



# MINUTES

## SAGES Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery

Date: **Tuesday, March 11, 2025** Time: **1:00 PM PST**

In Person: **Hyatt Regency Long Beach- Regency Ballroom B**

**Chair:** Farah Husain, MD

**Co-Chairs:** Ted Trus, MD, Omar Ghanem, MD, Judy Chen, MD

**Committee Staffer:** Charlene Franco

**I. Call to Order and Introductions**

**II. CME Disclosures and Committee Disclosures**

**III. Committee reviewed and motioned to approve committee goals as follows:**

- Work with Ed Council to support the Bariatric content of the SAGES Master's Program.
- Liaise with other SAGES committees on issues pertaining to bariatric surgery.
- Liaise with ASMBS on flexible endoscopy bariatric curriculum.
- Establish patient safety and examine clinical, training, and research applications for existing and evolving bariatric procedures.
- Ensure new techniques and technologies are used responsibly and safely.
- Ensure therapies are offered within the context of a comprehensive bariatric and metabolic disease program.
- Maintain a presence and leadership within the rapidly expanding area of both primary and revision procedures on platforms, as well as bariatric endoscopy.
- Create educational content for both bariatric and general surgeons to promote delivery of safe and effective care to patients with obesity and those who have undergone bariatric procedures.

**IV. Approval Meeting Minutes Fall 2024**

Motion to approve minutes.

**V. Video Based Assessment**

The SAGES Video-Based Assessment (VBA) Task Force is working to develop a series of robust, evidence-based assessment tools for the purpose of competency evaluation and/or credentialing. The VBA for laparoscopic fundoplication (LF) was developed through a rigorous process that involved rater training of expert foregut surgeons using eLearning modules. However, relying solely on expert raters may challenge scalability. One way to expand the "rater pool" is to employ non-expert assessors. Our aim with this study is to examine the impact of rater expertise on the accuracy and reliability of VBA for LF. Our secondary objective is to identify areas to improve the rater training modules to increase assessment reliability and support scalability. We are actively recruiting MIS foregut surgeons who perform laparoscopic fundoplication to serve as expert raters, as well as PGY3-4 General Surgery residents for the "non-expert" group. If you are interested in this project, please contact the study investigators, whose contact information is listed below. All participants will be acknowledged in the research manuscript.



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- Dylan Grisell MD
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### VI. **BE SAFE (SAGES 2026)** (*Judy Chen*)

- a. Planning and volunteer requirements for hands-on video modules

The 2025 academic year will be offered once.

BE SAFE certification is strongly encouraged for all MBS committee members.

The project is being revamped, with updates to the didactic module videos currently underway. (*Lena Khaitan, Project Lead*)

There are only six spots available for each of the two certification sessions (12 spots total), with the certification fee waived.

Interested individuals should contact Michael Kachmar at [Michael.Kachmar@pbrc.edu](mailto:Michael.Kachmar@pbrc.edu).

### VII. **Whitepapers & Research Initiatives** (*Omar Ghanem*)

- a. Updates on completed whitepapers

- i. Hernia Whitepaper **Published!**
- ii. Transplant Whitepaper **Published!**

- b. New Collaborative Projects: (*Volunteers Needed for both*)

- i. Gyn Society:

- 1. Work on this manuscript will move forward with support of Omar Ghanem and a fellow.
- 2. Names of suggested people will be sent to Charlene to get these folks in contact with Omar to co-write this.
  - a. Dr. Melissa Brackmann: [mkwylie@med.umich.edu](mailto:mkwylie@med.umich.edu)

- ii. Colorectal: Malefficiency/ Obesity:

- 1. Dr. Sylla will be presenting a new contact for this initiative soon.

### VIII. **SAGES Manual: Bariatric Surgery** (*Omar Ghanem*)

- a. **Publication is completed!**



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- b. Discussion on future updates (2027 version) and new contributors
- c. New topics and new authors suggestions
  - i. New subject suggestions and authors in the query for the next MBS meeting in the Fall.

### **IX. Bariatric Emergencies for the General Surgeon** (*Farah Husain*)

- a. Micro-learning opportunities and video case studies are being explored in collaboration with the Acute Care Surgery Committee.
- b. The committee has reached a consensus to pursue this initiative.
- c. Potential micro-learning topics to explore include:
  - Internal Hernia (VLOCK): Where to place ports?
  - Achilles heels and marginal ulcers.
  - JJ: How to redo and set it up.
  - General: What type of surgery did this bariatric patient undergo?
  - Vitamin deficiencies and the post-operative top 5 issues in patients less than 30 days post-op.

### **X. Addressing Metabolic & Bariatric Educational Gaps**

- a. Targeted education initiatives
- b. Discussion on new learning formats
  - i. Micro-learning, YouTube Shorts, Case-based videos, etc.

### **XI. Patient Engagement-** (*Farah Husain*)

- i. Patient engagement, how to tie together our initiatives with collaborative associations/ societies and how do we bridge that alongside patient engagement.
- ii. The committee will table this for another time to stir more ideas.
  - 1. Explore more via email.

### **XII. Patient Reported Outcomes** (*Omar Ghanem*)

- a. Fundo vs Bypass
  - i. Data collection & reporting  
SAGES leadership still pending exec approval.
  - ii. If this gets approved, what data points do we need? PRO publication, data collector will be needed.



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- iii. Review paper on which PRO's are out there (Systematic review for current resources)

### **XIII. Master's Program (*Farah Husain*)**

#### **a. Proficiency Level: RYGB**

- i. **Volunteers: Backburning project.** SAGES is pending competency level completion of other pathways.

### **XIV. New Business:**

#### **ACS ACGS Programing Suggestions for the 2026 Clinical Congress**

- **Topic 1: Perioperative Management of Patients on Anti-Obesity Medications**

##### **Abstract:**

As the use of anti-obesity medications, particularly GLP-1 agonists, rises, general surgeons must understand their implications in the perioperative setting. While anesthesia guidelines often address medication management, surgeons should also be aware of the rationale behind discontinuation and potential complications, such as drug-induced gastric outlet obstruction. This session will provide practical insights into the surgical considerations and perioperative strategies for patients on these medications.

- **Topic 2: Overview of Anti-Obesity Surgical Procedures – Anatomy & Complications**

##### **Abstract:**

With the increasing variety of anti-obesity surgical procedures, general surgeons should have a foundational understanding of their anatomical modifications and potential complications. This session will provide a primer on endoscopic, laparoscopic, and robotic bariatric procedures, including the duodenal switch and SADI. Understanding both short- and long-term surgical outcomes will enhance post-operative management and complication recognition.

- **Topic 3: Best Practices for NG Tube Placement in Bariatric Surgery Patients**

##### **Abstract:**

The placement of nasogastric (NG) tubes in bariatric surgery patients remains a controversial topic due to safety concerns and a lack of standardized guidelines. Questions regarding blind versus guided placement, procedural timing, and provider responsibility continue to generate discussion. A consensus statement or review



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from a surgical society could provide much-needed clarity on best practices and risk mitigation.