Welcome to July!

Welcome to new fellows! And welcome to new programs! We have long-anticipated the addition of programs at UT Southwestern in Dallas, Bronx Lebanon Hospital, and Johns Hopkins. Every year new programs are approved and join the strong grouping of excellent MIGS training sites. We also welcome all new fellows that started this month. They are an impressive group of young physicians from across the world. Their accomplishments include dozens of awards in humanism, teaching, and months of service in global health. They have published in the areas of transgender health, teen pregnancy, safety in laparoscopy, and medical education. They have fluency in Spanish, French, Hindi, Arabic, and Bangla. We have a prior college cheerleader and a Lt Colonel in the US Air Force, in addition to a Sooner, a Baylor Bear, a Quaker, a Gonzaga Bulldog, and a Wolverine. When they're not busy in the OR, they like to bake, wine taste, braid hair, play rugby, and read mystery novels and science fiction. Best of luck to this new group. We will see great things from you!

Amanda C. Yunker, DO, MSCR - Vanderbilt University Medical Center

I am happy to report there has been progress towards a certificate of focused practice for FMIGS, thanks to the efforts of Drs. Ted Anderson and Magdy Milad. We have submitted the petition for a certificate to ACOG, and it has been accepted. A welcome step forward. The Annual Fellows Surgical Boot Camp is planned for August 4-6 in NYC. Thank you to Dr. Siedhoff, Dr. Advincula, and of course, Art Arellano of the AAGL office, and all those that helped to put this together.

Another good piece of news is the development of fellows video evaluation. Fellows will send four videos during FMIGS which will be evaluated by program directors and associate program directors. Videos will be double blinded, no identity of fellow or reviewers will be revealed. Feedback will be provided to the fellow. Drs. King and Suketu Mansuria are working out the last details.

The newsletter you are reading would not happen if it wasn’t for the efforts of Dr. Amanda Yunker. Thank you. A million thanks to Arcy Dominguez, from the AAGL office, who provides unrelenting support to the FMIGS Board, and to so many other important issues.

I invite everyone to send their suggestions to AAGL or directly to me.
jmagrina@mayo.edu
With the MIGS applicant pool becoming more competitive over the years, it is important to understand applicants’ motivations for pursuing a MIGS fellowship. Program directors, however, may not share the same perception of applicants’ motivations and skills. To investigate, an electronic survey was distributed in early 2016 to the 1st year MIGS fellows and program directors. We found that fellows chose fellowship for a variety of reasons (Fig. 1).

The majority sought additional skills and experience, as well as had long-term career goals in mind. Relatively few applicants pursued fellowship due to insufficient residency training. In general, fellow’s career goals were focused on pursuing a gyn specialty practice, with considerable interest in academic research (Fig. 2).

At the beginning of their training, less than 1/3 fellows felt they could suture laparoscopically or proficiently control bleeding. Furthermore, program directors were less likely than fellows to agree that a fellow could recognize a critically ill patient, dissect tissue planes, or suture laparoscopically. Both agreed that fellows demonstrated professionalism and solid clinical evaluation and management skills, but lacked in their preparedness for scholarship. In fact, barely 1/2 of fellows felt they could compile and analyze data for a research project.

The survey data opens avenues for future curriculum development. Perceptions that fellows are underprepared in basic robotics highlight the potential utility of robotic training curricula. Additionally, improving exposure to research methodology will help meet the needs of fellows, as many are hoping for careers in academia. AAGL should consider repeating this survey yearly to assess the evolution of fellow needs. Exit surveys can help identify high-performing programs as well as programs that fall below expectations.

About the author: Dr. Arpit Davé graduated from the Mayo Clinic Arizona FMIGS program in 2017. He is currently building a gyn-only surgical referral practice in Tucson, Arizona with the Carondelet Medical Group. He is an avid hiker, passionately studies the changes social media will bring to healthcare education, and his favorite surgery is a vaginal hysterectomy for the fibroid uterus.

Note: This survey data is being prepared as a manuscript for future publication.
Alumni Spotlight

I was born in Sri Lanka, during a time of conflict. My parents left their homes and sacrificed their careers to allow my brothers and I to grow up where there was peace and freedom. My father, a surgeon, found himself performing a home delivery of my younger brother due to an imposed military curfew. Their strength and indomitable spirits were the inspiration that led me to pursue my own dreams.

The two years of my MIGS fellowship were an amazing whirlwind, wherein I developed lifelong friendships with likeminded surgeons from across the world, cultivated my clinical and surgical skills, watched my teacher become my esteemed mentor and friend, and had a world of possibilities unfold due to the recognition of being an AAGL fellow.

Within my cohort of fellows, I was unique in being Canadian in a Canadian fellowship. It has been fascinating to discuss and learn the differences in the ways in which we practice medicine. In addition to the knowledge, skills and attitudes a fellowship with Dr. Sony Singh at the University of Ottawa has imparted, I have gained a network of close friends and colleagues. We share ideas, clinical scenarios, techniques, travel and conference together. Perhaps more importantly, we share stories, pictures of loved ones and when needed, an ear.

As my fellowship drew to a close, I was fortunate to have been recruited by a network of 4 teaching hospitals to be the Division Head of Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery. In addition, having completed another fellowship in Simulation and Medical Education, I became the director of Simulation-based Surgical Education for the Dept. of OBGYN at the University of Calgary. Most recently, I was invited by the scientific committee of the World Endometriosis Society to lecture on the international stage. My MIGS fellowship has advanced my career so rapidly that it takes my breath away at times. I strongly believe that “if I have seen further than others, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants” (Newton).

The focus of my practice is the care of women with endometriosis and chronic pelvic pain. Our department services the 1.5M residents of the city of Calgary in Alberta, Canada. I am involved in training medical students, residents and fellows, and provide mentorship to my colleagues. I have been met with open-minds and open-arms, and for this, I consider myself incredibly fortunate.

Uprooting my family once for my fellowship and then again (and this time all the way across the country) has been taxing, to say the least. Alberta has been a bit of a culture shock as a land of beef and oil! But, I’ve finally got a reason to wear my cowboy hat! Enduring the years of work, late nights, and big changes was all made possible thanks to the unwavering support of my wife and children. I feel truly honored to have been asked to contribute my story to the AAGL newsletter.

Chandrew Rajakumar, MD, FRCSC, FACOG

Assistant Professor, Division Head of Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery

Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary
Fellows’ Corner

Congratulations to the recently graduated fellows and welcome to the fellowship class of 2019! For the incoming fellows who I have not met yet - I am the Fellow Representative to the FMIGS Board. My role is to give your ideas and concerns a voice at the board meetings.

We are very close to offering visiting observership rotations for current fellows! This is an opportunity to spend a week at another institution learning from their experts. I will post the link for the application process to Facebook once it goes live. If you do an observership I would love to hear about your experience and what we can do to make it better.

As the second year fellows start to look for jobs, please feel free to reach out to me if there is anything that I can do to help you with the process. We will continue to post job listings in this newsletter and to Facebook as we hear about them.

Please continue to make me aware of concerns that you have or other areas where you think we could make the training better. Please do not hesitate to contact me with thoughts, questions, or concerns through email: noahrindos@gmail.com or Facebook: via our "FMIGS At Large" group which you are welcome to join. I am looking forward to seeing many of you in August at the Bootcamp!

Noah Rindos, MD
Faculty at Magee Women's Hospital

FPRN Update

The Fellows Pelvic Research Network (FPRN) steering committee and advisory board have continued working this spring towards several endeavors with your help, including the election of new officers and the advancement of fellow-centered research studies. With the completion of recent elections, we are happy to announce the MIGS steering committee for 2017-2018: Dr. Patty Mattingly, Dr. Nisse Clark, Dr. Leigh Rosen, and Dr. Laura Glaser.

NOW ENROLLING:

1. Dr. Carolyn Piszczek’s study, "The use of social networking among women with pelvic pain."

2. Dr. Jessica Sisto and Dr. Ariel Dubin’s study, “Sexual function and satisfaction after hysterectomy in women who have sex with women (WSW).”

Interested sites for participation will be included as a publishing author per FPRN guidelines and can contact the research fellow through the SGS FPRN website for publication inclusion.

http://www.sgsonline.org/fprn-

We also encourage all fellows to submit new research studies for consideration in the FPRN research network. The resources of the FPRN are well established and designed to provide financial and technical support for fellows with the goals of completing quality fellow-based research expediently. We will have a dedicated opportunity to review study updates and frequently asked questions at the upcoming Fellow's Bootcamp in New York City in August 2017. We thank everyone for his and her continued support and participation in the success of these studies, and we look forward to seeing you this summer.
A Message For Fellowship Directors

As you can see nominations are now open for the "Program Director Representative." If you are interested in this Board position, which serves as a direct liaison between the Board and the Directors, please nominate yourself!

In other news, multiple FMIGS committees have been working to 1) improve the assessment of fellows as they move through training and 2) provide tools to aid the education of fellows. These tools include a formalized video curriculum, MyTipReport for on-the-spot daily assessment and feedback, and our own FMIGS Milestones. The Milestones will eventually become part of the annual evaluation of fellows' performance and can help in the areas of remediation and advancement. Be looking for communication from the Board for action items where these tools are concerned. And, as always, feedback is much appreciated.

Amanda Yunker, DO, MSCR
Director, Vanderbilt MIGS Fellowship
Assistant Professor (MIGS)

Description:
- Serve as the Program Director of Minimally Invasive Gynecological Surgery Fellowship Program
- Establish educational/surgical curriculum for fellows, residents and medical students
- Work closely with laparoscopic faculty and community physicians to maintain the fellowship program
- Work towards establishing a Center for Excellence in Minimally Invasive Gynecological Surgery
- Inpatient and outpatient case management, gynecological surgery, labor and delivery coverage at night with limited call
- Participation in teaching activities with residents, interns and medical students
- Development and participation in research activities

Minimum Qualifications:
* M.D./D.O.
* Successful completion of fellowship in minimally invasive gynecological surgery (MIGS), gynecologic oncology, female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery or reproductive endocrinology and infertility, or equivalent experience
* A minimum of 4 years’ independent practice post-fellowship experience
* Board Certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology

To Apply Click Here: https://sjobs.brassring

The Center for Innovative GYN Care (CIGC) (www.innovativegyn.com) is now recruiting AAGL Fellows to join its practice. CIGC is now expanding its practice and services to other states through recruitment and teaching our powerful surgical techniques to newly hired fellowship trained GYN surgeons. We are growing our footprint to metropolitan areas in Texas, Georgia, and Tennesse!

CIGC has developed “new procedural technology” based on DualportGYN and LAAM techniques to allow for the treatment of all patients in an outpatient surgical center. The company has been performing hysterectomy, myomectomy, and complex surgical procedures at its Rockville, MD based outpatient surgical facility - Innovations Surgery Center (ISC) with unparalleled success. Learning DualportGYN procedures, to include retroperitoneal dissection, uterine artery ligation, ureterolysis, extensive enterolysis, vaginal extraction procedures, and powerful LAAM techniques (Laparoscopic Assisted Abdominal Myomectomy) for the candidate. The position does not require OB call, with all call at home on an every fourth week schedule. Candidates for the position will benefit from an experienced development team to include a VP of Marketing and marketing team, VP of Business Development/Operations and VP of Research to allow for growth and expansion. A specific marketing plan will be developed for each candidate to ensure success and patient referrals through internet, social medial, direct to physician sales, and printed and visual media.

Compensation is excellent in this highly lucrative position with all benefits provided to include 401K with match, health, and dental. If interested, please contact Eric Brown, VP of HR at ebrown@innovativegyn.com or 240-558-3706 ext 207.

The University of Chicago is actively recruiting a fellowship-trained Academic Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgeon to join our growing group of faculty. As a leader in this field, I’m reaching out to you for suggestions on who I can speak to about this opportunity. We are trying to ensure that we have a dynamic, diverse, and accomplished pool of applicants who may fill this role.

Please access the link for more information about the position. I’m available by phone or email to discuss candidates. I appreciate your assistance in advance!

Brie Anderson, MHA
Clinical Section Administrator
Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology
University of Chicago
773-834-7022
MIGS Faculty Position

The Division of Gynecologic Specialties is seeking both new graduates and experienced physicians committed to an academic career in gynecology and minimally invasive surgery. Responsibilities include teaching medical students, residents, and fellows in the diagnosis and care of patients with gynecologic conditions in the inpatient and outpatient settings. Candidates should be comfortable in providing a broad range of surgery and medical care to medically complex patients. The faculty member is expected to serve the University in areas of teaching, research, and clinical service appropriate to their professional training and capabilities and their career goals. Primary clinical responsibilities would be participation in all the clinical activities of the Division of Gynecologic Specialties at Emory, particularly its clinical activities at The Emory Clinic, Emory University Hospitals, Grady Memorial Hospital, and affiliated sites. Faculty Members are also be expected to demonstrate outstanding activity in the teaching aspects of the Department. Specifically this would include: • Providing teaching instruction and supervision to residents and medical students in Gynecologic Specialties and Minimally Invasive Surgery.
• Providing lectures to fellows, residents and medical students as requested.
• Attending Grand Rounds, M&M Conferences, Journal Club, Division meetings and other Departmental activities.
• Participating in mentorship of medical students, residents, and fellows.
• Participating in fellow and resident interviews.

To apply for this position Click Here: emory.jobs

BC/BE MIGS Surgeon

Lahey Health System is seeking candidates with excellent clinical and surgical skills who are trained in minimally invasive gynecologic surgery, AAGL fellowship trained preferred, board certified/eligible (BC/BE) for a superb position.

BURLINGTON, MA

The Department of Gynecology at Lahey Hospital & Medical Center, a member of Lahey Health, is seeking a full time board certified/eligible (BC/BE) minimally invasive gynecologic surgeon, AAGL fellowship trained preferred. The Lahey Hospital & Medical Center, Department of Gynecology is comprised of four sub-specialties including general gynecology, urogynecology, reproductive endocrinology and gynecologic oncology.

The position provides a great opportunity to work in a dynamic practice which offers both minimally invasive gynecology surgery in a multi-specialty group practice setting. The department is comprised of 8 physicians and five advanced practitioners across three outpatient offices in Burlington, Peabody, and Lexington and sees over 27,000 outpatient visits and performs over 1,000 surgeries per year. The Department of Gynecology is affiliated with both Boston Medical Center and Tufts Medical Center in offering resident and medical student education with the opportunity for an academic appointment. We also offer a one year pelvic fellowship program for physicians who desire more surgical training following residency.

The selected candidate will have significant responsibility in training the Fellow and will be actively involved in transitioning the fellowship into an AAGL sponsored fellowship.

Lahey Hospital and Medical Center, a 317-bed tertiary care facility, outpatient clinic and Level II trauma center located in Burlington, MA, is a physician-led, multi-disciplinary group practice of more than 500 physicians. We maintain several accredited residency and fellowship programs and are an academic affiliate of Tufts Medical School. Located just north of Boston MA, the area provides excellent school systems, abundant cultural activities in a world class city and convenient access to the mountains and seacoast throughout New England.

This is an employed position and it is very competitive in terms of pay and benefits.

Interested candidates should submit CV and cover letter to:
Raffaele Bruno, MD, Chair,
Department of Gynecology
Raffaele.Bruno@lahey.org

Minimally Invasive Gynecological Surgery Faculty

We have an opening at Indiana University Health for a full-time or part-time MIGS faculty. The position would involve being a faculty member of our MIGS fellowship, educating our MIGS fellow, educating our 40 OB/Gyn residents, educating our medical students on their OB/Gyn clerkship, maintaining a clinical practice, and being an active member of the OB/Gyn department. Any interested parties can contact me at my email: kkasper@iuui.edu.

Thank you,
Kelly Kasper, MD
### 2017 Fellowship Board of Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Javier F. Magrina, MD</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Mayo Clinic Arizona</td>
<td>Phoenix, Arizona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew T. Siedhoff, MD</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Cedars-Sinai Medical Center</td>
<td>Los Angeles, California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cara R. King, DO</td>
<td>Board of Directors</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin School of Medicine</td>
<td>Madison, Wisconsin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suketu M. Mansuria, MD</td>
<td>Board of Directors</td>
<td>Magee-Womens Hospital University of Pittsburgh Medical</td>
<td>Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magedy P. Milad, MD</td>
<td>Immediate Past President</td>
<td>Northwestern University Medical School-McGaw</td>
<td>Chicago, Illinois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noah B. Rindos, MD</td>
<td>Fellow Board Representative</td>
<td>Magee-Womens Hospital University of Pittsburgh Medical</td>
<td>Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin D. Loffer, MD</td>
<td>FACOG</td>
<td>AAGL Medical Director</td>
<td>Phoenix, Arizona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda C. Yunker, DO</td>
<td>Board of Directors</td>
<td>Vanderbilt University Medical Center</td>
<td>Nashville, Tennessee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### HELPFUL LINKS

- **FPRN Home page:** [http://www.sgsonline.org/fprn](http://www.sgsonline.org/fprn)
- **Case Log Entry:** [http://caselog.aagl.org/login.php](http://caselog.aagl.org/login.php)
- **AAGL Global Congress Registration:** [https://congress.aagl.org/](https://congress.aagl.org/)

### Contact Us

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arcy Dominguez</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Adominguez@aagl.org">Adominguez@aagl.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda Yunker, DO</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Amanda.yunker@vanderbilt.edu">Amanda.yunker@vanderbilt.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cara King, DO</td>
<td><a href="mailto:CaraRobinsonKing@gmail.com">CaraRobinsonKing@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>