



MINUTES

Flexible Endoscopy Committee

Date: March 11, 2025 | Time: 3-4:30pm PST

Hyatt Regency Long Beach, 200 S Pine Ave, Long Beach, CA 90802,
Beacon Ballroom B

Chair: James Ellsmere, MD

Co-Chair: Ryan Juza, MD

Committee Staff: Loren Hamilton

Meeting Participants: James Ellsmere; Ryan Juza; Matthew Allemang; Raghid Bitar; Ryan Broderick; Treavor Crafts; Bradley Edward; Eleanor Fung; Anupam Gupta; Alexandra Kovar; Jeffrey Marks; Michael Mera; Sabrena Noria; Eric Pauli; Bryan Sandler; Kristen Wong

I. Call to Order and Introductions

James Ellsmere, MD

Dr. Juza encouraged committee members to visit the exhibit halls and support the SAGES Foundation. The foundation's contributions to initiatives such as FLS, global guidelines, research, and career development awards were highlighted, along with the importance of member donations in sustaining these efforts. Additionally, the SAGES Code of Conduct was reviewed, reinforcing the organization's commitment to diversity, inclusivity, professionalism, and the responsibility to report unethical behavior.

II. Approve Prior Meeting Minutes – Spring 2024

James Ellsmere, MD

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

III. Review Committee Goals (and revise if necessary)

James Ellsmere, MD

- To facilitate training in flexible endoscopy at all levels of membership (resident, fellow and attending physicians- nationally and internationally)
- To facilitate the credentialing of surgeons in flexible endoscopy
- To aid in the development, study and adaptation of new endoscopic technology and techniques amongst general surgeons

A call was made to determine if any adjustments were suggested. The committee reviewed and maintained these goals.

IV. Fellowship Council Flexible Endoscopy Updates

Eric Pauli, MD

Dr. Pauli indicated that the goal to develop a flexible endoscopy curriculum is an ongoing initiative. The discussion touched on credentialing requirements and the development of new endoscopic technologies. The Fellowship Council provided an update on efforts to establish a flexible endoscopy curriculum, noting challenges in securing lectures and the need for additional outreach to fellowship directors. Be on the lookout for a follow up email.

A deeper discussion on the flexible endoscopy curriculum followed, focusing on fellowship designation requirements, including case volume and procedural benchmarks. Committee members acknowledged the difficulties fellows face in meeting criteria and explored solutions such as recording lectures to supplement curriculum content.



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V. **FES Questions and Rewrites**

Eric Pauli, MD

The questions, originally written about five years ago, have since been reviewed, revised, and rewritten. They will now undergo beta testing before becoming part of the official exam. Appreciation was expressed to those who contributed to the process.

VI. **Flexible Endoscopy Courses**

Ryan Juza, MD

- a. SAGES Flexible Endoscopy Course for MIS Fellows 2025 Course: October 16-18, 2025 at the **Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University at Buffalo in Buffalo, NY**

Dr. Fung provided an update, noting that she has developed a draft course agenda, and expressing confidence in her team.

- b. SAGES Flexible Endoscopy Course for MIS Fellows 2026 Course: September 17-19, 2026 at the **Case Western Reserve University, Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center, Cleveland, Ohio**

Multiple applications were submitted and those who took the time and effort to do so were thanked for their efforts.

- c. SAGES Flexible Endoscopy Course for MIS Fellows 2027: Course Collaborations with Other Institutions; Please consider submitting applications

Moving forward, the committee will work towards standardizing the key items that should be included in budget applications to ensure consistency and clarity in the submission process.

- d. **EndoSim:**

Recent and upcoming courses were discussed, focusing on logistics and potential improvements. The committee discussed the integration of EndoSim to enhance course quality, providing better training models while reducing the burden on course directors. Feasibility and cost factors for incorporating EndoSim into future courses were examined. The potential benefits of a long-term contract to lower costs was discussed. Dr. Ellsmere encouraged course leaders to identify the most challenging models and explore opportunities for additional support to improve training procedures.

VII. **Video Based Assessment for Flexible Endoscopy**

Amber Shada, MD

No updates were made

Dr. Ellsmere referenced an upcoming event on this coming Friday during SAGES for anyone interested.

VIII. **Flexible Endoscopy Video Atlas**

The Video Atlas was reviewed discussed. The committee reviewed progress on the Video Atlas project and the challenges of making it more accessible. It was agreed that the SAGES website was not an effective location for the videos to be housed, as the server is currently too slow to support the Atlas videos effectively.



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IX. New business/project suggestions

Master's Program: Discussion shifted to the Master's Program, now referred to as the Core Curriculum, which is being broken up into a modular format consisting of 3-5 minute videos. For Flexible Endoscopy, this project currently remains on hold.

Manual of Flexible Endoscopy Textbook: Attention was also given to revising the Manual of Flexible Endoscopy textbook, first published in 2019. The committee discussed approaching support for updates and gathering feedback from editors regarding potential new content. Considering the time it took to develop the manual initially, Dr. Pauli suggested beginning to rewrite it now, acknowledging that the process could take another two years.

Journal of Medical Insight: Dr. Pauli introduced the idea of partnering with the Journal of Medical Insight in Boston, which produces high-quality surgical videos. The journal uses multi-camera setups to record surgical cases and conduct patient interviews. The committee explored leveraging their expertise for endoscopy video content, potentially co-branding with the journal. More information can be found here: jomi.com

Cholangiograms: Dr. Marks initiated a conversation centered around the requirement of cholangiograms for residents. Concerns were raised about the declining number of cholangiograms performed during training, with the committee emphasizing their importance in preventing and managing bile duct injuries. A proposal was made to present this issue to the SAGES Board of Directors for further discussion.

Entrustable Professional Activities (EPA): The committee also reviewed the EPA requirements for biliary disease. There was concern about verifying residents' experience in the absence of a specific case requirement, as the current EPA lacks a minimum case number. The committee considered advocating for the inclusion of a case requirement, with the expected delay in evaluating the impact of the current EPA structure being noted. The board may continue to require case numbers even with an EPA in place. In terms of strategies for implementing the EPA, the committee suggested collaborating with advanced GI and minimally invasive surgery fellowships. They also debated whether gallbladder cases should count toward fellowship requirements, deciding to propose a modest increase in required case numbers rather than a major overhaul. The committee reiterated the importance of the EPA for future training and the need to advocate for reasonable case number requirements. A phased approach was suggested to ease the transition.

The meeting concluded with expressions of gratitude and a plan to follow up with board members and fellowship directors on key action items.



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X. Next Steps

1. Identify fellowship directors to target for outreach and develop a plan to record supplemental lectures: Dr. Pauli
2. Finalize and Beta Test FES Questions: Dr. Pauli
3. Prepare for Upcoming Flexible Endoscopy Courses: Dr. Fung and Course Committee
2025 Course: Open Registration
Meet with EndoSim to discuss pricing
4. Address Flexible Endoscopy Video Atlas Challenges and identify alternative hosting platforms (e.g., external video servers) Drs. Ellsmere and Juza
5. Revise the Manual of Flexible Endoscopy Textbook: Drs. Ellsmere and Juza
6. Determine feasibility of co-branded endoscopy content with JOMI.
7. Advocate for Cholangiogram Requirements- Dr. Marks
8. Refine EPA Requirements for Biliary Disease- TBD