The 30th annual meeting of the AAGL, scheduled for November 16–19, 2001 in San Francisco, will employ a radically different scientific program. This year, 89 scientific papers in 17 sessions will be highlighted, a major departure from past years when many more oral presentations peppered the meeting’s landscape. Due to the brevity of the congress this year, an effort was made to be highly selective for abstracts of superior quality for these sessions. The results of these efforts are startling: over 1/3 of all clinical presentations report results from randomized trials, a rate far higher than that seen in any other major meeting of gynecologists. Furthermore, 13% of the presentations are classified as basic science, a long overdue trend toward uncovering the scientific basis for device innovation and clinical practice. This evolution is sure to add a significant and relevant body of knowledge to our already growing understanding of endoscopic surgery.

The remainder of the 275 abstracts submitted will be delivered either as brief open communications or as posters. These will be organized by subject matter to facilitate maximal exposure for the interested participant. These presentations promise to provide an early glimpse at emerging clinical innovations and devices. Remember: today’s poster may well represent the foundation for tomorrow’s randomized trial.

The scientific program will also be rife with videos. Over 60 films have been incorporated into the daily schedule, promising a wide variety of topics best illustrated by surgical demonstration. This always-popular aspect of the program offers a multitude of lessons in the technical aspects of endoscopic surgery.

Finally, a series of debates and panels have been included to round out the program. This year, two debates have been scheduled. The first will involve the merits of medical versus surgical therapy for ectopic pregnancy, while the other will argue the value of myomectomy for the infertile patient. Panels have also been included to provide an in-depth discussion of various issues. This year the panels will examine the utility of medical adjuncts to surgical therapy, the use of endoscopy in the pediatric and adolescent patient, and how to get paid.

See Heights page 4
New Meaning to Term “AAGL Family”

When Dr. Jordan Phillips founded the AAGL, he set the tone for the new pioneering organization, which in his words was “the AAGL Family.” At first, to the original members, the term came to mean the long-standing personal friendship, which initially developed from a professional relationship. To all members with children it meant the opportunity to include our children in our professional life at interesting meeting venues, as well as an open welcome for them to visit the exhibit hall and attend meeting receptions. To each member it has meant an openness and freedom to put forth thoughts and ideas, even if they did not conform at the time to accepted doctrine.

It is interesting how many of these “unconventional ideas” have become a part of our aramentarium. And finally, to most who attend the annual meeting, it is a “family reunion” to renew old friendships, both personal and professional.

Recently it came to my attention that the term “AAGL Family” can be used in another way. Our long-standing member Siddiqa K. Pasha, M.D. of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia has been joined by his daughter, Fouzia and son, Mustafa not only in his practice of gynecology but as members of the AAGL.

Welcome to the AAGL Family.

The AAGL’s Annual Meeting
—An Intellectual Feast

Please plan to join us in beautiful San Francisco, California, for the annual AAGL meeting. In addition to blue skies, ambient temperatures, delicious delicacies, and a cosmopolitan atmosphere, you will have the opportunity to engage in an intellectual feast. I have taken a peek at the program. There will be a few novel changes this year that will surprise you. Indeed, everyone will leave this meeting with new knowledge.

Begin with appetizers by joining us for the pre-congress course that has had great acclaim. Our live surgery featuring the dissection of a cadaver, led by Drs. Roger and Brill, has been popular during the past few years. Visualize “real-time” dissection in the recesses of the retroperitoneal cavity. Trace the ureter from the pelvic brim to the bladder. Juxtapose your personal operative experience with those of the masters.

Next, order from the wide variety of postgraduate courses. From a menu of twelve courses, you can mix and match your selection. Consider laparoscopy and a stunning course about power point presentations. Or would you prefer hysterectomy and alternatives to hysterectomy?

Move next to videos. The best videos from around the world have been selected to highlight, educate, and describe all aspects of endoscopy. Learn from colleagues who have submitted videotapes detailing laparoscopic and hysteroscopic feats as well as basic “clinical pearls.” It is amazing how I always walk away from a video session learning a new fact that has helped with patient care.

With over 100 free session communications this year, you will learn from your peers as well. The range of experiences is exhilarating. Compare and contrast outcomes of endometrial ablation, urologic treatments for stress urinary incontinence, and laparoscopic myomectomy. Longer term follow-up data on many of the newer endoscopic procedures will be presented. What works best?

Although San Francisco has an active nightlife (we want you to enjoy the moonlight entertainment), don’t forget to set your clocks for early industry-supported symposiums. Enjoy an early morning rendezvous with innovators of new technology. What’s new on the horizon? Talk informally with doctors, ask questions, and challenge new technologic applications in gynecology. Has new technology really eclipsed older methodologies?

Finally, one of the most memorable aspects of the meeting will be the live telesurgery. This year laparoscopic myomectomy, hysterectomy, and operative hysterectomy will be demonstrated. It is always enlightening to watch our colleagues work. It will be shown live without edits. Questions from the audience will be taken while the masters work. Have your pen and pencils available.

If you have joined us before, we look forward to seeing you again. Please pass the word, that this year’s meeting is not to be missed. Bring a colleague; encourage a resident, or recent gynecology resident to attend. We hope to see you in San Francisco.
An Appeal for Support

Residents Circle Donors—March - August 2001

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Foundation of the AAGL

The Foundation is in the planning stages for our primary project—the Annual Comprehensive Workshop on Gynecologic Endoscopy for Residents, Fellows, and O.R. Personnel, to be held in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania on March 16–17, 2002. The cost of each annual meeting, this being the 11th, is approximately $40,000. All faculty forego honoraria, and industry has been very supportive, however, we need each and every member of AAGL to contribute to the Foundation in order to allow this major commitment for teaching to continue. Contributions generally range from $50 to $500 and are tax deductible in the USA. Each contributor will be named in the course syllabus as a donor. Listed below are those who have donated so far this year. If we left your name off the list, do let us know. Otherwise, please give us the opportunity to place your name on the list with those colleagues who have already donated.

To donate is simple. All you need to do is to send your check to: The Foundation of the AAGL, 13021 East Florence Avenue, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670-4505. We will send you a note to use for tax purposes.

Thank you for supporting our young doctors, nurses, and OR personnel. We can make a difference.

YES! We/I want to advance the mission of the Foundation and endoscopic medicine by making a contribution to the Resident’s Circle in the year 2002.

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Your tax deductible contribution to the Resident’s Circle will be noted in the Foundation’s annual report, in all conference materials, the Journal of the AAGL, and the Annual Meeting Program.

Thank you for your support.
The Impact Factor, published in the Journal of Citation Reports, is the value which reflects how often manuscripts published in a journal are cited by other manuscripts. The Impact Factor for the Journal of the AAGL continues to rise. The value for the year 2000 is 1.268.

Additionally, the international scope of the journal is striking. For example, the August 2001 issue contains manuscripts from Australia, Austria, Canada, Croatia, France, Germany, Korea, Lebanon, India, Israel, Taiwan (2) and the USA (4).

The success of your journal relates directly to the excellent manuscripts submitted for publication, and to the superb work of the ad hoc reviewers in making each manuscript the best that it can be. The financial support from AAGL members through dues, and the support from industry through advertising, is what makes it possible to have a journal in the first place. The Editorial Board, the Editorial Advisory Board, and the journal staff extend our heartfelt thanks to each of you.

Robert B. Hunt, M.D.
Editor-in-Chief
The Journal of the AAGL

2001 Corporate Sponsors

The AAGL gratefully acknowledges the generous contribution of educational grants from the following corporations that participated in the 2001 Corporate Sponsorship Program:

**PLATINUM**

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**Heights continued from page 1**

appropriately for the services you perform. There will also be a comprehensive discussion of all existing global ablation technologies, with representatives from each company providing an overview of their product and its utility.

In summary, this year’s scientific program will have a bit of something for everyone. Whether your area is clinical research, technical expertise in the operating room, or device innovation, there will be plenty in San Francisco to captivate and entertain you. Please join me by the Bay for this interesting and informative weekend.

**Sponsored Symposia Offered**

Additionally, we have added the opportunity for industry to sponsor symposia. Both BEI Medical and Valleylab will present symposia on Saturday, November 17th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm and Novacept will present on Sunday, November 18th over the same hours. There is no additional cost to attendees and all courses will be given 2 credit hours in Category 1 of the Physician’s Recognition Award. We encourage you to attend to learn the latest on endoscopic technology.

**Key Strategies & Techniques for Advanced Laparoscopy & Hysteroscopy**

Including Hands-on Animate Tutorial Lab & Live Telesurgery

Harry Reich, Laparoscopy Program Chair
Laparoscopy— Thomas Lyons, Arnaud Wattiez
Douglas Phillips, Hysteroscopy Program Chair
Hysteroscopy— Andrew Brill, Mark Glasser

November 30 – December 1, 2001
Endo-Surgery Institute
Cincinnati, Ohio
(Supported in part by a restricted educational grant from Gynecare, a Division of Ethicon, Inc.)

Following the AAGL’s annual meeting, do not miss the opportunity to attend this advanced workshop and gain hands-on experience in advanced techniques under the guidance of expert preceptors.

Morning sessions will include core lectures and two live telesurgeries: one on laparoscopy and the other on operative hysteroscopy. Extensive discussion will be devoted to the use of electrical energy and distention media. Afternoon sessions, held in the impressive surgical environment of the Endo-Surgery Institute, will be devoted to the practice of surgical techniques on a variety of both inanimate as well as animate models.

Space for this popular workshop is limited, so early registration is encouraged.

Contact the AAGL office, or register directly at www.aagl.com. AAGL, 13021 E. Florence Avenue, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670-4505; Tel. (562) 946-8774 or (800) 554-2245; Fax: (562) 946-0073; E-mail: generalmail@aagl.com.
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KARL STORZ Endoscopy-America, Inc.
600 Corporate Pointe
Culver City, CA 90230 7600
Telephone: (310) 338-8100
Telefax: (310) 410-5530

KARL STORZ Endoscopy-Canada, Ltd.
438 University Avenue, Suite 1800
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5G 2K8
Telephone: (416) 596-5900
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KARL STORZ Endoscopy Latino America
815 N.W. 57th Ave., Ste. No. 480
Miami, FL 33126-2042, USA
Telephone: (305) 262-8980
Telefax: (305) 262-8986

E-mail: karlstorz-marketing@karlstorz.de
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The Hong Kong Gynaecological Endoscopy Society (HKGES)

The Hong Kong Gynaecological Endoscopy Society (HKGES) was founded in 1994 and has 60 members. Its members have developed extensive skills in endoscopy. Although it is a relatively new society, its roots go back to several meetings of the International Federation of Gynecologic Endoscopists held in Hong Kong prior to its formation. It is currently one of the most well established endoscopic societies in China.

—Franklin D. Loffer, M.D., Executive Vice President/Medical Director

NewsScope: When was the Hong Kong Gynaecological Endoscopy Society established?
HKGES: Our society was founded on the 30th of June 1994.

N/S: What is its mission statement?
HKGES: To stimulate interest and to improve the standards of gynecological endoscopy in Hong Kong through organizing clinical meetings, coordinating clinical audits and conducting research.

N/S: Approximately how many members are there?
HKGES: Currently we have 60 full members (all are registered doctors) and 20 associate members (of which the majority are registered nurses).

N/S: What are some of the benefits of membership?
HKGES: The benefits include: 1) free attendance to society organized clinical meeting; 2) reduced rate for society organized workshops; 3) free subscription to the official society journal Gynaecological Endoscopy.

N/S: What kinds of problems specific to physicians in Hong Kong does your association address?
HKGES: Our society would like to establish a dialogue among gynecologists performing endoscopic surgery in Hong Kong and to provide a channel for information, guidelines, advice, and possibly training in endoscopic surgery.

N/S: Is there any additional information you would like to provide about the Hong Kong Gynaecological Endoscopy Society?
HKGES: Our society is going to conduct an audit on laparoscopic hysterectomy. A web-based database will be set up to allow direct data entry at any time and place. The goal of the society is to set up a registry system to record the complications associated with gynecological endoscopic surgery.

For further information on HKGES, please contact P.M. Yuen, President, c/o Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Prince of Wales Hospital, Shatin, N.T., Hong Kong. Tel: (852) 2632 2810; Fax: (852) 2636 0008; email: pmyuen@cuhk.edu.hk

William H. Parker, M.D.
Chair, Website Committee

One of the most common uses of the internet is the search for medical information. Now, our new website, AAGL.com, is up and running. As an AAGL member you are automatically listed on the site in the members’ directory, which can be accessed by both patients and physicians alike. Patients are able to search for doctors by name or by city, enabling them to easily find doctors within their geographic region whom are interested in minimally invasive treatments.

As a member you are also entitled to a free webpage, which is linked to your name in the directory. To create your webpage, you may include a short biography and your areas of interest; then in a matter of 15 minutes your webpage will be up and running.

We have included separate forums for patients, residents and physician members. We encourage you to participate and share information, new techniques, clinical issues and your experience. The residents’ page also includes information about the new laparoscopic fellowships, and will soon have a page for job opportunities.

We believe that the AAGL website will become a major component of the interchange of ideas and educational experience that the AAGL so fervently promotes. This is a work in progress, so please let us know what you envision for AAGL.org.

You can register online for the Global Congress of Gynecologic Endoscopy/AAGL 30th Annual Meeting. View or download the Preliminary Program and then register for the precongress Anatomy Workshop and/or the Congress. Links to the Hilton San Francisco & Towers make it easy to reserve your accommodations. For information on the city, select the link to the San Francisco Convention & Visitors Bureau. Take advantage of this quick and easy way to register for the Congress.
Let Your Vote be Counted!

The ballots for the 2002 Board of Trustees were sent to all members at the end of August. When you receive your ballot, please cast your vote by mailing it to the AAGL office by October 15, 2001.

The following is a list of the nominees:

**SECRETARY-TREASURER**

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Charles E. Miller, M.D.
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University of Illinois at Chicago
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Miller and Associates, Specialists in Reproductive Health
Arlington Heights, Illinois

Joseph S. Sanfillipo, M.D.
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Allegheny General Hospital
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Professor, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
Vice Chairman, Reproductive Sciences
Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences
Magee-Womens Hospital
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Issues continued from page 1

inherently have an interest in what we are doing, and whose actions affect our members. They are: 1) our patients; 2) the companies who supply our pharmaceuticals and instruments; and 3) the regulatory community which includes the insurance industry and governments.

The AAGL will continue to present, in a balanced format, new medical therapies and surgical technologies which can be readily incorporated in our member’s gynecological practices. These educational opportunities will be available at its annual meeting, postgraduate courses and through the *Journal of the AAGL*.

For our patients, we will provide helpful information on our website. In addition to patient education, the website will allow patients ready access to the names and addresses of our members who are in their community.

For our pharmaceutical and instrument suppliers, we will continue to offer a forum for both patient and physician education.

And for the regulatory community, we will increase our ability to be a source of information to benefit our members and their patients.

Our Board retreat concluded that while changes are inevitable, we will continue to adapt as we have for the past 30 years to be of value to all our “constituents.”

—Franklin D. Loffer, M.D.
## FUTURE MEETINGS

**Advanced Laparoscopic Reparative Pelvic Surgery & Surgical Dissection on Unembalmed Female Cadavers**  
In affiliation with Innovations in Medical Education & Training  
November 14–15, 2001  
Holiday Inn Golden Gateway  
San Francisco, California

**Global Congress of Gynecologic Endoscopy**  
**AAGL 30th Annual Meeting**  
November 16–19, 2001  
(Registration begins evening November 15, 2001)  
San Francisco Hilton & Towers  
San Francisco, California

**Strategies & Techniques for Advanced Laparoscopy & Hysteroscopy**  
Including Live Telesurgeries  
In affiliation with Gynecare, a division of Ethicon, Inc.  
November 30 - December 1, 2001  
Endo-Surgery Institute  
Cincinnati, Ohio

**Pre-Congress Workshop on Advanced Laparoscopic Anatomy, Dissection, & Reproductive Surgery Using Unembalmed Female Cadavers**  
In affiliation with VIII World Congress on Endometriosis  
Organized by the American Society of Reproductive Medicine  
Pre-Congress: February 22–23, 2002  
Congress: February 24–27, 2002  
Hyatt Regency  
San Diego, California

**11th Annual Comprehensive Workshop on Gynecologic Endoscopy for Residents, Fellows, and OR Personnel**  
March 16–17, 2002  
The Radisson Hotel Valley Forge  
King of Prussia, Pennsylvania

**Global Congress of Gynecologic Endoscopy**  
**AAGL 31st Annual Meeting**  
November 20–24, 2002  
(Registration begins evening November 19, 2002)  
Fontainebleau Hilton & Towers  
Miami Beach, Florida