

SAGES Education & Research Foundation

2014 ANNUAL REPORT & NEWSLETTER



AUGUST 2015



Desmond H. Birkett, MD

The SAGES Foundation is moving into its second decade, and continues its mission of promoting education, research, and innovation. It has distributed \$2.5 million in grants that have helped fund significant projects such as FLS, FES, FUSE, and others. They have all played an essential part in improving patient safety by educating many surgeons and surgical trainees in safer practice standards. Our current fund may seem like a lot of money, but on an annual basis, it is not a large reserve. Unfortunately, the Foundation cannot support many of the grant requests that we receive for excellent and worthy projects.

SAGES is one of the leading national and international surgical organizations with significant influence in patient care and treatment. We must keep up the good work and try to expand our reach for the sake of patients. An excellent example of the Foundation's important role is the hard work of the Go Global Committee, under the auspices of Dr. Horacio Asbun, and its efforts to promote minimal access surgical education throughout the world. As you know, minimally invasive surgery is rarely performed in developing nations because of the required specialized training and equipment. One of the most impressive educational endeavors of this committee

has been the introduction of laparoscopic surgical training techniques in Mongolia, which was started by Dr. Ray Price. With the help of SAGES members, he began by educating a team of healthcare professionals in a hospital in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar, monitoring their progress, and developing a Train-the-Trainers program, which has disseminated access to laparoscopy around the country. In partnership with the Swanson Foundation, the Mongolian Ministry of Health, and the Mongolia Surgical Society, SAGES has helped to make laparoscopic procedures a central component to decreasing morbidity and mortality in surgical patients. Expansion of these techniques (laparoscopic cholecystectomy is now performed nearly 80% of the time) is a priority of their health care system. In fact, the Minister of Health attended the Nashville meeting to thank SAGES for its initiative and hard work. Such a great achievement for SAGES and the Go Global Committee, needs to be duplicated in other countries around the world—but it will not happen without the support of the SAGES Foundation.

I would like to thank the Society members, corporate sponsors, and others who have helped to launch and develop projects that improve patient care—and change lives—by supporting the Foundation so generously. However, we can only achieve these, and further successes at home and abroad by growing the Foundation with further support from SAGES members.

The Board of Directors of the Foundation would like to increase the annual distribution to fund all worthy education and research proposals, however, to achieve these aims, it is important to grow the Foundation's financial resources. The original target was to raise \$10 million, but we find that there are more grant requests being submitted than can be funded, resulting in excellent projects being turned down due to lack of funds. As we enter the second decade of the Foundation, we must continue our support of advanced training, surgical innovation and new technology despite the challenges, which include decreasing industry contributions, along with inflation and the increased cost of research.

The financial goal has been increased to \$20 million by the Foundation's Board of Directors. This a tall order, but when one looks at the major role that SAGES plays in the promotion and development of flexible endoscopy and minimal access surgery, it is very important for us to expand our reach to benefit our patients who rely more and more on technical advancements to improve surgical outcomes.

Many SAGES members have benefitted from minimal access surgery, and can testify that they were relieved to have avoided the increased pain and longer recovery required with an open procedure. We especially need these members to be advocates on behalf of the Foundation to help us increase the level of fundraising and its ultimate goal of expanding the use of laparoscopic techniques.

We need your help. I encourage you to do your part to help patients by helping the Foundation to reach its new \$20 million goal. Please take a minute to send a one-time gift or consider a pledge for a recurring donation.

Please step up to the plate on this important issue.



A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Desmond H. Birkett".

Desmond H. Birkett, MD
President, SAGES Education and Research Foundation

DR. KEN FORDE HONORED WITH 2015 PONSKY AWARD

The Jeffrey L. Ponsky Master Educator in Endoscopy Award was presented to Kenneth Forde, MD during our 9th Annual Awards Luncheon held in Nashville, Tennessee on April 15, 2015. The Ponsky Flexible Endoscopy Research Fund was established by the Foundation in 2007 as a tribute to Dr. Jeffrey Ponsky for his outstanding contributions to endoscopy and surgical education, and also as a demonstration of gratitude for his profound influence on so many careers. The Master Educator award recognizes a distinguished SAGES leader who exemplifies Dr. Ponsky's visionary leadership spirit and his dedication to the development and teaching of surgical endoscopy.

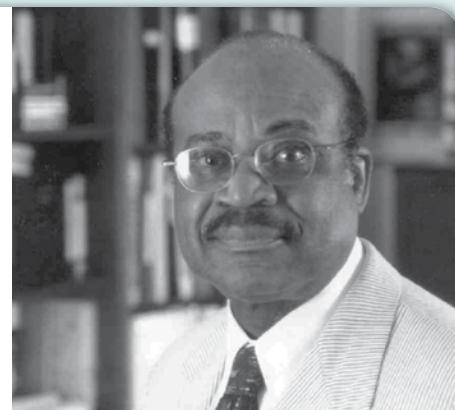
Dr. Forde, a pioneer in minimal access surgery, is an internationally renowned researcher and educator who has trained a generation of leaders, and helped launch endoscopy as an academic discipline. One of the founding members of SAGES, he has served as President (1983-1984), and as its first Membership Committee Chair, Editor of *Surgical Endoscopy* for more than 10 years, Credentials Committee Chair, ACS Governor, and now as an officer of the SAGES Foundation.

"Of the several awards I have been privileged to receive, those for education have given me the greatest satisfaction. I have enjoyed the challenge and rewards of teaching as far back as I can remember. I have tried to pass on as many tricks of the trade as possible to those who wound up with me as their teacher and mentor and I have tried to instill in them the responsibility to do the same for the next generation. But this particular award has an additional and

greater meaning for me, named as it is for one whom I regard as the consummate endoscopic surgeon-educator—my dear friend Dr. Jeffrey Ponsky. Known for his profound, visionary, spirited, lucid expository role in the education of the present and next generation of surgeons, Jeff has been a beacon for us all."

Among his numerous awards and accolades, the Kenneth A. Forde Professorship in Surgery was established in 1996 to honor his contributions to academic colorectal surgery. He has received awards for teaching, humanitarianism and service, including the SAGES Berci Award. He is also co-author of more than 180 scientific papers, abstracts and editorials.

After a distinguished 45-year career at the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Columbia University, Department of Surgery, Dr. Forde retired in 2006. He previously served as the Jose M. Ferrer Professor in Surgery and Surgeons and Vice Chair for External Affairs in the Department of Surgery at New York Presbyterian Hospital. He currently serves as a member of both the Columbia University and the New York Presbyterian Hospital Board of Trustees.



Dr. Forde was a vital force in the founding of SAGES and has been considered a voice of wisdom and reason for more than 30 years. "Our founding group, led by Dr. Gerald Marks, hoped in 1981 that the acronym SAGES would fulfill the promise of wisdom, for wisdom comes of education and can hopefully be imparted through teaching."

We invite you to honor the legacy of Dr. 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 Evelyn Klass-Rodewald at Evelyn@sages.org, to learn more about the Ponsky Fund and SAGES Foundation.**

MARGRÉT ODDSDÓTTIR INTERNATIONAL TRAVELING FELLOWSHIP AWARD

The Margrét Oddsdóttir International Traveling Fellowship Award honors the memory of Dr. Margrét Oddsdóttir, an international leader in laparoscopic surgery and a beloved member of the SAGES family. Dr. Oddsdóttir (1955-2009) was born and grew up in a fishing village on the northwest coast of Iceland. She completed her fellowship in laparoscopic surgery at Emory University with Dr. John Hunter. She was the first advanced laparoscopic surgeon in Iceland and was instrumental in developing the field of minimally invasive surgery in the Nordic countries. Dr. Oddsdóttir attended SAGES every year, accompanied by as many as 3-10 nurses, residents, medical students and colleagues from Reykjavik. She had a lifelong commitment to international education and her research had a profound influence on many physicians both professionally and personally.

This year's award recipient was **Dr. Daliya AlMohammad Ali**, a surgical resident at the Kuwait Board of Surgery. Her SAGES 2015 paper was titled "Successful Weight Loss After Sleeve Gastrectomy: Sex Matters."

Please visit our website at www.sagesfoundation.org to learn more or donate to the Margrét Oddsdóttir International Traveling Fellowship Fund.



2014 PONSKY FLEXIBLE ENDOSCOPY RESEARCH FUND CONTRIBUTORS

Cleveland Foundation



WITH APPRECIATION AND THANKS TO DR. BRUCE SCHIRMER

In April 2015, Dr. Bruce Schirmer finished his term as President of the SAGES Foundation. He had served as the Foundation's President since 2009. Under his leadership, the Foundation received the most number of individual pledges, along with the single largest individual gift in its history. Additionally, this last calendar year saw the largest dollar amount of individual gifts ever received during the Foundation's "SAGES World" campaign.

The Foundation's staff and Board of Directors thank Dr. Schirmer for his outstanding leadership and unfailing commitment and dedication to the SAGES Foundation. He inspired and encouraged several SAGES members to become donors and members of the Foundation's board. As one of the Foundation's largest individual donors, he understands the value of the Foundation and was able to skillfully partner with many industry supporters. Dr. Schirmer will continue to serve on the Foundation's Board as an Emeritus member.

DR. DANIELLE WALSH HONORED AS THE 2015 RECIPIENT OF THE EXCELLENCE IN MEDICAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

The 2015 recipient of the Foundation's Excellence in Medical Leadership Award is **Danielle Walsh, MD**, of East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina. This award, supported through a generous educational grant by Gore & Associates, was established in 2011 to provide scholarships to qualified midcareer SAGES members for leadership development and management training toward advancing minimal access surgery and quality patient care.

Dr. Walsh is an Associate Professor of Surgery in the Pediatric Surgery Division. She is board-certified in general surgery and pediatric surgery. Her clinical and research interests are pediatric surgical disorders including birth defects, cancer and abdominal and thoracic surgery, and the application of minimally invasive techniques to their management. She serves as Director of Surgical Quality for Maynard Children's Hospital and is on the leadership team for the American Medical Association grant to transform medical education through training in quality, patient safety, and system-based care to her institution.

A member of SAGES since 1996, Dr. Walsh is the current Chair of

the Pediatric Liaison Committee in addition to serving on the Membership, Guidelines, and Legislative committees. She served as President of the Association of Women Surgeons from 2013–2014, and currently serves on national committees for the American College of Surgeons, the American Pediatric Surgical Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Dr. Walsh earned her medical degree from the University of South Florida College of Medicine in Tampa. She completed an internship and general surgery residency at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. She also completed a fellowship in fetal surgery and research at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and a fellowship in pediatric surgery at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

Her award will support attendance in the program, Leadership Development for Physicians in Academic Health Centers at Harvard University, from November 1–13, 2015. She intends to utilize this training to further her service in professional organizations. "This award is particularly important to me because it's not just about recognizing someone for their past successes, but about preparing them for even greater future successes. In creating this award, SAGES went beyond just a certificate and a pat on the back for a job well done. They funded this for participation in a high-level course of education to ensure promising physician leaders can further hone their skill at a time of tremendous change in health care. It is an honor to be chosen, and it is my intent to apply what is learned through service locally, nationally, and even internationally."

If you are interested in learning more about the Excellence in Medical Leadership Award, please contact Evelyn Klass-Rodewald at Evelyn@sages.org.



GRANT AWARDS

In 2014, the SAGES Education and Research Foundation distributed approximately \$458,000 in project funding and research grants to programs designed to further minimally invasive surgical practices worldwide. Since 2003, the Foundation has provided more than \$3 million to worthy programs. 2014 funding included the following:

SAGES GRANTS

Fundamental Use of Surgical Energy (FUSE)	\$ 95,000
Research Grants	\$ 90,000
Global Initiative (Go Global)	\$ 75,000
Resident Education Courses	\$ 50,000
Career Development Awards	\$ 30,000
MIS Fellows Course	\$ 20,000
Hernia	\$20,000
History of SAGES Film	\$10,000
Brandeis Scholarship Award	\$ 8,000

OTHER GRANTS

Foundation for Surgical Fellowships	\$ 60,000
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PROJECT GRANT DESCRIPTIONS

Resident Education Courses

In 2014, the SAGES Foundation provided \$50,000 to support educational courses in gastrointestinal endoscopy and laparoscopy for residents. The courses are an

educational experience designed to present the basic science and technical approaches to modern endoscopic surgery. Materials presented deal with traditional diagnostic and therapeutic flexible endoscopy, as well as minimally invasive surgical techniques. Participants are provided with an extensive laboratory experience, in addition to classroom didactics. The faculty is composed of some of the most highly-skilled, experienced, and respected endoscopic surgeons in the world.

The Hernia Project—Inguinal Hernia Training Program

The Inguinal Hernia Training Program received \$20,000 from the SAGES Foundation to support the development of an interactive clinical case. The interactive clinical case, via a virtual patient, will be rooted in evidence-based medicine and focused on critical decision making in the management of patients affected by recurrent inguinal hernias.

Inguinal hernia surgeries are among the most common general surgical procedures in the United States with approximately 600,000 surgeries performed each year. Though commonly performed, hernia repairs can be complex and based on many variables, including patient age and health status, defect size, repair complexity, comorbidities, prosthesis selection, sizing and placement. Other variables that may complicate a hernia repair include procedure and technique selection, surgeon's knowledge and experience,

patient preferences, and postoperative patient responses. Subject matter experts and billing data also suggest that existing training does not adequately prepare surgeons with the knowledge and skill set to optimally perform hernia surgery.

The overall program goals are to improve the quality of patient care by promoting evidence-based approaches to difficult hernia problems, assist surgeons in the development of greater clinical decision making ability and surgical skills, increase safety and teamwork in the operating room, decrease complication rates, and improve outcomes of hernia patients.

RESEARCH GRANTS

The following are research grants awarded in 2014-2015 and supported by SAGES Foundation:

Tammy Lyn Kindel, MD

University of Nebraska Medical Center
Title: *The Effect of Sleeve Gastrectomy on Post-Prandial Serum Bile Acids*

Edward L. Jones, MD

The Ohio State University, Wexner Medical Center
Title: *Characterizing Unintentional Energy Transfer During Endoscopy*

L. Michael Brunt, MD

Washington University School of Medicine
Title: *Promoting Mechanical Integration at the Tissue-Biomaterial Interface in Ventral Hernia Repair*

A BIG THANK YOU FROM THE FOUNDATION

SAGES members continued their generous support of the Foundation in 2014. More than \$60,000 in new gifts and pledges was raised. The Foundation's leadership extends their gratitude to SAGES members who continually demonstrate their dedication to both the vision and continued success of the Society and the Foundation through their leadership, active involvement, and philanthropy.

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 \$3 million to directly support SAGES research and educational projects. It is important to note that for every \$1 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 that 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, please visit www.sagesfoundation.org.

NEW INDUSTRY PLEDGES

The SAGES Education and Research Foundation continued to receive generous support from companies in 2014. We are thrilled to recognize new and renewing industry supporters. It is because of their confidence in us as

a critical resource for minimal access surgical research and education that we are able to support a wide variety of SAGES related projects each year. A great big thank you to **Karl Storz Endoscopy**, **Ethicon**, and **CR Bard**.



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 honorariums to the organization.

If you are interested in donating your honorarium(s) 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 9th Annual SAGES Education and Research Foundation Awards Luncheon took place at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel & Convention Center and honored many extraordinary individuals. Thanks to our generous supporters, the Awards luncheon fulfilled expectations again and generated close to \$64,000 for surgical research and education.

The 2015 Awards Honorees:

- **SAGES Pioneer in Endoscopy Award:**
Steven Rothenberg, MD – Rocky Mountain Pediatric Surgery
- **SAGES George Berci Lifetime Achievement Award:**
Lee Swanstrom, MD – The Oregon Clinic
- **SAGES Foundation Jeffrey L. Ponsky Master Educator in Endoscopy Award:**
Kenneth Forde, MD – Columbia University
- **SAGES Foundation Excellence in Medical Leadership Award:**
Danielle Walsh, MD – East Carolina University
** SAGES Foundation acknowledges a generous grant from W.L. Gore & Associates*
- **SAGES Distinguished Service Award:**
Daniel Deziel, MD – Rush University Medical Center
- **SAGES Award for Excellence in Humanistic Clinical Care Award:**
Robert Lim, MD – Tripler Army Medical Center
** SAGES acknowledges a generous grant in support of this award from The Arnold P. Gold Foundation*
- **SAGES International Ambassador Award:**
Natan Zundel, MD – Jackson North Medical Center
- **SAGES Foundation Gerald Marks Rectal Cancer Award:**
Shuji Saito, MD – Yokohama Shin-Midori General Hospital
- **SAGES Young Researcher Award:**
Rajesh Aggarwal, MD – McGill University Health Centre
** SAGES acknowledges a generous grant in support of this award from Olympus*
- **SAGES Researcher in Training Award:**
Edward L. Jones, MD – VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System
- **SAGES IRCAD Traveling Fellowship Award:**
Yulia Zak, MD – Massachusetts General Hospital
** SAGES acknowledges a generous grant in support of this award from Karl Storz Endoscopy*
- **SAGES Career Development Award:**
Georgios Karagkounis, MD – Cleveland Clinic Foundation
** SAGES acknowledges a generous grant in support of this award from SAGES Education and Research Foundation*
- **SAGES Foundation Margrét Oddsdóttir Traveling Fellowship Award:**
Daliya AlMohammad Ali, MD – Kuwait Board of Surgery

The SAGES Foundation thanks those companies who generously supported the 2015 Foundation Luncheon



The number of people who give to the SAGES Foundation grows each year. In 2014, we were fortunate to not only have new supporters, but to also see our long-time dedicated contributors renew their commitments to the Foundation. The following is a listing of gifts received from January 1 to December 31, 2014. The SAGES Foundation Board of Directors gratefully acknowledges your generosity.

Benefactor: \$5,000 and Above

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Paul Severson, MD

Friend: \$1,000 - \$2,999

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LEGACY BENEFACTORS

Supporters of the SAGES Foundation often become even more devoted to its mission with each passing year. Legacy Benefactors are those who have pledged to donate a minimum of \$1,000 to the Foundation annually during their career. We owe a lifetime's gratitude to the following:

Desmond H. Birkett, MD
L. Michael Brunt, MD
John M. Cosgrove, MD
Steve Eubanks, MD
Pascal Fuchshuber, MD
Frederick L. Greene, MD

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Eli N. Lerner, MD
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Archana Ramaswamy, MD
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Tatsuo Yamakawa, MD

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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Kenneth A. Forde, MD
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Archana Ramaswamy, MD
Barry A. Salky, MD
Bruce D. Schirmer, MD

\$10,000 - \$24,999

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The Allergan Foundation	\$650,000
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ConMed Corporation	\$100,000
Cook Surgical	\$25,000
C. R. Bard Foundation	\$40,000
Endogastric Solutions	\$7,500
Ethicon Endo-Surgery	\$2,008,000
Karl Storz Endoscopy	\$2,056,000
Lexion Medical	\$15,000
LifeCell	\$30,000
Microline Surgical	\$100,000
NDO Surgical	\$5,000
Olympus Corporation	\$590,000
Richard Wolf Medical Instruments	\$60,000
Simbionix	\$36,000
Stryker Endoscopy	\$550,000
Synovis Surgical Innovations	\$10,000
Taut Medical Products/Teleflex	\$25,000
U.S. Surgical/Covidien	\$1,075,000
W.L. Gore & Associates	\$250,000
Total Corporate Pledges:	\$8,249,500

INDIVIDUAL PLEDGES:

Total Individual Donations & Pledges to Date:	\$2,008,978
Funds from SAGES to Date:	\$1,780,508
Events	\$ 208,237
Total Pledged and Donated to Date:	\$12,247,223

PROGRAMS FUNDED:

Grantee	Total Amount Received	Awarded in 2013-2014
Career Development Awards	\$450,000	\$ 30,000
Career Development Seminar	\$20,000	
Cost 11 Study	\$25,000	
Flexible Endoscopy Fellows Courses	\$100,000	\$ 20,000
Global Initiative	\$408,000	\$ 75,000
Outcomes Registry Update	\$40,000	
Robotics Guidelines/Consensus Conference	\$15,000	
SAGES Annual Meeting Sponsorship	\$55,000	
SAGES FES Grant	\$492,000	\$ 30,000
SAGES FES Seed Grant	\$20,000	
SAGES FLS Grant	\$115,000	
SAGES Research Grants	\$590,000	\$ 90,000
Strategic Retreat	\$10,000	
SAGES Berci Video Grant	\$10,000	
SAGES History Video Grant	\$10,000	\$ 10,000
SAGES FUSE Grant	\$355,000	\$ 95,000
SAGES Brandeis Scholarship	\$24,000	\$ 8,000
SAGES Resident Education Courses	\$50,000	\$ 50,000
SAGES Hernia Project	\$20,000	\$ 20,000
Foundation for Surgical Fellowships	\$180,000	\$ 60,000
Total Funded 2014:		\$ 458,000
Total Funded to Date:	\$ 3,037,000	

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- Research fellowships



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