

SAGES Education & Research Foundation

2015 ANNUAL REPORT & NEWSLETTER



AUGUST 2016



Desmond H. Birkett, MD

I am constantly amazed when I look back and see how the SAGES Education and Research Foundation has helped SAGES and its membership achieve significant results in research and education. The Foundation has helped fund guidelines, research, education, SAGES manuals, and the three major SAGES initiatives of FLS (Fundamentals of Laparoscopic Surgery), FES (Fundamentals of Endoscopic Surgery), and FUSE (Fundamental Use of Surgical Energy). All of these programs, one of which (FLS) has been a partnership with the American College of Surgeons, came out of SAGES with substantial funding from the Foundation.

We all have an interest in the ongoing support for major surgical education projects, be it to further innovation and research or to recruit a well-trained new surgeon to our practices. In doing so, we must remember that they can only graduate from residency by passing FLS, and those graduating next year must also pass FES, as mandated by the American Board of Surgery (ABS). These are important training exercises, and result in better-trained residents and surgeons who will become our future colleagues. These are all programs made possible by substantial funding from the SAGES Education and Research Foundation.

Minimal access surgical procedures have over the last 25-30 years changed the face of the surgical treatment of our patients compared to the days of open operations. It has reduced post-operative pain, length of hospitalization, time off work, and returned patients to their families faster than with traditional surgical techniques. However, the landscape is constantly changing. Minimal access surgery has evolved significantly over this time period, but it still remains rather primitive. There is so much room for improvement in instrumentation and visualization, and the need for research and education to refine the current procedures, along with the development of new techniques. SAGES members have brought about a significant part of this advancement as a result of education and research funded by the Foundation. SAGES needs to continue this leadership role, but to do this, the Foundation needs support from the membership.

To date, donations to SAGES by the Foundation to help fund research and education projects total \$3.5 million. SAGES is constantly increasing their efforts for the benefit of the membership. Each year the amount that SAGES requests from the Foundation increases, because of their desire to expand these opportunities. This year alone SAGES requested almost \$700,000 for a number of worthy projects, but unfortunately the Foundation could only provide a little over \$450,000. It is sad to see SAGES cutting back on these excellent opportunities because of lack of funding. The people who are missing out are the membership, some of whom want to pursue research and others who are interested in seeing results that lead to improved patient care and practice standards.

Through the generosity of membership and industry support, the Foundation reached its original goal of \$10 million. However, this does not satisfy the demands of SAGES ongoing education and research needs. We have set a new goal of \$20 million to continue our important role in the promotion and development of flexible endoscopy and minimal access surgery. We must continue our pursuit of surgical innovation despite challenges of research costs and industry support. As the economy tightens and becomes more competitive, donations from our traditional surgical partnerships are drying up. We must learn to start supporting ourselves, and also solicit outside donations from non-medical foundations.

Understandably, the outside funding agencies and prospective donors ask us what percentage of our membership supports the Foundation. Unfortunately, it is currently only around 10%, a level at which prospective funding groups may feel that if the membership is not interested in the Foundation, why should they be? This is why we have instituted the "80 by 20 Campaign" with a goal of receiving support from 80% of SAGES membership by 2020. National Public Radio has a good slogan, "Less is More," by which they mean a few dollars a month as a sustaining member is better than a large amount contributed very occasionally. No gift is too small.

I urge you to join our effort to reach the Foundation's financial goal, and move minimal access surgery to the next levels of research, safety, sustainability, and patient care.

Please sign up and support the Foundation, so that we can support you.



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

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

DR. JEFFREY MARKS HONORED WITH 2016 PONSKY AWARD

The Jeffrey L. Ponsky Master Educator in Endoscopy Award was presented to **Jeffrey M. Marks, MD** during our 10th Annual Awards Luncheon held in Boston, Massachusetts on March 16, 2016. 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.

Jeffrey M. Marks, MD, FACS, FASGE is currently the Professor, Director of Surgical Endoscopy, Program Director, Case General Surgery Residency, University Hospitals Case Medical Center. He was appointed to the SAGES Board of Governors in 2001, is current Chair of SAGES Fundamentals of Endoscopic Surgery (FES) Committee and serves on the Conflict of Interest Task Force, Program and Flexible Endoscopy committees.

"I was incredibly honored to receive the Jeffrey L. Ponsky Master Educator in Endoscopy Award. SAGES was founded 35 years ago by a group of surgeons looking for a place to collaborate and learn about flexible endoscopy. From its inception, SAGES has placed patient safety and surgical education at the forefront of its goals. SAGES has become the premier organization

recognized globally for its creation of high-stakes educational platforms and training courses."

Dr. Marks is the program director for the Case General Surgery program and Associate Director of the GI Surgery/MIS Fellowship at Case. In addition to running a complex clinical practice in minimally invasive surgery and advanced therapeutic endoscopy, Dr. Marks spearheads an active lab researching numerous endoscopic techniques and provides endoscopic training courses for surgeons, gastroenterologists, and allied health care.

"My first involvement with SAGES was as a faculty member at the resident courses spearheaded by Jeff Ponsky, and taught by dozens of nationally recognized leaders in SAGES. My exposure to this large group of surgery residents grew as we expanded the number of training courses while I chaired the Resident Education Committee, and even now I run across individuals who



describe that experience as the one that solidified their desire to be a minimally invasive and endoscopic surgeon."

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, 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. Kristen Elstner**, a surgical resident at St. Vincent's Hospital Sydney. Her SAGES 2016 paper was titled *Podium: Preoperative Chemical Component Relaxation Using Botulinum Toxin A: Enabling Laparoscopic Repair of Complex Ventral Hernia*.

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



2015 PONSKY FLEXIBLE ENDOSCOPY RESEARCH FUND CONTRIBUTORS

Thank you to those donors who have directed gifts to the Ponsky Fund.



SAGES FOUNDATION'S 80 BY 20 CAMPAIGN – ARE YOU IN?

Whatever your role in SAGES, we ask you to help strengthen the society by supporting the SAGES Education and Research Foundation's 80 by 20 Campaign. The goal of the campaign is to have 80% of membership giving to the Foundation by the year 2020.

We hope that you will contribute to the SAGES Foundation through a one-time donation, a multi-year pledge, or through an automatic monthly payment plan. Now, you can simply and conveniently make a monthly recurring donation in the time it takes you to write a check. Your donation can be set up through your online banking account and pledge payments will be sent automatically. Please visit our website for additional details.

Since 1998, the SAGES Foundation has been a committed partner with SAGES in advancing MIS research, education, and training. Today, the Foundation provides more than \$500,000 in grants to a variety of SAGES projects annually. Past grant funding to SAGES has been used to fund pioneering projects such as the FLS program, the FES program, and Go Global. This funding has also contributed to more visibility and opportunities for SAGES.

If you would like to contribute to the 80 by 20 Campaign, please visit our website at www.sagesfoundation.org/donate-now/campaign. You may also contact the Foundation's administrative office at (310) 437-0544 or foundation@sages.org.

Please help us accomplish our goal by becoming part of the 80 by 20!

BE A MEMBER. BE A LEADER. BE A DONOR.

DR. DANIEL SCOTT HONORED AS THE 2016 RECIPIENT OF THE EXCELLENCE IN MEDICAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

The 2016 recipient of the Foundation's Excellence in Medical Leadership Award is **Daniel Scott, MD**, of University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas. 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. Scott is currently Professor of Surgery, Vice Chairman of Education, Surgery Residency Program Director, Director of the Minimally Invasive/Bariatric Surgery Fellowship Program, and holds the Frank H. Kidd, Jr. MD Distinguished Professorship in Surgery. He also serves as the Executive Director of the Southwestern Center for Minimally Invasive Surgery. Dr. Scott oversees numerous educational activities within the Department of Surgery and has special interests in technical skills training, performance assessment and competency.

He also serves as the current SAGES President, and underscores the importance of his continuing active participation. "I admire leaders that are calm under pressure, exhibit logical thought processes, have courage when needed, listen to the people around them (especially recognizing expertise that they themselves may not have), and make smart decisions as a result. I have seen numerous collaborative efforts in my work at SAGES and many of my role models exhibit the leadership qualities that I admire. Our organization is unique in having so many committees that people can become involved with early in their career, contribute to the efforts of the group, and develop their own style of leadership."

He is nationally and internationally recognized as an expert in the clinical areas of minimally invasive general surgery, including bariatric, foregut, and hernia surgery. His research interests

focus on emerging surgical techniques and technologies, as well as simulation-based surgical education and novel methods for achieving mastery.

Dr. Scott has authored 179 publications, including books, monographs, chapters, manuscripts, and videos, all focusing on various areas of minimally invasive and gastrointestinal surgery, including novel surgical devices and approaches, Bariatrics, GERD, Achalasia, Hernia, Robotics, and Surgical Education. He has received numerous awards, including the 2004 SAGES Young Researcher Award, and the 2005 Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract (SSAT) Traveling Fellowship Award. In addition to serving as President of SAGES, he is currently president-elect of the Fellowship Council, Secretary of the Association for Surgical Education (ASE), and a member of the American Board of Surgery Gastrointestinal Surgery Advisory Committee.

"I have been a member of SAGES since 1998 and have been very fortunate to be exposed to many fantastic mentors and leaders within our organization. I have learned a great deal from these individuals and am grateful. My own career has evolved considerably over this period of time and I am increasingly placed in positions where I am now the leader. While my SAGES role models have served me well and continue to do so, this leadership award will allow me to dedicate a full week to enrolling in a formal course to further develop and refine my skills. This is something I have wanted to do for some time and I am extremely excited."

Dr. Scott's award will support attendance in the Harvard University program, *Leadership Strategies for Evolving Health Care Executives* on October 23 - 28, 2016. "I hope to develop skills that are readily applicable to both my local institutional roles as well as my national leadership roles, including being President of SAGES this year!"

GRANT AWARDS

In 2015, the SAGES Education and Research Foundation distributed approximately \$508,000 in project funding and research grants to programs designed to further minimally invasive surgical practices worldwide. Since 2003, the Foundation has provided more than \$3.5 million to worthy programs. 2015 funding included the following:

SAGES GRANTS

Fundamental Use of Surgical Energy (FUSE)	\$ 30,000
Research Grants	\$ 90,000
Global Initiative (Go Global)	\$ 50,000
Resident Education Courses	\$ 30,000
Career Development Award	\$ 30,000
MIS Fellows Course	\$ 10,000
Hernia	\$ 50,000
Safe Cholecystectomy Program	\$ 65,000
Brandeis Scholarship Award	\$ 8,000
Fundamentals of Endoscopic Surgery (FES)	\$ 50,000
SMART Enhanced Recovery	\$ 15,000
FES Research Grants	\$ 15,000
FUSE Research Grants	\$ 15,000

OTHER GRANTS

Foundation for Surgical Fellowships	\$ 50,000
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NEWLY FUNDED PROJECT GRANT DESCRIPTIONS:

Safe Cholecystectomy Program

In 2015, the SAGES Foundation provided \$65,000 to the Safe Cholecystectomy Program. The goal of the program is to reduce bile duct injury and decrease complications, in addition to creating a culture of safety. This will be accomplished through the development of interactive multimedia education modules for practicing surgeons.

The participants will be required to complete a multiple choice assessment to show proficiency at the end of the 2-hour program.

SMART Enhanced Recovery Program

The SMART Enhanced Recovery Program received \$15,000 from the SAGES Foundation to support research into the use of Enhanced Recovery Programs in combination with laparoscopic digestive surgery.

The goal of the program is to provide further evidence, guidelines, and/or tools to help SAGES members adopt strong Enhanced Recovery Programs into their practice. The program will provide for the development of an outcome measure for surgical recovery that is patient reported, reflects recovery after discharge, poses minimal burden on patients

and investigators, is psychometrically sound, and is sensitive to differences between laparoscopic and open surgery. Additionally, there will be a completion of a clinical trial in ERAS with peer reviewed presentation and publication. Finally, there will be a development and implementation of a novel, web based, low burden audit tool to follow ERAS care processes and outcomes.

RESEARCH GRANTS:

The following are research grants awarded in 2015-2016 and supported by SAGES Foundation:

Ali Aminian, MD

Cleveland Clinic

Title: *An Experimental Study of Bariatric Surgery in Type 1 Diabetes*

Richard Garfinkle, MD

McGill University

Title: *Does Bowel Stimulation Before Loop Ileostomy Closure Reduce Postoperative Ileus? A Multicenter Randomized Controlled Trial*

Yuri Novitsky, MD

UH Case Medical Center

Title: *Comparison of Traditional Anterior Component Separation Versus Posterior Component Separation and Transversus Abdominis Release in a Cadaveric Model*

A BIG THANK YOU FROM THE FOUNDATION

SAGES Members continued their generous support of the Foundation in 2015. More than \$90,000 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 \$3.5 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 2015. 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 **EndoGastric Solutions** and **Novadaq**.

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 10th Annual SAGES Education and Research Foundation Awards Luncheon took place at the Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center and honored many extraordinary individuals. Thanks to our generous supporters, the Awards luncheon fulfilled expectations again and generated \$63,000 for surgical research and education.

The 2016 Awards Honorees:

- **SAGES Pioneer in Surgical Endoscopy Award:**
Dr. H.C. Mult. Sybill Storz, MD – KARL STORZ Endoscopy
- **SAGES George Berci Lifetime Achievement Award:**
Alberto Montori, MD – Emeritus Professor, University of Rome “La Sapienza”
- **SAGES Foundation Jeffrey L. Ponsky Master Educator in Endoscopy Award:**
Jeffrey Marks, MD – University Hospitals Case Medical Center
- **SAGES Foundation Excellence in Medical Leadership Award:**
Daniel J. Scott, MD – UT Southwestern
**SAGES Foundation acknowledges a generous grant from W.L. Gore & Associates*
- **SAGES Distinguished Service Award:**
Steven D. Schwartzberg, MD – University of Buffalo School of Medicine
- **SAGES Award for Excellence in Humanistic Clinical Care Award:**
Adrian Park, MD – Anne Arundel Health System
**SAGES acknowledges a generous grant in support of this award from The Arnold P. Gold Foundation*
- **SAGES International Ambassador Award:**
Karl-Hermann Fuchs, MD – Agaplesion Markus Hospital, Frankfurt, Germany
- **SAGES Foundation Gerald Marks Rectal Cancer Award:**
James L. Alexander, MA, MRCP – Imperial College London & The Royal Marsden
- **SAGES Young Researcher Award:**
Dana Telem, MD – Stony Brook University Medical Center
- **SAGES Researcher in Training Award:**
Rebecca Baucom, MD – Vanderbilt University Medical Center
- **SAGES IRCAD Traveling Fellowship Award:**
Paul Colavita, MD – Providence Portland Medical Center
**SAGES acknowledges a generous grant in support of this award from Karl Storz Endoscopy*
- **SAGES Career Development Award:**
Oliver Varban, MD – University of Michigan Taubman Center
**SAGES acknowledges a generous grant in support of this award from SAGES Education and Research Foundation*
- **SAGES Foundation Margrét Oddsdóttir Traveling Fellowship Award:**
Kristen Elstner, MD – University of Sydney

The SAGES Foundation thanks those companies who generously supported the 2016 Foundation Luncheon



The number of people who give to the SAGES Foundation grows each year. In 2015, we were fortunate to not only have new supporters, but to also see our long-time dedicated contributors renew their commitment to the Foundation. The following is a listing of gifts received from January 1 to December 31, 2015. The SAGES Foundation Board of Directors gratefully acknowledges your generosity.

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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:

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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.

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\$25,000 - \$50,000

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NDO Surgical	\$5,000
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Richard Wolf Medical Instruments	\$60,000
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Stryker Endoscopy	\$550,000
Synovis Surgical Innovations	\$10,000
Taut Medical Products/ Teleflex	\$25,000
U.S. Surgical/Covidien/Medtronic	\$1,075,000
W.L. Gore & Associates	\$250,000
Total Corporate Pledges:	\$ 8,409,500

INDIVIDUAL PLEDGES:

Total Individual Donations & Pledges to Date:	\$ 2,035,503
Funds from SAGES to Date:	\$ 1,853,029
Events	\$ 276,804

PROGRAMS FUNDED:

Total Pledged and Donated to Date:	\$12,574,836	
Grantee	Total Amount Received	Awarded in 2015 - 2016
Career Development Awards	\$480,000	\$ 30,000
Career Development Seminar	\$20,000	
Cost 11 Study	\$25,000	
Flexible Endoscopy Fellows Courses	\$110,000	\$ 10,000
Global Initiative	\$480,000	\$ 50,000
Outcomes Registry Update	\$40,000	
Robotics Guidelines/Consensus Conference	\$15,000	
SAGES Annual Meeting Sponsorship	\$55,000	
SAGES FES Grant	\$542,000	\$ 50,000
SAGES FES Seed Grant	\$20,000	
SAGES FLS Grant	\$115,000	
SAGES Research Grants	\$725,000	\$ 90,000
Strategic Retreat	\$10,000	
SAGES Berci Video Grant	\$10,000	
SAGES History Video Grant	\$10,000	
SAGES Get Well Sooner	\$2,500	
SAGES FUSE Grant	\$390,000	\$ 30,000
SAGES Brandeis Scholarship	\$32,000	\$ 8,000
SAGES Resident Education Courses	\$80,000	\$ 30,000
SAGES Hernia Project	\$70,000	\$ 50,000
SAGES FES Research Grant	\$15,000	\$15,000
SAGES FUSE Research Grant	\$15,000	\$15,000
SAGES Safe Chole Grant	\$65,000	\$65,000
SAGES SMART Enhanced Recovery	\$15,000	\$15,000
Foundation for Surgical Fellowships	\$230,000	\$ 50,000
Total Funded 2015 - 2016:		\$ 508,000
Total Funded to Date:	\$ 3,571,500	

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