



SAGES

EDUCATION & RESEARCH
FOUNDATION

2010 ANNUAL REPORT
& NEWSLETTER



MAY 2011



A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT



Bruce D. Schirmer, M.D.

Dear SAGES Colleagues,

This year marks the 30th anniversary of SAGES, an anniversary that will serve as this year's focal point of our Foundation's activities. In the annual appeal, I asked members of SAGES to consider the "30 for 30" option: creating an automatic contribution of \$30 per month to the SAGES Foundation. If such a request were answered by one fifth of our active members, those funds alone would more than support an annual research grant. More important, the greater the participation from all members of SAGES in the Foundation, the greater is the "ownership" of our organization by those who share our vision and goals. Broad-based membership support for the Foundation sends a very strong message to potential industry or other partner supporters of the Foundation. Increasing membership participation will be a primary goal for the remainder of this anniversary year.

An important change in the Foundation management has also occurred. We owe a great deal of thanks to Jill Smith, who has been our Executive Director for the past two years. Under Jill's guidance we have secured significant industry partner donation renewals, welcomed new industry partners to the list of Foundation supporters, and continued our positive progress toward meeting the Foundation goals of supporting many major projects in surgical education and research. Jill, our thanks to you for your dedication and hard work to the Foundation! Danielle Vannatter has recently succeeded Jill Smith as our new Executive Director of the Foundation. Danielle has significant experience in the area of nonprofit fundraising, and we look forward to working with her in the coming years.

This year the Foundation awarded, for the first time, a Medical Leadership Scholarship. This scholarship, fully funded by a generous grant from W.L. Gore & Associates, will allow a member of SAGES who has demonstrated significant leadership potential and has been an active participant in SAGES to attend a course intended to develop managerial and leadership skills. Our thanks to W.L. Gore & Associates for this generous gift!

To date, the Foundation has awarded more than \$1 million in educational and research projects. A listing of Funded Projects for 2010 can be found on page 5 of this publication. We hope you will take the time to look and see the fantastic programs the Foundation currently supports.

New corporate partners for the past year include LifeCell and Aesculap. While corporations who have renewed pledged support this past year include W.L. Gore & Associates, Allergan Foundation and Atrium.

Major new giving initiatives include the ongoing development of the Margret Oddsdottir Traveling Fellowship Fund, which expects to raise sufficient funds to award an annual traveling grant to the SAGES meeting in Dr. Oddsdottir's memory.

In this, the 30th anniversary year of SAGES, the Foundation will particularly emphasize the following in its donation solicitation:

- Increased participation from the broad membership of SAGES
- Unanimous giving participation by the leadership in SAGES and the Foundation, including all committee chairs, co-chairs, and Board members
- Establishing new corporate partner relationships and pledges
- Renewed pledges by current corporate partners

The Foundation Board continues its fiduciary responsibility to invest the assets of the Foundation in what it believes is the most prudent fashion. The harsh economic times of the past few years saw a more conservative allocation of investments. The current Financial and Investment sub-committee of the Foundation has now recommended a more aggressive investment of a portion of the funds in a diversified investment account. Over the long term, this will likely yield improved return on investment.

As the Foundation continues the beginning of its second decade and SAGES begins its fourth, we look forward to the days when the Foundation does even more to serve as the financial base of strength for great projects of surgical education and research. We have accomplished that mission for a number of important projects. But the list of potential causes and areas where funds can produce substantial gains toward the well being of our patients is large. Please consider making a contribution to SAGES Foundation this year. Consider it an investment towards building toward the future!!

With my enthusiastic best wishes,



Bruce Schirmer, M.D., President, SAGES Education and Research Foundation

DR WAYNE SCHWESINGER SELECTED FOR 2011 JEFFREY L. PONSKY MASTER EDUCATOR IN ENDOSCOPY AWARD



We are pleased to announce that Wayne H. Schwesinger, MD, Professor of Surgery and Director of Surgical Endoscopy at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in San Antonio, was awarded the 2011 Jeffrey L. Ponsky Master Educator in Endoscopy Award.

Established in 2007 as a perpetual tribute to Dr. Jeff Ponsky for his outstanding contributions to endoscopy and surgical education, the Master Educator award recognizes a distinguished surgeon and SAGES leader who exemplifies Dr. Ponsky's pioneer leadership spirit and his dedication to the development and teaching of surgical endoscopy. This award is presented annually at the SAGES Foundation Awards Luncheon during SAGES Surgical Spring Week.

Dr. Wayne Schwesinger is being honored as a teacher and scholar whose work has had a profound, universal impact on surgical education. In a stalwart career spanning 46 years, Dr. Schwesinger has served as an impactful mentor to students, residents, fellows and faculty, providing the tools and inspiration for his students to go on to train others in endoscopy and surgery.

We salute Dr. Schwesinger's reputation as an academic surgeon and his commitment to advance the goals, ideals and standards of surgical endoscopy. Since joining SAGES in 1984, he has distinguished himself as a valued committee member, and as a respected figure in the development and growth of SAGES and the SAGES Foundation. In addition to SAGES, he holds membership in 16 professional organizations. His clinical and research interests include biliary and diverticular disease and the surgical management of obesity. Over the past decade, Dr. Schwesinger has repeatedly been chosen as the surgeon other physicians would choose for themselves as well as for their own families.

We invite you to honor the legacy of Jeffrey L. Ponsky with a donation that will help the Foundation to pay tribute to others who leave a permanent impact in the education of surgical endoscopy. Please visit our website, www.sagesfoundation.org, or contact Danielle Vannatter, Danielle@sages.org, to learn more about the Ponsky Fund and SAGES Foundation.

Ponsky Flexible Endoscopy Research Fund Contributors

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	Bruce Schirmer, MD	U.S Endoscopy Group

TWICE THE IMPACT

Did you know that all contributions made to SAGES Foundation from SAGES Members are matched, dollar for dollar, by SAGES? The Society has been matching the charitable donations to SAGES Foundation from its members since the Foundation's inception. Matching funds are a great way for SAGES Members to maximize personal contributions to the Foundation and increase the impact of their gift.

Each year, the Foundation reports the amount received by SAGES Members and SAGES responds with a 100% match to those funds. This guaranteed money goes towards funding project grants, research grants and other programs for SAGES members and the minimally invasive surgical community at large.

As of 2010, SAGES has provided more than \$1 million in matched fund to the Foundation. Together, SAGES and the Foundation are working hard to advance endoscopic, laproscopic and emerging minimal access surgical methods.

Every gift counts! Gifts of any size are both needed and very much appreciated. For more information on how you can double the impact of your donation to SAGES Foundation please contact our offices at 310-437-0544 ext 117 or email foundation@sages.org.

GOLF FOR A GOOD CAUSE!

Foundation Board Member, Dr. Barry Salky, has worked for several years to create an Annual SAGES Foundation Golf Outing. It takes place either directly before or after the SAGES meeting each year in the city where the meeting is held. The event is open to SAGES members, Industry friends and family and all proceeds will benefit the SAGES Foundation.

The first annual SAGES Foundation Golf Outing was recently held at The Quarry Golf Club in San Antonio on Monday, March 28, 2011 prior to SAGES Surgical Spring Week. The fundraising event helped raise more than \$3,500 for the Foundation and its mission to advance endoscopic, laparoscopic and emerging minimal access surgical methods worldwide.

If you are interested in attending next year's golf outing in San Diego, CA March 2012, please contact the Foundation at 310-437-0544 ext 117 or email danielle@sages.org

RENEW YOUR PLEDGE!

When you made your first pledge to the Foundation, you wanted to support the work and vision of the SAGES Education & Research Foundation. We hope your desire to advance minimally invasive surgery has not fizzled. Like every good cause, the needs of the Foundation continue. We hope you will continue your support. Please visit our website to complete a new pledge form or you may send us the completed form found on page 11. If you have any questions, please call our offices at 310-437-0544 ext 117. Thank you for continuing to meet the SAGES Foundation challenge!

DR. BRENT MATTHEWS HONORED AS THE 2011 RECIPIENT OF THE EXCELLENCE IN MEDICAL LEADERSHIP AWARD



In its inaugural year, the Excellence in Medical Leadership Award, sponsored by WL Gore and Associates was awarded to Dr. Brent Matthews of Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. The award was presented at the 2011 SAGES Surgical Spring Week, in San Antonio, Texas. The Excellence in Medical Leadership award is a scholarship that furthers leadership training for surgeons who exhibit emerging strong leadership skills in advancing minimal access surgery and quality patient care.

Dr. Matthews was selected by the SAGES Education and Research Foundation Board from a group of qualified candidates nominated by SAGES board members. The award recognizes Dr. Matthews for exemplary leadership potential and hopes to optimize his future impact in the medical industry so that he can deliver sustainable results driven by his greatest capabilities and purpose. The award includes a scholarship at a well-respected business school with the goal of enforcing what it means to be a successful leader in today's global economy.

Dr. Matthews is an associate professor in the Division of General Surgery, Section of Hepatobiliary Pancreatic Surgery. His special interest is minimally invasive surgery of the liver, pancreas and GI track. Matthews has previously been a recipient of the Young Investigators Award from SAGES and has been involved in Global Medical Missions in Haiti, where he performed abdominal surgery during an eight-day period on people in critical need.

The Excellence in Medical Leadership Award was made possible by a generous educational grant from W.L. Gore & Associates. "Like SAGES, Gore is focused on nurturing future leaders so that they reach their potential. Gore works hard at cultivating an environment in which creativity and innovation can flourish - in order to optimize patient outcomes," said Ron Anderson, associate with Gore's General Medical Products Business. "Cultivating the next generation of leaders is critical to sustaining an advantage - whether you are a surgeon or a maker of medical devices. We must equip surgeons with the advanced decision-making and execution skills that they will need to excel as multi-faceted leaders that will ultimately drive surgical and organizational performance."

If you are interested in learning more about the Excellence in Medical Leadership Award please contact the Foundation at 310-437-0544 ext 117 or email us at foundation@sages.org.

PROJECT GRANTS

GO GLOBAL

The Go Global Program aims to train committed local surgeons worldwide who care for those who have limited or no access to medical care to perform basic laparoscopic surgery and flexible endoscopic procedures.

According to a recent Harvard Study, the worldwide burden of surgical disease continues to increase in volume. So-called “western” illnesses are now leading causes of surgical illness in the developing world. SAGES Go Global program was launched in 2007 – supported by the SAGES Foundation – to bring MIS and endoscopy to the developing world via a high quality structured training program with outcomes measurements.

SAGES Global Proctoring Courses (Go Global) are a vehicle for SAGES to “give back” to the world community by leveraging its leading educational and training activities, its highly-qualified membership, and collaboration with other surgical societies and international health organizations to become a leader in bringing safe minimally-invasive surgery to the developing world.

But more than just an educational and training activity, Go Global is a humanitarian effort, which ultimately helps to reduce the burden of pain and suffering worldwide through the introduction of MIS techniques (Laparoscopic and Endoscopic). Training countries in minimally invasive surgical techniques is a proven method to cause a sustainable positive change in a community. This positive impact is usually evident within a relatively short period of time.

In 2010 the SAGES Education and Research Foundation distributed approximately \$290,000 in project funding and research grants to programs designed to further minimally invasive surgical practices worldwide. Since 2003, the Foundation has provided more than \$1 million to worthy programs. 2010 funding included the following:

Global Initiative (Go Global): \$ 40,000

Career Development Awards: \$ 60,000

Fundamentals of Endoscopic Surgery (FES): \$ 130,000

Research Grants: \$ 60,000

FUNDAMENTALS OF ENDOSCOPIC SURGERY (FES)

The FES mission and overall goal is to provide surgical residents and surgeons-in-practice with an opportunity to learn the fundamentals of gastrointestinal endoscopy in a consistent, scientifically accepted format; and to create a tool to test cognitive, decision-making, and technical skills, all with the overarching goal of improving the quality of patient care.

Continuing in the successful footsteps of the Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery (FLS) program, FES was founded to continue to advance SAGES’ mission of providing key educational programs and guidelines to its members and the surgical community. FES is designed to address the current need for a standardized, comprehensive curriculum in basic endoscopic surgery, in addition to an assessment component that can document both cognitive and technical endoscopic skills.

This program covers the physiology, fundamental knowledge and technical skills required in basic endoscopic surgery. The three components making up FES are 1) an interactive web-based didactic curriculum including videos, illustrations and narration, 2) a hands-on skills training component featuring a simulator box and deconstruction of technical skills required in basic endoscopy and finally 3) an assessment component that will document one’s cognitive knowledge and technical and psychomotor skills.

RESEARCH GRANTS

The following are research grants awarded in 2010 - 2011 and supported by SAGES Foundation or through an educational grant from one of our industry partners:

Supported by Covidien:

Sarah Evans, MD – Duke University

Title: *Gastric Bypass Surgery Alters the Secretion of the Anorexogenic Gut-Derived Hormones Glucagon-like Peptide-1 and Peptide YY*

Toshitaka Hoppo, MD –

The Heart, Lung and

Esophageal Surgery Institute

Title: *Prevention of Stricture Formation Following Subtotal Endoscopic Mucosal Sleeve Resection in the Swine Model*

Kyle Perry, MD –

The Ohio State University

Title: *Identifying the Optimal Duration of Gastric Ischemic Conditioning to Improve Gastroesophageal Anastomotic Wound Healing*

Supported by Ethicon Endo-Surgery:

Corey Deeken, MD – Washington University School of Medicine

Title: *Fixation of Biologic Mesh at the Hiatus with Fibrin or Polyethylene Glycol (PEG) Sealeant in a Porcine Model*

Karem Harth, MD – University Hospitals Case Medical Center

Title: *Tension Free Ventral Hernia Repair: Is This the Wrong Operation?*

Supported by Karl Storz Endoscopy:

Brian Dunkin, MD –

The Methodist Hospital

Title: *A Pilot Study to Determine the Risk of Graft Contamination Following Transvaginal Extraction of the Kidney During Laparoscopic Living Donor Nephrectomy*

Supported by SAGES Foundation:

Liane Feldman, MD –

McGill University Health Centre

Title: *Mastery Versus Standard Proficiency Laparoscopic Technical Skills Training: A Randomized Controlled Trial*

Eric Hungness, MD – Northwestern University Department of Surgery

Title: *Laparoscopic Common Bile Duct Exploration: Simulator Development*

William Richards, MD –

University of South Alabama

Title: *Downregulation of G6PD Activity is a Mechanism of Action of Improvement of Type II Diabetes after Bariatric Surgery*

On behalf of the SAGES Foundation, we would like to thank those companies who generously supported the 2011 Foundation Luncheon:



GIVE THE GIFT OF AN HONORARIUM

As experts in their field, SAGES members are often asked to speak at conferences, provide expert opinions on new medical products, write articles, or participate in surveys and focus groups. The SAGES Foundation is proud and thankful for the professional contributions made by these members and acknowledges those who have taken the extra charitable step of donating their honorarium to the organization.

If you are interested in donating your honorarium to the SAGES Foundation, simply request the paying entity to send a donation to the Foundation in lieu of an honorarium and notify the Foundation office of your charitable intent. To learn more about how you can contribute to the SAGES Foundation, email foundations@sages.org.

ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

The 2011 SAGES Education and Research Foundation Awards Luncheon was a wonderful success, filling the banquet hall at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center with more than 230 guests and some very inspiring moments from the award honorees. Thanks to our generous supporters, this year's Awards luncheon exceeded expectations by raising more than \$30,000 for surgical research and education! In only a few short years, the awards luncheon has helped raise nearly \$120,000 to benefit future minimally invasive research and educational opportunities.

We celebrated the Awards Luncheon's 5th year with a special new addition to our ceremony program. Thanks to a generous contribution from WL Gore & Associates, the SAGES Foundation awarded its first Excellence in Medical Leadership Award. The purpose of this prestigious opportunity is to prepare one qualified SAGES member to become a high potential leader in the medical world by allowing them to attend a five-day leadership program at an Ivy League Academic Institution. This scholarship will expose exceptional SAGES members to the leading minds in leadership development, strategy, management, and execution so they can deliver sustainable results driven by their greatest capabilities. The following awards were presented during the program:

- **Pioneer in Endoscopy Award:**
Haruhiro Inoue, MD –
Showa University Northern Yokohama Hospital
- **The George Berci Lifetime Achievement Award:**
Jacques Perissat, MD –
Universite Victor Segalen Bordeaux II; Bordeaux, France
- **Distinguished Service Award:**
Gerald M. Fried, MD –
McGill University Health Center; Montreal, Canada
- **Young Researcher Award:**
J. Esteban Varela, MD –
Washington University in St. Louis, School of Medicine
- **Researcher in Training Award:**
Rebecca Petersen, MD –
University of Washington Department of Surgery; Seattle WA
- **IRCAD Traveling Fellowship Award:**
Konstantinos Makris, MD –
Legacy Health System, Portland OR
**SAGES acknowledges a generous grant in support of this award from Karl Storz Endoscopy*
- **Excellence in Clinical Care Award:**
Theodore N. Pappas, MD –
Duke University Medical Center; Durham, NC
- **SAGES Foundation Gerald Marks Rectal Cancer Award:**
Masaaki Ito, MD –
National Cancer Center Hospital East; Kashiwa, Japan
- **SAGES Foundation Jeffrey L. Ponsky Master Educator in Endoscopy Award:**
Wayne H. Schwesinger, MD –
University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio
- **Excellence in Medical Leadership Award:**
Brent Matthews, MD – Washington University in St. Louis
**Generously funded through an unrestricted educational grant from W.L. Gore & Associates*

SUPPORT THE MARGRÉT ODDSDÓTTIR INTERNATIONAL TRAVELING FELLOWSHIP AWARD



Margrét Oddsdóttir, MD (1955-2009) had a profound influence on many physicians' careers, professionally and personally. She helped shape their practices and surgical expertise and experience, while also shaping the Icelandic health system. Dr. Oddsdóttir's lifelong commitment to international education and research has enriched the world of many surgeons, which is why the SAGES Education & Research Foundation has set up **The Margrét Oddsdóttir**

International Traveling Fellowship Award.

We ask you to consider contributing to the new fund we've established in Margrét's name. We are currently raising \$100,000 to annually support the travel, lodging and registration expense for one promising surgeon and allied health professional to attend the SAGES meeting. The international traveling fellowship award will be administered through the SAGES Foundation and given out at the SAGES Annual Meeting each year. It will be open to all applicants, with preference given to women.

We are pleased to report that after one year of quiet fundraising, we have reached 40% of our goal. However, there is still much to be done. We will need to raise \$60,000 in 2011 and we cannot do it without your support. It is our hope that all SAGES members make a gift in Dr. Oddsdóttir's honor. Please consider joining us in this worthwhile endeavor as a way of paying tribute Margrét and her many achievements in the world of medicine.

If you would like to donate to The Margrét Oddsdóttir International Traveling Fellowship fund to commemorate Margrét's legacy, please visit our website at <http://www.sagesfoundation.org> to download the donor form or call our offices at 310-437-0544 ext 117.

THE SAGES FOUNDATION THIRTY FOR THIRTY CAMPAIGN CHALLENGE:

This year SAGES celebrates its 30th anniversary. What a wonderful landmark, and what a perfect occasion to ask you, its valued members, to remember what SAGES has meant for you as a surgeon. Many of you have become highly active in the society, enjoying the benefits of the collegial interactions among top surgeons and leaders of the world that is unmatched in any other society. Whatever your role, we now ask you to support the SAGES Education and Research Foundation on this 30th anniversary occasion to help foster education for current and future generations.

Past contributions to the Foundation have been used to fund pioneering projects such as the FLS program, FES program and Go Global. We have provided more than one million dollars towards MIS research and project funding. However, new and exciting challenges are just on the horizon. That is why we launched the **Thirty for Thirty Challenge**. Our new fundraising goal is to achieve \$1 million from SAGES members over the next three years. We hope you that you will contribute to SAGES Foundation through an automatic payment plan of \$30 per month in honor of our anniversary.

We encourage you to take the challenge and contribute:

In the time it takes you to write a check for your donation to SAGES Foundation, you can set up the same donation through your online banking and have your pledge payments sent automatically. Just follow these simple instructions:

- Include the SAGES Education and Research Foundation in your online banking address book.
- Set up a recurring payment to donate \$30 per month.
- Your bank automatically sends your contribution payment in a timely fashion.
- The SAGES Foundation recognizes you for your gift and efficiency!

NEW INDUSTRY PLEDGES

The SAGES Education and Research Foundation continued to receive unprecedented support from industry in 2010. We have seen long-time sponsors return with even larger re-commitments and welcomed brand new sponsors into the fold. We are thrilled to see the surge of support from industry remaining steady as SAGES Foundation fulfills its mission to advance minimally invasive surgical techniques through supporting research and education. A great big thank you to **Aesculap, The Allergan Foundation, Atrium Medical, LifeCell** and **W.L. Gore & Associates!**

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2010 DONORS

The number of people who give to the SAGES Foundation grows with each year. In 2010, we were fortunate to not only have new supporters, but to see our long-time dedicated contributors renew their commitments to the Foundation. The SERF Board of Directors gratefully acknowledges your generosity.

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CUMULATIVE GIVING

Giving reflects total donations given to the SAGES Foundation since the donors' first gift. Each of the following individuals has helped to move the Foundation closer to its financial goals and mission.

\$100,000 or more

Pon Satitpunwaycha, MD

\$25,000 - \$50,000

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MISSION

The mission of the SAGES Foundation is to advance endoscopic, laparoscopic, and emerging minimal access surgical methods and to maintain the highest possible quality of care by supporting reproducible scientific research, graduate and postgraduate education, and public information.

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