



# MINTUTES

## SAGES GUIDELINES COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 | Time: 9:00am-10:30am PT

Location: Hyatt Regency Long Beach, 200 S Pine Ave, Long Beach, CA 90802

Room: Regency Ballroom B

**Chair:** Bethany Slater, MD

**Fellows:** Elise Calabrese, MD and Dena Shehata

**SAGES Librarian:** Holly Burt, MLIS

**Committee Staff:** Sarah Colón

In Attendance: Pat Sylla, Joseph Broucek, Courtney Collins, Muhammed Elhadi, Whiney Elks, Lori Gurien, Ivy Haskins, Bright Huo, Andreas Kaiser, Joshua Lyons, Monica Ortenzi, Rodolfo Oviedo, Adam Reid, Alejandro Feria, Deborah Keller, Vamsi Alli, Robert A Catania

Dr. Mark Talamini thanked the group for the hard work that this group has accomplished. Dr. Talamini also thanked everyone for reviewing journals that are assigned to them

Dr. Bethany Slater let the group know that the actual committee meeting portion would run from 9:00am-9:45am (45 minutes). The last 45 minutes have been carved out for a BDI Panel discussion. Members that are not a part of the BDI Panel are more than welcome to stay to observe the process if they want to.

Dr. Slater read the committee script and encouraged members to visit Aisle 900 (which was assigned to Guideline Committee Members) in the Exhibit Hall. Dr. Slater encouraged members to give to the SAGES Foundation. Committee members were also reminded about the SAGES code of conduct.

Introductions were made and sign in sheet and a copy of disclosures was circulated around to the group.

Committee members should have reviewed all of the disclosures which were both circulated and included in the committee packets online; members should verbally state any additions or changes. Committee members must recuse themselves and not participate in discussions where they may have a conflict of interest or bias. Dr. Elisa Calabrese will ensure all contributions are balanced during this committee meeting and any new or changes to disclosures should be updated by logging in to your member account on [sages.org](https://sages.org). Once there, all committee members will have a link to disclose.

Motion to approve by Dr. Ivy Haskins and seconded was made for the Meeting Minutes in the Fall 2024. There were no objections.

Everyone was reminded to open up and review slides that were emailed and included in the google calendar invite.

The committee goals were reviewed and remained the same; no changes.

### Current Goals:

- Produce timely, high-quality guidelines and reviews that assist members in patient management decisions
- Include patients and other physicians in guidelines development
- Continue to update existing guidelines to keep them relevant
- Facilitate use of guidelines to improve patient care in conjunction with other SAGES groups
- Increase & improve collaboration with other SAGES committees & other professional societies
- Educate SAGES members in the methodology of guideline development

Dr. Slater gave thanks to our fellows Elisa Calabrese and Dena Shehata. Elisa will stay for a third year. Roxanne Lerma, PGY4 in from New Mexico, will join us in 2026 for 2 year term as our next Australian Fellow.



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Discussion on how and when to advertise for our next 2026 US SAGES Fellow. Start date of July 1, 2026.

In the past we started in October the year before before start date, with application deadline of November the year before start date. Feedback in the past has been to start advertising much earlier. For comparison ACS advertises in July of the year before start date.

Modes of Advertising in the past have been through membership emails, social media, APDS listserve to PD's, and on SAGES Stories. It has been suggested for current fellows to create a testimonial video to help get more of an idea of what position entails and expectations of role.

Dr. Ivy Haskins suggested reaching out to Dr. Keven ElHayek and Dr. Jennie Shao who create SAGES Podcasts. This could be a good one to have a podcast about fellow position with Guidelines. Ideally work on in the summer so completed in the Fall in time for application/advertising of position. Members are also encouraged to spread through word of mouth and let residents and program directors know this opportunity is approaching and to forward application once it opens.

We currently have had a change in our Methodologist position. Our new methodologist is Dr. Ivan Florez. He is a pediatrician in Columbia University who works with EAS and has completed lots of academic work.

**Sarah will need to make sure to have him sign the MOU and get him stated to submit invoices monthly.**

Update on SAGES Manual – Consulting Primary Care Physician/Pediatrician. All chapters submitted. Editors have reviewed. Manual should be published soon, and will be posted on social media once it is published.

If any members would like to be added on any of the following task forces they can reach out to Sarah Coló (staffer) to be added to roster and email list.

- Health Equity/DEI Jennifer Colvin  
Focus is to add cultural considerations into guidelines. Dr. Colvin gave update on what group does. We want to make sure that transparency is given as far as demographics for each manuscript. BDI and pancreatitis are the current projects.
- Patient Engagement/Patient Advocacy Deborah Keller  
Patient Survey needs to be moved to new Patient Engagement webpage on SAGES Website.  
Current location is: <https://www.sages.org/patient-engagement/>  
A new task force has been created now. Dr. Kellergave update on SOP created. Members were encouraged to use the Patient Engagement SOP when working on papers and to use as guidance.  
Dr. Sylla stated taht she wants to make sure we elevate our guidelines with patient input. Especially when there may be lacking evidence to support position or recommendations.
- Implementation  
Holly Burt (Librarian) reminded the group that our Visual Abstracts are on our SAGES website. The group was asked if they have any ideas as to how to get more readability of infographics to please email them. Goal of group is to create short videos as well.
- Guidelines Update Task Force (Formerly: Living Guidelines)  
No update was given. Dr. Tammy Kindel was not in attendance.
- Systematic Review Task Force (Candidate Members/Trainees) Elisa Calabrese/Dena Shehata
  - 2025 Candidate Members – Currently going through Curriculum Training
  - 2024 MVP's: Free SAGES 2025 Meeting Registration and Certificate of Recognition:
    - Ali Esparham – Bile Duct Injury management (AHPBA)
    - Panos Kapsampelis - Fluorescence in Surgery/ICG



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- David Morrell - Robotic Hernia (Abdominal Wall Reconstruction)
- Bright Huo - ChatGPT and Guidelines

Elisa gave a review of task force and what steps are taken to train trainees on full text review and abstraction, which starts after ABSITE. New group of trainees are currently being trained. A link to the training curriculum was provided on shared slides, which lives on OWLS.

- Quality Assurance Task Force  
Dr. Calabrese gave an update. They use AGREE II and AGREE S to assess quality of guideline. We then give synopsis or give recommendations before we can endorse as SAGES.

The Methodology was reviewed on a slide during Dr. Slater's presentation. PROSPERO Registration (for SR) systematic reviews will now be submitted to PROSPERO - all information is visible online it will expedite process.

The following has been completed since the last Committee Meeting below:

SAGES Patient Engagement Update SOP (Standard Operating Procedure)  
SAGES Guidelines for Surgical Treatment of Hiatal Hernia (Types II, III, and IV)  
SAGES Guidelines for Diagnosis and Treatment of Appendicitis  
SAGES Guidelines for the Management of Comorbidities Relevant to Bariatric Surgery  
SAGES Guidelines Update to Laparoscopy in the Era of COVID-19 Guidance on COVID + Patients

The following has been approved by the Board and will be published soon:

SAGES Guideline for Intraoperative Bile Duct Imaging

The following Manuscripts will be submitted soon:

POEM

Dissemination of SAGES Guidelines

### **CURRENT GUIDELINES:**

#### ChatGPT and Guidelines:

Bright Huo

Dr. Huo gave an update. Published 3 articles so far. Dr. Vosburg advised to do a review to see different ways to use AI. Dr. Huo would like ideas to build off projects that have already been done. Discussion on how to use Chat GPT to create more guidelines; which was an idea for a "spin-off" guideline.

#### Bile Duct Injury Management (AHPBA)

Kevin El-Hayek

This group is meeting after committee meeting for the last 45 minutes. Once panel discussions are completed, it should be ready to send to Dr. Sylla (Executive Liaison) for review before sending it to the Board for final approval and public comment. It will then be sent to Surgical Endoscopy for publishing, and then posted on the SAGES website.



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### Remote and Rural Health Surgery

Dr. Calabrese gave an update. This is currently on hold; but it is two fold. One part looking at how to better support rural surgeons and what resources are needed as well as what factors provide retention. The second half is economic analysis; but for the second half we are currently trying to secure funding. This is a project that we share the work on with Australia. Telemonitoring has been decided on vs. Telesurgery. This was decided to focus on surgeons that feel more isolated to gain more peer support in pre or post operative.

### Robotic Hernia (Abdominal Wall Reconstruction)

We are consolidating new results of evidence tables and will see if we need more panel discussion. Outcomes will determine if changes will be needed.

### Gastroparesis (Expert Review)

This project was initially very broad. We have paired it down and it is now a more indepth introduction. Rome came out recently with some useful advice. Reviewing data tomorrow. Expert consensus on data will be next.

### Endoscopy Privileging/Credentialing

Initial literature search was outdated, so a new literature search was made by Holly Burt (Librarian). New trainees will begin abstract and title screening.

### Ergonomics Guideline

This is a new project, it's going well. PICO meeting done, literature search done, trainees have started on work, panel discussion will begin in July. Ergonomics task force is also collaborating with us on this project.

### Treatment Techniques for Necrotizing Pancreatitis

Kevin El-Hayek

This is a new project, in collaboration with AHPBA. Abstract review with trainees has been completed, moving forward with extraction. We also have had input from radiology, 3 patient partners and gastrology.

### Laparoscopic Resection of Colon and Rectal Disease (upcoming)

No update was given on this.

Once more guidelines have been completed we can start to add more to our working guidelines.

Once we have decided on new topics we will send an email to all members to see who would like to join and who has expertise in the specific topic.

Dr. Slater mentioned that there may be a collaboration with EAES where some members can go to learn more about how they approach the guideline process.

Committee Meeting Adjourned 9:46am

BDI Panel Discussion took place for second half from 9:45am-10:50am.