44th AAGL Global Congress
NOVEMBER 15-19, 2015
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
PAGE 3

12th AAGL International Congress on MIGS
MUMBAI, INDIA
JUNE 2-5, 2016
PAGE 9

NOW IS THE TIME TO BECOME AN ENDOMETRIOSIS SPECIALIST
PAGE 7

HONORARY CHAIR SELECTED
PAGE 11

WORKSHOP WRAP-UP INAUGURAL FELLOWS BOOT CAMP
PAGE 15
PUTTING THE AAGL’S NEW BYLAWS INTO PERSPECTIVE

BYLAWS OF THE AAGL

The new AAGL Bylaws were recently approved by the membership of the AAGL. They form a solid, carefully thought-out document, well prepared to govern the AAGL for years to come.

In 2014, the AAGL Board of Directors set in motion the process to completely revise the previous bylaws. Over the years, the old bylaws had been modified by additions, deletions, and new language. Unfortunately, the resulting document did not provide a clear “roadmap” about how to run the AAGL. The Bylaws Committee (G. David Adamson, Andrew J. Brtil, John L. Narlow, Asia A. Stapa- nian, Dan Martin, and Sawsan As-Sanie), under the leadership of Ted Anderson, recognized that the basic structure of the old bylaws had successfully brought the AAGL to the prominence it currently enjoys and therefore used them as a starting point. The old bylaws were reorganized; nonprofit organization bylaws were used as examples of best practices; legal help was obtained to be sure they complied with California nonprofit laws; and finally, they were reviewed in their entirety by legal counsel.

So why are bylaws so important? Bylaws outline in writing the day-to-day rules for our organization and provide comprehensive guidelines to keep things running smoothly. Bylaws establish and protect the rights, and specify the duties and responsibilities of our organization’s members, Board of Directors, committees, and others. They provide the framework for the activities of a successful society and they give voice to all the members who, through the bylaws themselves, decide how their association will be led. The membership has spoken and their recent approval of the new bylaws provides a clear roadmap by which the AAGL will be governed for the foreseeable future.

FROM THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM CHAIR

44TH AAGL GLOBAL CONGRESS: ADVANCING GYNECOLOGIC SURGERY

The final plans and finishing touches are being made to the 44th Global Congress after months of preparation. The Scientific Program Committee has selected 848 outstanding abstracts for presentation and I can honestly say that the quality of these presentations and videos is better than ever. The postgraduate courses will feature the finest surgeons and educators in our field. They have been carefully scrutinized to offer practical take-home pearls and emphasize hands-on experience with inanimate trainers and cadaveric models.

The theme for this year’s meeting is “Advancing Gynecologic Surgery through Education, Innovation and Objective Evaluation of Surgical Skills.” We will feature the highest rated papers and videos in special sessions, and expert discussions have been assigned to provide insight and to ask questions that will help attendees gain a deeper understanding of the subject at hand.

The agenda will be fully featured with a practical panel discussion each day, including the plenary session. The meeting will also feature another outstanding panel discussion, including the “The Professors” session, a panel discussion on the value-based delivery of health care, and a session about what to use and how to use clinical practice, but probably not are.

I have only mentioned a portion of the exciting educational opportunities that are being offered at this year’s meeting. The plethora of educational opportunities offers almost overwhelming and it is a good idea to plan your activities carefully so you can make the most of your time in Las Vegas.

The AAGL will provide a practical app for smart phones that is included in your registration to make it easier to plan your activities for the day.

The venue is the largest hotel in the world, the MGM Grand, which is located in the heart of the Las Vegas Strip with a myriad of world-class entertainment opportunities often seems almost overwhelming and it is a good idea to plan your activities carefully so you can make the most of your time in Las Vegas. The AAGL will provide a practical app for smart phones that is included in your registration to make it easier to plan your activities for the day.

NewsScope - July - September 2015
Introducing Endosee—a truly innovative way to perform office hysteroscopy in any room, at any site

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Despite thousands of articles and reviews on this highly puzzling disease, endometriosis remains poorly understood, frequently undiagnosed and inadequately managed.1 Millions of women who suffer from the disease undergo multiple surgical and medical therapies, are rarely cured, and unfortunately, only temporarily relieved of their symptoms. The diagnosis of endometriosis is often delayed by at least 6 years, allowing the disease to progress to the point of becoming a debilitating condition causing dire quality-of-life issues.2 When the disease is inadequately treated, the patient is subjected to multiple medical and surgical interventions with repeated recurrences that ultimately lead to radical extraperitoneal surgery. Indeed, endometriosis is a major cause for hysterectomy in the United States with a total cost to society of $64 billion annually.3

It is enough is known about endometriosis that in the hands of the “endometriosis specialist,” it can be promptly diagnosed and effectively treated, not only to relieve symptoms and prevent invasion of surrounding organs, but also to prevent recurrences and the need for repeated medical and surgical interventions.4

The members of the AAGL Special Interest Group of Reproductive Surgery and Endometriosis (SIG-RSE) strongly believe that symptomatic women affected by endometriosis should be managed only by the “endometriosis specialist” who understands the pathogenesis of endometriosis the factors that predispose to its development and recurrences, and how to manage it safely and effectively. The endometriosis specialist recognizes women at risk for the disease and immediately will make the diagnosis and implement the appropriate medical and/or surgical therapy tailored to the patient’s medical and psychosocial needs.

The endometriosis specialist is also an advanced surgeon who understands the various appearances of endometriomas and possesses the necessary surgical skills to explore extraperitoneal spaces and eradicate the existing disease when it involves non-gynecologic organs such the rectum, colon, bladder or ureters. After the surgical treatment of the woman who is not desirous of immediate pregnancy, the endometriosis specialist knows that the risk of recurrence of endometriomas and of symptoms can be reduced by as much as 90%, with medical therapies that suppress ovulation and cyclic menstruations, thus reducing further suffering and the need for subsequent surgeries or expensive medical interventions.4–6

For these reasons, with the help of the RSE SIG, the AAGL is exploring criteria that will identify and recognize the specialists in endometriosis from whom the affected patients can receive the most expeditious, safest and most effective care for their disease, so that they may live healthy and productive lives.

Thus we encourage all gynecologists who have the interest and the passion to care for the millions of women affected by endometriosis to develop the clinical knowledge and surgical skills to become “endometriosis specialists.” In so doing, they will reduce the financial burden on society for the chronic care of this disease and alleviate the suffering that it causes to the affected individual and their families and fulfill their needs with their expert care and treatments.

Anthony A. Luciano, M.D., is Chair of the Reproductive Surgery/Endometriosis Special Interest Group, Professor and Vice-Chair, Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Connecticut Health Center, Director, Reproductive Surgery Center for Advanced Reproductive Services in Farmington, Connecticut.

REFERENCES

THE AAGL HAS MANY RESOURCES FOR YOU TO ACCESS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ENDOMETRIOSIS

THE AAGL HAS MANY RESOURCES FOR YOU TO ACCESS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ENDOMETRIOSIS

VIDEOS ON SURGERY U:
www.aagl.org/surgeryu2014/

EXPERT TALKS:
www.aagl.org/surgeryu2014/expertTalks

JOIN THE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ON REPRODUCTIVE ISSUES AND ENDOMETRIOSIS,
www.aagl.org/sigs/endometriosis/

COURSES AT THE UPCOMING GLOBAL CONGRESS

Sunday, November 15, 2015
ENDO-609
ENDOMETRIOSIS
Pathophysiology, Diagnosis, Management and Prevention

Tuesday, November 17, 2015
SURGICAL TUTORIAL 2:
Complicated Endometriosis

Thursday, November 19, 2015
TELESURGERY SESSION:
Resection of Deep Infiltrative Endometriosis Plus/ Minus Segmental Resection IF Indicated

TELESURGERY SESSION:
Complex Laparoscopic Total Hysterectomy in the Setting of Multiple Prior Surgeries for Endometriosis
The AAGL, together with the ISGE and the local organizing committee, are proud to report that we had a very successful International Congress in Jerusalem. We collaborated together under the slogan “Join us at the Holy LAND-SCOPE, Where Ancient History and Innovative Start-Ups Intertwine,” which is exactly what we managed to accomplish.

During the Congress, we had a record attendance of over 470 participants from 30 countries, including mentors and chairs. The congress program featured a total of 7 pre-congress and postgraduate courses consisting of two hands-on courses which were held at Hadassah University Hospital. Another course was specifically dedicated to OR nurses and was held at the magnificent Inbal hotel, located in the heart of the city and built entirely in traditional Jerusalem stone.

The congress began with an exciting Opening Ceremony, recognizing the best video award winner and the best abstract award winner on behalf of Prof. Carl J. Levinson.

The congress continued over the next few days with multiple ongoing events, parallel sessions and social events, including cultural activities held at the famous Old City Walls. A special dinner was held at the wonderful Scottish Hotel and Church, which provided a breathtaking backdrop of the 1535 Old City Walls. After dinner, a tour of the City of David allowed attendees to get a true feel for this beautiful historic city, letting everyone experience the recent archeological findings of large sections of the original walls.

The congress culminated with an incredibly well-coordinated Live Surgery screening of 5 different operations from Assuta Hospital performed by visiting surgeons from Brazil, Canada, France, India, and the United States.

The exhibition was not only attended by international companies who traveled from all corners of the world, but also by local companies who showed interest in our field, allowing for 20 companies to display state-of-the-art technologies and instruments that contribute to the ever growing field of minimally invasive gynecology.

Thank you to those who ventured from near and far to learn and explore at the 11th Annual International Congress in Jerusalem!

Prof. Moty Pansky is Immediate Past President of the Israeli Society of Gynecological Endoscopy (ISGE 1L), Director of the Gynecological Endoscopy Unit and Vice-Chair, Division of Ob/Gyn at the Asaf Harofe Medical Center in Zerifin, Israel.
HONORARY CHAIR

Each year, the privilege of selecting the Honorary Chair for the AAGL Global Congress is bestowed upon the President. For 2015, it gives me great pleasure to select John F. Steege, MD. Known by many as a quiet doer, Dr. Steege has significantly impacted the field of gynecology through his inquisitive ness, innovation and mentoring spirit. Although recently retired from his post as Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Dr. Steege leaves a legacy of contributions that include improving our understanding of chronic pelvic pain, and training a lineage of fellows in the art and practice of minimally invasive gynecologic surgery.

Throughout his career, Dr. Steege has epitomized all the qualities that embody the quintessential academician and clinician-educator. As his first fellow, I am proud to call John a mentor, colleague and close friend. Please join me in congratulating this year’s Honorary Chair.

Arnold P. Advincula, M.D., FACOG, FACS, is President of AAGL, Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Vice-Chair of Women’s Health and Chief of Gynecology, Sloane Women’s Hospital at Columbia University in New York, New York.

HONORARY CHAIR SELECTED

COMING IN JANUARY:
Enhanced Access to Videos from the 42nd, 43rd, and 44th AAGL Global Congress on SurgeryU

For the past few months, the AAGL/SurgeryU team has been working to re-encode all of the videos and to digitize the descriptions, abstracts, categories, and keywords for the video sessions and video posters that were presented at the last three AAGL Global Congresses (Washington D.C. – 2013, Vancouver, Canada – 2014, and Las Vegas, NV – 2015). The goal of this project is to make this huge database of scientific video presentations available to AAGL Members as part of the SurgeryU HD video library. These peer reviewed videos provide a valuable educational resource to all of our members in the form of compelling video case reports, cutting-edge scientific findings, and much more.

When this new extension of the video library goes live in January, members will be able to explore this video content by way of a full text search on the video’s abstract, by searching for a specific title, or by searching for any of the video’s authors. You’ll be able to mark videos as your “favorites,” which you’ll then be able to access by visiting your “My Favorite Videos” on SurgeryU. And, most importantly, the videos will be presented in our stunning high-definition quality player, providing you with the clearest possible image.

We look forward to launching this extension of the video library in January, and to sharing additional new features that we’re working on for SurgeryU in future editions of this column.

Assia A. Stepanian, M.D., is Editor-in-Chief of SurgeryU. She is also in private practice at the Academy of Women’s Health and Endoscopic Surgery in Atlanta, Georgia.
Advancing Gynecologic Surgery Through Education & Innovation

The general sessions will spotlight the most clinically relevant topics for MIG surgeons, kicking off with the Opening Ceremony which includes a live cadaveric dissection. The JMP Keynote Address will highlight a new discipline in medicine. Other sessions include: the "Swimming with the Sharks" segment—a spin on the hugely popular ABC-TV series "Shark Tank" where people present their business ideas to a panel of successful R & D executives, and "The Great Debate," addressing the highly controversial issue of mode of access. Finally, the last session features the highly anticipated live surgeries.

Jon I. Einarsson, M.D., Ph.D., MPH
Scientific Program Chair
Arnold F. Advincula, M.D.
President
John F. Steege, M.D.
Honorary Chair

NOVEMBER 15-19 2015
MGM GRAND LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

JOIN US FOR AN Adventure in Learning
as over 2,000 of your colleagues gather in Las Vegas, Nevada for the 44th AAGL Global Congress on Minimally Invasive Gynecology

Mondays, Nov. 16th
4:45 PM - 6:00 PM
Live Interactive Cadaveric Demonstration: Anatomy
Chair: Marcello Ceccaroni
Negrar-Verona, Italy
Faculty:
Shailesh P. Puntambekar
Pune, India
Resad P. Pasic
Louisville, Kentucky

Tuesdays, Nov. 17th
7:45 AM - 9:30 AM
JMP Keynote Speaker "The Neuropsychology: A New Groundbreaking Discipline in Medicine"
Marc Possover
Zurich, Switzerland

Thursdays, Nov. 19th
8:00 AM - 12:00 Noon
Live Surgeries
Resection of Deep Infiltrative Endometriosis Plus/Minus Segmental Resection If Indicated
Mario Malzoni
Avellino, Italy
Total Laparoscopic Hysterectomy for Large Uterus
Haidou Rahman
Karlla, India
Complex Laparoscopic Total Hysterectomy in the Setting of Multiple Prior Surgeries for Endometriosis
Nicholas Leyland
Harwood, Canada
Robotic Surgical Treatment of Endometrial Cancer
John F. Boggs, Jr.
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Posterior Sling for Young Uterine Prolapse
Neena R. Warty
Mumbai, India

Tuesdays, Nov. 17th
5:05 PM - 6:05 PM
"Swimming with the Sharks"
Jon I. Einarsson and Paul D. Indian Co-Chairs
Medical Device Patent Presentations & Panel Feedback
Experience the Entrepreneurial Spirit at the 44th AAGL Global Congress
Congratulations to the Newest COEMIG Designees Since March 2015
Apply for COEMIG at www.surgicalreview.org/coemig/

On July 24-26, 2015, with joint support of ASRM and AAGL, AAGL hosted its inaugural Fellows Surgical Boot Camp at the Wyndham Grand Orlando Resort for the fellows who attended the program could not have been undertaken without the faculty’s time, expense, and amazing dedication to educating our fellows in the Boot Camp.

Fellows attended a comprehensive all-day didactic portion which covered a diverse range of topics including robotics, hysteroscopy, hysterectomy, virtual reality and wet-lab simulators. They also gave an introduction to research design and the basics of system controls, docking, port placement, and skills (e.g. suturing). With laparoscopy, fellows had two hours of dry lab proctored left-sided suturing. They also performed tissue extraction, practicing electromechanical and contained scalpel morselization approaches. The capstone of the lab program included one-on-one mentoring through advanced pelvic dissection under fresh cadavers.

On Saturday, all of the fellows came together at the Wyndham Grand Orlando Resort for the didactic portion which covered a diverse range of topics including robotics, hysterectomy, hysteroscopy, training techniques, operating room setup, laparoendoscopic single-site surgery, and managing/avoiding complications. Finally, Dr. Miles Murphy, representing the Society of Gynecologic Surgeons, gave an introduction to research design and announced the invitation of FMIGS fellows to participate in the very successful Fellows Pelvic Research Network, which sponsors fellow-driven trials in gynecologic surgery.

Overall, the program was very well-received and attendees felt that the mission of “improving patient care and performance-in-practice” was met by this innovative inaugural event. Thank you to all who made this inaugural event possible and so successful!

Matthew StaudtHoef, M.D., M.S.C.R., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Director, Minimal Invasive Gynecologic Surgery Director; Fellowship in MISG Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

The Task Force on Patient-Centered Outcomes Research is chaired by Rajappa Sathyam, MD, MPH. Members include: Mark Hoffman, MD; Vanessa Jacoby, MD; Lee Learman, MD, PhD; Art McCauliff, MD, and Ganesa Wegienka, PhD.

The Task Force on Patient-Centered Outcomes Research was established to: 1) conduct ongoing education of AAGL members about PCOR and how it may affect clinical practice; 2) identify PCOR-related sequences for clinical and research purposes; and, 3) recommend new uses for quality-of-life and functional quality-of-life research by AAGL members and non-members.

As an introduction to the task force on this highly relevant issue, there will be an exciting educational session packed with new information at this year’s AAGL annual meeting. The session is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, from 2:20 – 5:00pm. We hope to see you there and we look forward to providing you with this task force updates as they develop.

Contour® is made of Restonelle® Smartmesh—a patented polypropylene, ultra-lightweight mesh designed for Female Pelvic Health. This technology allows for draping and takedown on Vaginal Tuff enabling greater intraoperative manipulation and suturing, low mesh mass and memory accommodates ease passage through laparoscopic ports and large macroscope enabling suturing without needles. Easily customisable to fit the patient’s anatomy.

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Minerva Surgical announces the first new commercially available FDA approved product for 14 years. The Minerva Impedance Controlled Endometrial Ablation System was FDA approved in July 2015. In FDA approved clinical studies, the Minerva treatment demonstrated Statistically Significant Greater primary endpoint efficacy than the Objective Performance Criteria Success rate of 66%, based on the average success rate of the five previously approved endometrial ablation products. 80% Success rate 66% Amenorrhea rate, and 99% of the treated patients would recommend to a friend or relative. Attributes include: 3-4 Minute Total Procedure Time (device insertion to removal), Cervical Canal Sealing Balloon, and a Controller with Touchscreen Procedure Guide. To learn more please visit www.minervasurgical.com

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**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**June 1, 2015 — August 31, 2015**

Winsom Ho, M.D.

Cristian Chang Hsiang, M.D.

Ma Hongli, M.D.

Lina Jiang, M.D.

Maria C. Leiva, M.D.

Barenya Mukerji, M.D.

Danny Michael Mounir, M.D.

Diane Morgan, M.D.

Patricia Christine Montemayor, M.D.

Abeer Mohammed, M.D.

Anita Betsy Mo, M.D.

Sara Mucko Miller, M.D.

Erika Jaye Mikulec, M.D.

Maria Alejandra Meza, M.D.

Mario Santiago Mesa Espinel, II, M.D.

Juan Ramon Mendez, M.D.

Alberto Meisel, M.D.

Allen Mehr, D.O.

Kania McGhee, M.D.

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Gillian Mackay, M.D.

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Jessica Lennon, M.D.

Maria C. Leiva, M.D.

Barenya Mukerji, M.D.
MEMBER NEWS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

June 1, 2015 – August 1, 2015

Saul D. Rivas, M.D.
Nancy Ringel, M.D.
Philip Wallace Reginald, M.D.
Rachael Rayburn, D.O.
Caroline Ravndal, M.D.
Sreebha Rajesh, MBBS, MRCOG
Mala Raj, M.D.
Dautant Rafael, M.D.
Isis de Oliveira Quaresma, M.D.
Liliana Teresa Puycan Caceres, M.D.
Crystal Nicole Pruitt, M.D.
Liautaud Morin Prophete, D.O.
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An Duc Pham, M.D.
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Ann Peters, M.D.
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Kaela Pearce, M.D.
Lasse Paulsen, M.D.
Yasaswi Paruchuri, M.D.
Caitlin Conant Parikh, M.D.
Nimish Mukesh Parekh, M.D.
Raghava Parashurama, M.D.
Cyriac Pappachan, M.D.
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Teiichi Ninomiya, M.D.
Hendrik Nel, M.D.
Krista Lynn Neal, M.D.
Zenat Nazzal, M.D.
Alena D. Naumova, M.D.
Sean Murphy, M.D., FRCSC
Megan Murdoch, M.D.
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

MEMBER NEWS

www.aagl.org

Serena Tarani, M.D.
Kojiro Tanabe, M.D.
Akiko Takashima, M.D.
Nobutaka Takahashi, M.D.
Ana Carolina Tagliatti Zani, M.D.
Fu-qing Sun, M.D.
I Ling Su, M.D.
David Stone, M.D.
Shannan Stephens, M.D.
Dawn Renee Schaefer Steiner, M.D., FACOG
Maria Filomena Souza, M.D.
Meera Sood, M.D.
Monica Solis-Worsfold, M.D.
Paul Nathaniel Smith, M.D.
Nathalie Smilovici, M.D.
Mette Skorstad, M.D.
Jessica Sisto, M.D.
Afton Sielski, B.Sc., M.D.
Charles C. Sides, M.D.
Oksana Shklyanka, M.D.
Akira Shirane, M.D.
Chandra Camilla Shenoy, M.D.
Kalpana Sharma, M.D.
Chandra Camilla Shenoy, M.D.
Srishti Shukla, M.D.
Harsh Patel, M.D.
Afton Sielski, B.Sc., M.D.
Charles C. Sides, M.D.
Oksana Shklyanka, M.D.
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Safeguarding the Ureters Is Vital

...During TLH, the Koh-Efficient Helps Distance Critical Anatomy from the Colpotomy Incision

Protecting the ureters can be a considerable concern when performing a total laparoscopic hysterectomy (TLH). The advanced Koh-Efficient™ is designed to fit snugly around the cervix and place the vaginal fornix under appropriate cephalic pressure. This delineation provides a visual landmark and backbone for distancing the colpotomy incision from the ureters and uterosacral ligaments, creating a “margin of safety” that helps protect vital anatomical structures.

To experience Dr. Arnold P. Advincula’s approach to “margin of safety” during TLH, visit YouTube.com/CooperSurgical.

To learn more, call 800.243.2974 or 203.601.5200 or visit www.coopersurgical.com.

RUMI II handle design.
Arch handle or the articulating available for the Advincula arch handle or the articulating RUMI II handle design.

Uterosacral Ligaments Are Preserved

With Proper Cephalad Pressure, the Koh-Efficient System helps create a “margin of safety” by displacing the ureters during Colpotomy Incision.

The Koh-Efficient System is available for the Advincula Arch handle or the articulating RUMI II handle design.
EDUCATION CALENDAR

The following educational meetings are sponsored, endorsed or acknowledged by the AAGL.

Educational Workshops

December 10-13, 2015
Joint AAGL-COGA in Advanced MIG Meeting
Scientific Program Chair: Zhang Zhenyu & C.Y. Liu
Sant’ Angelo Hotel (Samsung), Beijing Tak Yue Suites
Beijing, China

January 18-31, 2016
4th Annual Collaborative Symposium - Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery
Scientific Program Chairs: Stephen Zimberg, Michael Sprague, Javier Magrina and Jon I. Enarsson

March 9-12, 2016
Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery - The Next Generation
Scientific Program Chair: Jamal Mourad

April 7-9, 2016
16th Surgical Masters Course in Total Laparoscopic Hysterectomy and Advanced Laparoscopic Procedures
Scientific Program Chair: Kate O’Hanlan
The Palace Hotel
San Francisco, California

AAGL International Hosted Meetings

June 2-5, 2016
12th AAGL International Congress on Minimally Invasive Gynecology in partnership with the Indian Association of Gynaecological Endoscopists
Scientific Program Chair: Prakash Trivedi
Renaissance Convention Center & Hotel
Mumbai, India

February 22-24, 2017
13th AAGL International Congress on Minimally Invasive Gynecology in partnership with the Federación Colombiana de Obstetricia y Ginecología (FECOLSOG)
Scientific Program Chair: Juan Diego Villegas-Echeverri
Cartagena de Indias, Colombia

AAGL Annual Meetings

November 15-19, 2015
44th AAGL Global Congress on Minimally Invasive Gynecology
MGM Grand Hotel
Las Vegas, Nevada

November 14-18, 2016
45th AAGL Annual Global Congress on Minimally Invasive Gynecology
Rosen Hotel and Convention Center at Shingle Creek Orlando, Florida

November 12-16, 2017
46th AAGL Annual Global Congress on Minimally Invasive Gynecology
Gaylord National Hotel & Convention Center on the Potomac
National Harbor, Maryland

November 11-15, 2018
47th AAGL Annual Global Congress on Minimally Invasive Gynecology
MGM Grand Hotel
Las Vegas, Nevada