



Minutes

Education Council

Date: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 Time: 6PM Eastern
Via Zoom

Chair: Michael Awad, MD

Co-Chairs: Richard Garfinkle, MD; Christina Sanders, DO

Council Staff: Linda Schultz, Vanessa Pryor, John Dwyer

Attendees: Michael Awad, Dan Azagury (Representing Jon Gould), Douglas Cassidy, Xiaodong (Phoenix) Chen, Michael Cripps, Brian Davis (Guest), Shanley Deal, Salvatore Docimo, Jr., Jonathan Dort, Kevin El-Hayek, James Ellsmere, Nicole Fearing, James Feimster, Eleanor Fung, Richard Garfinkle, Iman Ghaderi, Marcoandrea Giorgi, Matthew Goldblatt, Jacob Greenberg, Alan Harzman, Farah Husain, Desmond Huynh, Kunoor Jain-Spangler, Anne Lidor, Brent Matthews (Exec), Sophia McKinley, Elisabeth McLemore, Heidi Miller, Jaisa Olasky, Luise Pernar, Kinga Powers, Aurora Pryor, Ruchir Puri, E. Matthew Ritter, Christina Sanders, Byron Santos, Neal Seymour, Jenny Shao, William Sherrill III, Dimitrios Stefanidis, Patricia Sylla, Wen Hui Tan, Dana Telem (Guest), Michael Ujiki and Mark Whiteford

Staff in Attendance: Angela Brusasco, John Dwyer, Jessica Mischna, Vanessa Pryor and Linda Schultz

Call to Order, Announcements, and Disclosures

Dr. Awad called the meeting to order and shared announcements. Disclosures were reviewed for conflicts.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the Fall 2024 Council meeting were approved without dissent.

Review Current Committee Goals

Dr. Awad reviewed the goals and asked for feedback on removing the goal, "Rapid development of multiple, short modules targeted at fellows," as it was more of an initiative rather than a high-level goal. The group agreed.

New Ed Council Goals:

- A. Facilitate educational projects throughout SAGES to coordinate efforts and minimize redundancy
- B. Provide educational expertise to ensure programming is developed with sound educational principles throughout
- C. Ensure infrastructure to support SAGES educational content

Learning Management System Update

Dr. Awad gave background on why SAGES is considering a new LMS provider and introduced Dr. Sanders as the Co-Chair leading the subcommittee. Dr. Sanders expanded on the background,



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explaining that the current vendor, while having a good contract price, is not able to meet our support needs nor immediate Fundamental exam needs. We are vetting alternate vendors who could potentially meet SAGES' needs out-of-the box. Staff put together a comprehensive list of requirements and the subcommittee members denoted the priority of each requirement. We are looking for a system that is also comparable in price or less than the current LMS, Crowd Wisdom (CW). We've reached out to some vendors the SAGES team spoke with when originally contracting for OWLS.

The vendors who meet most of our requirements will demo their product for the subcommittee. The goal is to narrow the list down to the top two vendors for SAGES leadership approval.

Dr. Awad mentioned that the CW contract renewal is up in August so we may contract for a short-term renewal to properly vet a new provider prior to signing an agreement.

Currently, we are demo-ing the free version of Canvas LMS, and while it can't meet all our requirements, it surpasses the current LMS for ease of use.

Curriculum Development Collaborations

Fundamentals of Leadership Development with DLPD Committee

John Dwyer showcased the Fundamentals of Leadership Development (FLD) course in the free version of Canvas LMS. This is a pilot with a small group of ABS learners. Dr. Shao shared that FLD was a jointly sponsored project through an ABS grant. Modules 7-9 are being piloted with about 50 people.

Sustainability Curriculum/Joint Commission Project with Sustainability Task Force

Dr. Awad informed the Council about the Sustainability curriculum project being developed for SAGES and potentially, with the Joint Commission. Initial discussions with the Joint Commission seem positive.

Fellows Career Development Course with RAFT

SAGES adopted the Fellows Career Development Course under RAFT. The next course is in August and will again be in Nashville. Dr. Greenberg recognized the RAFT staff for their support and expressed the committee's goal of keeping the course at least at break-even. Dr. Awad mentioned that SAGES looks forward to including the course in the new LMS.

Dr. Awad encouraged the Council to bring educational projects to the Committee.

Future Educational Needs/Products Suggestions: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nICpWEw-8IJKlvBnZ1euEIC5o53PZ_q7YxTW_UYndw/edit?usp=sharing



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Ed Council Core Curricula

Colorectal

Dr. Garfinkle presented the schema that has been developed for the Core Curriculum. The goal is to create easily digestible, salient educational points and a consistent framework across all disease processes. He illustrated how the schema works for colorectal.

Foregut

Dr. Awad reiterated that the work done on the previous Masters modules will be included in a meaningful way. John Dwyer showed one module for Colorectal which was developed using a mobile-friendly template that allows the content to dynamically fit within the device screen. The module was well received.

Additional Modules

HPB Chair Dr El-Hayek mentioned that their committee has members interested in producing similarly short, visual curricula for their pathway. They would like the Ed Council's schema and development parameters so they can produce them.

Manuscript Approval

The Ed Council members approved the manuscript, "*Evaluation of the Masters Program: A SAGES Pilot Educational Initiative*" with no comments or changes.

Updates from Committees

Dr. Awad opened the floor for members to share what education efforts their committees are currently planning.

- Dr. El-Hayek shared that the HPB Committee is planning a new webinar on minimally invasive surgery and cirrhosis.
- Dr. Seymour shared that the FLS Committee has an activity at the learning center and is investigating a new box which relies on video technology for remote testing. An automated scoring project is being done in conjunction with Limbs n Things. There are also two new testing centers in Africa as part of an ongoing project to expand FLS education world-wide. The FLS 2.0 didactic project is well underway with updated modules being shared in the upcoming committee meeting.
- Dr. Miller shared that the FES Committee is focused on revising the exam during a retreat at SAGES.
- Dr. Greenberg mentioned the new fluorescence imaging course sponsored by Stryker. The plan is to potentially do two more in the coming year.
- Dr. Greenberg also asked the group's thoughts on using some of the content from our sponsored courses and potentially getting industry to assist in funding the LMS. Dr. Awad suggested a similar arrangement could be made for the Robotics course, and said the LMS



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subcommittee will keep these funding ideas in mind when considering a new provider.

- Dr. Whiteford brought up diverticulitis guidelines that the Colorectal Committee is working on.
- Dr. Goldblatt said that the Hernia Committee was encouraged to see that the curriculum program is now being developed, and that the committee is ready to begin work on their pathway.

New Business

Dr. Awad mentioned that Ed council will catalog the curricula that SAGES offers with the goal of making it public to showcase what the Society has. This will also avoid duplicated efforts with other SAGES committees.

Dr. Awad announced that ACS was collecting specialty content from the Advisory Councils for the weekly *ACS Brief*. He encouraged anyone interested in participating from SAGES to reach out to Leena Khaitan.

The meeting was adjourned.