

The 56<sup>th</sup> annual SAGES conference held at The Forum in Sandton between 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> August 2018, featured a number of post graduate programs hosted by the Gastroenterology Foundation of SSA.

The inaugural “Best of the ASGE postgraduate course” was presented at the SAGES meeting and was an edited program of the ASGE postgraduate course that was held at the DDW in June 2018 in Washington DC. Professor’s Kulwinder Dua from the Medical college of Wisconsin, Milwaukee and Prasad Iyer from the Mayo clinic in Rochester, Minnesota represented the ASGE as faculty, and provided excellent discussion complementing the video presentations. The ASGE course was very well attended highlighting the need for ongoing endoscopic courses featuring luminal Gastroenterology. I hope and am confident that the ASGE post graduate course will be an annual event.

Highlights of the ASGE post graduate course are featured [Click here](#)

Discussions with the ASGE with regard to Fellows in training produced an excellent opportunity for all fellows to subscribe to the ASGE without any cost and subsidized by the Foundation. This allows fellows to take advantage of the vast amount of teaching material available by the ASGE including the monthly ASGE’s peer review journal, GIE: Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, Video GIE, a weekly e – newsletter SCOPE, with weekly video Tips in addition to accessing many resources via GI Leap, a quarterly e - newsletter for fellows and Clinical Guidelines that set the standards for practice in endoscopy.

Once again, the best of the UEGW for physicians and surgeons was presented at SAGES over 3 sessions with selected topics and proved to be as popular as they have been in the past.

This year’s Twilight symposium at SAGES introduced a novel and important topic - Patient Blood Management (PBM) – transfusion free iron replacement therapy and was ably chaired by Dr Anthony Beeton. The meeting began with an excellent talk by Professor Vernon Louw from UCT on Iron Physiology. Professor Aryeh Shander from Mount Sinai in New York and Professor Axel Hofmann from Zurich University followed with a discussion on the need to re-evaluate iron replacement therapy and shared with us the experience in Western Australia using a well-coordinated protocol on iron replacement therapy. A pilot study to assess parenteral Iron replacement therapy pre – operatively in patients with intra - abdominal malignancy is planned at the Donald Gordon Hospital. [Click here for programme](#)

A PBM interest group was announced at the Twilight symposium and the first meeting is planned in the first quarter of 2019.

The Festschrift for Prof MC Kew that was presented at the SAGES meeting in 2016 in Pretoria was published in the SAMJ in August 2018 at the time of this year’s SAGES congress.

[A festschrift symposium in honour of Prof Michael C Kew](#)

Below is the link to the SAMJ



[www.samj.org.za](http://www.samj.org.za)