



SAGES

SOCIETY OF AMERICAN GASTROINTESTINAL AND ENDOSCOPIC SURGEONS

SAGES Annual Scientific Session & Postgraduate Courses: Long Beach, California, March 12-15, 2025

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December, 2024

Attn: 9th-12th Grade School Officials

I am contacting you regarding an exciting prospect for your students with which I can use your assistance. The Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) will have its annual international meeting at the Long Beach Convention Center in Long Beach, California March 12th- 15th, 2025. To cap off the meeting, on Saturday, March 15th we will be offering the annual highlight event, the **SAGES Mini Medical School** for 9th-12th grade school students. SAGES is the premier worldwide organization that has helped to pioneer and mature the modern-day miracle of minimally invasive surgery. Surgical procedures historically done with large incisions are now done through very small incisions (or sometimes no incisions at all!) utilizing high-definition cameras (laparoscopes) and slender, tiny instruments, while looking at a video monitor. These minimally invasive approaches result in significantly less pain for patients, while dramatically shortening their hospital stay, decreasing time lost from work, and minimizing many of the complications associated with traditional surgical techniques.

During the **SAGES Mini Medical School**, 9th-12th grade school students from Southern California and surrounding areas, as well as children of SAGES members, have the opportunity to experience the wonderful world of medicine and minimally invasive surgery. With projected physician and surgeon shortages in the future, this program is timely, and hopefully will promote early decisions to join our noble profession. The day is power-packed with classroom lectures, hands-on surgical skill lab and the grand finale, **Top Gun Interactive Experience**. This last exercise allows the students to perform simulated surgical tasks using real laparoscopic instrumentation, and is based on the same format that allowed Dr. Rosser to win the Governor's Award for Education in Mississippi in 2011. Both cognitive and skill competitions with awards and prizes will be offered. It is truly designed to be an experience that may change the lives of students, so much so, that former Secretary of Education Rod Paige is a vocal proponent of this program.

We need your help in getting the word out to students who may be interested in attending this once-in-a-lifetime program! The Mini Medical School will be held on Saturday, March 15th, 2025, 8:00am – 2:00pm (local time) and will therefore not interfere with the school week. The program is of no charge to the students, but there are only 100 spots available, and each student will be required to send a letter of referral/nomination from teaching or counseling staff at their school. Parents are responsible to transport their children to the program and back home. You can find a simple student registration form with the submission deadline of **Monday, February 24, 2025** on the website SAGES2025/Mini-Med-School. Please be aware that the student will not be considered to attend until his/her teacher or counselor sends in their referral form application.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE: Sallie Matthews, Executive Director

11300 W. Olympic Blvd., Suite 600, Los Angeles, CA 90064

Tel: (310) 437-0544 • Fax: (310) 437-0585 • E-mail: sagesweb@sages.org

www.sages.org