



# SAGES

## SOCIETY OF AMERICAN GASTROINTESTINAL AND ENDOSCOPIC SURGEONS

SAGES Annual Scientific Session & Postgraduate Course:

March 22-25, 2017, Houston, TX

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December 1, 2016

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Attn: High School Official

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 Hynes Convention Center in Boston, March 22-25, 2017. To cap off the meeting, on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> we will be offering the annual highlight event, the **SAGES Mini Med School** for high 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 Med School**, high school students from the Boston 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 Med School will be held on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> 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 nomination from teaching or counseling staff at their school. A simple student registration form is attached with a submission deadline of Friday, February 17, 2017. Students must submit the form to their teacher or counselor to fill in their statement of

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support, and then forward to SAGES via email to [minimedschool@sages.org](mailto:minimedschool@sages.org) or fax to 310-437-0585, attn: SAGES Mini Med School. Selected students will be notified once they have been chosen to attend. Parents will be responsible to get their children to the program and back home, and lunch will be served during the event. The students will receive a certificate of participation as well as the possibility of winning special recognition awards. For further information on SAGES and the SAGES Mini Med School, please visit the following link: <http://www.sages2017.org/mini-med-school/>

We would like to thank you in advance for your support of this exciting educational event. Please feel free to contact either myself at [vadimsherman@hotmail.com](mailto:vadimsherman@hotmail.com) or Dr. Rosser at [brosser1@me.com](mailto:brosser1@me.com). You may also call me at (832) 729-5153 or Dr. Rosser at (713) 470-7391 for more information. We eagerly look forward to hearing back from you!

Many thanks and best wishes,

*Vadim Sherman*

Vadim Sherman, MD  
Associate Professor  
Weill Cornell Medical School  
Houston, Texas

*Butch Rosser*

James "Butch" Rosser, MD  
Professor of Surgery  
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