



FAMIS

The Foundation for the Advancement
of Minimally Invasive Surgery

2008-2009 Annual Report

Update from the Board of Directors



Dr. Jaime Landman
Founder, FAMIS

AS FAMIS ENTERS ITS FOURTH YEAR, it is with great pride that the board of directors and I present our third annual summary report. Each year, it becomes a greater pleasure to present the expanding accomplishments of our growing foundation. As you will see, we have made tremendous progress, with patients all over the world now benefiting from FAMIS-sponsored educational, research, and clinical initiatives.

We must thank all those who have provided support; however, now more than ever, we hope you will continue to support us. It is only through your generous donations that we have been able to realize the promise of minimally invasive surgery, which cures disease with the least amount of pain and suffering possible. If you are interested in learning more about FAMIS, please see our website at FAMISsurgery.org. Donations can also be made directly through the website or by returning the enclosed gift card. All donations are completely tax deductible.

THE BOARD

Jaime Landman, M.D.
President
Jason Turken, Esq.
Vice President
Pamela Landman, Esq.
Secretary
Howard Alter
Ross Berman
Barry Cohen
Christopher Kelly
Jennifer Korman, Esq.

cover photography from the 2008
FAMIS Gala by Marcia Ciriello

FAMIS News

FAMIS Annual Gala at Fresco New York, April 2008



In April 2008, FAMIS hosted its second annual fundraiser to raise awareness and funds for minimally invasive surgery. The event was at Fresco's in midtown Manhattan, and over 100 supporters joined the lively celebration. The FAMIS team also unveiled the recently purchased Mimic virtual reality trainer, allowing guests to simulate surgery in a virtual reality environment! The FAMIS event committee (Ms. Diane Cohen, Ms. Laura Alterman, Ms. Pamela Landman, Ms. Leah Thompson and Mrs. Jocelyn Turken-Gould) is already hard at work planning the next event.

FAMIS Person of the Year

Mr. Roy Davis of the Gyrus-ACMI corporation was honored as the 2008 FAMIS "person of the year" for his contributions to minimally invasive surgery. The Gyrus-ACMI company has pioneered distal sensor optics, which use computer chips to create endoscopic images. These images let allow physicians see the inside of the human body better than ever before, aiding in the diagnosis and treatment of disease.



New Members of the FAMIS Family



CHRISTOPHER KELLY - FAMIS is pleased to announce that Mr. Christopher Kelly has taken over as the FAMIS Chief Administrator and webmaster. Christopher is a medical student at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and has personally participated in FAMIS research. Recently, Christopher was the keynote speaker and presented FAMIS-sponsored research on high definition optics at the American College of Surgeons annual meeting in San Francisco, California. His research will literally let us see the future of minimally invasive surgery more clearly. Christopher will also be taking over responsibility for the FAMIS website, and we look forward to new and exciting web-based FAMIS initiatives.



MARCIA CIRIELLO - We are also delighted to welcome Mrs. Marcia Ciriello to the FAMIS team as the official FAMIS photographer. Marcia has supported FAMIS with her talented work since 2005 with her generous donation of time and energy. Now, Marcia has accepted the role of official FAMIS photographer, and we are grateful for her continued support. Marcia is well known for her work photographing red carpets and other celebrity-studded events including the 2008 Tribeca Film Festival. To see Marcia's photography, see the cover of this update or go to her website, marciaciriellophotography.com.

FAMIS Fellows

Both domestic and international training for minimally invasive surgery remains one of our major goals. Here are some of our current fellows, who are full trained surgeons gaining additional experience to bring their patients a higher level of care through minimally invasive thinking and surgery. FAMIS supported fellowship training involves technical training to perform advanced minimally invasive surgical procedures as well as research training. Here are some of the exciting projects that our fellows are performing.



Dr. Maria Ordonez (USA) - *"I am evaluating different minimally invasive cancer treatment strategies including "incisionless" cancer treatments which are done with CT scanner targeted needle ablation as well as other minimally invasive strategies."*



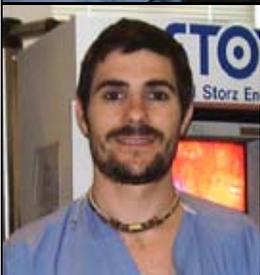
Dr. Philippa Cheetham (UK) - *"Surgical innovation is one of my greatest passions. I am developing innovative dialysis technologies that I hope will improve the lives of the 500,000 Americans living with kidney failure."*



Dr. Juan Carlos Rosales (Venezuela) - *"Sometimes surgery is so minimally invasive that it doesn't even happen! I am working to improve our understanding of cancer biology, so that we may identify patients for whom surgery can be postponed or even avoided altogether."*



Dr. Zhamshid Okhunov (Russia) - *"Obesity is a national crisis in this country. Although it is known to cause heart disease and diabetes, we are now seeing associations with certain types of cancer. I am working with the team to develop our understanding of these associations."*



Dr. Alberto Perez-Lanzac (Spain) - *"In Spain, most cancer is treated using large open incisions. I want to be part of the first generation of Spanish surgeons to use minimally invasive techniques to cure cancer with less pain and suffering."*



Dr. Rhonda Walsh (USA) - *"After minimally invasive treatments such as endoscopy, patients often require stents, which can cause significant postoperative pain. We have demonstrated that injection of Botulinum toxin (Botox) significantly reduces patients' pain."*



FAMIS Research

FAMIS is currently supporting over 40 clinical and laboratory research projects covering a wide range of topics. All of these projects have the same core goal: curing and treating diseases with treatment strategies that are less painful and less disruptive of the patients' quality of life.

Botox for Minimally Invasive Surgery

Botox is often in the news for its cosmetic surgery applications; however, we have recently performed research demonstrating that Botox, when injected into the body after endoscopic surgery, can reduce postoperative pain. The FAMIS research team will present this research at the upcoming World Congress of Endourology in Shanghai, China.

FAMIS Continues to Win Research Awards!

Dr. Courtney Phillips won first prize for basic science research in the annual Endourology Society essay contest. Courtney's FAMIS-sponsored research found a novel application for erythropoitin (known as Epo). While Epo is typically applied to increase blood levels in patients with anemia, recent evidence has demonstrated that this hormone can protect organs during times of reduced oxygen supply, such as the heart during a heart attack. Dr. Phillips is among the first in the world to demonstrate that Epo can be used to protect organs during minimally invasive cancer surgery. FAMIS will continue to look at the molecular details of this effect and sponsor studies examining this important discovery.

FAMIS Education

FAMIS is currently supporting over 40 clinical and laboratory research projects covering a wide range of topics. All of these projects have the same core goal: curing and treating diseases with treatment strategies that are less painful and less disruptive of the patients' quality of life.



LEARNING CENTER - FAMIS sponsored the creation of a minimally invasive surgical skills lab at the Columbia University Medical Center. The center is already being used by medical students, residents, physicians and even international visitors to advance surgical skills. The center includes a library of procedure videos in high definition, EZ Trainers for on-site use or borrowing, additional mechanical trainers, and even a virtual reality device known as the Mimic Trainer, which simulates DaVinci robotic surgery.



DISTINGUISHED VISITING PROFESSOR
FAMIS sponsored the visit of Glenn Preminger, distinguished professor of Surgery at Duke University. Dr. Preminger spoke to surgeons at Columbia University on advanced surgical technique, and on the future of education in minimally invasive surgery. His insights have educated and inspired local physicians.



Surgeons in South Africa use the EZ Trainer to hone their surgical skills.

EZ Trainer Improves Surgical Skills

The FAMIS research team has conceived and manufactured the EZ Trainer, a cost-effective training device for surgeons. Recent testing demonstrated the validity, and it is now being used all over the world! FAMIS has donated trainers to surgical residents around New York, as well as to international sites in South Africa and Argentina. The EZ Trainer has even been purchased by pediatric surgeons and veterinarians, who have trained on it to provide children and pets with all the benefits of minimally invasive surgery.



COMMUNITY EDUCATION - FAMIS is dedicated to the education of America's next generation of physicians, and as part of this effort we recently organized the second annual 'Doctors for a Day' program. Eighteen third graders from Brooklyn's Community Partnership Charter School (CPCS) participated in the program. The CPCS was founded in 1989 to ensure that low-income, historically underserved children receive the quality education they deserve. The children got to don doctor's scrubs and practice using laparoscopic surgical instruments in a virtual reality environment. Students also received lectures on nutrition, basic health, acupuncture, anatomy, and organ transplantation. Mr. John DiPaolo, Executive Director of the Beginning with Children Foundation said, "This experience gives our students a well rounded education that will give them the skills and ambition to succeed in many walks of life." The event received extensive media coverage on local TV stations.



For more information, please contact
Dr. Jaime Landman at 212-305-5630 or
landman.jaime@gmail.com