February 2021

Black History Month - Honoring the Legacy of Dr. Kenneth Forde

SAGES co-founder and second president Dr. Kenneth Forde was a giant in the world of surgery, the definition of grace and class, and a true statesman who opened the door for future generations of surgeons.

Despite facing personal and professional obstacles as the only African American student in his graduating class at the Columbia University College of Physicians, Dr. Forde persevered as a pioneer in diagnostic and surgical endoscopy. During his 50 years at Columbia, he was also actively involved in surgical education and mentoring surgical trainees.

Over the years, Dr. Forde received countless teaching, humanitarian and alumni service honors. He was also the recipient of the SAGES Distinguished Service Award and George Berci Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Forde passed in June 2019, having been pre-deceased by his wife and SAGES 2nd First Lady, Kay. They are both tremendously missed, but never forgotten.

IMPORTANT DATES/DEADLINES

SAGES Free Resident Webinar
Apr 20, 2021

SAGES 2021 Meeting, Las Vegas
Aug 31-Sept 3

Excited About SAGES 2021? We Want to Hear From You

Whether it's the community, camaraderie, CME credits, education, science or the opportunity to spend four days of FUN with your fellow surgeons, we encourage you to share a short (less than 1 minute video) of why you'll be attending SAGES 2021. With
Diversity, Leadership & Professional Development Task Force Announces Upcoming Initiatives

The Diversity, Leadership & Professional Development Task Force (formerly known as We R SAGES) has been working on several initiatives since meeting in October 2020. The task force was renamed by SAGES past president Dr. Aurora Pryor to promote a diverse leadership for the society, and to provide leadership development and opportunity to all members in an equitable and inclusive fashion. The task force's goals include: inspiring and engaging a diverse community of surgical leaders with transparency and accountability; creating a leadership development structure, within and outside of SAGES, that fosters diversity and inclusivity; developing membership into thoughtful and collaborative leaders in their respective surgical communities, employing the necessary knowledge and skills for improved patient care; and, acquiring necessary skills to lead in the arena of diversity, equity and inclusion. SAGES endeavors to address disparities in patient care through the development and promotion of leaders from diverse backgrounds who represent the full demographic of the population we are privileged to serve.

The task force's current projects include examining diversity at academic institutions on a national level, developing a SAGES Masters Pathway on Diversity, Leadership & Professional Development, offering primers to discuss sensitive topics, incorporating a Cultural Complications Curriculum, and ensuring that transparency and accountability are practiced in processes impacting service and leadership opportunities for SAGES members.
surgeons and trainees.” He has since served on the Artificial Intelligence, HPB/Solid Organ and Reimagining the Practice of Surgery committees as well as the Education Council. He is also a Candidate representative to the SAGES Board.

Read more about Dr. Madani [here](#).

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**SAGES 2021 Award Winners**

SAGES Awards Committee has announced its 2021 award winners. The awards will be bestowed during SAGES Foundation Award lunch on Tuesday, August 31, 2021 during the SAGES annual meeting in Las Vegas. Ticket information will be available in the SAGES Annual Meeting Advance Program.

**Berci Lifetime Achievement Award** – Carlos Pellegrini, MD (pictured)

**Distinguished Service Award** - Paresh Shah, MD

**Pioneer in Surgical Endoscopy Award** - Gerald Fried, MD

**International Ambassador Award** - Andrea Pietrabissa, MD

**Excellence in Humanistic Clinical Care Award** - Adnan Alseidi, MD, EdM

**Jeff Ponsky Master Educator Award (SERF Award)** – Vic Velanovich, MD

**Early Career Faculty Researcher Award** – Lawrence Lee, MD and Boris Zevin, MD

**Researcher in Training Award** – Ivy Haskins, MD; Rebecca Dirks, MD; and, Richard Garfinkle, MD

**Karl Storz IRCAD Award** – Gadi Marom, MD

**Excellence in Medical Leadership Award (SERF award)** – Tammy Kindel, MD

**Brandeis Award** – Christopher Schlachta, MD

**Barbara Berci Scholarship Award**- Amy Rosenbluth, MD

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Have a suggestion for MesSAGES? Please submit your comments to julie@sages.org.

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[SCOPE / MESSAGES Archives](#)

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