



Natural Orifice Surgery Consortium for Assessment and Research™ (NOSCAR™)

A joint initiative supported by the
American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy and the
Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

NOSCAR™ Announces 2008 NOTES™ Research Award Winners

\$750,000 in grants funded by Olympus Medical Systems and KARL STORZ Endoscopy-America

OAK BROOK, Ill., September 12, 2008 – The Natural Orifice Surgery Consortium for Assessment and Research™ (NOSCAR™), a joint effort of the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) and the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES), announce the 2008 NOSCAR™ Research Award winners. The funds, granted through Olympus Medical Systems' Olympus Research Fund and by KARL STORZ Endoscopy-America, Inc., will be distributed among 14 grant recipients supporting 16 research projects in the emerging transdisciplinary therapy known as Natural Orifice Translumenal Endoscopic Surgery™ (NOTES™), an approach that could ultimately represent a major paradigm shift in minimally invasive therapy and patient care. NOSCAR™ received 32 grant applications for the \$750,000 in research funds.

“We received an outstanding response for research funding reflecting the momentum this revolutionary technique has created,” said Michael L. Kochman, MD, FASGE, NOSCAR™ Research Subcommittee co-chair. “These grant recipients are conducting research that is pointing us to the next phase in the evolution of the NOTES™ procedure, which is multicenter human studies.”

The first NOSCAR™ Research Awards were announced in 2006. Since that time, 56 grants have been awarded. Recipients of the 2008 awards are conducting research in both animal models and humans. Past NOSCAR™ Research Award winners recently presented data from their projects at the 3rd International Conference on NOTES™ held in San Francisco, Calif., July 10-12, 2008. Presentations included research on improving patient safety and multidisciplinary team efficiency, the physiologic and immunologic impact of NOTES™, drainage of abdominal abscess, and gastric leak testing, among others.

“NOSCAR™ is grateful to Olympus Medical Systems and KARL STORZ Endoscopy-America for supporting NOTES™ research and helping to advance this minimally invasive technique,” said Steven Schwaitzberg, MD, NOSCAR™ Research Subcommittee co-chair.

If your organization is interested in underwriting or participating in NOTES™ human studies, contact info@noscar.org.

Awards Supported by Olympus Medical Systems

Juliane Bingener-Casey, MD, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
Randomized Double-Blinded Trial Comparing Laparoscopy and Natural Orifice Translumenal Endoscopic Surgery Procedures in a Porcine Model

B. Joseph Elmunzer, MD, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Endoscopic Full Thickness Resection of Gastric Lesions Using a Novel Grasp-and-Snare Technique: Evaluation in a Porcine Survival Model

Jeffrey Hazey, MD, Ohio State University Hospital, Columbus, OH
Feasibility of Diagnostic Translumenal Endoscopic Peritoneoscopy for Abdominal Insufflation, Adhesiolysis and Trocar Placement in Patients Who Require Laparoscopic Access

Michael Marohn, DO, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD
Immune & Baseline Alterations on the Physiologic Response to Natural Orifice Translumenal Endoscopic Surgery (NOTES™): A Comparison Between Human Transvaginal and Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy

Erica Moran, MD, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN – 2 Awards
1) *Randomized Controlled Trial Evaluating NOTES™ Repair of Hollow Viscus Perforation*
2) *Assessment of Methodology and Extended Outcome of Submucosal Endoscopy with Mucosal Flap (SEMF) Myotomy for Treatment of Achalasia*

Kiyokazu Nakajima, MD, PhD, Osaka University School of Medicine, Osaka, Japan
Comprehension of Current Limitations in Endoscopic Automatic CO2 Insufflation: Towards Pure NOTES™

Brant K. Oelschlager, MD, University of Washington, Seattle, WA
Assessment of a Simple, Novel Endoluminal Method for Gastrotomy Closure in NOTES™

Adrian Park, MD, University of Maryland Medical Center, Baltimore, MD
Quantitative Ergonomic Assessment of NOTES™ Techniques: A Study of Physical and Mental Workload, Body Movement and Posture

Richard Rothstein, MD, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, NH
Patient Quality of Life and Utility for Natural Orifice Translumenal Endoscopic Surgery

Awards Supported by KARL STORZ Endoscopy-America

Erica Moran, MD, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
NOTES™ Retroperitoneal Access Using Prone Positioning in Humans

Mark Sawyer, MD, Case University Hospitals of Cleveland, Cleveland, OH
Transgastric Extravesical Partial Cystectomy: Acute and Chronic Porcine Study with Histopathologic Evaluation of Cystotomy Healing

Georg O. Spaun, MD, Legacy Health System, Clackamas, OR
The Role of Flexible Endoscopy in Mediastinal Dissection for Esophageal Surgery

Thadeus Trus, MD, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY
The NOSCAR™ Delphi Project: Towards a Research Agenda in Natural Orifice Translumenal Endoscopic Surgery

Mark Whiteford, MD, Legacy Health System, Portland, OR
An Incisionless Approach for Radical Sigmoid Resection and Primary Anastomosis

Oliver J. Wagner, MD, University Hospital Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland
NOTES™ Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass: An Experimental Surgical Study in Pigs

NOTES™ Course Information

ASGE Masters Series Course

Insight into NOTES™: A Hands-on Course for Human Applications

November 7-8, 2008

Phoenix, AZ

Course Directors:

Brian J. Dunkin, MD, FACS, The Methodist Hospital, Houston, TX

Anthony N. Kalloo, MD, FASGE, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD

For more information on this course, visit www.asge.org or call 630-573-0600.

About NOSCARTM

Natural Orifice Transluminal Endoscopic Surgery™ (NOTES™) might represent the next major advancement in minimally invasive therapy. To address this emerging technology, a working group consisting of expert laparoscopic surgeons from SAGES and a group of expert interventional endoscopists representing ASGE have joined together as the Natural Orifice Surgery Consortium for Assessment and Research™ (NOSCARTM) Working Group on NOTES™.

The growing capabilities of therapeutic flexible endoscopy have ushered in a new era in treatment of gastrointestinal conditions. Refinements in laparoscopic surgery have progressed to the point that complex surgical procedures, such as gastric bypass, can now be performed in a minimally invasive fashion. These trends have set the stage for the development of even less invasive methods to treat conditions in both the gut lumen and in the peritoneal cavity. It seems feasible that major intraperitoneal surgery may one day be performed without skin incisions. The natural orifices may provide the entry point for surgical interventions in the peritoneal cavity thereby avoiding abdominal wall incisions. For more information, visit www.noscar.org.

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About the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons

The Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) was founded in 1981 to foster, promote, support and encourage academic, clinical and research achievement in gastrointestinal endoscopic surgery. Our members are general and colorectal surgeons who perform endoscopy and laparoscopy as part of their practice as well as surgical residents, fellows, and other allied health personnel. The Society has grown from fewer than 50 original members to more than 5,500 from every state and over 80 countries. Visit www.sages.org for more information.

About the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

Founded in 1941, the mission of the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy is to be the leader in advancing patient care and digestive health by promoting excellence in gastrointestinal endoscopy. ASGE, with 10,000 physician members worldwide, promotes the highest standards for endoscopic training and practice, fosters endoscopic research, recognizes distinguished contributions to endoscopy, and is the foremost resource for endoscopic education. Visit www.asge.org and www.screen4coloncancer.org for more information.

About Olympus Medical Systems Corporation

Olympus developed the first gastroscope in 1950, and has since developed a wide range of fiberscopes and videoscopes for direct internal observation of the human body. Today, we are expanding our minimally invasive treatment business to offer a wide range of instruments and peripheral devices for medical treatment and clinical diagnoses, including endoscopic surgery. We are improving medical and healthcare services by developing “more patient-friendly medical care” technology for early detection and treatment of diseases, even “greater reliability” in our unsurpassed devices and “high efficiency” in our products and services to better serve our customers' needs. More information on the company can be found at www.olympus.co.jp/en/.

About KARL STORZ

Karl Storz Endoscopy-America, Inc. is an affiliate of Karl Storz GmbH & Co. KG, an international leader for over 60 years in reusable endoscope technology, encompassing all endoscopic specialties. Based in Tuttlingen, Germany, Karl Storz GmbH & Co. KG is a family-owned company that designs, engineers, manufactures and

markets all its products with an emphasis on visionary design, precision craftsmanship and clinical effectiveness. For more information, call (800) 421-0837 or visit the company's Web site at www.karlstorz.com.

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