



SLSNOW

Where Disciplines Meet

***Edition 26
Jun 2026***



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

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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.

MISWeek2026 will be held on December 2-5, 2026 at the DoubleTree by Hilton at the Entrance to Universal Orlando. Registration is now open. Register early to take advantage for earlybird rates and to be sure that you don't miss out on hotel accommodations.

You won't want to miss this must attend conference, whether you're presenting your work, or enjoying the meeting and the opportunity to network and dialogue with colleagues from multiple specialties and diverse backgrounds.

There's still time to submit your abstracts 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.

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

Thank you for being a part of the SLS community. Check out information about our publications, fellowship opportunities and more. We welcome your active participation and are always willing to hear your comments and suggestions.

Please be sure to share SLSNow with your colleagues and encourage them to join SLS. We are stronger together and we learn from each other.

We look forward to serving you in 2026 and beyond.

Good reading!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raymond J. Lanzafame". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a stylized "R" and "L".

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



Characteristics and Outcomes of OviTex Mesh in Laparoscopic Hiatal Hernia Repair with Fundoplication and Mesh.

Hiley Cammock 1,2, Danial A Malik 3,4, Farid Kehdy

Abstract

Background

Laparoscopic repair is the standard treatment for symptomatic paraesophageal and mixed hiatal hernias; however, recurrence rates remain high, particularly in large defects. Mesh reinforcement has been used to improve outcomes, but the optimal mesh type remains debated. OviTex 1S, a reinforced tissue matrix composed of ovine extracellular matrix and polypropylene, has demonstrated safety in abdominal wall reconstruction, though data for hiatal hernia repair are limited.

Methods:

We conducted a prospective, single-arm, single-institution study evaluating laparoscopic hiatal hernia repair with OviTex 1S mesh between January 2020 and February 2024. Adults with radiologic or endoscopic confirmation of hiatal hernia requiring mesh reinforcement were included. Primary endpoints were hernia recurrence and reflux symptom improvement. Secondary endpoints included quality of life, assessed using reflux severity scores and the Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD)-Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQL) survey. Patients were followed at 1, 3, 6, 12, and 24 months.

Results:

Of 443 patients undergoing paraesophageal hernia repair, 108 received OviTex 1S reinforcement. Mean age was 65.5 years, mean body mass index (BMI) 28.1 kg/m², and 82.2% were female. Three perioperative recurrences (2.8%) required reoperation. Overall recurrence occurred in 21 patients (19.4%), most beyond six months. GERD-HRQL scores improved by more than 50% at 12 months (20 ± 4.75 vs 4 ± 7 ; $P = .02$). Proton pump inhibitor use declined from 91.6% preoperatively to 9.4% postoperatively. No mesh-related erosions or strictures were observed.

Surgical treatment of hiatal hernias has evolved over the past several decades as new insights into the pathophysiology of the disease continue to emerge. While laparoscopic hiatal hernia repair is now the standard of care for the management of symptomatic paraesophageal hernia and mixed hiatal hernias since its introduction in the early 1990s, there is still no consensus on use of crural reinforcement, mesh type, or mesh fixation, especially in the setting of large hiatal hernias.^{1–6} Recurrences and reoperation in this patient population have been high, ranging anywhere from 25–55%.

To reduce recurrences and reoperation rates, both synthetic and biological meshes have been used to

reinforce cruroplasty.¹⁰ Several systemic reviews and meta-analyses have shown significant improvement in short term recurrence rate (<6 months) but ultimately showed significant high long-term recurrence rate, although it was much improved compared to those who underwent primary repair.¹¹ Early meshes were synthetic nonabsorbable products, which were abandoned secondary to reports of strictures with or without erosion into the esophageal lumen, paving the way for different types of bioresorbable mesh solutions that have been introduced in recent years.

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



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There is NO manuscript submission fee



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JSLS 
Journal of
The Society of Laparoscopic & Robotic Surgeons

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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



FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE
Transform Your Tomorrow

Forge Your Future in Medicine: Join Our Fellowship Community

✓ General Surgery

SLS Fellowship in Advanced Minimally
Invasive and Endoscopic Techniques in
General and Colorectal Surgery

LOCATION:

Royal Columbian and Eagle Ridge
Hospitals, Greater Vancouver Area,
British Columbia, Canada

PROGRAM DIRECTOR:
DR. JIRI (GEORGE) MELICH, MD, FRCS(C)

TO VIEW/APPLY TO SLS FELLOWSHIPS VISIT
WWW.SLS.ORG/SLS-FELLOWSHIP-PROGRAMS



SLS Fellowship in Advanced Minimally Invasive & Endoscopic Techniques in General & Colorectal Surgery

Location: Royal Columbian and Eagle Ridge Hospitals, Greater Vancouver Area,
British Columbia, Canada

University affiliation: University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Program Director: Jiri (George) Melich, MD, FRCS(C)

Application cycle for academic year 2027-2028 starts officially on July 1, 2026.

However, applicants can fill out and submit their applications earlier.

Nov 1, 2026 – Fellowship application deadline.

Depending on trainee's needs, the Division of General Surgery at Royal Columbian and Eagle Ridge Hospitals is offering a one- or two-year SLS Fellowship in Advanced Minimally Invasive and Endoscopic Techniques in General and Colorectal Surgery under the leadership of Dr. Jiri (George) Melich.

This fellowship was initially established in 2016 and consists of one year postgraduate training in many aspects of General Surgery with a focus on minimally invasive surgical and endoscopic Colorectal Surgery. The fellowship features most standard general surgery laparoscopic techniques, as well as Transanal Minimally Invasive Surgery (TAMIS), including Transanal Total Mesorectal Excision (TaTME).

For More information, click here.

MISWeek 2026 *Event Program*

DAY 1 WED 2 DEC	7:00am – 8:00pm	Conference Registration
	7:00am – 8:00am	Complimentary Coffee & Bakery Items <i>For Master Course Attendees only</i>
	8:00am – 12:00pm	Master Course: <i>Advanced Laparoscopic Suturing – for the Gynecologist, Urologist, and General and Robotic Surgeon (Hands on Skills)</i>
	8:00am – 12:00pm	<i>Endometriosis: A Multidisciplinary Disease Requiring Multidisciplinary Management.</i>
	12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch on your own
	1:00pm – 5:00pm	Master Course: <i>The Pain Challenge: Achieving Optimal Outcomes in Minimally Invasive Surgery (Hands on Skills)</i>
	1:00pm – 5:00pm	<i>Nuts & Bolts of Professional Practice: What They Didn't Teach you in Medical School</i>
	5:15pm – 6:30pm	Opening Ceremony
	5:45pm – 6:15pm	Keynote Speaker: Margaret (Gretchen) Schwarze MD, MPP, FACS Morgridge Professor of Vascular Surgery and Professor in the Departments of Surgery and Medical History and Bioethics at the University of Wisconsin <i>Three Fundamental Communication Skills Every Surgeon Should Have</i>
	6:15pm – 6:30pm	Fellowship Recognition, Corporate Recognition
	6:30pm – 8:00pm	Welcome Reception in Exhibit Hall
	6:30pm – 8:00pm	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 Open
	7:00am – 7:15am	Moderator Briefing
	7:15am – 5:00pm	e-Poster Viewing Open
	7:30am – 7:45am	Highlights
	7:45am – 8:45am	Multidisciplinary Plenary Session: <i>Controversies in Managing the Appendix</i>
	8:45am – 10:00am	Multidisciplinary Plenary Session <i>Anatomic Vignettes</i>
	10:00am – 10:30am	Nezhat Family Lectureship: Co-Directors: Camran Nezhat, MD; Ceana Nezhat, MD; Farr Nezhat, MD Speaker: Kara C. Long, MD, MSc Associate Attending, Gynecologic Surgery Associate Director, Gynecologic Oncology Fellowship Program Section of Ovarian Cancer Surgery, Department of Surgery Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre, Montreal, Canada
	10:30am – 11:00am	Refreshment Break /Visit Exhibits/Product Presentations by Exhibitors
	11:00am – 12:45pm	Multidisciplinary Plenary Session (Non-CME) <i>The Present and Future of Robotic Surgery</i>
	12:45pm – 2:00pm	Refreshment Break/Visit Exhibits/Product Presentations by Exhibitors
	2:00pm – 5:45pm	Concurrent Presentation Sessions: Scientific Papers / Videos
	2:00pm – 5:45pm	Current Issues in MIS
	2:00pm – 5:00pm	Poster Town Hall (Non-CME)
	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Special Event: Resident, Fellow, New Member Meet & Greet

MISWeek 2026 *Event Program*

DAY 3 FRI 4 DEC	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: <i>Mentoring, Coaching and Training in the OR and Beyond</i>
	8:45am – 9:45am	Multidisciplinary Plenary Session: <i>Who's Watching: Assessing Surgical Skills</i>
	9:45am – 10:00am	Gustavo Stringel Awards for: 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) 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 Gerald M. Fried, MD, CM, FRCSC, FACS, FCAHS, M.S.C.
	7:30am – 8:00am	Breakfast Served
	8:00am – 8:15am	Highlights
	8:15am – 8:25am	Introduction of Excel Award Recipient: Raymond J. Lanzafame, MD, MBA
	8:25am – 8:40am	Presentation by Excel Award Recipient: Gerald M. Fried, MD, CM, FRCSC, FACS, FCAHS, M.S.C. Professor of Surgery 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
	8:40am – 8:45am	Presentation of Excel Award
	8:45am – 8:55am	Introduction of Janis Chinnock Wetter Award Recipient: Raymond J. Lanzafame, MD, MBA
	8:55am – 9:10am	Presentation by the Janis Chinnock Wetter Award Recipient: 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: Phil Metzger, PhD Director, Stephen W. Hawking Center for Microgravity Research and Education Research Professor, Planetary Science, Florida Space Institute University of Central Florida
	10:05am – 10:10am	Closing Ceremony - Passing the Presidential Gavel

Hands-on Master Courses Wednesday, December 2nd

Advanced Laparoscopic Suturing-for the Gynecologist, Urologist, and General and Robotic Surgeon

8:00am - 12:00pm

Description: Participants will learn the uses and limitations of laparoscopic suturing. Suturing with two hands ipsilaterally allows the needle to operate in the sagittal plane, while permitting a restful and relaxed attitude of the elbows, forearms and hands. This course equips all attendees with improved suturing skills and insight into applications during surgery.

Objectives: Course participants will be better able to understand ergonomics, theory and rationale for reproducible and efficient laparoscopic suturing; learn port positions, instruments and tips to minimize fulcrum and maximize efficiency, perform interrupted suturing, continuous suturing, cinch knotting; apply learned skills in relevant surgical situations across specialties; and the prevention and management of bowel, bladder and ureteral complications by appropriate suture repair. A pre-test and post-test will demonstrate improvement in skills.

The Pain Challenge: Achieving Optimal Outcomes in Minimally Invasive Surgery

1:00pm - 5:00pm

Description: This comprehensive session that would include:

Pain Physiology and Anatomy: A foundational review.

Postoperative Pain Management: Exploring both opioid and non-opioid pathways.

Refractory Pain: Addressing what to do when standard management fails, including a discussion on other potential pain generators (musculoskeletal, neurological, and nociplastic).

Interventional Procedures: An overview of postoperative pain management blocks and Trigger Point Injections (TPI).

Didactic Master Courses Wednesday, December 2nd

Endometriosis: A Multidisciplinary Disease Requiring Multidisciplinary Management: 8:00am - 12:00pm

Description: Endometriosis frequently requires advanced laparoscopic and robotic surgical management involving multiple pelvic organ systems. Successful minimally invasive outcomes depend on precise preoperative imaging, strategic surgical planning, and multidisciplinary collaboration. This SLS Master Class will provide surgeons with a structured, evidence-based approach to integrating targeted ultrasound and MRI into preoperative planning for complex endometriosis cases. The course will emphasize how imaging guides robotic and laparoscopic surgical technique selection, team assembly, and intraoperative decision-making to optimize outcomes while maintaining minimally invasive standards.

Objectives: At the conclusion of this SLS Master Class, participants will be able to: Interpret advanced pelvic ultrasound and MRI findings relevant to minimally invasive endometriosis surgery. Use imaging to anticipate surgical complexity and select appropriate laparoscopic or robotic techniques. Coordinate multidisciplinary surgical care for bowel, bladder, ureteral, and diaphragmatic disease. Match preoperative imaging findings to specific surgical approaches and instruments. Conduct structured postoperative debriefings to improve imaging interpretation and surgical planning.

Nuts & Bolts of Professional Practice: What They Didn't Teach You in Medical School: 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

This program is designed for students, residents, fellows and others interested and will discuss: employment and contracts, non-compete agreements, and malpractice insurance, how to write and review scientific papers, grants and grant writing, coaching/mentoring, career advancement.

Plenary Session **Thursday, December 3rd and Friday, December 4th**

Multidisciplinary Plenary Session: Controversies in Managing the Appendix

Thursday, December 3rd - 7:45am - 8:45am

Description: This comprehensive session that would include:

Antibiotics and Watchful Waiting and Long-term Outcomes

What to do about the "normal appendix"

The appendix in the patient with endometriosis

Endoscopic Retrograde Appendicitis Therapy (ERAT)

Multidisciplinary Plenary Session: Anatomic Vignettes

Thursday, December 3rd - 8:45am - 10:00am

Description: This comprehensive session that would include:

Deep Pelvis Anatomy

Abdominal Wall and Groin

The Present and Future of Robotic Surgery (non-CME):

Thursday, December 3rd - 10:00am-12:45pm

Description: Interest in robotic surgery and applications of robotically assisted procedures continues to grow. The robotic surgical marketplace has been dominated by a single company for many years. However, this is rapidly changing with the continued evolution of multiport systems and the development and release of innovative systems from a growing group of new entrants in the field that offer a variety of solutions to solve surgical problems. This not-for-CME session brings together the leadership of some of the companies that are driving this wave of innovation. They will provide vignettes of the present and the future of robotic surgery. Learn the current status and what's on the horizon in robotics.

Multidisciplinary Plenary Session: Mentoring, Coaching and Training in the OR and Beyond

Friday, December 4th - 7:45am - 8:45am

Description: This comprehensive session that would include:

Coaching the coaches

Creating and maintaining a strong multidisciplinary team

The mind of the surgeon: Psychology of Surgery Managing stress, burnout, evolving practice and life responsibilities

Teaching Trainees v. Best Care for the Patient

The changing landscape of surgical training and need for open surgical skills

Multidisciplinary Plenary Session: Who's Watching: Assessing Surgical Skills

Friday, December 4th 8:45am - 9:45am

Description: This comprehensive session that would include:

Black Box and Crowd Sourced evaluation of surgical performance

Simulation and AI to train for the Common and the Rare

Evaluating Non-Technical Errors and Their Impact on Morbidity & Mortality

Realtime AI Feedback in Surgical Skills Training

Using AI to Predict and Improve Surgical Outcomes

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.

MISWeek 2026 - Excel Award



Gerald Fried, MD, CM, FRCSC, FACS, FCAHS, MSC

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 entrepreneurship, 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 computer vision 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.

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:
SEPTEMBER 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.

**VIDEOS WILL BE PRESENTED ON
FRIDAY DECEMBER 4TH, 2026**

**MINIMALLY
INVASIVE
SURGERY WEEK**

DEC 2 | 2026
DEC 5



DoubleTree by Hilton at the Entrance to Universal Orlando
Orlando, Florida, USA

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<https://sls.org/mis2026/>

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is Open!**

\$3500 early bird
special
\$4,000 after 9-30-26



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REGISTRATION IS OPEN



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

REGISTER TODAY

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

The Medical Educator Consortium Award for Best Scientific Paper

Paul Alan Wetter Award for Best Multispecialty Scientific Paper

Michael S. Kavic Award for Best Scientific Paper by a Resident

Carl J. Levinson Award for Best Video

Harrieth M. Hasson Award for Best Presentation Promoting Education and Training

Gustavo Stringel Award for Best Pediatric Surgery Presentation

Gustavo Stringel Award for Best Poster

Gustavo Stringel Award for Best Poster by a Resident

Gustavo Stringel Award for Best Poster by a Student

Prize

\$1200

\$500

\$1000

\$500

\$500

\$500

\$500

\$250

\$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 July 31st, 2026

SLS

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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 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.**



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.

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

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.

THINGS TO DO IN AND AROUND ORLANDO



JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

"SLS offers a multi-specialty platform for surgeons and healthcare professionals to engage in discussions on innovative technology and surgical techniques, enhancing patient outcomes. It provides a valuable opportunity to network with industry experts and surgeons globally."

- Sharona Ross, MD

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

**Discounted membership for
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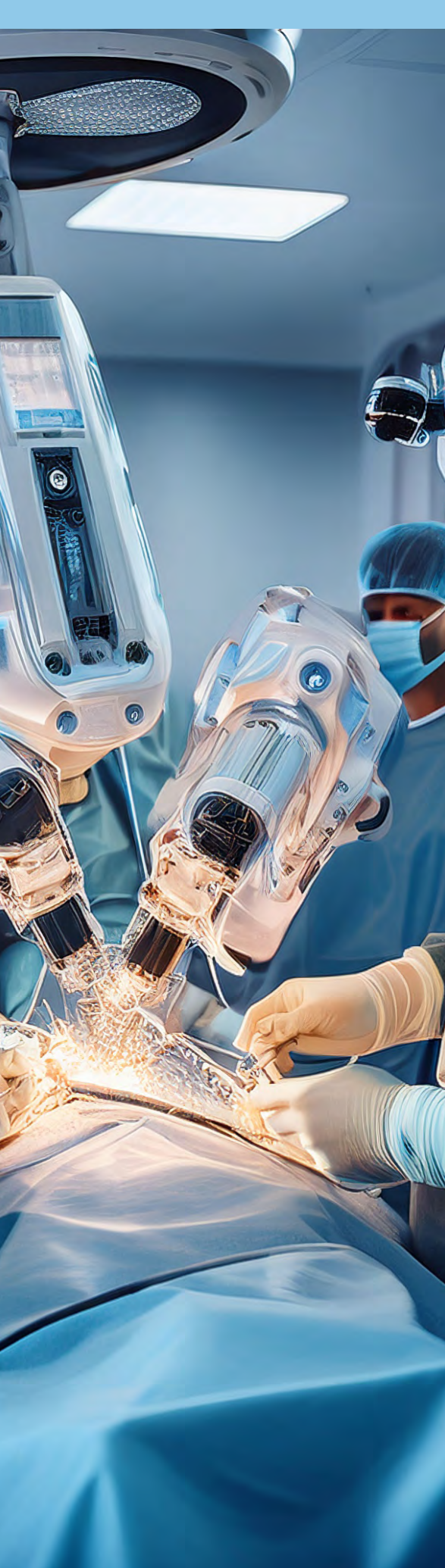
- Support the mission of SLS to improve patient care and promote the highest standards of practice through education, training, and information
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- Exclusive enrollment in SLS' "Find a Specialist" Patient Referral Map and Online Database
- Exclusive 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)
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- 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

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- Access to huge savings and exclusive discounts
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- Special offers, preferred seating, tickets to top attractions, theme parks, sporting events, hotels and much more!

