



MINUTES

Artificial Intelligence Task Force

March 22, 2025 || 9:00 AM PT

Hyatt Regency Long Beach, Beacon Ballroom B

Chair: Ozanan Meireles, MD

Co-Chairs: Daniel Hashimoto, MD, Filippo Filicori, MD

Committee Staff: Jillian Kelly

Members in Attendance: Filippo Filicori, Daniel Hashimoto, Jonathan DeLong, Jennifer Eckhoff, Amin Madani, David Pechman, Ganesh Sankaranarayanan, Richard Satava, Steven Schwaitzberg, Daniel Scott, Garrett Skinner, Mark Talamini, Danielle Walsh, Yusuke Watanabe

Guest: Kimimasa Sasaki (to join committee next term)

I. Call to Order and Introductions:

The meeting was called to order by the Chair. New members and guests were welcomed. The meeting commenced with an overview of ongoing AI initiatives within the SAGES community, including the CVS Challenge and the Lighthouse Challenge. The Chair emphasized the importance of leveraging SAGES expertise in surgical data science and outlined goals for data collection, algorithm development, and trainee education.

II. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from the Fall 2024 meeting (MinutesFall2024AI) were reviewed. Motion to approve was carried without objection.

III. Committee Disclosures:

Members were reminded to review disclosures and update them via sages.org as necessary. Co-Chairs confirmed all contributions during the meeting would remain balanced.

IV. Review of Committee Goals:

- Educate SAGES members about AI and its implications for their clinical practices, research, and education.
- Improve patient care, and augment surgeons' cognitive capabilities and operative experience through the dissemination and democratization of knowledge, leveraged by the use of Artificial intelligence.

V. Liaise with other SAGES committees and task forces to support their AI development strategies and projects:

The meeting began with a discussion on potential applications of AI in surgical training, particularly in analyzing laparoscopic videos. One participant highlighted how machine learning could provide trainees with immediate feedback by marking procedural steps as safe (green), cautionary (yellow), or unsafe (red). Emphasis was placed on the need for large video datasets to enhance algorithm accuracy and the importance of creating a motivating "hook" to encourage trainees and programs to submit videos. The committee discussed the value of providing actionable feedback on efficiency and safety rather than focusing solely on speed. This approach could allow trainees to understand their performance during a case, track their progression, and identify areas needing improvement.



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A discussion followed regarding whether SAGES should attempt to claim ownership of AI models. It was noted that building large, transformational AI models requires extensive computational resources and datasets, a task typically undertaken by large companies. SAGES' primary strength lies in generating high-quality, knowledge-based data. Linking data to outcomes was emphasized as essential, and the role of researchers in developing models from this data was acknowledged.

Next Steps:

- Explore partnerships with other SAGES committees, industry, and international societies (e.g., MICCAI, EAES, ACS).
- Promote cross-specialty engagement for AI research and data-sharing initiatives.
- Investigate SAGES-owned data (e.g., membership, conference attendance) for potential monetization while maintaining compliance with privacy and IRB regulations.
- Assess potential value for conference planning and research purposes.
- Consideration of industry partnerships and consulting opportunities to utilize SAGES expertise while maintaining compliance and ethical standards.

VI. Committee Work Output:

- a.** Review of Publications - Updates provided on ongoing AI-related publications. Discussion included strategies to increase visibility of committee publications and coordination with other groups.

Next Steps:

- Prepare updates for Surgical Endoscopy and other relevant journals on the CVS Challenge, AI legal frameworks, and annotation standards.
- Identify opportunities for opinion pieces, white papers, or best practice guidance in AI and surgical education.

b. CVS Challenge

- i. Notes moved to CVS Challenge Task Force agenda

c. Data Governance Summit Next Steps

- i. Emphasis placed on standardizing frameworks and engaging external collaborators.
- ii. Dr. Filicori to finalize updated definitions and taxonomies for annotation and governance standards.
- iii. Explore collaboration with legal experts in AI and healthcare to provide ongoing guidance.
- iv. Develop a framework for data donation agreements



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v. Annotation Infrastructure and Research Projects

- The SAGES Consensus Framework for annotation was reviewed as a key tool for standardized video labeling.
- Proposal to expand annotation to more laparoscopic procedures leveraging existing hierarchical task analysis and interface steps.
- Governance and annotation taxonomies require updates due to evolving AI tools and capabilities.
- Plans include consolidating consensus around spatial, temporal, and hierarchical annotation definitions and updating prior publications accordingly.

VII. Annual Meeting AI Sessions

- Discuss the 2026 Annual Meeting and the Hands-on Workshop proposal.
 - Plans for the 2026 Annual Meeting discussed, including a proposed hands-on AI workshop.
 - Members supported integrating practical applications for surgeons.

Next Steps:

- Plan and coordinate AI-themed sessions at the 2026 Annual Meeting, including hands-on course.
- Engage engineers and technicians to facilitate clinician-technical collaboration.

VIII. SAGES Video Annotation School Update

- Progress update from Dr. Filicori on the SAGES Video Annotation School and volunteer recruitment. Recruitment of volunteers is ongoing.

IX. SAGES Digital Toolbox Subgroup Update – Danielle Walsh, Jonathan DeLong

- An update was provided on educational resource timelines and the Doximity ChatGPT library.
- Timelines for the Doximity ChatGPT library and other tools were shared.
- Surgeon's Toolkit: Educational resources to help members engage with AI in practice and research.
- Initial modules include basic AI literacy and ChatGPT applications for surgeons.
- Plan to create a monthly schedule for content contributions from committee members, residents, and trainees.
- Proposal for AI-themed podcast sessions and Instagram content to reach wider membership.

Next Steps

- Danielle and Jonathan to continue developing the AI Digital Toolbox and educational materials for membership.
- Committee members to volunteer for producing "how-to" guides or



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short tutorials for AI literacy.

- Establish a schedule for monthly AI educational content in the President's newsletter.

X. NBT 2025: SAGES Digital Surgery Retreat

- Minutes from the January Digital Surgery Retreat in Houston were provided.
- Focus on shaping program content and cross-committee participation.

XI. Collaborations with Other Organizations

- Update on relationships with external organizations such as ACS, EAES and MICCAI, with a focus on collaborative AI efforts. Ongoing efforts to align AI projects and foster joint initiatives.

XII. New Business/Open Discussion

- Members discussed potential new projects, including expanding AI integration into surgical training.
- Proposal raised to create a cross-specialty data-sharing initiative.
- SAGES should think strategically about opportunities in the AI space that could be monetized, such as conference attendance data (e.g., food consumption, hotel stays) that might interest city planners or CVBs. While donated videos need not generate profit, other creative mechanisms could provide value for the society.
- Consider aligning AI initiatives with other SAGES priorities (e.g., VBA) by understanding target audiences, researchers, and stakeholders, and facilitating knowledge-sharing.
- Explore leveraging prior projects (e.g., the go/no-go lap bot funded by grants) for potential application in AI efforts.
- Recognize and address existing legal challenges, while using SAGES expertise to proactively influence the field.
- Reaffirm the committee's primary goal: bridging the gap between technicians and clinicians. A suggestion was made to consider a technical-only meeting prior to NBT.

XIII. Closing Remarks

- Final thoughts and wrap-up from the Chair.
 - Emphasis on strategic engagement of committee members to advance AI initiatives within SAGES.
 - Reinforcement of commitment to education, research, and responsible use of AI in surgical practice.
 - Meeting adjourned with appreciation for ongoing contributions from all participants.

XIV. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM PT.