



SAGES Community Practice Committee SUMMER 2025 UPDATE

Greetings Community Practice Committee,

I hope everyone is doing well personally and professionally. This is the Summer quarterly committee update, and I'd like to start by thanking all of you for volunteering your time and energy to SAGES. We are going through a time of rapid change in the healthcare industry, and it seems like every day brings a new problem to solve. I hope that your participation in this committee brings a little joy and camaraderie to your life. I wanted to update everyone on the committee projects and as always, feel free to volunteer to participate in the sub-groups and projects, or propose new directions for the committee to pursue.

Firstly, I'd like to welcome Limaris Barrios as our newest Co-Chair of the committee! Limaris has been a committee member for many years and has been active in several of our projects over the years. I'm sure we will all benefit from her experience and leadership.

The Fall Virtual Committee Meetings have been scheduled, and Community Practice is slotted for September 18th from 7-9 PM (Eastern). You will receive an invite to the virtual meeting soon.

As a reminder, SAGES 2026 will be held in Tampa, Florida on March 25-28. Typically, committee meetings are held in person the day before the start of the conference, so make sure you block off your calendar now since I know your scheduling coordinator is already asking you about time off for 2026.

Here are some of the things the Community Practice Committee is working on:

Collaborative Grand Rounds: Hernia is in process and Bariatrics is in the revision process prior to publication on the SAGES website. We will need a new topic for 2026 and a new volunteer to lead the next effort.

The Appeals Tool Kit: We are working on collating the information collected and then are hoping to have this posted on the SAGES website.

Business of Surgery Webinar: Progress on the podcast continues. Our host have been selected, and we are hoping to have the first episode completed before the committee meeting this fall.

Sustainability for the Community Surgeon: The list of sustainability tips created was forwarded to the Sustainability Task Force for review. After reviewing, the goal is to work with the Communications Committee to put this out in a format that can be shared with all of the SAGES members.

Community Practice Surgeon Award: We need a lead committee member to follow up on nominations for this award to make sure that we continue to have strong representation at the annual meeting. Let me know if you're interested.

The projects below are new, and include requests for collaboration from other committees as well as ideas raised by our committee that need some leadership for development:



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- I. Hernia Collaboration:
The Hernia Committee is putting together an educational program regarding hernia care that is aimed at community practice surgeons. We have been asked to provide a few members to work alongside them to develop a product that will be valuable and well received. If you are interested in participating, let me know.
- II. Focused Practice Designation in Abdominal Wall Reconstruction:
The American Board of Surgery is considering the addition of a Focused Practice Designation in Abdominal Wall Reconstruction. We have been asked to provide feedback in this process. I would like to convene a small group for a quick meeting to review the proposal and provide feedback from a community surgeon perspective. If you have experience in abdominal wall reconstruction and would like to participate, let me know. I'd like to try to get this done by mid-September so we can provide our feedback in a timely fashion.
- III. DLPD Committee:
The DLPD Committee is looking to create a networking opportunity at the Spring 2026 meeting for mentorship development. This aligns with some of the ideas we have discussed in the past. If you are interested in helping bring this to fruition, let me know.
- IV. Define Practice Types:
The Community Practice White Paper Lives! There is an ongoing debate over how to characterize surgeons practice types for the societies purposes. Several committees are working on this including hernia, membership, and us. This may be a good topic to discuss over a few drinks at the next meeting, but in the meantime, if you would like to participate in this discussion let me know.
- V. Complication Support Group:
This idea has the potential to be a major member benefit, particularly for rural and community practice surgeons in smaller hospitals. I'm working on finding a training program so that we can get a few surgeons trained to serve as peer support counselors. If you are interested in serving as a peer support counselor let me know. The training will have an associated cost, so committee members interested in the training will have to commit to also volunteering time to serve as counselors.
- VI. Routine IOC Guideline:
We have been asked to participate in a discussion regarding the SAGES guideline recommending routine intraoperative cholangiogram when performing cholecystectomy. This is sure to generate a lot of controversy, and leadership is interested in making sure that the community surgeon voice is well represented in the discussion. Let me know if you'd be interested in participating.



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As a reminder, please make sure you have updated your SAGES profile this year, and when you log on to the web site, take a look at your Speaker Catalog listing and update that with as much specific information as you can. This will help the 2026 Program Committee match speakers with the topics they are most interested in. Also, if you are interested in participating in the SAGES Data Network, don't forget to go sign up as well.

All committee members should be signed up to review articles for our journal SOARD. If you haven't signed up yet, you can do so on the SAGES website. Importantly, SAGES will soon be offering CME credits for your reviews, so make sure you take advantage of that opportunity as well.

Patient Partner Network: The PPN is a community of individuals who've undergone surgery themselves or have supported a loved one through surgery and are passionate about improving the patient experience. Help amplify the patient voice by encouraging your patients to join the [PPN network](#). You can learn more by using the QR code below to visit the PPN website.



As many of you know, one of the founders of this committee and a long-time member, Dr. Kevin Wasco, suffered from a stroke earlier this year. He continues to recover but still has some residual deficits. The best wishes of the committee go out to Kevin and his family for a speedy and full recovery.

Keep in mind that every committee member should participate in at least one of our active projects. If you are interested in getting involved in a project or proposing a new one, reach out to any member of the committee leadership team and we will help facilitate your participation (Co-Chairs: Mercedeh Baghai, Limaris Barrios, Fernando Mier Girard).

Best,

Rob Catania
Community Practice Committee Chair