



### ***Our Endorsement***

Since 1971, the AAGL has been a strong advocate for the teaching and adoption of minimally invasive surgery in support of our mission to improve the quality of gynecological health care services for women. Minimally invasive surgery offers tremendous benefits to patients – less trauma, less blood loss, shorter operating time, reduced risk of infection, less post-operative pain, less healing time and minimized scarring. The AAGL wholeheartedly endorses the employment of minimally invasive surgical techniques in gynecology, where feasible and appropriate, as a superior alternative to traditional open surgical methods in terms of patient outcomes, patient quality of life and health care economics.

### ***Our Services***

We serve our mission and advocacy goals by:

- providing a forum for physicians, residents, O.R. personnel and other healthcare professionals to exchange ideas and share advances in research and technology in minimally invasive gynecology;
- providing the latest medical and scientific information to our membership;
- offering continuing medical education and hands-on training for physicians;
- supporting minimally invasive technology through our Foundation;
- educating third-party payors to provide adequate coverage for minimally invasive gynecologic procedures.

The AAGL educates physicians and others by organizing and sponsoring our annual scientific congress and other regional continuing education courses and workshops throughout the United States, as well as internationally through our affiliated societies. In addition to these courses, the AAGL fosters communication among physicians by publishing *The Journal of Minimally Invasive Gynecology (JMIG)* and our quarterly newsletter, *NewsScope*.

### ***Our Commitment***

When established in 1971, the AAGL was the first organization of its kind dedicated to gynecologic endoscopic surgery. More than three decades later, we remain the largest professional society devoted to minimally invasive gynecology and are recognized worldwide for leading the field through education, communication and research. A testament to our success in promoting awareness of minimally invasive techniques comes from recent surveys of surgeons-in-training, where the vast majority of gynecologic fellows and residents said laparoscopic skills are key to building a successful practice. But the task is far from accomplished: two-thirds said emphasis on laparoscopic surgical training in medical school, although vastly improved over the past five years, should be increased.

The AAGL will continue to promote, teach and foster research in minimally invasive gynecology until all women are aware of the best medical technologies and surgical skills our profession can offer.