



# MINUTES

## SAGES ETHICS COMMITTEE

Date: October 10, 2024

Via Zoom

**In Attendance:** Limaris Barrios, MD (Chair) Leah Conant, Maria Nunez Duarte, Alberto Ferreres, Carmen Fong, Beverly Hersh, Arthur Rawlings, Elizabeth Sodomini, David Tichansky, Alicja Zalewski, Nathaniel Piha (Staff)

- I. Call to Order and Introductions
- II. Minutes from the Fall 2022 meeting of the Ethics committee were reviewed and approved.
- III. Committee Goals were reviewed, and were approved without changes as follows:
  - Responsible for addressing matters of an ethical nature, as directed by the Board
  - In matters concerning SAGES member disciplinary questions, Ethics Committee will serve in an investigative and advisory role when requested by the SAGES President
  - In matters of an ethical nature with broad interest to the SAGES membership, Ethics Committee will offer thoughtful analysis for presentation at the annual meeting and publication in Surgical Endoscopy
- IV. SAGES Ethics of Social Media White Paper (Dr. Fong)
  - SAGES Executive member, Dr. Lim has approved of the paper and would like to see a draft for Executive Committee review
  - A draft of the social media white paper was circulated in advance of this meeting and was discussed as follows:
    - Drs. Rawlings & Fong discussed the need for consent to be provided by both patients and providers, the mental health impacts of excessive use of social media and need for separate personal and professional social media accounts for physicians.
    - Dr. Barrios complimented the author for the inclusion of the potential effects of AI on social media posts, which Dr. Fong agreed could be expanded as the basis for a future white paper.
- V. Informed Consent/Intraop Consultation
  - During the Fall 2023 meeting, Drs. Conant, Rawlings & Rosen suggested a white paper that focused on informed consent for patients, which was placed on hold due to outside circumstances earlier in 2024.
  - Dr. Rawlings discussed guidelines for obtaining consent before capturing media and recruiting participants, emphasizing ethical principles like autonomy and non-maleficence. Dr. Fong agreed with this discussion and will add these topics to the existing Social meeting paper mentioned above.
- VI. Additional suggestions were discussed as options for the committee's work over the next year, and included:
  - Development of an ethics education curriculum for surgical residents, focused on medical and clinical ethics was suggested by Dr. Hirsch. Dr. Conant discussed the fellowship at Washington University she participated in, and suggested that this curriculum include Morbidity and mortality components. Dr. Rawling suggested reaching out to the American College of Surgeons for educational materials on palliative care and surgical research ethics, as well as incorporating the ethics components of SCORE. Dr. Barrios agreed that this proposed curriculum would be beneficial for practicing surgeons as well. (Conant/ Hirsch/ Rawlings)
  - Dr. Barrios has been in contact with Dr. Phillips, co-chair of the Program Committee for 2024-2025 to discuss the addition of panels to be held on an annual basis at SAGES annual meetings beginning in 2026. (Barrios)
  - Dr. Ferreres suggested a whitepaper on the topic of "When Things Go Wrong" and how to handle adverse events from an ethics standpoint, and hopes to have a draft ready for committee review within the next month (Ferreres)
- VII. Suggestions from the Fall 2023 Ethics committee meeting were an agenda item but were tabled as Dr. Moustarah was not in attendance. Topics initially suggested by Dr. Moustarah are included below in the event the committee would like to revisit them in the future:
  - Project relating to the corporatization of health care and how it affects different types of surgeons, from hospital privileges to competition around case volumes.
  - Measurement of Trust between Doctor and Patients White Paper
- VIII. New business/project suggestions