjamin Pulouse, MD</b>
<b>Institution:</b>	University Hospitals Case Medical Center
<b>Project Title:</b>	<i>Cost Effectiveness Analysis of Transgastric Cholecystectomy, Transvaginal Cholecystectomy, and Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy: Projected Long Term Outcomes and Complications Evaluation</i>
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Patrica Sylla, MD</b>
<b>Institution:</b>	Massachusetts General Hospital
<b>Project Title:</b>	<i>Expanding the Application of TEM for NOTES™ Colorectal Resection in a Porcine Model</i>
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Philip Wai Yan Chiu, MD</b>
<b>Institution:</b>	Prince of Wales Hospital, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
<b>Project Title:</b>	<i>The Technical Feasibility, Safety and Perioperative Outcomes of Transgastric Endoluminal Gastrojejunostomy</i>
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Timothy Woodward, MD</b>
<b>Institution:</b>	Mayo Clinic
<b>Project Title:</b>	<i>Comparison Between Endoscopic Transesophageal and Thoracoscopic Maintenance of Spatial Orientation and Navigation within the Mediastinum and Thorax</i>

# SAGES Education and Research Foundation Awards Luncheon

After a wonderfully successful first year, the SAGES awards and research grants will again be presented at a luncheon during the SAGES Annual Meeting and benefit the SAGES Education and Research Foundation. The 2008 Awards Luncheon will recognize distinguished leaders for their work in minimally invasive surgery and raise funds that will keep patient safety and minimal access surgery in the forefront.

With an expected attendance of more than 200 guests, we will be presenting the following awards:

- **The SAGES Pioneer in Endoscopy Award – Gerald Marks, MD**
- **The Distinguished Service Award – Barry Salky, MD**
- **The Young Researcher Award – John Morton, MD**
- **The Karl Storz / IRCAD Fellowship Award – Patricia Sylla, MD**
- **The SAGES Education and Research Foundation Grant Awards**
- **Industry Research Awards**

To attend the event and show your support of the honorees and the SAGES Foundation, tickets may be purchased using the meeting registration form in the SAGES Annual Meeting Advance Program or online through online registration. Each ticket is \$125 each and tables of ten are available for \$1,100. Because this event benefits the SAGES Foundation, a portion of your purchases is tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. To become

an event sponsor or purchase tables, contact the Foundation office at (310) 437-0544 x114 or [foundation@sages.org](mailto:foundation@sages.org).

## *New Corporate Supporters*

The SAGES Education and Research Foundation is excited to welcome the latest corporate sponsors to its growing circle of industry friends! A very big thank you to **Allergan** (\$600,000), **NDO Surgical** (\$25,000), **Richard Wolf Medical Instruments** (\$60,000), **Simbionix** (\$16,000), and **Tissue Science Laboratories** (\$50,000) for understanding the vital role the Foundation plays in minimally invasive surgery and supporting our mission!

## *SAGES Foundation Legacy Donors*

Supporters of the SAGES Education and Research Foundation often become even more devoted to its mission with each passing year. They understand the investment they are making in the future of minimal access surgery and some will go the extra mile to dedicate themselves to this cause. Legacy Benefactors are those who have pledged to give to the Foundation annually during their lifetime. **We thank the following new donors for making a very special lifetime commitment as Legacy Benefactors.**

- Ormond Panton, MD
- Tokala Surender Reddy, MD
- Daniel J. Scott, MD

## **Covidien is proud to announce its continued commitment to SAGES.**

Covidien will generously sponsor surgical chief residents and fellows in their efforts to attain FLS Certification. Program Directors, Chief Residents and Fellows – stay tuned!



**COVIDIEN**

# Report from the 2007 Karl Storz®/ IRCAD Fellowship Award Recipient

I would like to thank Karl Storz®, the SAGES Education & Research Foundation and the Institut de Recherche contre les Cancers de L'Appareil Digestif (IRCAD)/ European Institute of TeleSurgery (EITS) for the opportunity to visit Strasbourg, France as the traveling fellow and participate in the Intensive Course in Laparoscopic Surgery, November 19-23, 2007. The course was directed by Professor Jacques Marescaux and lead by IRCAD's esteemed faculty including Professors Didier Mutter, Bernard Dallemagne, Joel Leroy, Michel Vix and Sylvana Perretta. The course covered all major aspects of minimally invasive surgery starting with the intracorporeal physics of the minimally invasive environment and concluding with exciting ideas for the future of minimally invasive therapeutics.

This was my first visit to France and a remarkably memorable one. My wife was able to join me for the trip which made it all the more special. We arrived in Paris a week before the course to acclimate and enjoy the French culture. Paris proved to be more than I had expected with its plethora of historic monuments and museums mixed in with chic modern culture and very accommodating locals. Two days into our visit the French transit workers went on strike slowing transportation throughout France to a crawl. We continued to enjoy the likes of the Musée du Louvre, Champs-Élysées and the Notre Dame on foot and strategized on how to get from Paris to Strasbourg. Fortunately we were able to navigate the Paris subway system and French train system along with some very helpful locals and traveled without incident to Strasbourg on one of the only trains venturing out of Paris on November 15th.

As much as we enjoyed Paris, Strasbourg was a pleasant surprise we had not fully expected. Although only two hours from Paris by train, the contrasting Franco-Germanic culture of the Alsace region encompassing Strasbourg gave a vibrantly different feel to this portion of our trip. The half timbered "gingerbread style" homes of historic downtown Strasbourg radiated the feel of a classic Christmas village strikingly complimented by the ultramodern transit system, mirrored glass European Parliament buildings and the state of the art IRCAD.

The course began on Monday November 19th with an introduction of the participants in an intimate lecture hall equipped with microphones at every seat and stellar audiovisual personnel who were able to seamlessly meld presentation slides to live operative theatre video to website broadcasts providing an optimally entertaining educational experience. Nineteen countries were represented amongst the 40 participants. I was the sole representative of the United States. Each day we covered subject matter along the lines of surgery of the GI tract, solid organs, hepatobiliary, and endocrine systems. Special emphasis was placed on managing complications of major biliary and vascular injury

along with particularly challenging technical aspects of pediatric, colorectal, thoracic and bariatric situations. Following each morning of interactive lecture was an animal lab for sharing our knowledge and techniques with others from around the world.

I had been exposed to most of the subject material in the course as a minimally invasive surgery fellow in the United States, however my education from this experience was just starting. The lecture hall discussion in Strasbourg emphasized evidenced based literature from around the world which was eye opening to someone whose surgical education has largely centered around texts and journals based in the United States. Even more enlightening were the evening discussions over dinner regarding surgical practices from small Columbian townships to large European capitals as well as the political climate in each of our respective 19 countries. My colleagues in Pakistan are even closer to me now with the instability in that country following the recent assassination of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

I was particularly honored during the course when Professor Marescaux brought the director of Karl Storz®, Ms. Storz to my operating table in the lab to observe the Karl Storz®/ IRCAD fellow at work. Later that evening Professor Marescaux hosted me to dinner with his wife and the senior faculty of the course. Along with lively conversation about growing up and practicing on the two sides of the Atlantic we were able to discuss several forthcoming emerging technologies that we are coordinately investigating between the University of Strasbourg and several US academic centers. The chance to introduce myself and my interests was very exciting. However having this opportunity serve as a springboard for ongoing transatlantic evaluation of emerging technologies is one with which I was unexpectedly blessed. The entire experience at IRCAD far exceeded my expectations and was one through which I eagerly anticipate guiding future Karl Storz®/ IRCAD fellows.

Once again, I would like to thank Karl Storz®, SAGES, and IRCAD for this wonderful educational and cultural experience. I would also like to thank Dr. Scott Melvin for an incredible fellowship and for nominating me for this award and Drs. Blair Jobe and John Hunter for their ongoing support of my educational endeavors.

Best Regards,



Kevin M. Reavis, MD  
Assistant Clinical Professor  
Department of Surgery, Division of  
Gastrointestinal Surgery  
University of California, Irvine Medical Center





# 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:

- Hands-On Laparoscopic Colon Course & Management of Colon Cancer
- GERD Controversies and Laparoscopic Complications
- Top to Bottom GERD

\* 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



### 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



## 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 2008



*Surgical Spring Week*  
**April 9 - 12, 2008**  
*Postgraduate Course and Scientific Session*

## **2008 Program Outline**

### **Wednesday, April 9**

Half Day Postgraduate Course: Pearls & Pitfalls of Solid Organ MIS  
Half Day Session: Equipping the Surgeon/Training the Jedi  
Half Day Postgraduate Course: Challenging Hernias  
Half Day Postgraduate Course: MIS and Cancer  
Half Day Hands-On Course: Surgeon in the Digital Age  
Half Day Hands-On Course: Solid Organ  
Half-Day Panel: Pediatric

### **Thursday, April 10**

Full Day Hands-On Course: FLS  
Half Day Session: Best of NOTES™  
Half Day Postgraduate Course: MIS Rectal Disease  
Half Day Session: Device Development - From Concept to Cash  
Half Day Postgraduate Course: Allied Health: The Evolution of Minimally Invasive Therapies: Impact on Today's OR  
Foundation Awards Luncheon  
Half Day Session: Motility Misery: A Growing Problem - Diagnosis and Management from Oropharynx to Anus  
Half Day Postgraduate Course: Bariatric - Management of Complex Patients  
Half Day Hands-On Course: Endolumenal  
Half Day Hands-On Course: Colorectal  
Panel: OR/Hospital of the Future  
Panel: Rural Surgeon

**Exhibits/Posters/Learning Center Opening**  
**Welcome Reception 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

Industry Education Evening Symposia

**Program Chair: Adrian Park, MD**

### **Friday, April 11: Scientific Sessions**

SAGES/AHS Panel: Hernia Consensus Panel on Bio Materials  
SAGES/ASMBBS Panel: Diabetes Mellitus: A Surgical Disease?  
SAGES/ASCRS Panel: Colon  
Presidential Address: Steve Eubanks, MD  
Marks Lecture: James Butch Rosser, MD  
Educators Lunch: Maintenance of Certification/Practice Based Learning

**Exhibits - Posters - Learning Center**  
**OPEN 9:00 am - 4:00 pm**

Panel: The Changing Face of Robots and MIS  
Presidential Debates  
Panel: Fellowship and MIS Program Coordinators Forum  
SAGES/ASGE Panel: Complications & Management of Flexible Endoscopy  
Panel: Planning/Building/Operating a Simulation Center  
SAGES/JSES Panel: The Difference of Endoscopic Surgery Between US & Japan  
Residents & Fellows Scientific Session  
Meet the Leadership Reception  
Main Event & Sing-Off

### **Saturday, April 12: Scientific Sessions**

Panel: Leading in America Relevant to the World  
Pharmaceutical Panels: Fast Track MIS; The Unique Pharmacological & Nutritional Needs of the Bariatric Surgical Patient  
Storz Lecture: Thomas Krummell, MD  
Health Policy Lecture: Sir Ara Darzi, MD  
Surgeons in Service Lunch  
**Exhibits - Posters - Learning Center**  
**OPEN 9:00 am - 2:00 pm**  
Lunch in the Exhibit Hall (free to all attendees)  
Emerging Technologies Session  
Panel: GERD/LERD - ARS is not Dead!  
Panel: Business/Legislative  
Panel: "Now What Do I Do?" Intraoperative and Reoperative MIS Dilemmas  
Debate: The Great Hernia Debate



- State-of-the-Art Postgraduate & Hands-On Courses
- Scientific Sessions
- Learning Center
- World class faculty, as usual!
- Exhibits debut the newest in minimal access and endolumenal technology and equipment
- Gala Evening and the International SAGES Sing-Off at the Constitution Center

**Pennsylvania Convention Center,  
Philadelphia, PA**

**Early Registration & Housing  
Deadline: March 14, 2008**

**[www.sages.org/registration/](http://www.sages.org/registration/)**

**Advance Program now available!**

**Visit [www.sages.org/08program/](http://www.sages.org/08program/)  
for detailed outline and to register.**

## **SAGES**

**Society of American Gastrointestinal  
and Endoscopic Surgeons**

11300 W. Olympic Blvd., Suite 600

Los Angeles, CA 90064

Phone: 310-437-0544

Fax: 310-437-0585

[www.sages.org](http://www.sages.org)

## **Join us in Philadelphia for the SAGES 2008 Meeting**



# SAGES 2008 Exhibitors

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ITOCHU HEALTHCARE  
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Registration &  
Program Information  
will be available  
Fall, 2008

# Support The Future of Surgical Care

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

In the past few years, the Foundation has helped institute breakthrough programs such as the Fundamentals of

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

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Karl Storz advertisement  
Page 23 (inside back cover)

# SAGES and Japanese Society for Endoscopic Surgery (JSES) Hold First Joint Symposium



**T**he first joint symposium held between SAGES and the Japanese Society for Endoscopic Surgery (JSES) was held on November 19, 2007 in Sendai Japan. This first of its kind symposium

was attended by more than 200 Japanese surgeons. The topic of the symposium was to compare and contrast the differences in management between East and West on three cases. Three case presentations concerned gastric cancer, colonic familial adenomatous polyposis, and hepatocellular carcinoma. The session, conducted in English, was moderated by Scott Melvin, Manubu Yamamoto, and Yasutsugu Bandai. Seigo Kitano presented a case of gastric cancer treated with minimally invasive gastrectomy to Steve Schwartzberg. Go Wakabayashi presented hepatocellular carcinoma to a Horacio Asbun, and the case of familial adenomatous polyposis was presented by Fumio Konishi to Sergio Larach. Each of the SAGES panelists analyzed the treatment, management and pathology of the cases presented by the Japanese panelist and responded in the context of what is typically seen and done in North America. This program will be reciprocated at the 2008 SAGES Annual Meeting in Philadelphia in April with a similar format where cases will be selected by American panelists and commented on by JSES surgeons. Said Prof. Masaki Kitajima the Senior Director of JSES and Chairman of Mita Hospital in Tokyo, "this program is long overdue and hopefully will be the first of many."



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