SAGES EDUCATION & RESEARCH FOUNDATION

2012 ANNUAL REPORT & NEWSLETTER



May 2013

A Message from the Foundation President



Bruce D. Schirmer, MD

Dear Colleagues,

I once heard a very interesting sermon years ago. The minister asked the congregation what was the one word that was the most sinister to their faith. He alleged it was "tomorrow." That word suggests that whatever the task at hand is, whether it be a self-reflective change in belief and behavior, or a goal for an organization, that the urgency to achieve it is a distant thing, not something we need to worry about right now. As such, if we have a "tomorrow" philosophy and approach to a problem or goal, it is unlikely to be addressed or achieved any time soon.

As I contemplated what would be an appropriate message for the SAGES Education and Research Foundation this year, I realize that now would be an easy time to take a "tomorrow" philosophy for the organization. After all, we have achieved our initial goal of raising \$10 million in actual funds or pledges. We have given out over \$1 million to SAGES projects and other worthy projects. Within three years that number will double. We have been the regular recipient of matching funds from SAGES for member contributions to the Foundation, and that total will surpass \$1 million this year. What a great success story!! Three cheers for us!!

So for sure since we've done so well to date, TOMORROW the Foundation will be even better.

Wrong. Tomorrow only is better if we make it so TODAY!

Unless we continue to have a sense of urgency and passion about the very important work that the Foundation has helped to support (FLS, FES, FUSE, Go Global, scores of research grants, an annual career development award), we will not move forward. SAGES has provided more high quality educational material that is now a requirement of every surgeon in training than any other organization in the history of organized American surgery. And we have done so in just over a decade. SAGES is now recognized by all as a leadership society in surgery. Our Foundation must play a similar role. To do so requires the enthusiastic support of every member of SAGES. This begins with financial contributions, and extends to a chorus of support to our industry and other appropriate partners for their help toward the Foundation. So I urge all of you to be a part of the process. You can:

- 1. Donate to the Foundation in an amount that reflects enthusiasm, not a "check off."
- 2. Whenever the opportunity arises, remind our industry partners of our mission and its importance.
- 3. Educate other colleagues about what we are and what we do.
- 4. Consider a special gift to the Foundation to honor George Berci, whose life and achievements we celebrated in Baltimore.

In the meantime, the Foundation Board unanimously approved new goals for the Foundation at our last meeting, doubling our original goals for fundraising and setting the bar anew at a high level. I am confident we will get there, but only if we "forget tomorrow" and make it happen TODAY!!

Thanks in advance for your generous support.

Sincerely,

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Bruce Schirmer, MD President SAGES Education and Research Foundation



Dr. Choichi Sugawa Honored with 2013 Ponsky Award

The Jeffrey L. Ponsky Master Educator in Endoscopy Award was presented to Choichi Sugawa, MD during our 7th Annual Awards Luncheon held in Baltimore, Maryland on April 17, 2013. 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. Sugawa is described as the "teacher's teacher," which is a testimony to his invaluable contribution as a mentor to students, residents, and faculty. He is currently Professor of Surgery at Wayne State University School of Medicine, Department of Surgery; and Director of Surgical Endoscopy, Detroit Medical Center in Detroit, Michigan. He received his medical school training at the University of Tokyo in Tokyo, Japan, and was also a GI surgery fellow at Wayne State University.

Since 1980, he has been an active member of SAGES, having served as Vice President in 1990-91, and made valuable contributions in service to the following committees: Educational Resources, Flexible Endoscopy, Membership and Program. He has also served on various committees of

2012 Ponsky Flexible Endoscopy Research Fund Contributors

John Cosgrove, MD Kenneth Forde, MD Lee Swanstrom, MD

the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) and is currently exchairman of the Membership Committee. He is a Fellow of the American Surgical Association (ASA), as well as the American College of Surgeons (ACS) where in 2006, he was given the Blue Ribbon Award for the Scientific Exhibit of Exceptional Merit at the 92nd Annual Clinical Congress Scientific Exhibit in Chicago, Illinois. He is also a member of the American College of Gastroenterology (ACG). He was elected to first Fellow of American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (FASGE) in May 2006. He is serving on the International Advisory Boards of Digestive Endoscopy, and has served on the Editorial Board of Surgical Endoscopy, the official journal of SAGES.

Dr. Sugawa has had 120 articles published in journals, both in Japan and the United States. He has had 19 review articles, 31 book chapters and two books published. As one of the world's leading experts, he is editor of a book entitled *Gastrointestinal*



Bleeding, published in 1992. He has given more than 300 lectures nationally and internationally.

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 supports the travel, lodging and registration expense for a promising surgeon and allied health professional to attend the SAGES meeting each year. It is a tribute to the memory of Dr. Margrét Oddsdóttir (1955 - 2009) whose lifelong commitment to international education and research had a profound influence on many physicians both professionally and personally.

The first recipient of the award is Dr. Jun Yan from Fujian Provincial Tumor Hospital in China. Dr. Yan believes this unique opportunity will provide inspiration towards greater achievement. "It's my great honor to be selected as a recipient of the SAGES Foundation's Margrét Oddsdóttir International Traveling Fellowship Award. Five years ago, in a SAGES meeting, my teacher Dr. Jeffrey Milsom (New York Presbyterian Hospital) told me that there should be a recipient from China. Now, this dream comes true. I'm so excited. I have engaged in GI cancer treatment and doing research about laparoscopic surgery and optical diagnosis using multiphoton imaging. I've learned a lot from my teacher Dr. Milsom and the SAGES Annual Meeting. I'm so proud to be a recipient of the SAGES Foundation's Award. This award will encourage me to keeping going in clinic and in research. Moreover, this award will inspire more Chinese surgeons to follow SAGES and believe where there is a will, there is a way."

If you would like to learn more or donate to the Margrét Oddsdóttir International Traveling Fellowship Fund, please visit our website at www. sagesfoundation.org or contact Evelyn Klass-Rodewald at Evelyn@sages.org.

FOUNDATION NEWS



GEORGE BERCI: "A LIFE OF INNOVATION AND ACHIEVEMENT"

Can a man who endured near starvation, survived a Nazi labor camp, and was oppressed by a totalitarian Communist regime change the face of surgery? The answer is "Yes." The man is George Berci.

More than a year ago, SAGES and the SAGES Foundation commissioned a documentary film to be made about the life and medical innovations of Dr. George Berci. The film was shown and a reception was held on Thursday afternoon, April 18th at the SAGES 2013 Annual Meeting.

Dr. Michael Brunt, the film's screenwriter and producer, said, "Until I was making this film, I had no idea how much Dr. Berci's work impacted every phase of endoscopic surgery from access, to light, to image. There is no doubt that his ideas and his work changed the face of surgery. The life and work of George Berci has made all of us and all of our patients better for his having survived and imagined a better way to do surgery."

Dr. Paresh C. Shah Honored as the 2013 Recipient of the Excellence in Medical Leadership Award

The 2013 recipient of the Foundation's Excellence in Medical Leadership Award is Paresh Chandrakant Shah, MD, of Lenox Hill Hospital in New York. 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. Paresh Shah was selected for his leadership qualities demonstrated as Vice Chair, Department of Surgery, Chief of Laparoscopic Services at Lenox Hill Hospital. He became a member of SAGES in 1996 and has been an influential leader among his colleagues. He has served on numerous committees, particularly those focused on public policy. In his leadership role with SAGES, Dr. Shah has co-chaired the Legislative Affairs committee, as well as having served on the following: Conflict of Interest, Public Affairs and Technology committees; Endoluminal Task Force, Go Global Task Force and Specialty Advisor to AMA CPT Editorial



Dr. Paresh C. Shah

Panel. Since 2005, he has served on the SAGES Board of Governors.

In addition to the aforementioned titles. Dr. Shah also serves as the Program Director of General Surgery Residency. His commitment to surgical education has established his reputation among trainees for constructive feedback that drives selfassessment and improvement through iterative development. He has been active in legislative affairs and health policy since medical school, especially regarding standards in procedural coding and reimbursement, as well as quality and outcome in surgery, and utilization of IT in health care. As the Specialty Advisor to the AMA CPT Editorial Panel, he has made significant contributions with respect to many current MIS procedures, including bariatric surgery, abdominal hernia, and paraesophageal hernia. He has also co-authored over 25 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 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 as a high potential leader in the medical world.

If you are interested in learning more about the Excellence in Medical Leadership Award, please contact Evelyn Klass-Rodewald at Evelyn@sages.org. In 2012, the SAGES Education and Research Foundation distributed approximately \$293,000 in project funding and research grants to programs designed to further minimally invasive surgical practices worldwide. Since 2003, the Foundation has provided more than \$2 million to worthy programs. 2012 funding included the following:

Fundamental Use of	
Surgical Energy (FUSE)	\$ 95,000
Research Grants	\$ 60,000
Career Development Awards	\$ 60,000
Global Initiative (Go Global)	\$ 50,000
MIS Fellows Course	\$ 20,000
Brandeis Scholarship Award	\$ 8,000

PROJECT GRANTS

MIS Fellows Course

In 2012, the SAGES Foundation provided \$20,000 to support flexible endoscopic surgery courses for MIS Fellows. The purpose of the two-day course is to expose SAGES members and SAGES candidate members to flexible endoscopy. During the course, participants are provided with the latest information on therapeutic endoscopy as it pertains to surgeons, and illustrations on how flexible endoscopy is changing the face of minimally invasive surgery. Additionally, participants receive a comprehensive description of available and emerging therapeutic endoscopic techniques. The didactic session will include lectures by surgical endoscopic experts on management/palliation of biliary/enteric strictures, introperative endoscopy, enteral access techniques, endolumenal treatments for GERD, and the topic of why surgeons need to perform and expand endoscopic techniques. Fellows will also have an opportunity for hands-on experience on both days.

The overall goal of the course is to train fellows in enhanced flexible endoscopy and expose them to new procedures through didactics and hands-on labs. The course is open to 60 participants.

The Brandeis Scholarship Award

One of two Brandeis Scholarship Awards was funded by the SAGES Foundation in 2012. This \$8,000 award allows the recipient to attend the "Executive Leadership Program in Health Policy and Management" at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University. The goal of the program is to provide health care professionals with the skills essential to creating innovative and sustainable solutions to improve the quality, cost-effectiveness, and efficiency of health care service delivery.

Scholarship award applicants must be active SAGES members who serve on a SAGES committee. Awards are conferred on a competitive basis by submission of a grant application, which is reviewed by an awards committee. Upon completion of the program, the award recipient is expected to give a brief report of their experience at the October SAGES Legislative Committee Meeting.

RESEARCH GRANTS

The following are research grants awarded in 2012-2013 and supported by SAGES Foundation or through an educational grant from one of our partners:

Supported by Karl Storz Endoscopy:

Jeffrey Marks, MD Case Western Reserve Medical Center

Title: Anti-Scarring Therapy to Prevent Stricturing Following Endoscopic Esophageal Mucosectomy

Supported by SAGES:

Mark Wendling, MD The Ohio State University Title: Near Infrared Fluorescent Cholangiography (NIRF-C) for Biliary Imaging During Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy

Supported by SAGES Foundation: Sheetal Nijhawan, MD

University of South Alabama Title: Effects of Bariatric Surgery on Mitochondrial Function and Insulin Resistance

Melina Vassiliou, MD McGill University

Title: The Effects of Acute Exercise on the Acquisition of Laparoscopic Skills

Supported by SAGES and the SAGES Foundation: William Hope, MD

New Hanover Regional Medical Center

Title: Training Surgical Residents in Endsocopy: The Impact of a Formal Endoscopy Curriculum on Resident Performance and Outcomes

A BIG THANK YOU FROM THE FOUNDATION

SAGES members continued their generous support of the Foundation in 2012. Close to \$82,000 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 \$2 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 \$1.5 million 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 in 2013, please visit www. sagesfoundation.org.

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, laproscopic 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, ConMed Corporation,** and **Microline Surgical** for their generosity.

MICROLINE





ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

The 7th Annual SAGES Education and Research Foundation Awards Luncheon took place at the Baltimore Convention Center and honored many extraordinary individuals. Thanks to our generous supporters, the Awards luncheon fulfilled expectations again and generated close to \$50,000 for surgical research and education.

The 2013 awards honorees:

- SAGES Pioneer in Endoscopy Award: Joel Leroy, MD – IRCAD
- SAGES Foundation Jeffrey L. Ponsky Master Educator in Endoscopy Award: Choichi Sugawa, MD – Wayne State University, Detroit Medical Center
- SAGES Foundation Excellence in Medical Leadership Award: Paresh Shah, MD – Lenox Hill Hospital

*SAGES Foundation acknowledges a generous grant from Gore & Associates

- SAGES Distinguished Service Award: David Rattner, MD – Massachusetts General Hospital
- SAGES Excellence in Clinical Care Award: Alfons Pomp, MD – Weill Cornell Medical College

- SAGES International Ambassador Award: Manabu Yamamoto, MD – Adachi Kyosai Hospital
- SAGES Foundation Gerald Marks Rectal Cancer Award: Shigeki Yamaguchi, MD – Saitama Medical University International Medical Center
- SAGES Young Researcher Award: Patricia Sylla, MD – Massachusetts General Hospital
- SAGES Researcher in Training Award: Lawrence Lee, MD – McGill University
- SAGES IRCAD Traveling Fellowship Award: Melanie Hafford, MD – Houston Methodist Hospital *SAGES acknowledges a generous grant in support of this award from Karl Storz Endoscopy
- SAGES Foundation Felicien M. Steichen Surgical Innovation Award: Luigi Mandredi, PhD – University of Dundee

*SAGES Foundation acknowledges a generous grant in support of this award from Covidien

 SAGES Foundation Margret Oddsdottir Traveling Fellowship Award: Jun Yan, MD – Fujian Provincial Tumor Hospital

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 foundation@sages.org.

The SAGES Foundation thanks those companies who generously supported the 2013 Foundation Luncheon



Ethicon Endo-Surgery







2012 Donors

The number of people who give to the SAGES Foundation grows each year. In 2012, 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, 2012. The SAGES Foundation Board of Directors gratefully acknowledges your generosity.

Benefactor: \$5,000 and Above \$250 - \$

Steve Eubanks, MD Archana Ramaswamy, MD David Rattner, MD Alexander Wade, MD BSC Management (Barbara Berci/Sallie Matthews)

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Chandrakanth Are, MD

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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 Daniel B. Jones, MD Sung-Tao Ko, MD Eli N. Lerner, MD Brent D. Matthews, MD Ormond N.M. Panton, MD Jeffrey H. Peters, MD Jeffrey L. Ponsky, MD Archana Ramaswamy, MD Edwin Ramirez, MD Bruce D. Schirmer, MD Daniel J. Scott, MD Greg V. Stiegmann, MD Mark A. Talamini, MD Stephen W. Unger, MD Alexander Wade, MD Tatsuo Yamakawa, MD

GOLFING FOR A GREAT CAUSE!

The 3rd Annual SAGES Foundation Golf Outing was recently held at Mount Pleasant Gold Course in Baltimore, Maryland on Monday, April 15, 2013. This fundraising event helps to raise funds 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 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

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\$25,000 - \$50,000 L. Michael Brunt, MD David W. Duppler, MD Kenneth A. Forde, MD Gerald Marks, MD Jeffrey L. Ponsky, MD Archana Ramaswamy, MD Barry A. Salky, MD Bruce D. Schirmer, MD

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Corporate Pledges:	Aesculap	\$25,000	
	The Allergan Foundation	\$650,000	
	Applied Medical	\$120,000	
	Atrium Medical	\$72,000	
	Boston Scientific	\$150,000	
	ConMed Corporation	\$100,000	
	Cook Surgical	\$25,000	
	C. R. Bard Foundation	\$20,000	
	Endogastric Solutions	\$7,500	
	Ethicon Endo-Surgery	\$2,000,000	
	Karl Storz Endoscopy	\$1,756,000	
	Lexion Medical	\$15,000	
	LifeCell	\$30,000	
	Microline Surgical	\$100,000	
	NDO Surgical	\$5,000	
	Olympus Corporation	\$690,000	
	Richard Wolf Medical Instruments	\$60,000	
	Simbionix	\$36,000	
	Stryker Endoscopy	\$550,000	
	Synovis Surgical Innovations	\$10,000	
	Taut Medical Products	\$25,000	
	U.S. Surgical/Covidien	\$1,050,000	
	W.L. Gore & Associates	\$250,000	
	Total Corporate Pledges:	\$ 7,746,500	
I			
INDIVIDUAL PLEDGES:	Total Individual Donations & Pledges to	Date: \$ 1,357,427	
	Funds from SAGES to Date:	\$ 1,332,908	
	Events	\$ 148,807	
	Total Pledged and Donated to Date:	\$10,585,642	
PROGRAMS FUNDED:	Grantee To	otal Amount Received	Awarded in 2012-2013
	Career Development Awards	\$360,000	\$ 60,000
	Career Development Seminar	\$20,000	
	Cost 11 Study	\$25,000	
	Flexible Endoscopy Fellows Courses Global Initiative	\$50,000	¢ 50.000
		\$280,000	\$ 50,000
	Outcomes Registry Update	\$40,000	
	Robotics Guidelines/Consensus Conference		
	SAGES Annual Meeting Sponsorship	\$55,000	
	SAGES FES Grant	\$482,000	
	SAGES FLS Grant	\$115,000	¢ (0,000
	SAGES Research Grants	\$440,000	\$ 60,000
	Strategic Retreat	\$10,000	¢ 05 000
	SAGES FUSE Grant	\$170,000	\$ 95,000
	SAGES Brandeis Scholarship	\$8,000	\$ 8,000
	MIS Fellows Courses	\$20,000	\$ 20,000
	Total Funded 2012:		\$ 293,000
	Total Funded to Date:	\$ 2,090,000	

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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 upto-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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