

Dr. Michel Gagner is easily one of the most innovative pioneers in Minimally Invasive Bariatric Surgery. His contributions to the field are invaluable. Many surgeons including this author owe him a debt of gratitude for assisting in our transition from open to laparoscopic surgery.

Dr. Gagner was born and raised in Montreal, Canada. He obtained a Diploma in Sciences at the Séminaire de Sherbrooke in 1978 and his M.D. from the Faculté de Médecine de l'Université de Sherbrooke in 1982. Dr. Gagner then did his surgical training at McGill University in Montreal from 1982-1988.

Dr. Gagner completed fellowships in hepatic surgery at Hopital Villejuif in Paris, France and pancreatobiliary surgery at Lahey Clinic Medical Center in Burlington, Massachusetts (1989-1990). Upon completion of his fellowships, he was recruited to the Université de Montreal School of Medicine, Hotel-Dieu de Montreal, where he was Assistant Professor of Surgery (1990-1995).

Dr. Gagner then left Canada to take a position at the Cleveland Clinic where he co-founded the Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS) Center (1995-1998). He then left for Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City where he was appointed the Franz Sichel Professor of Surgery, Director of the Minimally Invasive Surgery Center and Chief of Laparoscopic/Bariatric Surgery (1998 to 2003). He then joined Weill-Cornell Medical Center as Chief of Laparoscopic/Bariatric Surgery (2003-2007). Dr. Gagner left New York to become Chairman of Surgery at Mount Sinai in Miami and Professor of Surgery at Florida International University. He is currently a senior consultant at the Hôpital du Sacre Coeur in Montreal.

Despite all of his achievements, Dr. Gagner is best known for his contributions in MIS. In this arena he is a true pioneer. Dr. Gagner is credited with performing the first laparoscopic adrenalectomy for Cushing and pheo (1992), laparoscopic pancreatectomy (distal/proximal)(1992-93), endoscopic neck surgery with parathyroidectomy in 1995, transgastric cholecystectomy in 1997 (NOTES), laparoscopic duodenal switch in 1999 and laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy in 2000. More recently, he was co-surgeon for the first world transatlantic robotic cholecystectomy, between New York City and Strasbourg (France), and described in the only surgical article published in Nature in 2001.

To his credit, Dr. Gagner has published over 330 articles, 50 book chapters, and 14 books on MIS surgery. He has held positions in more than 35 societies, and has served on the editorial boards of 12 surgical journals (Associate Editor of SOARD and Obesity Surgery).

Dr. Gagner was the President IFSO 2014 (International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity and Metabolic Disorders) annual meeting and 5th International Conference on Sleeve gastrectomy held in Montreal, August 26-30th, 2014. He also has been on the executive board of IFSO for 3 years, and current president of the Canadian chapter of ASMBS.

Dr. Gagner has been a member of the program committee of ASMBS for many years, and is currently the program chair for the 2016 ASMBS Conferences. Within ASMBS, he has worked in numerous committees, including International, Access, Program, Obesity week, and State chapters being the most recent.

Dr. Gagner also has received a number of honorary memberships and awards throughout his career, including the medal of the National Assembly of France, Academie de Chirurgie (France), medal of Nice, Bordeaux and Sete, Pioneer Award of

SLS , honorary member of the EAES, SAGES and ASMBS innovation award and 21st Oliver H Beahrs professor of surgery by the Mayo Clinic. His most recent contributions focus on innovative upper digestive tract surgery such as bariatric and endoluminal gastric procedures and co-presiding 5 International Consensuses on Duodenal Switch.