



## 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™ Debuts NOTES™/ NOSCAR™ Outcomes Registry

*Database tracks human natural orifice surgical procedures worldwide*

**OAK BROOK, Ill., August 18, 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), have created an outcomes registry for physicians worldwide to log human research cases in an emerging transdisciplinary therapy known as Natural Orifice Transluminal Endoscopic Surgery™ (NOTES™). The NOTES™/NOSCAR™ Outcomes Registry, which began tracking procedures in July during the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on NOTES™ held in San Francisco, Calif., is a next step in the continuing evolution of this minimally invasive procedure.

“The NOTES™/ NOSCAR™ Outcomes Registry is the most comprehensive database in the world that tracks solely natural orifice surgical procedures,” said Robert H. Hawes, MD, FASGE, ASGE past president and NOSCAR™ Joint Committee co-chair. “NOSCAR™ encourages physicians around the world who are performing these surgeries to log their cases in the registry to further understanding and development of this revolutionary technique.”

The registry’s design is modeled on the successful SAGES Outcomes Initiative which tracks surgical procedures. The goal of the NOTES™ Outcomes Registry is to identify trends in the technique that will lead to the next phases of research, development of criteria for the procedure, training requirements, as well as address quality and safety issues, and guide future guidelines and reimbursement codes.

“The registry will be a great asset to researchers, allowing them to benchmark their results,” said David W. Rattner, MD, SAGES past president and NOSCAR™ Joint Committee co-chair. “Collectively, this database helps to advance our understanding of the procedure and determine future applications for the NOTES™ procedure.”

The advantages of the registry are:

- Real-time benchmarking – physicians can compare their results to the study group instantly
- Web-based application which can be accessed from home, office, laptop, etc.
- No need to purchase expensive software - cases are just entered into the form online
- Free to all ASGE and SAGES members

There is a general NOTES™ log, into which physicians may enter NOTES™ cases, and enable tracking of data for such things as infection rates and length of stay. Detailed reports of the data submitted are available online in which physician results can be compared to those of the database as a whole. Data submission to the NOTES™/ NOSCAR™ Outcomes Registry is confidential, with all physician and patient identifiers stripped from the data prior to submission.

The NOTES™/NOSCAR™ Outcomes Registry is accessible through [www.noscar.org](http://www.noscar.org). It is only open to SAGES and ASGE members.

### **About NOSCAR**

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™ (NOSCAR™) 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.asge.org) and [www.screen4coloncancer.org](http://www.screen4coloncancer.org) for more information.

#### Media Contact:

Barbara Connell  
NOSCAR  
630-570-5616  
[barbara@noscar.org](mailto:barbara@noscar.org)

Anne Brownsey  
ASGE  
630-570-5635  
[abrownsey@asge.org](mailto:abrownsey@asge.org)