



# THE FELLOWSHIP

The Newsletter of the **FOUNDATION for SURGICAL FELLOWSHIPS**



Winter 2014

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## ***FSF Welcomes New Board President Dr. Dennis L. Fowler: Increasing Funding for Surgical Fellowships Among Top Priorities***



*Dennis L. Fowler, MD, MPH*

**The Foundation for Surgical Fellowships (FSF) announced the election of Dennis L. Fowler, MD, MPH, as its new president on July 9, 2013.**

"I am honored to take on this role at FSF at this critical juncture," Dr. Fowler said. "With the combination of increasing complexity of surgical procedures, emerging new technologies, and work hour restrictions, the need for fellowship training for surgeons is greater than ever. In this role, my goal will be to significantly increase funding for surgical fellowships so that future surgeons can continue to provide advanced, state of the art procedures for patients." Dr. Fowler is currently the Gerald and Janet Carrus Professor of Surgical Science in the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University in New York City. He is Director of the Center for Innovation and Outcomes Research in the Department of Surgery where he focuses on outcomes research, technology development, and the use of simulation for training and assessment in healthcare.

Under Dr. Fowler's leadership, FSF will continue to serve as the preeminent funder of surgical fellowships in Minimally Invasive Surgery, Bariatric Surgery, Hepato-Biliary Surgery, and Flexible Endoscopy for surgeons. The Foundation also provides support for numerous other surgical fellowships in the disciplines of Colo-Rectal Surgery and Thoracic Surgery.

"Dr. Fowler played a key role in the early development and expansion of minimally invasive surgical methods," said Dr. Greg V. Stiegmann, FSF Founder and Immediate Past President. "It is important to note that without the funding from FSF, the majority of surgeons currently receiving funding to train as fellows in these life saving techniques will not be properly trained. Dr. Fowler's extensive experience as a surgical educator and his thorough understanding of the importance of fellowship training in the context of the current surgical residency structure make him an ideal leader for the Foundation," Dr. Stiegmann added.

In 2012, more than 9 million dollars was distributed to 145 qualified postgraduate Surgical Fellowship training opportunities across the country. FSF strives to secure the funds necessary to support innovative postgraduate training that will greatly improve patient care and recovery time.

"The FSF is lucky to have such an experienced dedicated leader as Dr. Fowler to guide us in the next stage of our growth." Adeena Bleich, Executive Director

Dr. Fowler received his M.D. in 1973 from the University of Kansas School of Medicine, Kansas City. Dr. Fowler participated in a surgical endoscopy fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, MA from 1979-1980. In 2008 he received his Master of Public Health from Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health. Dr. Fowler is certified by the American Board of Surgery and is a member of numerous surgical societies. He also has a vast list of honors, committee positions, teaching responsibilities and publication credits. To view Dr. Fowler's curriculum vitae please visit <http://tinyurl.com/kyfj8h4>.

***Help us turn today's innovation into tomorrow's life-saving patient care  
by donating so we can continue funding the training of fellows!***

For more information on giving to the Foundation, contact the office at 310.424.3332, ext. 114 or email [info@surgicalfellowships.org](mailto:info@surgicalfellowships.org).

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## Statistics for FSF Funded Fellowship Programs for 2013-2014

### Mission Statement

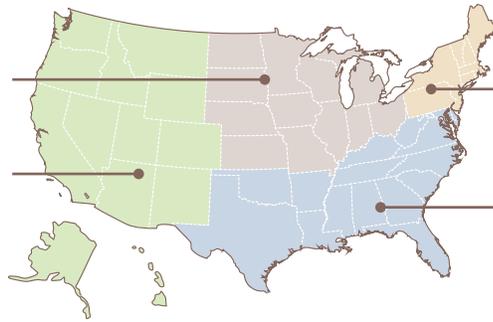
The Foundation for Surgical Fellowships exists to fund high quality fellowships in various areas of surgery, including but not limited to flexible endoscopy, minimal access surgery, and other related disciplines. Through a blinded application and review process, the Foundation will identify and distribute funds to qualified organizations based on criteria of excellence. The Foundation for Surgical Fellowships will promote and support the continued availability of postgraduate surgical training opportunities of the highest quality.

### Vision Statement

The Foundation for Surgical Fellowships (FSF) envisions a surgical community that is better educated in advanced surgery with the ultimate goal of improved patient care.

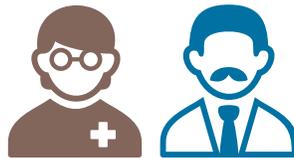
20% of Programs are in the Mid West

18% of Programs are in the West Coast



25% of Programs are in the North-East Coast

38% of Programs are in the South



FSF funded Fellows are located in **33** out of **50** US states

The FSF funds

**7**

**Private Practice Programs**



FSF funds **112** programs accredited by The Fellowship Council

For a full list of FSF awarded programs, please visit [www.surgicalfellowships.org/awards.php](http://www.surgicalfellowships.org/awards.php).

## RECOGNIZING PARTNERS: *Applied Medical*

The leadership of the Foundation for Surgical Fellowships is proud to welcome Applied Medical as a new partner of the FSF, generously sponsoring two Fellowships in the field of colorectal surgery in 2014.

Applied Medical is a leading medical device manufacturer, dedicated to developing and providing innovative products that improve patient outcomes and enable the advancement of minimally invasive surgery. A vertically integrated company headquartered in Southern California, Applied performs virtually every processing step in house, from research and engineering, to device component manufacturing, final assembly, packaging, and sterilization. Distribution centers are located in the United States, Australia and the Netherlands.



Applied's business model was designed to foster close surgeon collaboration, ensuring quick implementation of innovative ideas that positively impact patient care and the surgical community. "Applied Medical was founded based on the belief that a new generation medical device company could make a meaningful and positive impact on our customers, the community and the world's healthcare systems. We set out to accomplish this by improving both the affordability and the accessibility of high-quality healthcare, not one at the exclusion of the other," says Gary Johnson, president, Surgical Group, Applied Medical. "Over the past 25 years, we've been proud to support progressive groups such as FSF that have supported science and expanded the educational efforts needed to ensure the next generation of medical professionals is trained, and new procedures are increasingly adopted and available. With such synergistic goals, we look forward to a long and productive partnership with FSF."

Adeena Bleich, Executive Director of FSF notes, "Applied Medical is a truly inspiring leader in healthcare, consistently championing for the betterment of patient care, which includes supporting physician education by providing these valuable Fellowships. We are truly grateful for the work they do and are proud to call Applied a partner of the FSF."

## Fellow Testimonials

### Ankit D. Patel, MD

#### FSF Funded Fellow, Emory University, 2012-2013

I always wanted to become a well-rounded general surgeon and during my residency realized laparoscopy would be the perfect tool. I sought a fellowship that would not only teach me these skills through diverse cases but also teach the inner workings of being a surgeon and how to balance these responsibilities. I arrived at Emory and my fellowship under the guidance of Drs. Edward Lin and Scott Davis accomplished this and much more.



Ankit D. Patel, MD

From the first day till the last, my co-fellow and I began and finished entire cases under their guidance. The initial days were long since we were both novices, but they remained patient and allowed us to develop. Both of us were interested in robotics and we were able to start a new robotic general surgery program, allowing us to become certified during fellowship. Outside the OR, they also supported and guided all of our research projects. Best of all, they showed me how to balance the challenges of work with family life and how to succeed with both.

This experience would not have been possible without the support of the Foundation for Surgical Fellowships and its participating members. This invaluable education will help define my future as a competent minimally invasive and robotic surgeon. Best of all, I joined a growing family that will continue to support the Foundation and its future fellows so they can have a similar experience to mine.

*“It is my opinion that the Fellowship more or less ensures that one becomes confident and competent. I had an enriching time during my fellowship funded by the FSF. I am currently in England and have been telling my colleagues here about the merits of undergoing an advanced Surgical Fellowship.”*

*– Dr. Paul Jose  
Former FSF Funded Fellow  
2011-2012*

## RECOGNIZING PARTNERS: SAGES Foundation

The SAGES Education & Research Foundation is only one of a handful of medically focused foundations dedicated to the long-term maintenance of patient care and the continued advancement of surgical training, technology, and procedures. The Foundation was created with the vision of a healthcare world in which all operative procedures are accomplished with the least possible physical trauma, discomfort, and loss of productive time for the patient. It is in line with this mission that the SAGES Foundation is actively supporting the work of the FSF. “The FSF is a like minded organization in advancing critically needed advanced surgical training” said Evelyn Rodewald, Executive Director of the SAGES Foundation. Minimally invasive surgery has revolutionized patient care, saving patients from unnecessary operative trauma, reducing hospitalization time and pain, encouraging faster recoveries and reducing the incidence of surgical complications.



Over the past decade, the SAGES Foundation has become the premier funding source for a wide variety of cutting edge research and training programs designed to further minimally invasive surgery. Since 2003, the Foundation has allocated more than 40 grants, providing over \$2 million dollars in education and research grants to date. In a profession where procedures are more difficult to master than open surgery, proper training and experience is of critical importance. Without training courses and quality medical education, the risk of patient endangerment and surgical mishaps increases significantly.

Trailblazing work in the minimally invasive field has come out of grants selected by the SAGES Foundation’s Board of Directors and scientific advisors – a group composed of some of the nation’s preeminent surgeons who have both the expertise and foresight to know which projects are most relevant to the rapidly changing industry. The underwriting of new research and education in the developmental stage has already played a role in and contributed to some major developments in the field of surgery.

The SAGES Foundation has been remarkably successful in its first decade. With the support of industry partners, the Foundation has given research funding for a variety of subjects, including effect studies of laparoscopy on tumors and carcinoma, and development of surgical robotics training and guidelines. The Foundation would not be able to carry out its mission without the support and generous contributions of patient care advocates, the medical industry, SAGES individual member donors, and the community.

## Recognizing Partners: New & Continued Support

We thank all of our FSF partners for their generosity, vision and dedication to the advancement of surgical education.



**Dr. Pon Satitpunwaycha** stands as a tremendous partner in helping the mission of the FSF.



Continued support from founding donors **Ethicon Endo-Surgery** and **Covidien** stand as a testament to their dedication to the important work of the FSF.



**Olympus** joins the FSF in its mission as one of the newest donors.

## FSF Board of Directors

**PRESIDENT:**  
Dennis Fowler, MD

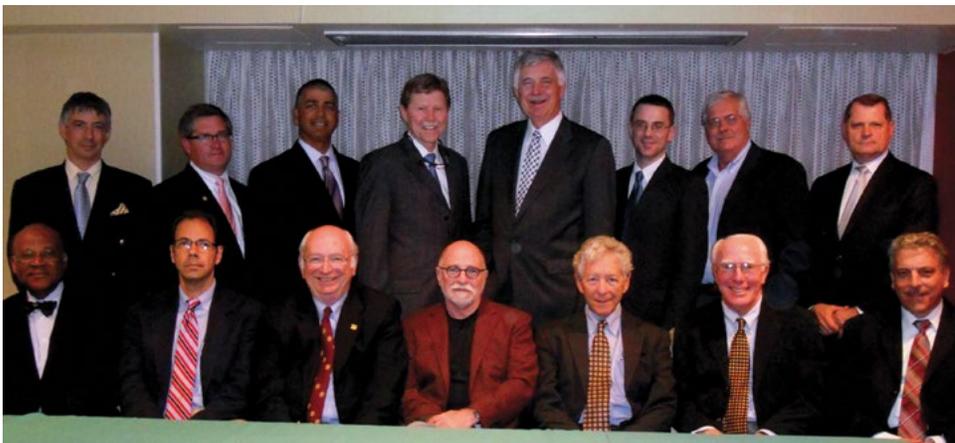
**VICE PRESIDENT:**  
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**TREASURER:**  
Ravi S. Chari, MD

**SECRETARY:**  
J. Patrick O'Leary, MD

**DIRECTORS:**  
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Edward Felix, MD  
Kenneth Forde, MD  
Andrew Resnick, MD  
Donald Risucci, PhD  
Anthony J. Senagore, MD

Richard Satava, MD  
Harmik J. Soukiasian, MD  
Greg Stiegmann, MD  
Harvey Sugerman, MD  
Alice Wei, MD



Top row from left: Jonathan Sackier\*, Anthony Senagore, Ravi Chari, Dennis Fowler, Greg Stiegmann, Andrew Resnick, Bruce Wolff, Richard Satava. Bottom row from left: Kenneth Forde, Thomas D'Amico, J. Patrick O'Leary, Edward Felix, Harvey Sugerman, Thomas Dent (Emeritus), Donald Risucci.

Harmik Soukiasian, MD and Alice Wei, MD not pictured  
\*No longer a member of the Board of Directors

## Meet & Mingle 2013

Over 100 FSF Funded Fellows and Program Directors participated in the 2nd Annual Meet and Mingle with the Minds of Advances Surgery on April 19, 2013, to honor donors and founding leadership of the FSF and to celebrate the achievements of the fellows as they conclude their year of advanced surgical fellowship training.



FSF Fellows enjoy a past FSF reception.



Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. This has become a "Must Attend" event at SAGES.

## SAVE-THE-DATE Meet and Mingle with the Minds of Advanced Surgery

**Thursday, April 3, 2014**

The Salt Palace Convention Center during SAGES Surgical Spring Week.

Please join The Foundation for Surgical Fellowships, the Fellowship Council, and the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons for a reception and presentation celebrating the importance of Advanced Surgical training.

For more information, please contact the Foundation at 310.424.3332.

By Invitation Only. More Information to Follow.