

SAGES EDUCATION & RESEARCH FOUNDATION

2011 ANNUAL REPORT & NEWSLETTER



MAY 2012



Bruce D. Schirmer, M.D.

Dear Foundation Supporters:

The SAGES Education and Research Foundation is now achieving its goal of providing significant ongoing annual support for major surgical education and research projects. The original target of a \$10 million dollar endowment has been reached in pledges, though not yet in actual cash received. This past year the Foundation provided \$340,000 in grants to various projects including Fundamentals of Endoscopic Surgery, the FUSE project, research grants, SAGES Go Global efforts, and the Career Development Award. The membership, especially the SAGES leadership, responded to the 2011 President's End of Year Appeal with the largest single annual amount of individual donations in the Foundation's history. Along with that, the Foundation has now returned more in funding to SAGES projects than the SAGES organization has given to the Foundation over the past decade.

Certainly achieving all these goals is remarkable and cause for celebration. We should all feel justifiably proud that the Foundation has grown to such a formidable entity. And we do!

However, resting on our laurels at this point would only lead to stagnation, erosion of the momentum we have gathered, and eventual decline of the funding capacity of the Foundation. If we were satisfied with doing laparoscopic cholecystectomies as the only advantage of the introduction of laparoscopy to general surgery, we would have certainly missed out on huge benefits to our patients.

And so our focus now shifts to expanding our horizons, creating a Foundation that is the leader in funding innovative surgical education and science, just as SAGES has assumed that role as the organization where such science and innovation is first presented. SAGES has grown in size and stature in just three decades to be the second largest society of general surgeons, and the clear leading society in new technology and surgical innovation. The Foundation has just over a decade of history as well, and is on a similar ascending course.

So I appeal to you, our members, to help us achieve our goals in any of several ways:

1. Continue your individual support to the Foundation
2. Encourage your colleagues who have not done so to become contributors
3. Emphasize to our industry partners how important the SAGES Foundation is to the future of minimally invasive surgery by promoting leading projects in surgical education and research

I especially ask you all to help us at every opportunity with this last request. Our industry partners are certainly facing more stringent financial times. However, their investment in the Foundation is now no longer based on a vision for the future. It is based on the reality of significant ongoing funding of highly important projects. Projects like FLS, FES, and Career Development Awards, all have hinged on such funding. The more they hear the message from YOU that the Foundation is a priority for you, and something that you view as an important entity, the more likely they are to substantially support the mission of the Foundation. Your individual contributions are essential and important. It is your support and the power of corporate contributions that will take us to the next level of funding.

Let me close by saying that it is my personal privilege to again head the Foundation's Board at this time, a major obligation to which I will devote my efforts in the years immediately ahead. I know I can count on your continued enthusiastic support to build the Foundation. Together we can make it happen.

With my personal best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce Schirmer".

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



DR. FREDERICK L. GREENE HONORED WITH 2012 PONSKY AWARD

The Jeffrey L. Ponsky Master Educator in Endoscopy Award was presented to Frederick L. Greene, MD, during our 6th Annual Awards Luncheon held in San Diego, California, on March 7, 2012.

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 in 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. Greene's immediate reaction upon being notified of his selection as recipient of the Ponsky Award was, "It was totally unexpected. There are many who are more worthy." Those familiar with "Rick" Greene's legacy as a medical educator, compassionate mentor and an admirable colleague would dispute that modest statement, citing his scholarly, progressive contributions to medical education worldwide which will have a perpetual impact on the field. His body of written work over the span of his distinguished career includes 160 papers, 30 book chapters, and two textbooks relating to the use of laparoscopic surgery in the management of cancer patients.

In honoring Dr. Greene, we take special pride in acknowledging him as a past President of the SAGES Foundation.

He currently serves as a Director Emeritus in the Foundation. Also, as a founding member of SAGES, Dr. Greene has held several leadership roles in the organization, including serving as President in 1992. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by SAGES in 2004.

Dr. Greene is currently Chairman of the Department of General Surgery and Director of Surgical Education at the Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, North Carolina, and Clinical Professor of Surgery at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. He received his medical school training at the University of Virginia, completed a residency in surgery at Yale University School of Medicine, and was also an American Cancer Society clinical research fellow at Yale.

He is an active clinician in surgical oncology and has been involved in organizational work pertaining to cancer for a number of years. Dr. Greene has served on the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and is a past chair of the Commission. He has represented ACS on the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) and served as chair of the AJCC from 2000-2004. He has represented the AJCC and has served as vice-chair of the TNM Staging Core Group of the International Union Against Cancer (UICC) based in Geneva, Switzerland. Dr. Greene is also the editor of the Sixth and Seventh editions of the AJCC Cancer Staging Manual. He belongs to numerous surgical organizations including the



Society of Surgical Oncology, the Southern Surgical Association, and the American Surgical Association.

In an essay entitled, "To Lifelong Learning," in the November 2011 issue of *General Surgery News*, Dr. Greene offered his complex, threefold interpretation of the late coach John Wooden's adage, "It's what you learn after you know it all that counts." We urge you to read the article, which gives insight into what makes Dr. Greene a superlative scholastic leader clearly worthy of the Master Educator Award. "We need to keep our minds receptive to new information that, in many ways, becomes more important than what we may have learned in a traditional surgical education setting," he wrote. That philosophy can also be applicable to the SAGES Foundation's support of the constantly evolving technological and scientific research that require up-to-date training programs and advanced research. Congratulations Dr. Greene, and thank you for steering us in the right direction.

PONSKY FLEXIBLE ENDOSCOPY RESEARCH FUND CONTRIBUTORS

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SUPPORT THE ODDSDOTTIR FUND!

The fundraising campaign for the **Margret Oddsdottir International Traveling Fellowship Fund** is nearly complete. More than \$73,000 toward our \$100,000 goal has come in and we hope to complete the campaign in 2012.

The Oddsdottir Traveling Fellowship Award will support the travel, lodging and registration expense for a promising surgeon and allied health professional to attend the SAGES meeting each year. It will be a lasting tribute to the memory of **Margret Oddsdottir (1955 - 2009) whose lifelong commitment to international education and research had a profound influence on many physician both professionally and personally.**

If you would like to learn more or donate to the Margret Oddsdottir International Traveling Fellowship Fund, please visit our website www.sagesfoundation.org or call the Foundation directly at 310-437-0544.

The SAGES Foundation recognizes the following donors for their generous commitment to the Oddsdottir Fund:

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DR. DANIEL B. JONES RECEIVES THE 2012 EXCELLENCE IN MEDICAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

The 2012 recipient of the Foundation's Excellence in Medical Leadership Award is Daniel Bougere Jones, MD, of the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC), Harvard Medical School. This award, supported through a generous educational grant by Gore & Associates, was established in 2011 to provide scholarships to qualified mid-career SAGES members for leadership development and management training toward advancing minimal access surgery and quality patient care.

Dr. Dan Jones was selected from hundreds of highly qualified candidates for his leadership qualities demonstrated as Chief of Minimally Invasive Surgical Services at Beth Israel Deaconess, Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School and as a leader among SAGES colleagues. He joined SAGES as a Candidate member in 1994 and made an immediate impact, offering his time and expertise. Since then, Dr. Jones contributed to the growth and development of SAGES by serving on numerous committees, particularly those focused on education

and research. In 2001, he was selected as recipient of the SAGES Young Investigators Award. In a leadership role with SAGES he has chaired the following committees: Educational Resources; Quality, Outcomes and Safety; Fundamental Use of Surgical Energy (FUSE) Task Force. Since 2003, he has served on the SAGES Board of Governors.

In addition to the aforementioned titles, Dr. Jones also serves as Vice Chair of Surgery, Office of Technology and Innovation at BIDMC. After arriving at BIDMC in 2003, he established a national program in Minimally Invasive Surgery, Bariatric Surgery and Surgical Training using Simulation. Dr. Jones was elected as Vice President of the Association for Surgical Education in 2012 having served as the Chair of the Simulation Committee and member of the Education Research Committee. He is co-editor of 18 books including 2012 release of *Mastery of Surgery*, *SAGES Manual for FUSE*, *SAGES Manual for Quality, Outcomes and Safety*, and *The Textbook of Simulation: Skills and Team Training*. He has also authored over 250 original publications and book chapters on surgical education, metrics of technical skills and Bariatric Surgery.

The SAGES Foundation is grateful to Gore & Associates for their generosity, and for their vision, in creating this award with an eye on the future. The Excellence in Medical Leadership Award was created to optimize the chosen recipient's impact in the medical industry. This scholarship is aimed to expose one SAGES member to the top minds in leadership development by enabling an individual to attend a leadership program at an Academic Institution organization as a high potential leader in the medical world.



Honoree Daniel Jones, MD (center), with SAGES President Steven Schwaitzberg, MD (left) and SAGES Foundation President Bruce Schirmer, MD.

In 2011, the SAGES Education and Research Foundation distributed approximately \$345,000 in project funding and research Grants to programs designed to further minimally invasive surgical practices worldwide. Since 2003, the Foundation has provided more than \$1.7 million to worthy programs. 2011 funding included the following:

Career Development Awards:	\$ 60,000
Global Initiative (Go Global):	\$ 25,000
Fundamentals of Endoscopic Surgery (FES):	\$ 125,000
Research Grants:	\$ 60,000
Fundamental Use of Surgical Energy (FUSE)	\$ 75,000

PROJECT GRANTS:

Fundamental Use of Surgical Energy (FUSE)

In 2011 SAGES Foundation provided \$75,000 to support the development of the FUSE program, and its mission is to provide instruction on how to safely use medical devices that transmit surgical energy with the overarching goal of improving the quality of patient care.

FUSE is an educational program/ curriculum being developed by SAGES that will provide instruction on how to safely use devices that transmit surgical energy in the operating room and other endoscopic procedural areas. The program is designed to determine whether a successful candidate has the knowledge fundamental to the safe use of surgical energy-based devices in the operating room, endoscopy suite and other procedural areas. The FUSE program will cover the following areas:

- Fundamentals of Electro-Surgery
- Electro-Surgical Safety
- Ultrasonic Energy Systems
- Monopolar Devices
- Bipolar Devices
- FRA Devices
- Microwave Devices
- Endoscopic Energy Devices
- Interactions with Cardiac Implantable Electronic Devices
- Pediatric Considerations

The topics to be covered include but are not limited to:

- 1) Fundamental physics of electrical energy applications

- 2) Safe use of electrical/laser/ultrasonic/plasma and future forms of energy and electrical tools in the O.R.
- 3) Recognition of faulty equipment and application of correct settings
- 4) Appropriate indications of energy tools and technology in the O.R. or Endoscopy Suite

The components comprising the FUSE program will be:

- 1) A text book written by members of the FUSE committee
- 2) An online education module derived from the text book with videos, animations and other supporting images
- 3) A high stakes, proctored, and validated multiple choice exam written by and reviewed by experts

Only practicing surgeons will be eligible to take the certifying exam, however, as SAGES plans to make the online educational modules, without the certifying exam, available to O.R. Nurses and related Technicians.

The FUSE Task Force is developing the FUSE program. The Task Force is chaired by Daniel Jones, MD, and co-chaired by Liane Feldman, MD and Pascal Fuchshuber, MD. If you are interested in learning more about the FUSE project, please contact Program Coordinator, Jessica Mischna, at 310.437.0544, ext. 139 or jessica@fuseprogram.org.

SAGES CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARD

The focus of this SAGES Foundation supported award is to provide funding for a young surgeon or surgeon-in-training for the development of critical skills required for their academic career in gastrointestinal and endoscopic surgery. The intent of this award is to delay the start of a faculty role or ongoing residency training for supplemental training/traveling fellowship or intense research time.

Since 2008, this annual grant has provided awardees with a unique educational opportunity that would not otherwise be available. Awards are conferred on a competitive basis by submission of a grant application, which is reviewed and evaluated by the SAGES Research and Career Development Committee and approved by the Governing Board.

Congratulations to the 2011 Recipient, Michael Awad, MD

Institution: Washington University

Title: *Development of a Comprehensive Curriculum in Laparoendoscopic Surgery: A SAGES/SCORE Collaborative Initiative*

A \$60,000 award grant will support travel, salary, and/or tuition.

RESEARCH GRANTS:

The following are research grants awarded in 2011-2012 and supported by SAGES Foundation or through an educational grant from one of our industry partners:

Supported by Covidien:

Piero Fisichella, MD

Loyola University Medical Center

Title: *A Non-Invasive Test to Detect Markers of Aspiration After Lung Transplantation*

Supported by Karl Storz Endoscopy:

Brant Oelschlager, MD

University of Washington

Title: *Long-term Outcomes of Barrett's Esophagus after Anti-Reflux Surgery*

Supported by Ethicon-Endo Surgery:

Michael Awad, MD, PhD

Washington University School of Medicine

Title: *Ergonomic Analysis of Robotic Surgery*

Supported by SAGES Foundation:

Liane Feldman, MD

Montreal General Hospital

Title: *Enhancing Functional Recovery after Colorectal Surgery: The Effect of Multimodal Prehabilitation*

Allan Okrainec, MD

Toronto Western Hospital

Title: *Remote Evaluation of Laparoscopic Performance Using the Global Operative Assessment of Laparoscopic Skills*

Anne Rogers, MD

Penn State Surgical Weight Loss Program

Title: *Functional MRI to Study Alterations in Taste Function After Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass Surgery.*

Supported by SAGES:

David Sindram, MD, PhD

Carolinas Medical Center

Title: *Synergy of Alcohol and Obesity in Hepatocellular Carcinoma Development and Progression*

NEW INDUSTRY PLEDGES

Through tax-deductible, unrestricted contributions to the SAGES Foundation, companies continue to demonstrate their shared commitment to our mission to advance endoscopic, laparoscopic and emerging minimal access surgical methods. The SAGES Education and Research Foundation is thrilled to recognize several 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 **The Allergan Foundation, C.R. Bard Foundation, ConMed Corporation, Endogastric Solutions, Symbionix, and Synovis Surgical Instruments** for their generosity.



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 honoraria 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 foundation@sages.org.

ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

The 6th Annual SAGES Education and Research Foundation Awards Luncheon was a phenomenal event, filling the banquet hall at the San Diego Convention Center. Thanks to our generous supporters, the Awards Luncheon fulfilled expectations again and generated more than \$46,000 for surgical research and education.

The 2012 Awards Luncheon included a special tribute to Dr. Felicien Steichen who passed away in June 2011.

Produced by Covidien, the video was an illuminating tribute to a true pioneer of medicine. The 2012 awards honorees:

- **SAGES Pioneer in Endoscopy Award:**
Leon Hirsch and Turi Josefsen
- **SAGES Foundation Jeffrey L. Ponsky Master Educator in Endoscopy Award:**
Frederick L. Greene, MD – Carolinas Medical Center
- **SAGES Foundation Excellence in Medical Leadership Award*:**
Daniel Jones, MD – Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/ Harvard Medical School

**Generously funded through an unrestricted educational grant from Gore & Associates*

- **SAGES Distinguished Service Award:**
Bruce Schirmer, MD – University of Virginia Health Science Center
- **SAGES Excellence in Clinical Care Award:**
Joseph Petelin, MD – University of Kansas School of Medicine
- **SAGES Foundation Gerald Marks Rectal Cancer Award:**
Soo Yeun Park, MD – Kyungpook National University Medical Center
- **SAGES Young Researcher Award*:**
Melina Vassiliou, MD – McGill University
**SAGES acknowledges a generous grant in support of this award from Olympus*
- **SAGES Researcher in Training Award:**
Dana Telem, MD – Massachusetts General Hospital
- **SAGES IRCAD Traveling Fellowship Award*:**
Omar Kudsi, MD – Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/ Harvard Medical School
**SAGES acknowledges a generous grant in support of this award from Karl Storz Endoscopy*

**The SAGES Foundation
thanks those companies
who generously supported the
2012 Foundation Luncheon**



The number of people who give to the SAGES Foundation grows each year. In 2011, 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, 2011. The SAGES Foundation Board of Directors gratefully acknowledges your generosity.

Benefactor: \$5,000 and Above

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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
Pascal Fuchshuber, MD

Frederick L. Greene, MD
Daniel B. Jones, MD
Sung-Tao Ko, MD
Eli N. Lerner, MD

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GOLFING FOR A GREAT CAUSE!

The Second Annual SAGES Foundation Golf Outing was held at Torrey Pines in San Diego, California on Sunday March 11, 2012. This 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.

Foundation Board Leader, Dr. Barry Salky, created this event for surgeons to relax and have some fun together either directly before or after SAGES Surgical Week each year. The event is open to SAGES members,

industry, friends and family and all proceeds benefit the SAGES Foundation.

To learn more, please visit <http://www.sagesfoundation.org/events/golf-outing/> or contact the Foundation at foundation@sages.org.

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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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 is grateful to the SAGES members whose generosity is contributing to the progressive development of minimal access surgery and the substantial advancement in research and training to assure patient safety around the world. To learn more about how you can contribute in 2012, please visit www.sagesfoundation.org.

CORPORATE PLEDGES:

Aesculap	\$25,000
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Applied Medical	\$120,000
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Taut Medical Products	\$25,000
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U.S. Surgical/Covidien	\$1,075,000
W.L. Gore & Associates	<u>\$250,000</u>
Total Corporate Pledges:	\$7,806,500

INDIVIDUAL PLEDGES:

Total Individual Donations & Pledges to Date:	\$ 1,212,289
Funds From SAGES to Date:	\$ 1,119,462
Events	<u>\$ 117,502</u>
Total Pledged and Donated to Date:	\$10,255,753

PROGRAMS FUNDED:

Grantee	Total Amount Received	Awarded in 2011
Career Development Awards	\$300,000	\$ 60,000
Career Development Seminar	\$20,000	
Cost 11 Study	\$25,000	
Flexible Endoscopy Fellows Courses	\$50,000	
Global Initiative	\$230,000	\$ 25,000
Outcomes Registry Update	\$40,000	
Robotics Guidelines/Consensus Conference	\$15,000	
SAGES Annual Meeting Sponsorship	\$55,000	
SAGES FES Grant	\$462,000	\$125,000
SAGES FES Seed Grant	\$20,000	
SAGES FLS Grant	\$115,000	
SAGES Research Grants	\$380,000	\$ 60,000
Strategic Retreat	\$10,000	
SAGES FUSE Grant	<u>\$75,000</u>	<u>\$ 75,000</u>
Total Funded 2011:		\$346,000
Total Funded to Date:	\$1,798,000	

DONOR CATEGORY	PLEDGE OR CONTRIBUTION	BENEFITS OF CATEGORY
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VISION

The SAGES Foundation was created with the vision of a healthcare world in which all operative procedures are accomplished with the least possible physical trauma and discomfort, and with the greatest quality of care and safety for the patient.

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.

OUR PURPOSE

The SAGES Education and Research Foundation was founded to be an alternative resource for minimal access surgical research and education. Through focused grant-making, the SAGES Foundation provides institutions, physicians, fellows, and academicians with funding support to create evidence-based standards of practice, develop up-to-date training programs, and carry out long-term research that others will not fund.

Common endeavors supported by the Foundation are:

- Educational programs in minimally invasive surgical techniques and procedures
- Assessment tools and methodology of surgical skills and competence
- Development of surgical trainers and educators
- Technology that supports and advances minimally invasive surgery
- Preceptorship networks
- Development of surgical training tools
- Outcomes studies
- New and emerging minimally invasive research
- Research fellowships



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