



MINUTES

TECHNOLOGY AND VALUE ASSESMENT COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 | Time: 7:00am-8:30am PT

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

Room: Regency Ballroom B

Chair: David Renton, MD

Co-Chairs: David Pechman, MD and Sharona Ross, MD

Committee Staff: Sarah Colón

In Attendance: Nawar Alkhamesi, Joseph Blankush, Peter Denk, Vikrom Dhar, Thom Lobe, Andrew Luhrs, David Pechman, David Pechman, Richard Pierce, Sharona Ross, Iswanto Sucandy, Harry Wong, Jonathan DeLong, Garret Skinner, (Dr. Renton's Resident on Phone: Dahlia)

Dr. Renton read script, reminded all to read journal reviews when assigned. Dr. Renton let the group know that TAVAC has been assigned to visit Aisle 1300 in the Exhibit Hall. Members were encouraged to give to the SAGES Foundation. Members were also reminded of the SAGES Code of Conduct.

Dr. Renton started the meeting by having Introductions.

Committee Members were reminded that they should have reviewed all of the disclosures for those on this committee (included in the agenda packet). Dr. Sharona Ross will ensure all contributions are balanced during this committee meeting. If you have any new or changed disclosures, please login to your member account on sages.org. Once there, all committee members will have a link to disclose.

The group was asked if they approve the prior Meeting Minutes for Fall 2024
There was a motion to approved, and seconded; there were no objections.

Reviewed Committee Goals; the goals remained the same.

- To evaluate and make evidence-based recommendations regarding the adoption of new and existing technology
- To assess new technology or equipment and evaluate the costs of such technology as well as its ability to provide innovative and modern care.
- To partner with innovators, investors, industry, regulators and other SAGES committees to foster innovative and emerging technologies that may benefit our patients.

A reminder was made that the committee only reviews FDA Approved Technology

Dr. David Pechman gave thanks to all who have worked on the Tech Alerts in 2024. There are currently about 10 potential new ones for this coming year (2025). Dr. Pechman asked for everyone to reach out and email him if interested in working on future tech alerts. Members were also asked to send any new ideas for Tech Alerts to him as well.

Members were encouraged to volunteer and reminded that Tech Alerts can be added as announcements on their CV when the go up for promotion. Members were also encouraged to post Tech Alerts to their own social media platforms to get more readability.

The following projects have been completed:

- a. Robotics Platform Review
- b. Self Locking Sutures

Dr. Renton is currently working on website page on SAGES with Jason.

Dan Azagury, MD
Nicholas Prindeze, MD



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Dr. Renton reminded everyone that they can volunteer to any of the following projects by reaching out to Sarah to be added to roster. The following are open/ongoing projects and their current status:

Endoscopic Closure Devices

Salvatore Docimo, MD

This project is one device away from completing. Dr. Renton will review, then send to Exec Liaison, then send it to Board for final approval. It will then go to Springer for publishing and finally posted on the SAGES Website.

AI Ambient Clinical Intelligence

Jonathan DeLong, MD

This project is done, but there are about 4-5 more platforms to add to paper, so it is now still ongoing, the lead (Dr. DeLong) would like to ask more volunteers to help get this finished up. This technology can be used for example to help write notes for clinical visits, etc. There is currently a script, and we have Ohio Drama Dept ready to help with the table read which will then be played for each AI product once we are ready to move forward. We will then grade the output from each AI.

Dr. Naswar asked if the use of a bilingual platform was considered, or the use of an interpreter. Dr. Renton confirmed, but decided that perhaps next iteration we will add that.

3D Reconstruction Software

Iswanto Sucandy, MD

He manuscript has been received, once Dr. Renton has reviewed, it will then go to Exec liaison, then it will go to board for final approval, then springer for publishing and then finally posted on the SAGES website. The manuscript will need some fine tuning, and once feedback is received it will be revised accordingly before moving to the next step.

Expansion of Disposable Scopes

Peter Denk, MD

Peter has been working on this, and needs some help to complete. Volunteers needed.

Roadmap to Autonomous Surgery

Andrew Luhrs, MD

This project is currently stalled at the moment. Perhaps it will be a coalition of SAGES members not from TAVAC. Dr. Renton asked members to email Andrew Luhrs to join the team to discuss how to move forward with this project. This project will move outside TAVAC and be a more general review of the current and future of this application.

Telementoring Technology

Salvatore Docimo, MD

No update given – Dr. Docimo was not in attendance.

Computer Vision Aided Technologies

Gabe Oland, MD

No updated was given – Dr. Gabe Oland was not in attendance

Port Site Fascial Closure Devices Meta Analysis

Nicholas Prindeze, MD

Nick emailed me about this. They are almost done, should be ready for review in the next few weeks, then follow the above pathway.

Robotic Lag and Surgeon Error

David Pechman, MD

This is project 1 down below. This paper has already been done. Here is the cite:

Perez, M., Xu, S., Chauhan, S. *et al.* Impact of delay on telesurgical performance: study on the robotic simulator dV-Trainer. *Int J CARS* **11**, 581–587 (2016). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11548-015-1306-y>

Anastomosis Creation Systems

David Renton, MD



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No notes were captured for this project.

With eight open/ongoing projects and 4 coming to fruition soon; the group discussed new ideas for the coming year. New Project Suggestions Below:

1.) **Alternative Magnetic Compression Anastomosis** ? spelling? – **LEAD: Dr. Sharona Ross**

Volunteers who raised their hands during meeting:

- Member from Tampa - look for name
- Peter Denk
- Nawar Alkhamesi
- Shintaro Chiba
- Vikrom Dhar
- Dave Pechman

2.) **Identifying Ureters – ICG – LEAD: Dr. Nawar Alkhamesi**

Value Analysis – LEAD: Andrew Lurhs . Andrew brought up the Value Analysis part of our Committee name, and he is not wrong. I explained that it is difficult to do value analysis in the US healthcare system, as each hospital has different costs with different contracts with each company. We then discussed the daVinci robotic platform and their different purchase options. Leasing vs buying was brought up, but will be tabled until 2027 to allow more competition to enter the market.

3.) **Mesh suture - facial closure devices (series of zip ties) – LEAD: Richard Pierce**

This suggestion can be an adjunct to the locking suture paper.. Dr. Pierce will look into this some more. Dr. Pierce mentioned TA Medical - TAS medical - member will email us after looking into it. Duramesh is another. An email will sent to join and volunteer.

4. Supply Chain - Dr. Joseph Blankush made a suggestion for overall projects. There was discussion about asking companies and new products and availability regarding supply chain. As we assess individual technologies, it can help our readers if they will have difficulty to obtain should issues occur. Ask where is it produced, volume, how much would they have if products would stop being made if production shut down, how much stock. Adding this to our reviews. Especially given recent history with fluid restrictions (iv fluids, mesh, sutures, trocars, etc.). Orthos shut down for weeks because of IV fluids. Dr. Blankush will come up w a list of questions pertaining to supply chain, he will email it out for review. These questions will be asked of physical product analysis in the future.

Dr. Renton reminded members that if they have ideas later they can email him; especially if after visiting exhibit hall an idea may come to mind.

Meeting Adjournment at 7:50am - Members went to other double booked meetings, etc.