# SLS*NOW*

## Where Disciplines Meet

***MISWeek 2026***
***December 2-5, 2026***

***Edition 25***
***Mar 2026***

A Publication of the Society of Laparoscopic & Robotic Surgeons

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This Newsletter is Interactive. Look for the

# A MESSAGE FROM THE *Executive Director*

*Raymond Lanzafame, MD, MBA, FACS*

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to the latest issue of SLSNow. Thank you for being a part of the SLS community.

MISWeek is returning to Orlando this year. MISWeek2026 will be held on December 2-5, 2026 at the DoubleTree by Hilton at the Entrance to Universal Orlando. An exciting program is being planned. Now is the time to submit your abstract for scientific paper, video or poster presentations. We also welcome receiving your videos for the Surgical Surprises Session that will be presented on Friday, December 4, 2026.

You won't want to miss this must attend conference, whether you're inclined to present your work, or to enjoy the meeting and the opportunity to network and dialogue with colleagues from multiple specialties and diverse backgrounds. Registration will be opening soon. Register early to take advantage for earlybird rates and to be sure that you don't miss out on hotel accommodations.

This issue of SLSNow has an overview MISWeek 2026 and some useful information about special pricing for Universal Orlando attractions and other activities in the area. Be sure to check out the masters classes, plenary sessions and keynote speakers. There's also information about our publications, fellowship opportunities and more.

Please share SLSNow with your colleagues and encourage them to join SLS. We welcome your active participation and are always willing to hear your comments and suggestions. We look forward to continuing to serve you in 2026 and beyond.

Good reading!

Raymond J. Lanzafame, MD, MBA, FACS
Executive Director & Chairman

# Article Spotlight

JSLS

JSLS.2026 Feb 18;30(1):e2025.00123.
doi: 10.4293/JSLS.2025.00123

## Critical Perioperative Factors Influencing Postoperative Complications and Long-Term Survival in Patients with Gastric Cancer

He Li 1,2, Nanbo Li 3,4, Deheng Zhu 5, Shuangshuang Hou 6, Yaoyuan Chang 7, Qiong Duan 8, Ju Wu 9, Jiajun Yin

**Abstract**

**Objective:**

We aimed to determine key perioperative factors affecting postoperative complications and long-term survival in gastric cancer patients undergoing gastrectomy and to evaluate their predictive value for clinical outcomes.

**Methods:**

We conducted a retrospective analysis of clinical data from patients who underwent radical gastrectomy at our institution between January 2011 and December 2019. Logistic regression, along with univariate and multivariate analyses, and Kaplan–Meier survival curves were utilized to identify significant factors impacting postoperative morbidity and long-term survival.

**Results:**

Patients were categorized into complication and noncomplication groups based on postoperative outcomes. Comparative analysis revealed significant associations between postoperative complications and the following variables: sex, hypertension, serum albumin (ALB) level, lactate dehydrogenase, prognostic nutritional index (PNI), α-fetoprotein (AFP), anastomotic method, laparoscopic versus open surgery and operative time (all $P < .05$). Multivariate logistic regression analysis indicated that laparoscopic versus open surgery, PNI, and hypertension were independent risk factors for postoperative complications. Kaplan–Meier survival analysis showed significant correlations between 3-year overall survival (OS) and age, PNI, ALB, carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA), carbohydrate antigen 19-9 (CA19-9), tumor diameter, TNM stage, lymphovascular invasion (LVI), perineural invasion, resection extent, and reconstruction method (all $P < .05$). Receiver operating characteristic curve analysis identified optimal cutoff values for 3-year OS prediction: PNI (area under the curve [AUC] = 0.709, cutoff = 41.55) and tumor diameter (AUC = 0.661, cutoff = 4.75 cm). Univariate and multivariate Cox regression analyses identified the following independent prognostic factors: LVI, advanced TNM stage, age, PNI, hypoalbuminemia, CEA, and CA19-9.

Gastric cancer remains a significant global health challenge, characterized by high incidence and mortality rates across multiple regions. According to data from the World Health Organization (WHO), it ranks as the third most prevalent malignancy worldwide, following lung and colorectal cancers.1–4 The pathogenesis of gastric cancer involves complex interactions among genetic predisposition, environmental exposures, and lifestyle factors. Although perioperative chemotherapy (FLOT4 trial) and adjuvant chemotherapy (CLASSIC trial) have become standard treatment approaches, and minimally invasive surgical techniques (KLASS trials) have advanced significantly,5–7 a substantial number of patients are still diagnosed at advanced stages and exhibit heterogeneous outcomes even after curative-intent resection. This variability highlights the limitations of conventional prognostic indicators such as TNM staging and tumor markers in accurately stratifying patient risk.8–10.

The perioperative period plays a pivotal role in determining both surgical outcomes and long-term prognosis. While current treatment strategies are informed by large-scale clinical trials, individualized risk assessment remains inadequate.

To read more of this article, please **click here.**

# READY TO PUBLISH?

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CRSLS MIS Case Reports from The Society of Laparoscopic & Robotic Surgeons

JSLS Journal of The Society of Laparoscopic & Robotic Surgeons

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SLS Fellowships

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**SLS CONNECTS RESIDENTS TO EXCLUSIVE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN ADVANCED MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY**

1 **Gain in-depth knowledge and expertise in YOUR specific area of medicine. If you want to specialize in fields such as**

General Surgery

Gynecology

Simulation

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3 **SLS connects residents to exclusive trainingopportunities in advanced minimally invasive surgery.**

**Learn more and apply to sls.org/sls-fellowship-programs/**

## FELLOWSHIPS AVAILABLE

### GYNECOLOGY

Fellowship in Minimally Invasive & Robotic Surgery in Gynecology & Reproductive Surgery
*Director: Camran Nezhat, MD*
*Palo Alto, CA*

Fellowship in Minimally Invasive and Robotic Surgery in Gynecologic Benign and Malignant Pathologies
*Director: Farr Nezhat, MD*
*Long Island, NY*

SLS Fellowship in Advanced Endometriosis
*Director: Tamer Seckin, MD*
*New York, NY*

Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery Fellowship (FMIGS) of South Florida
*Director: Emery Salom, MD*
*Miramar, FL*

The Marchand Institute for Minimally Invasive Surgery and Honor Health Affiliated Fellowship Program in Minimally Invasive and Robotic Gynecologic Surgery
*Director: Greg J. Marchand, MD*
*Mesa, AZ*

### SIMULATION

Carlos Pellegrini and Brant Oelschlager Surgical Simulation Fellowship
*Director: Robert Sweet, MD, FACS, MAMSE*
*Seattle, WA*

### GENERAL SURGERY

SLS Fellowship in Advanced Minimally Invasive and Endoscopic Techniques in General and Colorectal Surgery
*Director: Jiri (George) Melich, MD*
*Vancouver, BC, Canada*

SLS Fellowship in Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary (HPB) Surgical Oncology
*Director: Shawn MacKenzie MD, FACS, FRCSC*
*New Westminster, BC, Canada*

Colorectal Oncology and Advanced Laparoscopic Surgery Fellowship
*Director: Elena A.T. Vikis, MD, MEd, FRCSC*
*Vancouver, BC, Canada*

# FELLOWSHIP IN FOCUS

**Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery Fellowship (FMIGS) of South Florida**

Location: The Center for Gynecologic Oncology; Miramar, Fl
Program Director: Emery Salom, MD
Associate Director: Taralyn Sowby, DO, MBA
Faculty: Jacob Tangir, MD; Jonathan Black, MD, MPH; John Siemon, MD

Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery Fellowship of South Florida (FMIGS of South Florida) aims to provide comprehensive advanced training in minimally invasive surgery for graduates of SLS approved OB/GYN Residencies while fostering an environment of innovation, advancement, and research in the field of Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery. Graduates of this 2-year fellowship will obtain the skills necessary for the surgical and medical management of complex gynecologic diseases and disorders with minimally invasive techniques, while also providing OB/GYN colleagues with support and collaboration. MIGS of South Florida values scholarship and aims to graduate valued scholars in the fields of Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery and Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Fellows with FMIGS of South Florida will lead a variety of clinical experiences spanning 4 different Health Care Systems in South Florida. Fellows will provide inpatient gynecologic services of pre-operative, operative, and post-operative care, inpatient consults, and inpatient gynecologic management while supervising daily Gynecologic rounds with students and resident physicians. Office-based clinical experience will be gained at The Center for Gynecologic Oncology and its 4 locations
Fellowship program, please contact: migsfellowship@salomtangir.org.

# MISWeek 2026 *Event Program*

**DAY 1**

WED
2
DEC

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7:00am | – | 8:00pm | **Conference Registration** |
| 7:00am | – | 8:00am | **Complimentary Coffee & Bakery Items**<br>*For Master Course Attendees only* |
| 8:00am | – | 12:00pm | **Hands-on Master Course:**<br>*Advanced Laparoscopic Suturing – for the Gynecologist, Urologist, and General and Robotic Surgeon* |
| 8:00am | – | 12:00pm | *Endometriosis: A Multidisciplinary Disease Requiring Multidisciplinary Management* |
| 12:00pm | | 1:00pm | Lunch on your own |
| 1:00pm | – | 5:00pm | **Hands-on Master Course:** |
| | – | | *The Pain Challenge: Achieving Optimal Outcomes in Minimally Invasive Surgery* |
| 1:00pm | – | 5:00pm | *Nuts & Bolts of Professional Practice: What They Didn't Teach you in Medical School* |
| 5:15pm | – | 6:30pm | **Opening Ceremony** |
| 5:45pm | – | 6:15pm | Keynote Speaker: Margaret (Gretchen) Schwarze MD, MPP, FACS<br>Morgridge Professor of Vascular Surgery and<br>Professor in the Departments of Surgery and Medical History<br>and Bioethics at the University of Wisconsin |
| 6:15pm | – | 6:30pm | *Three Fundamental Communication Skills Every Surgeon Should Have* |
| 6:30pm | – | 8:00pm | **Fellowship Recognition, Corporate Recogniion** |
| 6:30pm | | 8:00pm | Welcome Reception in Exhibit Hall<br>e-Poster Viewing Open |

**DAY 2**

THUR
3
DEC

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7:00am | – | 5:00pm | **Conference Registration** |
| 7:00am | – | 7:30am | **Complimentary Coffee & Bakery Items/Product Presentations by Exhibitors** |
| 7:00am | – | 5:00pm | **Exhibits & e-Poster Viewing Open** |
| 7:30am | – | 7:45am | **Highlights** |
| 7:45am | – | 8:45am | **Multidisciplinary Plenary Session:**<br>*Controversies in Managing the Appendix* |
| 8:45am | – | 10:00am | **Multidisciplinary Plenary Session**<br>*Anatomic Vignettes* |
| 10:00am | – | 10:30am | **Nezhat Family Lectureship:**<br>Co-Directors: Camran Nezhat, MD; Ceana Nezhat, MD; Farr Nezhat, MD<br>Speaker: Kara C. Long, MD, MSc<br>Associate Attending, Gynecologic Surgery<br>Associate Director, Gynecologic Oncology Fellowship Program<br>Section of Ovarian Cancer Surgery, Department of Surgery<br>Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center |
| 10:30am | – | 11:00pm | Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre, Montreal, Canada |
| 11:00pm | – | 12:45pm | **Refreshment Break /Visit Exhibits/Product Presentations by Exhibitors**<br>**Multidisciplinary Plenary Session (Non-CME)** |
| 12:45pm | | 1:00pm | *The Present and Future of Robotic Surgery* |
| 12:45pm | – | 2:00pm | **Moderator Briefing** |
| 2:00pm | | 5:45pm | **Refreshment Break/Visit Exhibits/Product Presentations by Exhibitors** |
| 2:00pm | – | 5:45pm | **Concurrent Presentation Sessions:** Scientific Papers / Videos |
| 2:00pm | – | 5:00pm | **Current Issues in MIS** |
| 6:00pm | – | 7:00pm | **Poster Town Hall (Non-CME)** |
| | | | **Special Event: Resident, Fellow, New Member Meet & Greet** |



*For more information click here*

# MISWeek 2026 *Event Program*

**DAY 3**

FRI
4
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| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7:00am | – | 5:00pm | **Conference Registration** |
| 7:00am | – | 7:30am | **Complimentary Coffee and Bakery Items/Visit Exhibits/Product Presentations by Exhibitors** |
| 7:00am | – | 2:00pm | **Exhibit & e-Poster Viewing Open** |
| 7:30am | – | 7:45am | **Highlights** |
| 7:45am | – | 8:45am | **Multidisciplinary Plenary Session:**<br>*Mentoring, Coaching and Training in the OR and Beyond* |
| 8:45am | – | 9:45am | **Multidisciplinary Plenary Session:**<br>*Who's Watching: Assessing Surgical Skills* |
| 9:45am | – | 10:00am | **Gustavo Stringel Awards for:**<br>Best Poster, Best Poster by a Student, and Best Poster by a Resident |
| 10:00am | – | 10:30am | **Refreshment Break/Visit Exhibits/Product Presentations by Exhibitors** |
| 10:30am | – | 12:30pm | **Surgical Surprises: Video Session – When the Unexpected Happens** |
| 12:30pm | – | 1:30pm | **Munch & Learn (Non-CME)**<br>Vertex Pharmaceuticals |
| 12:30pm | – | 2:00pm | **Refreshment Break/Visit Exhibits/Product Presentations by** |
| 2:00pm | – | 5:45pm | **ExhibitorsConcurrent Presentation Sessions: Scientific Papers/Videos** |
| 2:00pm | – | 5:45pm | **Current Issues in MIS** |

**DAY 4**

SAT
5
DEC

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7:00am | – | 10:30am | **Conference Registration** |
| 7:30am | – | 8:45am | **Breakfast with 2026 Excel Award Recipient**<br>Gerald M. Fried, MD, CM, FRCSC, FACS, FCAHS, M.S.C. |
| 7:30am | – | 8:00am | **Breakast Served** |
| 8:00am | – | 8:15am | **Highlights** |
| 8:15am | – | 8:25am | **Introduction of Excel Award Recipient:**<br>Raymond J. Lanzafame, MD, MBA |
| 8:25am | – | 8:40am | **Presentation by Excel Award Recipient:**<br>Gerald M. Fried, MD, CM, FRCSC, FACS, FCAHS, M.S.C.<br>Professor of Surgery<br>Associate Dean, Education Technology & Innovation<br>Director, Steinberg Centre for Simulation and Interactive Learning<br>McGill University, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences<br>Co-Founder, Clinical Innovation Platform (CLIP)<br>Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre |
| 8:40am | – | 8:45am | **Presentation of Excel Award** |
| 8:45am | – | 8:55am | **Introduction of Janis Chinnock Wetter Award Recipient:**<br>Raymond J. Lanzafame, MD, MBA |
| 8:55am | – | 9:10am | **Presentation by the Janis Chinnock Wetter Award Recipient:**<br>Patricia Fleck Kavic, RN, MSW |
| 9:10am | – | 9:15am | **Presentation of Janis Chinnock Wetter Award** |
| 9:15am | – | 10:05am | **Future Technology Session with Keynote Speaker:**<br>**Phil Metzger, PhD**<br>Director, Stephen W. Hawking Center for Microgravity Research and Education<br>Research Professor, Planetary Science, Florida Space Institute<br>University of Central Florida |
| 10:05am | – | 10:10am | **Closing Ceremony** - Passing the Presidential Gavel |

# MISWeek 2026 - Excel Award

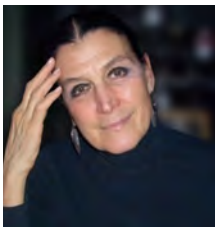
**Gerald Fried, MD, CM, FRCSC, FACS, FCAHS, M.S.C.**
Dr. Gerald Fried is a Professor of Surgery and Associate Dean, Education Technology & Innovation
Director, Steinberg Centre for Simulation and Interactive Learning
McGill University | Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences
Co-Founder, Clinical Innovation Platform (CLIP)
Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre Montreal, Quebec, Canada

In 1990, Dr. Fried established Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS) as a clinical and academic program at McGill and trained more than 50 fellows who have gone on to leadership roles. As Chair he re-energized the McGill graduate programs with novel degrees in innovation and entrpreneurship, surgical education, global surgery, surgical recovery, and in digital health that have attracted students from around the world.

Dr. Fried's work developing a simulation program for MIS has become the gold standard and a requirement for certification in surgery by the American Board. His current research is in evaluating applications of computervision to improve the quality and safety of surgery.

He has received the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada John Ruedy Award for Innovation in Medical Education and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Duncan Graham Award for outstanding contribution to medical education. In 2019 Dr Fried received the Meritorious Service Cross by the Governor General of Canada for his leadership in developing minimally invasive surgery in Canada. He has held many leadership positions including President of SAGES and Chair of the ACS Board of Regents.

# MISWeek 2026 - Janis Chinnock Wetter Award



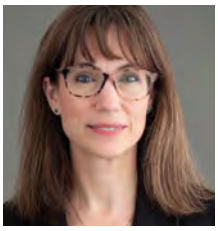
**Patricia Kavic, RN, MSW**
Patricia earned her Registered Nurse License at Ohio Valley General Hospital (OVGH), a community hospital in the Pittsburgh area. After working several years for the Visiting Nurse Association of Allegheny County, she was recruited by the Administrator of OVGH to establish their Home Care Program. While working there Patricia attended the University of Pittsburgh, completing her Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Social Work Administration. It was during this time she met and married Dr. Michael Kavic. Patricia eventually left her position as Director of Home Care and Discharge Planning to manage his surgical practice and raise their four children.

With the inception of the "laparoscopic era" of surgery, she and Michael established the Center for Advanced Surgical Training (CAST) in 1990, a certified site for training surgeons in laparoscopic techniques. Patricia functioned as Administrator of the Center until 1994.

During the 1990's Patricia functioned as administrative support and lab assistant for Michael as he traveled extensively throughout the US, Europe, Asia and the Middle East, where he lectured on laparoscopic surgery.

In 1996 Michael was selected to become the Founding Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of the Society of Laparoscopic and Robotic Surgeons*, JSLS, an international surgical journal indexed in the National Library of Medicine and listed in PubMed Central. Patricia became the Senior Editorial Assistant. In that role she was, and still is, responsible for handling manuscript submissions and tracking their progress through the peer review process.

# MISWeek 2026 - Opening Session Keynote Speaker



**Margaret (Gretchen) Schwarze, MD, MPP, FACS**

Gretchen Schwarze MD, MPP is the Morgridge Professor of Vascular Surgery and a Professor in the Departments of Surgery and Medical History and Bioethics at the University of Wisconsin. She received her medical degree from Harvard Medical School and master's degree in public policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government. She completed residency at the Massachusetts General Hospital. Her fellowship training in vascular surgery and clinical ethics was at the University of Chicago Hospital and Clinics. She is a practicing vascular surgeon and health services researcher with research interests focus on informed consent, high-stakes decisions, and end-of-life care for older patients with complex illnesses. With 15 years of external funding, including grants from the NIH and PCORI, she has received more than $13 million in support for her innovative work. She is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and is an alumna of the Greenwall Faculty Scholars and the Cambia Foundation Sojourns Scholar programs. She lives in Madison, WI with her husband who is a transplant surgeon.

# MISWeek 2026 -Nezhat Family Lectureship

**Kara C. Long, MD, MSc, FACOG**

Dr. Kara Long Roche, MD, MSc, FACOG, is a gynecologic oncologist who is dedicated to improving the lives of women with gynecologic cancers. These include ovarian cancer, uterine cancer, cervical cancer, and vulvar cancer.

Dr. Roche is Associate Director for the Gynecologic Oncology Fellowship Program at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. She performs surgeries at Memorial Hospital and Josie Robertson Surgery Center in Manhattan, and sees patients at Rockefeller Outpatient Clinic, also in Manhattan, and MSK Basking Ridge, in New Jersey.

She performs about 250 gynecologic procedures each year, using minimally invasive techniques when appropriate so that women can get back to their lives more quickly after surgery. In addition, Dr. Roche is skilled at performing cytoreductive surgery, which means she removes all visible disease so that the cancer is more susceptible to chemotherapy. For women who want to start or grow their families, she performs fertility-preserving surgical procedures whenever possible.

Dr. Roche is also committed to developing better ways to screen for and prevent gynecologic cancers in women who are at higher risk for these diseases. She has extensive experience in performing risk-reduction surgery, and is currently working to develop new strategies to improve this procedure. She is also researching the development of novel screening and early detection techniques with the goal of reducing the number of women who are impacted by gynecologic cancers.

**MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY WEEK**

# *SURGICAL SURPRISES WHEN THE UNEXPECTED HAPPENS.*

**2026**
DECEMBER 2ND - 5TH

*Real-world surprises teach far more than textbook cases.*

*Your video could help peers anticipate and manage similar situations.*

The Surgical Surprises session has been an enormously popular session since its inception. It aims to highlight unexpected events occurring during the progress of surgery, the decision process of how to remedy the accident/occurrence, and the video demonstration of the event and its correction.

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT: OCTOBER 10, 2026**

**SUBMIT YOUR VIDEO**
for a chance to be included in this popular interactive session!

**CONTRIBUTE TO RESEARCH & INNOVATION**

Unexpected findings often lead to:

- New surgical techniques
- Modified protocols
- Case reports and publications
- What starts as a surprise can drive meaningful medical advancement.

**CONTRIBUTE TO COLLECTIVE LEARNING**

Submit your video and help turn unexpected moments into lasting lessons for the surgical community.

**PRESENT YOUR. VIDEO ON FRIDAY DECEMBER 4TH, 2026**

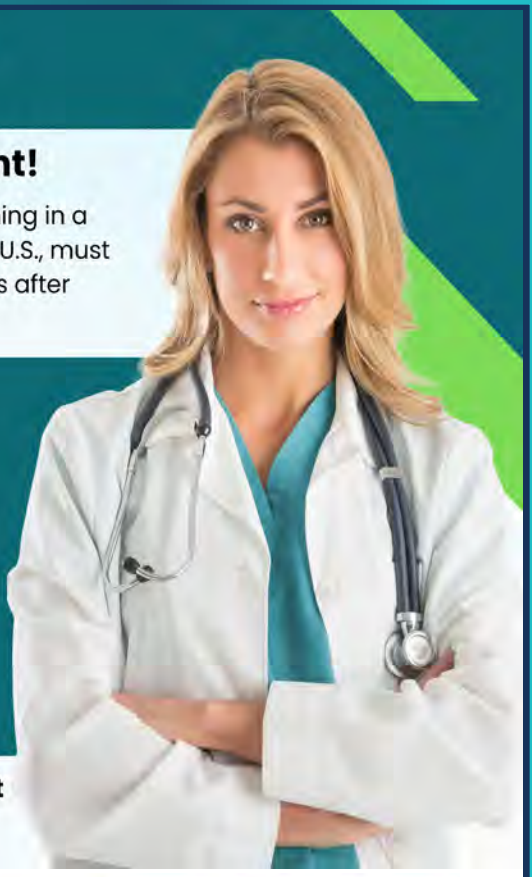
## Outstanding MIS Resident Award 2026

### Time to Nominate Your Resident!

**NOMINATION DEADLINE**

May 8, 2026

To qualify as a Resident, nominee must be in training in a U.S. accredited training program or, if outside the U.S., must be a Resident-in-Training within the first five years after medical school degree.



Award recipients will receive:

- An award certificate recognizing their achievement
- Automatically enrolled in SLS membership for the term of residency
- Discounted registration to attend MISWeek 2026
- The opportunity to participate in JSLS's Resident/Fellow Mentoring Review Committee where they will be mentored in high-quality medical peer-review
- Access to SLS Fellowship Opportunities
- Full member access to the SLS website

**Nominate your Resident and view all SLS programs for Residents at www.SLS.org/Residents**

# LEARN.
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## REGISTRATION OPENS SOON

Special registration rates are available for SLS MEMBERS, Medical Students, *Residents-in-Training, **Fellows-in-Training, and Affiliated Medical Personnel. To qualify for these rates to the annual meeting you must currently be a Resident, Fellow-in-Training, or Affiliated Medical Personnel MEMBER of SLS.

SLS is currently offering FREE membership to Medical Students and Residents.

Fellow-in-Training, and Affiliated Medical Personnel membership dues are $95 per calendar year.

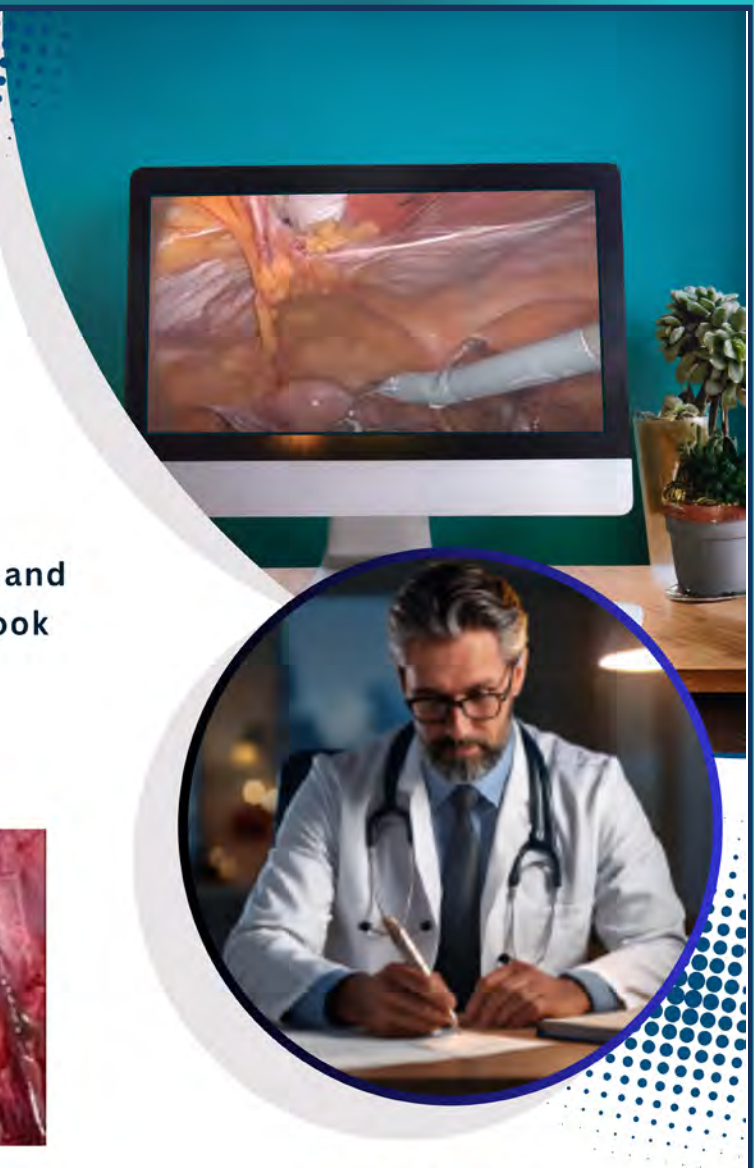
To qualify as a Resident* or Fellow-in-Training**, you must be in training in an accredited training program or, if outside the U.S., you must be a Resident or Fellow-in-Training within the first five years after medical school degree.

To qualify as Affiliated Medical Personnel, you must be employed in an ancillary position in the health care field.

| | SLS Members | Non-Members |
|---|---|---|
| Early Bird Registration (by October 2, 2026) | $900.00 | $1295.00 |
| Physician Member | $ 1050.00 | $ 1450.00 |
| Active Duty Military | $ 900.00 | $ 900.00 |
| Medical Student | $ 300.00 | Available to Members Only |
| Resident * | $ 450.00 | Available to Members Only |
| Fellow ** | $ 550.00 | Available to Members Only |
| Affiliated Medical Personnel | $ 550.00 | Available to Members Only |

REGISTRATION OPENS SOON

# SLS TV



**Visit SLSTV for MISWeek 2025 Video and e-Poster Presentations, plus take a look at award winning presentations throughout the years.**

## BEST VIDEO

## BEST SCIENTIFIC PAPER

## BEST POSTER

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# CALL FOR *Abstracts*

**You are invited to submit scientific paper, video and poster abstracts for presentation at MISWeek 2026**

**www.SLS.org/MIS2026/Submit**

| Awards | Prize |
|---|---|
| The Medical Educator Consortium Award for Best Scientific Paper | $1200 |
| Paul Alan Wetter Award for Best Multispeciality Scientific Paper | $500 |
| Michael S. Kavic Award for Best Scientific Paper by a Resident | $1000 |
| Carl J. Levinson Award for Best Video | $500 |
| Harrith M. Hasson Award for Best Presentation Promoting Education and Training | $500 |
| Gustavo Stringel Award for Best Pediatric Surgery Presentation | $500 |
| Gustavo Stringel Award for Best Poster | $500 |
| Gustavo Stringel Award for Best Poster by a Resident | $250 |
| Gustavo Stringel Award for Best Poster by a Student | $250 |

Certificates will be issued for the following:

- Best General Surgery Scientific Paper
- Best General Surgery Video
- Best Gynecology Scientific Paper
- Best Gynecology Video
- Best Urology Scientific Paper
- Best Urology Video
- Best Multispecialty Video

Don't Miss Your Chance to Submit your Abstract for Presentation at **MISWeek 2026**

**Submission Deadline May 1st, 2026**

SLS

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Where Disciplines Meet

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SOCIETY OF LAPAROSCOPIC & ROBOTIC SURGEONS

# SHOW YOUR TECH AT MISWEEK 2026.

**Registration is Opening Soon**
**$3500 early bird special**
**$4,000 after September 30, 2026**

## EXHIBIT HOURS

- **Wednesday, December 2, 2026**
  **6:30 pm – 8:00 pm**
- **Thursday, December 3, 2026**
  **7:00 am – 5:00 pm**
- **Friday, December 4, 2026**
  **7:00 am – 2:00 pm**

**Why Exhibit?**

- Position Your Company as an Industry Expert
- Lead the Conversation on Emerging Trends
- Attract Strategic Partnerships with One-on-One Product Demos

**Who should Exhibit?**

**Do you Market, Re-Sell or Distribute** laparoscopic, robotic and endoscopic instrumentation, imaging technologies, software, preoperative and postoperative care mateirials and devices?

# Hotel Information

## CONFERENCE HOTEL

DoubleTree by Hilton
At the entrance to Universal Orlando
5780 Major Blvd, Orlando, FL 32819
Phone: (407) 351-1000 Fax: (407) 352-8556

**DoubleTree by Hilton - Room Rates**
Double/Single Room $154.00/plus taxes

Current Sales tax rate 6.5% | Current Hotel Occupancy tax rate 6%

No Resort Fee

Cut Off Date for Reservations Monday, November 9, 2026

Cancellation up to 72 hours prior.

Reservations can be made directly with the hotel via the internet using the HiltonLink reservation page or call 1-800-222-TREE (8733) no later than the cutoff date.

## PARKING

The DoubleTree offers self-parking services.

Discounted overnight self-parking fee is available at a Special Rate of $18.00 plus tax per night, per vehicle.

Valet Services: $40.00 + Tax

Bus/Motor coach: $75.00 + Tax per day (Must be arranged in advance to ensure proper parking at time of arrival

Prices subject to change

## AIRLINE RESERVATIONS

The Store For Travel is the official travel agency for the Minimally Invasive Surgery Week 2026. They are available to assist you in obtaining the lowest fare possible for your travel preference and schedule.

For information contact Steve:
The Store for Travel
TEL: (305) 251-6331
TOLL FREE: (800) 284-2538
Email: Steve@TheStoreForTravel.com

## SPECIAL OFFER FOR MISWEEK 2026

## This is How Florida Has Real Fun

Discover our 4 theme parks, 11 resort hotels, and countless attractions, restaurants, and entertainment.

Make your visit to Universal Orlando the best one yet. Whether it's your first visit or not, we recommend reviewing the Universal Orlando Resort updates.

Tickets to Universal Orlando are available via our MISWeek 2026 ticket site. MISWeek 2026 attendees will receive a discount on multi-day tickets. **Click here to purchase your tickets.**

# THINGS TO DO IN AND AROUND ORLANDO

Take the  Winter Park Scenic Boat Tour! It's a one-hour cruise through the narrow canals and lakes of Winter Park, one of Orlando's beautiful suburbs.

Visit NASA's Kennedy Space Center, and walk beneath the largest rocket ever. Experience the thrilling Shuttle Launch and discover interactive exhibits that bring space exploration to life.

**Universal City Walk**

A shopping, dining, and entertainment district near the Universal Orlando theme parks. Home to such big name restaurants as: Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., Hard Rock Café, Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville, and more

**International Drive (iDrive):** Explore ICON Park (featuring the Orlando Eye, Sea Life Aquarium, and Madame Tussauds), WonderWorks, and Dezerland Action Park for indoor go-karting.

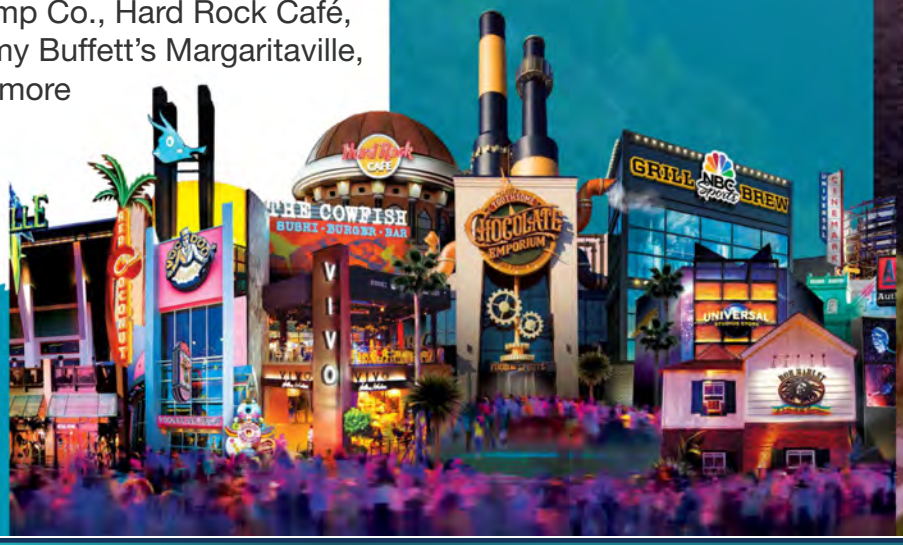
**Gardens & Wildlife:**
Visit the 50-acre Harry P. Leu Gardens, or explore the "Alligator Capital of the World" at Gatorland.

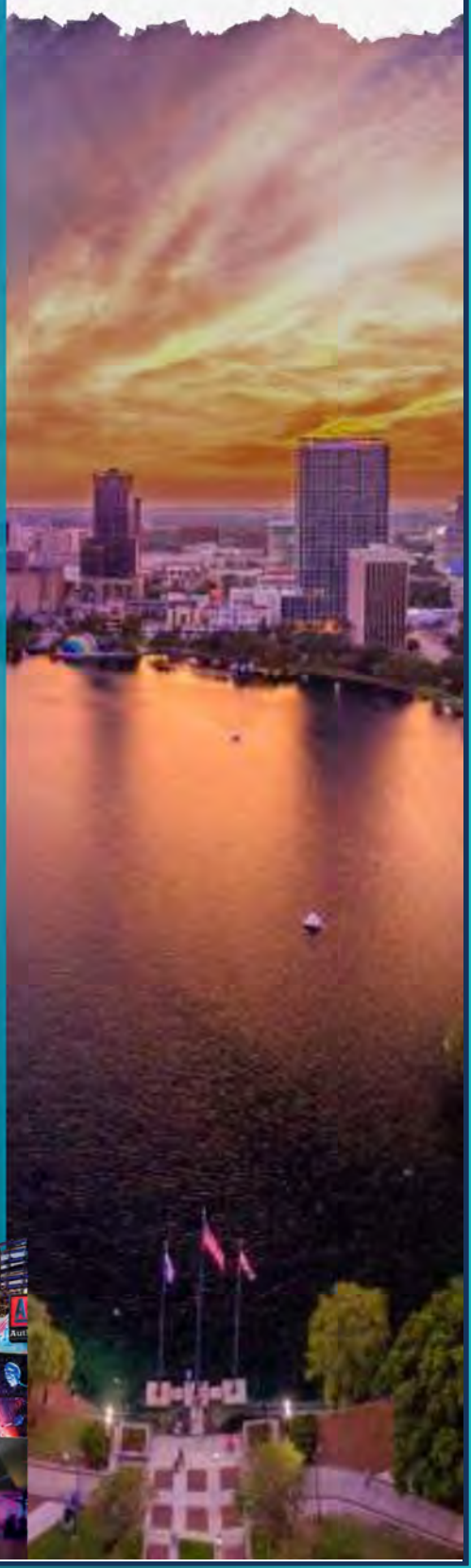
Culture & Arts:
Explore the Orlando Museum of Art, Orlando Science Center, or the Orange County Regional History Center.

**Check out Bok Tower** Gardens, just a short drive outside Orlando. This beautiful "contemplative garden" and bird sanctuary is marked by a 205-foot art deco tower.

The area features hiking trails, 50 acres of gardens, and is listed as a national historic landmark.

**Day Trips:** Drive to the nearby Cocoa Beach for a coastal getaway



# JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

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*- Sharona Ross, MD*

**As part of our educational mission, SLS is providing FREE 2026 membership for Medical Students and Residents**

**Discounted membership for Fellows and Affiliated Medical Personnel**

- **Support the mission of SLS to improve patient care and promote the highest standards of practice through education, training, and information**
- **All SLS dues and donations are tax deductible for US Taxpayers**
- **Receive registration discounts to attend MISWeek**
- **And much more!**

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**Dues and Fees Haven't Increased!**

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SLS.org/membership

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- Access SLS Scholarly Search & Open Access Titles & Videos
- Network with a range of international affiliates & opportunities to exchange ideas, techniques & technologies
- Join the conversation on our blog & social media outlets
- Network with professionals from around the world
- Engage a multidisciplinary body of knowledge and professional development resources
- A wide range of programming to receive CE Credits

## Increase the Reach of Your Practice

- Exclusive enrollment in SLS' "Find a Specialist" Patient Referral Map and Online Database
- Exclusive access to online member portal where you can connect with members worldwide

## Dialogue With a Global Community

- Participate and engage in Special Interest Group (SIG's)
- Participate in our online DocMatter community
- Have your successes featured in "Members in the News"

## Publications to keep you at the Forefront of MIS

- Receive *JSLS Anywhere and CRSLS Anywhere* quarterly updates on articles published.
- Open access Proceedings, Textbooks, and Websites

## Member Deals and Discounts

- Access to huge savings and exclusive discounts
- Special membership rates for Students, Residents, Fellows, Nurses, Technicians, & Affiliated Medical Personnel and Active Duty Military
- Special offers, preferred seating, tickets to top attractions, theme parks, sporting events, hotels and much more!