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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAGES Ingenuity Announces New Officers, Board and Investment Committee Members

May 16, 2024 - Los Angeles, Calif. – SAGES Ingenuity (<https://www.sages-ingenuity.com>), an incorporated subsidiary of the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES), has announced the addition of new Officers, Board and Investment Committee members.

Former Vice President Dr. Aurora Pryor succeeds Dr. Christopher Schlachta as President of SAGES Ingenuity. Dr. Schlachta, SAGES 2024-25 President, remains on the SAGES Ingenuity board as the immediate Past President. Dr. Steven Schwaizberg assumes the role of SAGES Ingenuity Vice President, and also serves as Chair of the SAGES Ingenuity Investment Committee.

Dr. Pryor said, “As SAGES Ingenuity continues to grow, I’m honored to be our second president and want to thank inaugural President Dr. Christopher Schlachta for his vision and leadership in creating this for-profit, fully owned subsidiary of SAGES. With its mission of fostering surgical innovation and finding non-traditional revenue streams for the Society, SAGES Ingenuity is a creative, forward-thinking entity.”

SAGES Ingenuity’s initial focus was launching SINC – SAGES Investment Network Collaboration – in partnership with Varia Ventures in 2023. The SINC Opportunity Fund (<https://varia.com/sinc/>) allows SAGES members and friends to invest in med tech startups.

SAGES Ingenuity is currently establishing the Surgical Technology Engagement Program (STEP) which will facilitate consulting relationships between SAGES members and industry partners. According to Dr. Pryor, “Consultants can be from either perspective - either a highly cultivated group of SAGES members providing insight on technology or research, or surgeons seeking advice on how to move their new ideas into reality. We’ve identified our first partners for the STEP program and hope to expand soon.”

New SAGES Ingenuity Board and Committee Members

New to the SAGES Ingenuity Board are Dr. Adrian Park and Dr. Andrew Gumbs. Dr. Park is a well-known SAGES leader and serial inventor, and founder/chairman of The James and Sylvia Earl Simulation to Advance Innovation and Learning Center (SAIL). He co-edited the journal *Surgical Innovation* and has multiple patents.

Dr. Gumbs is quadruple boarded in surgery in the US, Italy, France and the UK. He has several robotic patents and deep ties to med tech and international device distribution. He is Editor-In-Chief of *Artificial Intelligence*, the first journal dedicated exclusively to AI and surgery, and recently completed his 47th episode of his podcast AI & Cybersurgery.

Recently appointed to the SAGES Ingenuity Investment Committee are Dr. Thach Pham, Dr. Shea Gregg and Dr. Scott Davis. A serial investor and startup co-founder, Dr. Pham is interested in MedTech/Innovation and has invested in nine startups at early stages. Dr. Gregg is the founder of FallCall Solutions, a patented “Smart Fall Detection” medical alert platform. Dr. Davis has more than 20 years of experience in several styles of equity investing, including derivatives, futures and hedging strategies.

The three serve alongside continuing SAGES Ingenuity Investment Committee members Carla M. Pugh, MD, PhD; Paresh C. Shah, MD; Barry Salky, MD; and Mark A. Talamini, MD, MBA.

For more information about SAGES Ingenuity, please listen to the podcast <https://www.sages.org/sages-stories-the-sinc-episode/> and visit <https://www.sages-ingenuity.com/>, or contact info@sages-ingenuity.com.

About SAGES

The Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) is a leading surgical society representing a global community of more than 7,000 surgeons bringing minimally invasive surgery and emerging techniques to patients worldwide. SAGES’ mission is to innovate, educate and collaborate to improve patient care with a vision of reimagining surgical care for a healthier world. For more information, go to <https://www.sages.org>.

About Varia Ventures

Varia Ventures is a venture firm that partners with professional organizations to help them launch and manage their own venture funds. Varia provides investors with access to peer-reviewed investment opportunities in their fields of expertise at low investment minimums. For more information, go to <https://www.varia.com>.