

Scope



Spring, 2012
Volume 12, Issue 1

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Leadership is Synonymous with Service and Collaboration

To provide leadership in surgery, particularly gastrointestinal and endoscopic surgery, to optimize patient care through education, research and innovation

– SAGES Mission Statement

This is my final president's message. To say that it has been an extraordinary honor and privilege to serve the Society is an understatement. It has been humbling to work amidst the amazing talent that makes up SAGES. I am sure my successors—Scott Melvin, then Gerry Fried—will also experience the unique vigor swirling within the SAGES community which energizes the various committees to do the spectacular work that makes our mission statement more than words on a webpage. SAGES members who read this should realize that your actions have spoken loudly throughout the surgical world. I have learned this by traveling and conversing with surgeons in 5 countries, our industry partners and to the leaders of the *AAGL, ABS, ACS, AHS, AHPBA, ALACE, AORN, APSF, ASCRS, ASGE, ASMBS, AUA, CAGS, CSS, EAES, FDA, IPEG, ISOBS, Joint Commission, JSES, SLS and SSAT about our programs such as FLS, FES, FUSE, SAGES University, SAGES TV, SAGES iMAGES, S-Wiki, NOSCAR, SAGES guidelines, our global/humanitarian efforts, and of course, our annual program. Each of these projects has moved forward through the leadership provided by the chairs and co-chairs of the committees, liaison groups, task forces, projects, the amazing SAGES staffers (led by the incomparable Sallie Matthews), and the SAGES members of these teams who have dedicated themselves to achieving our shared goals. These accomplishments are the result of incalculable hours of volunteer service by surgeons and



SAGES Immediate Past President
Steven D. Schwaitzberg, MD
FACS

allied health members. The sum of these efforts is inspiring.

I would personally like to thank the SAGES Board of Governors for their advice, guidance and the significant additional commitment that is required of them. The SAGES Executive Committee: Mike Brunt, Adrian Park, Danny Scott, Gerry Fried, Scott Melvin, and Jo Buyske deserve special mention. For them, SAGES is nearly an every day event. In addition to the monthly conference calls and extended meetings required to operate the Society, I have sent them innumerable emails (and attachments) often requiring an immediate response. (My apologies!) If SAGES is a nimble organization capable of making thoughtful decisions in an appropriate time frame, the SAGES Executive Committee is the reason. You have made my job a joy.

If you are already a member or just thinking about whether or not to join in on the fun (and work), consider this. The vertical distance between even the newest member and the SAGES President is likely the shortest amongst any major surgical society. Maybe, that is in part, our "special sauce". I can already see the contributions from some of those who wrote me last spring asking to participate, who then attended their first committee meeting just a few months ago. New energy not only is added constantly to the mix, but welcomed here. There really is no reason to be on the outside looking in.

SAGES is the largest of the general surgery specialty societies, not because we are all things to all surgeons. It is unlikely we will cover trauma or breast care anytime in the near future. However, we are united in the goal to minimize pain and suffering in the management of GI, endocrine, and hernia problems that beset our patients. We have come a long way from just being those crazy surgical endoscopists and video *(continued on page 13)*



SAGES 2012 - 2013 Slate of Officers

Officers and Members of the Executive Committee:



President
W. Scott Melvin, MD



President-Elect
Gerald M. Fried, MD



**1st Vice President
(2 Year Term)**
Brian Dunkin, MD



**2nd Vice President
(2 year term)**
Daniel J. Scott, MD
(1 more year in this position)



Secretary (3 year term)
Tonia Young-Fadok, MD



Treasurer (3 year term)
L. Michael Brunt, MD
(1 more year in this position)

Board Members— Three-Year Terms:

Re-Appointments: (3 year terms)

Daniel Jones, MD
John Mellinger, MD
Adrian Park, MD
Ted Trus, MD

New Members:

Leena Khaitan, MD (1 year term, fulfilling the unexpired term of Dr. Dunkin)
Natan Zundel, MD

Rotating Off:

Edward Felix, MD
Raymond Onders, MD
Alfons Pomp, MD
Paresh Shah, MD

See you next year
for SAGES 2013 Meeting

SAGES 2013

SCIENTIFIC SESSION & POSTGRADUATE COURSES

Surgical Spring Week

April 17 - 20, 2013

Baltimore, MD

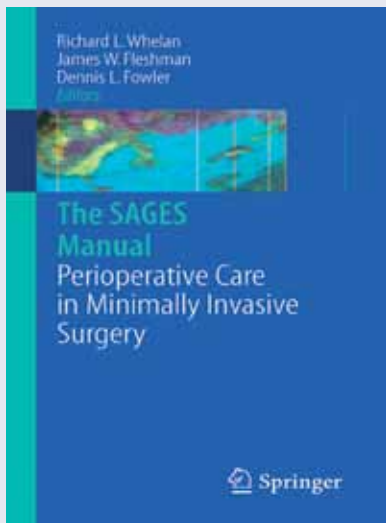
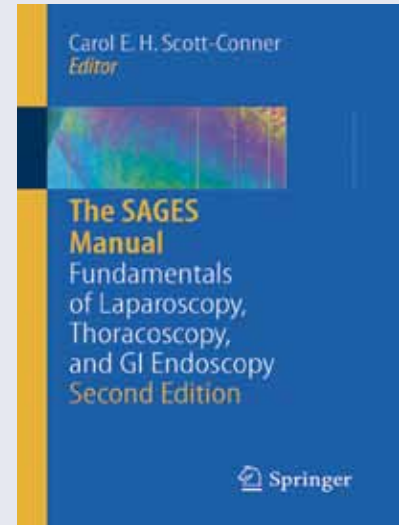
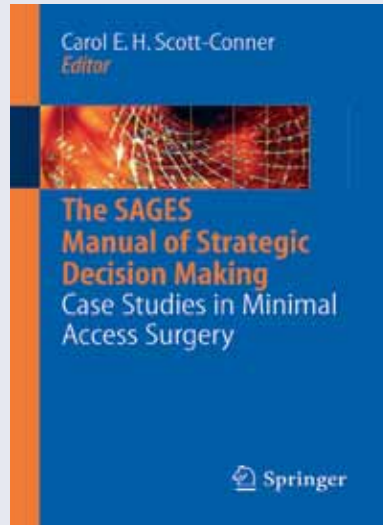
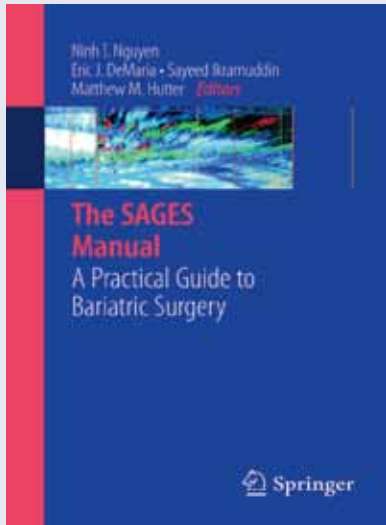
www.sages.org



Program Chairs:
Frederick Brody, MD
Santiago Horgan, MD

SAGES Manuals

The SAGES Manuals are portable, concise, beautifully illustrated manuals from the world's pioneering Society of minimally invasive surgery. These books provide an authoritative synopsis of the major laparoscopic and endoscopic procedures in easy-to-use, outline form.



Publishing in 2012!

- ▶ The SAGES Manual: Fundamentals of Laparoscopy, Thoracoscopy and GI Endoscopy (3rd Edition, Volume 1 and 2)
- ▶ The SAGES Manual of Hernia Repair
- ▶ The SAGES Manual – Fundamentals of Surgical Energy (FUSE)

Continuing Education

American Board of Surgery (ABS) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Part 2 Self-Assessment Credit Available for the 2012 Annual Meeting

The SAGES Continuing Education Committee's Assessment Task Force continues to review SAGES' evaluation methods for the Annual Meeting for areas of further improvement to help ensure that SAGES is meeting its overall educational objectives. Completing the survey will be mandatory in order to claim CME credit for the 2012 meeting. Participants who complete the online survey and CME credit form who also participate in an online follow-up assessment in July are eligible to convert all of the CME credits claimed for participation at the Annual Meeting to Self-Assessment MOC Part 2 credits.

Your feedback is vital to meeting the needs of surgeons and addressing changes in practice with the ultimate goal of improved patient safety and care. Thank you in advance for completing your Annual Meeting surveys.

SAGES University-Online Learning

FREE TO SAGES MEMBERS: SAGES University launched in July 2011 and provides members with access to a free premier online resource designed to fill the educational needs of general surgeons. Courses are now available in the following categories: Bariatric, Colorectal, Flexible Endoscopy, Hernia, NOTES, Solid Organ, Abdomen, HPB and Foregut. Additional categories will be added over time.

All SAGES University courses offer CME credit, which is also applicable to the American Board of Surgery Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Part II Self Assessment requirement.

SAGES U currently features:

- **Journal Club** featuring picks from *Surgical Endoscopy* articles – get 1 hour of CME Self Assessment MOC Part 2 credit per article.
- **OSAP** (Online Self Assessment Program) featuring over 30 SAGES videos – get 0.25 hours of CME Self Assessment MOC Part 2 credit per video
- **My CME/My MOC WEBPAGE** featuring your own personalized webpage to track all of your SAGES CME Self Assessment MOC Part 2 credits with downloads directly to ABS.
- **Additional modules will follow!**

Visit SAGES University today: <http://university.sages.org/>.

FUSE

The recently minted Fundamental Use of Safe Energy (FUSE) group, led by Drs. Daniel Jones, Liane Feldman and Pascal Fuchshuber, has accomplished an impressive amount of program development work in their first year. By the end of 2011, this task force had submitted the final draft of The SAGES Manual on the Fundamental Use of Surgical Energy (FUSE), available for purchase in Spring 2012. The task force is also hard at work finalizing an online educational module and cognitive exam in preparation of conducting a beta review in conjunction with the FUSE PG Course at the SAGES 2012 meeting in San Diego.

For more information on the FUSE program, please call Jessica Mischna at 310-437-0544, ext. 139.

FES

The Fundamentals of Endoscopic Surgery (FES) Task Force, headed by Drs. Jeffrey Marks, John Mellinger and Ted Trus is in the final stages of the development and validation of the FES educational program, which will include an online educational module, plus an assessment consisting of a cognitive component as well as a skills component.

The cognitive multiple-choice component has now been validated, and the hands-on skills component is also now complete. The data from the hands-on portion is under analysis by Committee member Dr. Melina Vassiliou, along with Pepa Kaneva, of McGill University and Dr. Kaaren Hoffman, an independent educational consultant that has previously worked with FLS.

Please visit our FES website at www.fesprogram.org or call 310-437-0544, ext. 139 for more information on the Fundamentals of Endoscopic Surgery.

Flexibe Endoscopy

SAGES Flexible Endoscopy MIS Fellows Course

Save-the-date!

September 21-22, 2012

The SAGES Flexible Endoscopy Committee will be hosting its annual MIS Fellows Course, September 21-22, 2012 in Houston, Texas. Please note that this year the course will be held on a Friday/Saturday at the Methodist Hospital. With limited spots, this course fills up quickly so be sure to register!

The online application and more details will be available shortly at www.sages.org/meeting/endoscopy_workshops/index/php.

FLS

The Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery (FLS) Committee, led by Drs. Gerald Fried, Melina Vassiliou and E. Matt Ritter, announces that FLS is now approved for up to 12 category one CME or 12 category two self-assessment CME, awarded upon successful completion of the FLS exam – click on the CME tab when logged into the didactic materials at <http://www.fls-online.org> for details.

COMMITTEE UPDATES (continued)

ACS and SAGES have issued a joint statement recommending all surgeons who practice laparoscopic surgery be certified through FLS, and announced March 9 by SAGES outgoing President Steve Schwaitzberg during the SAGES annual meeting in San Diego. The May issue of the Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons will publish the statement. We are also pleased to share that in February 2012, **Canadian Association of General Surgeons (CAGS) has officially endorsed the FLS program.** Both statements may be viewed at www.flsprogram.org/updates/news.

Effective March 12, 2012, SAGES has granted exclusive rights to sales of the FLS Trainer Boxes and accessories to Venture Technologies, Inc. The change provides customers with more rapid fulfillment of orders, enhanced customer service, and the ability to purchase online. The first new product available is the long-awaited Multi-use Ligating Loop, for practicing the FLS loop skill. To order, visit www.vtmedical.com.

Need more information about FLS? Call 310-437-0544, ext. 137 and visit our web page at www.flsprogram.org.

Hernia

We are very excited to announce that the Hernia Task Force has now been formed. The group is chaired by Dr. Adrian Park, and includes some of the leading surgeons in hernia repair. Charged with the task of creating an educational and assessment program for Inguinal and Ventral Hernia Repair, they held their first meeting in October at the 2011 ACS Clinical Congress, followed by a productive retreat in January 2012.

Research & Career Development

The Research & Career Development Committee has awarded the 2012 SAGES Grants and Career Development Award. The following are the recipients:

2012 SAGES Research Grant Winners & Career Development Award Winner

- *Karl Storz Endoscopy*
PI: Jeffrey Marks, MD
Institution: Case Western Reserve Medical Center
Title: *Anti-Scarring Therapy to Prevent Stricture Following Endoscopic Esophageal Mucosectomy*
- *SAGES Foundation*
PI: Sheetal Nijhawan, MD
Institution: University of South Alabama
Title: *Effects of Bariatric Surgery on Mitochondrial Function and Insulin Resistance*
- *SAGES*
PI: Mark Wendling, MD
Institution: The Ohio State University
Title: *Near Infrared Fluorescent Cholangiography (NIRF-C) for Biliary Imaging During Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy*

- *SAGES Foundation*
PI: Melina Vassiliou, MD
Institution: McGill University
Title: *The Effects of Acute Exercise on the Acquisition of Laparoscopic Skills*
- *SAGES Foundation & SAGES*
PI: William Hope, MD
Institution: New Hanover Regional Medical Center
Title: *Training Surgical Residents in Endoscopy: The Impact of a Formal Endoscopy Curriculum on Resident Performance and Outcomes*

2012 Career Development Award Winner:

- PI: Silvana Perretta, MD**
Institution: NHC Strasbourg, University Hospital
Title: *Novel Targeted Therapies for Esophageal Motility Diseases*

Resident Education Committee Resident Courses

The Resident Education Committee has tentatively scheduled 13 resident courses for 2012. Invitations are sent to residency program directors approximately three months prior to the course. Only one resident per program may apply. The basic courses are open to 2nd and 3rd year residents, with SAGES candidate members receiving priority. The advanced courses are geared for 4th and 5th year members who must be SAGES candidate members. For course registration policies, please contact the SAGES Registrar Tina Sandoval at registration@sages.org or (310) 437-0544, ext. 128 or visit http://sages.org/meetings/resident_courses/. The following dates and courses are subject to change.

- **April 12-13, 2012: SAGES Basic Endoscopy and Laparoscopy Resident Course**
CSTAR, London, ON Canada
Sponsored by Ethicon Canada
2nd and 3rd year Canadian residents
Course Chair: Christopher Schlachta, MD
- **April 19-20, 2012: SAGES Advanced Laparoscopic Foregut-Bariatric Surgery Resident Course**
Cincinnati, OH
Sponsored by Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Inc.
2nd and 3rd year residents
- **May 3-4, 2012: SAGES Basic Endoscopy and Laparoscopy Resident Course**
Cincinnati, OH
Sponsored by Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Inc.
2nd and 3rd year residents
- **May 10-11, 2012: SAGES Advanced Laparoscopic Surgery Resident Course**
CSTAR, London, ON Canada
Sponsored by Ethicon Canada
4th and 5th year Canadian residents
Course Chair: Christopher Schlachta, MD
- **May 14-15, 2012: SAGES Advanced Hernia-Abdominal Wall Laparoscopic Surgery Resident Course**
Cincinnati, OH
Sponsored by Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Inc.
4th & 5th year residents – must be SAGES candidate members

COMMITTEE UPDATES (continued)

- August 9-10, 2012: SAGES Basic Endoscopy and Laparoscopy Resident Course**
Cincinnati, OH
Sponsored by Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Inc.
2nd and 3rd year residents
- September 20-21, 2012: SAGES Advanced Laparoscopic Solid Organ-Foregut Surgery Resident Course**
Cincinnati, OH
Sponsored by Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Inc.
4th & 5th year residents – must be SAGES candidate members
- October 11-12, 2012: SAGES Basic Endoscopy and Laparoscopy Resident Course**
CSTAR, London, ON Canada
Sponsored by Ethicon Canada
2nd and 3rd year Canadian residents
Course Chair: Christopher Schlachta, MD
- October 18-19, 2012: SAGES Advanced Gastrointestinal Surgery Resident Course**
Cincinnati, OH
Sponsored by Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Inc.
4th & 5th year residents – must be SAGES candidate members
- November 29-30, 2012: SAGES Advanced Colorectal Surgery Resident Course**
Cincinnati, OH
Sponsored by Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Inc.
2nd and 3rd year residents
- December 6-7, 2012: SAGES Advanced Laparoscopic Surgery Resident Course**
CSTAR, London, ON Canada
Sponsored by Ethicon Canada
4th and 5th year Canadian residents
Course Chair: Christopher Schlachta, MD

FREE Webinars for Residents

The Resident Education Committee has developed a series of free webinars specifically for residents which will feature presentations by 4-5 expert panelists. All of the webinars will be presented from 7:00-9:00PM Eastern with didactic sessions plus an opportunity to chat online with the experts. The Committee will present the following webinars in 2012:

- April 17, 2012: Advanced Surgical Technique and Suturing**
Invited Faculty Includes: Brandon Williams, MD (Chair); Ronald Clements, MD; Brent Matthews, MD; Mark Watson, MD.
To register for this free webinar, go to: <http://events.SignUp4.com/AprilWebinar>

To view past webinars on SAGES TV including topics on Surgery in the Obese Patient, Colorectal and Hernia Surgery, Solid Organ, and Endoscopy, visit the Resident Webinars channel on SAGES TV at: <http://www.sages.org/video/search.php?action=search&chnnl=42>

For the next series of webinars 2012-2013, visit: http://www.sages.org/meetings/resident_courses/free_courses/

Membership

STAY IN TOUCH! Are you moving this year? Remember to notify the Membership Dept. of any changes to your member profile! Log into the Member area to update your contact information at www.sages.org.

Candidate members: Have you recently become board certified and need to be upgraded to Active status? Just send a request in writing to be upgraded from Candidate to Active and a copy of your board certificate or the letter from the Board to our Membership Dept by email to membership@sages.org or fax to 310-437-0585.

Our Membership Dept staff is available for questions about your membership at 310-437-0544 x110 or email membership@sages.org.

Membership Numbers as of February 2012:

Active	3,647
Associate Active	16
Candidate	1,278
International	692
Allied Health	69
Senior	449
Honorary	21
Hiatus	8
Total Membership	6,180

In Memoriam

Ward J. Dunnican, MD, Albany, NY
 Felicien M. Steichen, MD, Mamaroneck, NY
 J. Byron Gathright, MD, New Orleans, LA
 William I. Wolff, MD, New York, NY
 W. Douglas Wong, MD, New York, NY
 John J. Jasaitis, MD, Avon by the Sea, NJ
 Ramesh V. Patwardhan, MD, Savannah, GA
 Yasuo Idezuki, MD, Tokyo, Japan
 Andrew C. Bourne, MD, Mammouth Lakes, CA

2012 Award Winners



SAGES 2012 Young Researcher Award

Recipient: **Melina Vassiliou, MD**



SAGES 2012 Researcher in Training Award

Recipient: **Dana Telem, MD**



SAGES 2012 IRCAD Fellowship Award

Recipient: **Omar Kudsi, MD**



SAGES 2012 Excellence in Clinical Care Award

Recipient: **Joseph Petelin, MD**



SAGES 2012 Pioneer in Endoscopy Award

Recipients: **Leon Hirsch & Turi Josefsen (r)**



SAGES 2012 Distinguished Service Award

Recipient: **Bruce Schirmer, MD**



SAGES Foundation Jeffrey L. Ponsky Master Educator Award

Recipient: **Frederick Greene, MD**



SAGES Foundation Excellence in Medical Leadership Award

Recipient: **Daniel Jones, MD**



SAGES 2012 Brandeis Awards

Recipients: **Jeffrey Hazey, MD & Rajesh Aggarwal, MD**



SAGES Foundation Gerald Marks Rectal Cancer Award

Recipient: **Soo Yeun Park, MD**

2012 Top International Abstracts

SAGES Board of Governors and the SAGES Global Affairs Committee would like to acknowledge the following Top International Abstract Presenters:

Name: Julian Varas, MD
Institution: Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile
Abstract Title: *Significant Transfer Of Surgical Skills Obtained With An Advanced Laparoscopic Training Curriculum; Feasibility Of Learning Advanced Laparoscopy In A General Surgery Residency*
Country: Católica de Chile

Name: Long Vo Duy, MS
Institution: University Medical Center, Hochiminh City
Abstract Title: *Comparison of Open and Laparoscopic Gastrectomy with Lymph Node Dissection for Gastric Cancer*
Country: Hochiminh city, Vietnam

Name: Jensen T Poon, MBBS, MS
Institution: The University of Hong Kong, Queen Mary Hospital
Abstract Title: *Comparison of Single Port and Conventional Laparoscopic Colectomy: A Randomized Controlled Trial*
Country: Hong Kong, China

Name: Hyung-Ho Kim, MD, PhD
Institution: Seoul National University
Abstract Title: *Laparoscopic Versus Open Gastrectomy for Gastric Adenocarcinoma: Long-term Outcomes from a Large scale multicenter study.*
Country: Seoul, Korea

Name: Augusto C. Tinoco, PhD
Institution: Hospital São Jose Do Avai
Abstract Title: *Laparoscopic roux En Y Hepaticojejunostomy After Bismuth IV Bile Duct Injure*
Country: Brazil

Scenes from the 2012 SAGES Meeting



Outgoing SAGES President Steve Schwaizberg (left) and incoming President Scott Melvin take a moment to review the presidential plaque which says: "Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere." Albert Einstein



Jeffrey Ponsky, MD (left) and Frederick Greene, MD celebrate Dr. Greene's recognition as the SAGES Foundation Jeffrey Ponsky Master Educator for 2012.



Turi Josefson (left), one of the 2012 Pioneers in Endoscopy with President Steve Schwaizberg.



Soo Yeun Park, MD is congratulated by Dr. Gerald Marks who endowed the award for the best rectal cancer abstract.



Dr. Schwaizberg and Ms. Sybill Storz (right) congratulate Dr. Omar Kudsi on winning the 2012 IRCAD scholarship.



Dr. Aurora Pryor (left) congratulates Melina Vassilou as the 2012 Younger Researcher.



Steve Schwaizberg, SAGES President (left) and Bruce Schirmer (right), President SAGES Foundation give the nod to Dr. Dan Jones for winning the SAGES Foundation Brandeis Award.



Dr. Aurora Pryor (left) and Dr. Bruce Schirmer (right) congratulate Dana Telem, recipient of the Researcher in Training Award.



Dr. Gerald Marks, incoming President Dr. Scott Melvin (left), and Dr. Schwaizberg (right) congratulate the Marks Lecturer, Dr. Michael Zinner (2nd from right).



Steve Schwaizberg, SAGES President (left) and Bruce Schirmer (right), President SAGES Foundation, congratulate Dr. Joseph "Joe" Petelin Petelin for being SAGES Excellence in Clinical Care Award Winner.



John Abele, the 2012 Karl Storz Innovative Technology lecturer (2nd from left) is congratulated by Steve Schwaizberg (left) Dr. Helga Shemm from Karl Storz Endoscopy, Germany and Dr. George Berci, Past President.



A few Past Presidents gather to congratulate Steve Schwaizberg on an incredible year of exciting new projects and progress. Left to right: Drs. William Traverso, Gerald Marks, John Hunter, Lee Swanstrom, Dr. Schwaizberg, Mark Talamini, Jo Buyske, Nat Soper and George Berci.



Dr. Greene (right) congratulates Dr. Bruce Schirmer on receiving SAGES 2012 Distinguished Service Award.



SAGES considers itself a family and the families of our SAGES leaders are a big part of it. Outgoing President Steve Schwaizberg with his sons and wife Dr. Lisa Jacobsen.



Seven of the ten expectant moms from the local Military Base enjoy gifts at their baby shower. The lunch and shower was hosted by the SAGES humanitarian committee. All of the expectant moms have husbands who are in Afghanistan. Three cheers for SAGES in recognizing these brave women.



SAGES President Steve Schwaitzberg and IPEG President Mac Harmon share a surprise landing via Helicopter ...



The "Dans" and President Schwaitzberg welcome everyone to the Midway.



The Program leadership thank Sallie for an amazing effort.



... And are escorted to the event by two SAGES military members.



The return of the original Lap Rappers with the new team celebrate 20 years with the famous George Berci T-shirt.



All the way from Italy ...



Almost as high tech as an O.R.



Jamming with our industry partner(s).



Want to be a pilot? Maybe you should stay in the O.R.!



And the crowd goes wild!



SAGES Far East begins the emotional end to a great week ...



... and are joined on the stage by what seemed like 200 people.



And the beat goes on. See you next year in Baltimore!

Report from 2011 SAGES IRCAD Fellowship Award Winner



Konstantinos Makris, MD

I was greatly honored by SAGES with the 2011 IRCAD Travelling Fellowship, which allowed me to visit the well-known center of excellence in Strasbourg, France. The trip took place last April and was organized in every detail by the IRCAD staff and the sponsoring Karl Storz Endoscopy. This was a

great opportunity for me to participate in one of their justifiably famous laparoscopic training courses organized by Professor Marescaux and his team.

Strasbourg is a picturesque medieval town in North Eastern France, a few miles from the borders with Germany, which, over the last centuries, changed hands numerous times between France and Germany. After the formation of the European Union, the European Parliament was built in Strasbourg, rendering the city an emblem of European collaboration and development. It seems most appropriate that a center like IRCAD, which promotes international collaboration in minimally invasive surgery research and training, was conceived and developed in Strasbourg. IRCAD has achieved a level of unparalleled recognition and respect in the world of laparoendoscopic surgery. Its education courses and role in surgical innovation, as envisioned and performed by Professor Marescaux and his associates (Drs Dallemagne, Leroy, Mutter, Vix,



Entrance of IRCAD

Perretta), has evolved over almost 20 years of life.

The 3-day course that I attended brought together world leaders in minimally invasive surgery (Drs Tanigawa, Bailey, Corcione, Soper, Swanström) as instructors, as well as a diverse, international group of surgeons seeking further training in advanced laparoscopic techniques. Cutting-edge lectures were given, combined with live surgeries broadcasted from the adjacent University Hospital of Strasbourg. The hands-on part of the course took place in the state-of-the-art training lab within the IRCAD facility. A dedicated instructor and a surgical assistant were available in every station, whereas the details of the technical tasks taught were continuously reiterated to the trainees through closed-loop videos displayed on monitors throughout the facility. The overall structure of the course and the comprehensive experience it provided were a clear demonstration of what an exemplary postgraduate course should look like. The impressive hospitality was crowned by magnificent dinners at the local Alsatian restaurants. In a relaxed atmosphere, discussions went beyond surgery and allowed exchange of ideas and experiences.

I am grateful to SAGES and the Awards Committee for the great opportunity to visit IRCAD and meet with Professor Marescaux and his exceptional team. I would also like to thank Karl Storz, USA for their sponsorship, Dr. Swanström for his support, and the IRCAD staff for their hospitality. I would strongly encourage all MIS trainees to take advantage of this great travelling fellowship SAGES offers annually, and visit one of the centers of excellence, which have contributed to the shaping of modern surgery.



Konstantino Markris with Professor Marescaux

Thanks to SAGES 2012 Meeting Corporate Supporters

DIAMOND DONORS

COVIDIEN • ETHICON ENDO-SURGERY, INC.

PLATINUM DONORS

KARL STORZ ENDOSCOPY • OLYMPUS AMERICA, INC. • STRYKER ENDOSCOPY

SILVER DONORS

BOSTON SCIENTIFIC, INC. • GORE & ASSOCIATES • INTUITIVE SURGICAL

BRONZE DONORS

AESCULAP, INC. • LIFECCELL CORPORATION

Report from 2011 Brandeis Award Winners

Dr. Robert Fanelli and Dr. Ketan Sheth

Robert D. Fanelli, MD, FACS, FASGE

Professor Jon Chilingierian and his world-class faculty have organized a superb one-week intensive on Health Policy for surgeons that is hosted at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University. Sessions on historical and current healthcare policy, organizational leadership, the mechanics of change, garnering credibility, authenticity, and influence as a leader, and negotiation strategies among others provide a foundation for surgeons new to leadership roles, and expand greatly the knowledge base of experienced surgeon leaders. Case studies are used to illustrate management of the care process, conflict resolution seminars provide a basis for managing change in complex systems, and individual and group decision-making simulations illustrate the role of formal and informal organizational networks. The program achieves the proper balance of lecture, discussion, and seminar formatting, and the immersion experience delivered by this program provides surgeons the ability to get to know their peer surgical leaders and the renowned Heller School faculty on a personal level that far exceeds the depth of relationship that can be developed as a participant in online courses or even in graduate courses that meet periodically. For me, attending the Health Policy intensive on scholarship from SAGES has proven invaluable personally and professionally, and has served as a springboard for further advancing the work I do with the Guidelines Committee on behalf of our organization. For surgeons interested in helping shape the future of healthcare, this course will prove rewarding and immensely useful.

SAGES has number of major awards available for nominations in the upcoming year 2012/2013. We encourage you to visit SAGES website for detail description of each award, who is eligible and how to submit your nomination online at <http://www.sages.org/about/awards/index.php> In addition to the SAGES Awards, there are also two scholarships available, The SAGES Foundation Excellence in Medical Leadership Award and The Brandeis Award.

Ketan R. Sheth, MD FACS

I would like to extend my gratitude to SAGES for sponsoring the scholarship that enabled me to attend the Leadership Program in Health Policy and Management at Brandeis University. SAGES has been involved with this program for the past few years, and it has garnered many national accolades recently. It has become a popular course, and many surgical societies now are offering similar scholarships to attend. As a result, it has become a competitive process and I was fortunate to be able to take part in the 2011 program.

The participants came from the full spectrum of surgical specialties and practices and the varied backgrounds provided for a lively discussion on many occasions. The faculty was similarly diverse, and we were able to draw upon their experiences. Professor Altman's experience in the political realm during the Clinton Presidency was insightful and entertaining. It offered a view of insider Washington politics and how they shape policy making at the federal level. These historical vignettes set the stage for our more concrete discussions regarding leadership styles, leading change in complex systems, and conflict negotiations.

Professor Chilingierian was the glue that connected our didactics to practical experiences. The weeklong program had its share of the classic lecture teaching style on topics such as health care economics, performance measures and outliers, and a day devoted to finance and accounting for physicians. However, the most beneficial part of the program was the ability to apply some of these skills in a simulation setting. The highlight was the Change Pro simulation in which we worked in small groups and were given "120 days" to convince all 24 board members to adopt a six-sigma system. Surprisingly, despite all of the driven surgeons in the class, the most votes any group gathered was 14/24. Similar exercises throughout the program and the discussions that followed were of great value to surgeons in leadership roles.

The experience and knowledge learned was invaluable. More importantly, it provides management tools that are not taught to surgeons during their conventional training, and are essential for successful surgeon leadership.



SAGES

April 17-20, 2013

See you in Baltimore!

Baltimore is eagerly awaiting the arrival of SAGES, Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons, April 17-20, 2013! Discover our renowned attractions, great restaurants, historic neighborhoods, and our world-famous Inner Harbor, all within walking distance from the Baltimore Convention Center. As we say in Baltimore, you're "two feet" away from everything.

Program Chairs: Fredrick Brody, MD & Santiago Horgan, MD



President's Message—continued from page 1 surgeons (yes we still have those too, thank goodness) to a more mature society that also wrestles with issues of quality of care, patient outcomes, guidelines, research, legislative issues, as well as education and training. The role of SAGES as an assessment organization for the 1000+ general surgical residents who must take the FLS examination in order to take the ABS qualifying examination is significant ground breaking work for a specialty society. It has been gratifying to hear from gynecologic, urologic, and orthopedic groups who are embarking on their own journeys to develop assessment methodologies within their specialties. Their respect for what FLS has meant to general surgery is palpable especially after they become aware how heavy the “lift” was to get where we are today. This has been echoed in many countries as well. However, success is not without obligation.

In the same fashion that we manage SAGES in a highly organized yet personal fashion (thanks SAGES staff!), we must have meaningful dialogues with our sister societies in and out of general surgery. At the end of the day, we must primarily be about achieving the best patient outcomes by having the most knowledge and well trained teams. Like it or not, this is best achieved through collaboration. Those who lead must put their personal interests aside at times in order to achieve this shared goal of optimal patient care. We can do this. This year the leaders of SAGES, SSAT, ASMBMS, ASCRS and ASGE have worked together to create an active working group to develop a curriculum for the ABS to teach flexible endoscopy to surgical residents. Clearly there are differing priorities amongst these constituencies. SAGES has worked recently with ASBMS and ASCRS on common guidelines initiatives. SAGES and the ACS collaborate to deliver FLS to the broadest possible audience and are currently working on potential collaborations in others areas such as NSQIP. The GI Surgery Societies have all co-endorsed the SAGES statement on Surgical Society – Industry Relationships (I) commissioned by Dan Smith during his SAGES presidential year. This year NOSCARG (SAGES/ASGE) will work with members of AAGL to craft a statement on transvaginal access for minimally invasive surgery. I have written previously about the immense value of this relationship with ASGE. The FUSE program is yet another example of leadership through collaboration. The FUSE leadership (Dan Jones, Pascal Fuchshuber and Liane Feldman) has engaged participants from anesthesia, gynecology, urology, general surgery and perhaps most importantly, nursing organizations to design and implement a comprehensive didactic and assessment program in the safe use of surgical energy. The power of this collaboration will undoubtedly lead to far reaching acceptance by the key patient safety organizations. The SAGES Hernia Task force (led by Adrian Park, Carla Pugh, Melina Vassiliou and Guy Voeller) are working diligently to create didactics and validated assessment for laparoscopic and open hernia repair. This task force includes 5 past presidents of the American Hernia Society,

clearly building a bridge to that society. All of these examples point to one thing—to lead is to serve and collaborate.

I will have to confess that sometime around the turn of the millennium when just about the last of “lap-everything” had been shown at the SAGES meeting, I wondered what the future of SAGES would be? Hadn't everything been done? Hardly—the journey continues as vibrant and exciting as the 1990's. There is so much still to do.

From my vantage point there are several things we should consider for the near future. In order to do make these happen we will need to engage even more members to work towards the mission. Here are just a few...

- Shorten the refresh and initiation cycle on our guidelines and position statements, collaborating where appropriate to avoid duplication of effort and conflicting statements
- Bring FLS and other validated programs to other countries.
- Train more surgical endoscopists
- Develop competency assessments in more procedures and work them into residency training and surgical practice.
- Prove that the training and assessment programs we develop impact outcome. It is time to *embrace the comparative effectiveness of training.*
- Work at reducing the expense (to SAGES) and/or cost (to the participant) of these educational programs such as the “Fundamentals” (FLS, FES, FUSE), SAGES University (already a benefit of membership) or the annual meeting.
- Continue to build and reinforce the working relationships we have established among the various societies (in all surgical disciplines, nursing, and internationally)
- Harness the power of the Internet and social media to strengthen the ties that bind and make the surgical world a smaller place.

To all of the SAGES committee members and staff - whether I have mentioned you by name or not, this year please accept my sincere thanks for the work you have done. We moved forward only by your efforts.

As I close my final message, all I can say is thank you for this singular honor and opportunity to serve (and collaborate). SAGES remains in great hands with Scott Melvin and the incoming executive committee at the helm. The Society is financial stable and looking forward to a bright future ahead.

Steven D. Schwaizberg, MD FACS
Cambridge, MA

I Surg Endosc. 2010 Apr;24(4):742-4.

* Some Alphabet Soup of the World of Surgery

AAGL – American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists, ABS – The American Board of Surgery, ACS – American College of Surgeons, AHPBA – American Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association, AHS – American Hernia **(continued on page 16)**

SAGES-Endorsed Courses

as of March 19, 2012

As a service to members, SAGES offers Course and Program Directors the opportunity to have their courses reviewed and endorsed by the Continuing Education Committee.

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 more information and applications, please visit the Endorsed Course Application page at: http://www.sages.org/education/endorsed_courses/

Duke University Medical Center

Course Director: Dr. Alfonso Torquati

For More Information Contact: Patti Deshaies

Assistant Director, Professional Education

Department of Surgery, Duke University Medical Center

Phone: 919-681-6370

Email: patricia.deshaies@duke.edu

Masters of Minimally Invasive Bariatric Surgery more info// April 12, 2012 - April 14, 2012

Ethicon Institute of Surgical Education / Johnson & Johnson Medical

Course Director: Dr. Vinita Kulkarni

For More Information Contact:

Ethicon Institute of Surgical Education, Johnson House, 64-66

Senapati Bapat Marg, Mahim, Mumbai 400 016, INDIA

Phone: +91-22-24467438

Contact: Dr. Vinita Kulkarni Email: VKulkar2@its.jnj.com

Basic Laparoscopic surgery; Laparoscopic Knot Tying and Suturing; Laparoscopic solid Organ Surgery; Laparoscopic Nissen Fundoplication; Minimally Invasive Technology (Self Study); Laparoscopic Colorectal Surgery; Basic Course on Laparoscopic Gynecology// January 01, 2012 - December 31, 2012

IRCAD-EITS

Course Director: Jacques Marescaux, MD, FRCS

For More Information Contact: IRCAD-EITS

Hopitaux Universitaires

1 place de l'Hopital, BP 426, Strasbourg, France F-67091

Phone: +33-388-119-000

Fax: +33-388-119-099

Email: guy.temporal@ircad.fr

GI Endoscopy// April 02, 2012 - April 03, 2012

Digestive Surgery// April 19, 2012 - April 21, 2012

Intensive Course in Laparoscopic Surgery// May 21, 2012 - May 25, 2012

Colorectal Surgery// June 01, 2012 - June 02, 2012

Intensive Course in Laparoscopic Urological Surgery// June 04, 2012 - June 08, 2012

Skull Base Surgery// June 20, 2012 - June 22, 2012

Intensive Course in Laparoscopic Surgery// July 02, 2012 - July 06, 2012

One Week Full Immersion in Minimally Invasive Surgery// July 09, 2012 - July 13, 2012

Intensive Course in Laparoscopic Surgery// September 24, 2012 - September 28, 2012

Cours Intensifs en Chirurgie Laparoscopique

Urologique// October 08, 2012 - October 12, 2012

Interventional Flexible Endoscopy for Surgeons// October 19, 2012 - October 20, 2012

Digestive Surgery// October 25, 2012 - October 27, 2012

Colorectal Surgery// Nov. 16, 2012 - November 17, 2012

GI Endoscopy// November 19, 2012 - November 20, 2012

Intensive Course in Laparoscopic Surgery// November 26, 2012 - November 30, 2012

Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery// December 07, 2012 - December 08, 2012

Intensive Course in Laparoscopic Urological Surgery// December 10, 2012 - December 14, 2012

Minimally Invasive Surgery Training Centre

Course Director: Prof MC Misra & Dr. Virinder Kumar Bansal

For More Information Contact:

Minimally Invasive Surgery Training Centre

Room No. 5023, 5th Floor Teaching Block

Department of Surgical Disciplines

All India Institute of Medical Sciences

Ansari Nagar, New Delhi-110029, India

Phone: +91-11-26594285

Fax: +91-11-26588324

Email: drvkbansal@gmail.com

Email: mistrainingcentre.aiims@gmail.com

Training Courses in Operative Laparoscopic, Laparoscopic Hernia, Laparoscopic Colorectal and Laparoscopic Suturing Surgery. More information <http://www.aiimslaparoscopictrainingcentre.com/> January 02, 2012 - December 13, 2012

National University Hospital-Minimally Invasive Surgical Centre

Course Director: David Lomanto, MD, PhD

For More Information Contact:

Level 2 Kent Ridge Wing 2

Advanced Training Centre, National University Hospital

5 Lower Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 119074

Phone: +65-6772-2897

Fax: +65-6774-6077

Email: misc@nuhs.edu.sg

International Congress of Asia-Pacific Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery Society <http://www.misc-asia.com/> April 01, 2012 - December 31, 2012

Penn Medicine Clinical Simulation Center

Course Director: Andrew S. Resnick, MD, MBA and Kristoffel R. Dumon, MD

For More Information Contact:

Gretchen Kolb, MS, Operations Director / 1800

Lombard Street, Second Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19146 /

Phone: 215-893-7707 / Fax: 215-893-7703 / Email: gretchen.kolb@uphs.upenn.edu

Safe Practices in Laparoscopic Surgery. More information http://www.uphs.upenn.edu/simcenter/FLS/FLS_Course_Page.html April 27, 2012 - April 28, 2012

The Fellowship Council

IMPORTANT DATES for the 2013 Match



For information on
advanced fellowship surgical training,
visit www.fellowshipcouncil.org

2013 FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL ACCREDITED FELLOWSHIPS INCLUDE:

Advanced Gastrointestinal Surgery • Advanced Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS)
Advanced MIS/Bariatrics • Bariatric Surgery • Colorectal Surgery (non-ACGME)
Flexible Endoscopy • Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery • Thoracic Surgery (non-ACGME)

2013 FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION & MATCH CYCLE:

Application Process Opens:	Tuesday, May 1, 2012
Application Process Closes:	Wednesday, August 1, 2012
Letters of Recommendation Deadline:	Wednesday, August 1, 2012
Inform Applicants of Interview Status:	Monday, September 3, 2012
Match Rank Order Deadline:	Monday, October 8, 2012
Match Date:	Wednesday, October 17, 2012
Fellowships Begin:	July, 2013

A Big THANK YOU from the Foundation

SAGES Members answered the call in 2011. With more than \$71,000 in new gifts and pledges, the Year-End President's Appeal was the most successful membership fund drive to date for the Foundation. SAGES members continually demonstrate their dedication to both the vision and continued success of the society through their leadership, active involvement and generosity.

The SAGES Education and Research Foundation believes that the exceptional work of SAGES will move the society into a great future for endoscopic and laparoscopic surgery. It is because of that belief, and its commitment to fund groundbreaking projects

in minimal access surgery, that the Foundation has provided more than \$1.7 million to directly support SAGES research and educational projects. It is important to note that for every dollar a SAGES member has contributed to the Foundation, the Foundation has turned around and given \$1.50 back to SAGES. By making a tax deductible contribution to the SAGES Foundation, members make certain research opportunities continue to be available for young surgeons and projects like FES and FUSE reach their maximum potential.



The Foundation thanks the SAGES membership for making quality medical care and the development of minimal access surgery possible. To learn more about how you can contribute in 2012, please visit www.sagesfoundation.org.



**Society of American Gastrointestinal
and Endoscopic Surgeons**

11300 W. Olympic Boulevard, Suite 600
Los Angeles, CA 90064, U.S.A.
Tel: (310) 437-0544
Fax: (310) 437-0585
E-mail: sagesweb@sages.org
www.sages.org

Save the Date!

***SAGES Scientific Session & Postgraduate Course
April 17 - 20, 2013, Baltimore, MD***

***SAGES Scientific Session & Postgraduate Course
April 2 - 5, 2014, Salt Lake City, UT***

***SAGES Scientific Session & Postgraduate Course
April 15 - 18, 2015, Gaylord Opryland Hotel,
Nashville, TN***

President's Message—continued from page 13 Society, ALACE – Asociación Latinoamericana de Cirujanos Endoscopistas, AORN – Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses, APSF – Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation, ASCRS – The American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, ASGE – American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, ASMBS – American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, AUA – American Urologic Association, CAGS – Canadian Association of General Surgeons, CSS – Chinese Society for Surgery, EAES – European Association for Endoscopic Surgery, FDA – Food and Drug Administration, FLS – Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery, FES – Fundamentals of Endoscopic Surgery, FUSE – Fundamental Use of Surgical Energy, IPEG – International Pediatric Endosurgery Group, ISOBS – Institute for Safety in Office-Based Surgery, JSES – Japanese Society for Endoscopic Surgery, NOSCART – Natural Orifice Surgery Consortium for Assessment and Research, NSQIP – National Surgical Quality Improvement Program, SLS – Society of Laparoendoscopic Surgeons, SSAT – Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract

**To become (more) involved in SAGES ongoing activities write to
president@sages.org**

SAGES EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Executive Director: Sallie Matthews
Director Emeritus: Barbara Berci
11300 W. Olympic Boulevard, Suite 600
Los Angeles, CA 90064, U.S.A.
Tel: (310) 437-0544
Fax: (310) 437-0585
E-mail: sagesweb@sages.org
www.sages.org
Follow us on Twitter:
http://twitter.com/SAGES_Updates

SAGES BOARD OF GOVERNORS

President

W. Scott Melvin, M.D.
Ohio State University Medical Center
Columbus, OH

President-Elect

Gerald M. Fried, M.D.
McGill University Health Centre
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

1st Vice President

Brian J. Dunkin, M.D.
The Methodist Hospital
Houston, TX

2nd Vice President

Daniel J. Scott, M.D.
UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX

Secretary

Tonia M Young-Fadok, M.D., M.S.
Mayo Clinic
Phoenix, AZ

Treasurer

L. Michael Brunt, M.D.
Washington University School of Medicine
St. Louis, MO

Immediate Past President

* Steven Schwaitzberg, M.D.
Cambridge Health Alliance
Cambridge, MA

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Horacio J. Asbun, MD, Jacksonville, FL
Fredrick J. Brody, MD, Washington, DC
*Jo Buyske, MD, Philadelphia, PA
Michael B. Edye, MD, New York, NY
Robert D. Fanelli, MD, Pittsfield, MA
Daniel M. Herron, M.D., New York, NY
Santiago Horgan, M.D., San Diego, CA
Matthew Hutter, MD, Boston, MA
Gretchen Purcell-Jackson, MD, PhD, Nashville,
TN

Daniel B. Jones, MD, MS, Boston, MA
Leena Khaitan, MD, Cleveland, OH
Jeffrey M. Marks, MD, Cleveland, OH
John D. Mellinger, MD, Springfield, IL
Ninh T. Nguyen, MD, Orange, CA
Dmitry Oleynikov, MD, Omaha, NE
Adrian Park, MD, Annapolis, MD
Aurora D. Pryor, MD, Stony Brook, NY
Raul Rosenthal, MD, Weston, FL
Christopher M. Schlachta, MD,
London, ON, Canada

*C. Daniel Smith, MD, Jacksonville, FL
*Mark A. Talamini, MD, San Diego, CA
Thadeus L. Trus, MD, Lebanon, NH
Vic Velanovich, M.D., Detroit, MI
*Steven D. Wexner, MD, Weston, FL
Natan Zundel, MD, Miami, FL

A.C.S. Representative

*Nathaniel J. Soper, MD, Chicago, IL

A.B.S. Representative

*Bruce D. Schirmer, MD, Charlottesville, VA

A.M.A. H.O.D. Representative

Eli Lerner, MD, Jacksonville, FL

*Past President