Is It Fall Already?

Every time I think that July is the busiest part of the year, October rolls around and changes my mind. It seems that July is just the build-up to October. Right about now, all the 1st year fellows have shed the "newness" and settled in to a rigorous schedule. On October 4th, the culmination of months of fellowship application reviews, invitations, traveling, and stressing about rank lists finally happened. And now we have a brand new class of matched fellows to-be. Congratulations to all of you! FMIGS, again, came out on top as the most competitive of all OBGYN fellowships. This month also brings the hurried preparations for our annual AAGL meeting, the elections of new FMIGS and AAGL Board members, and continued progress with our goal of recognition as a bona fide subspecialty. I look forward to seeing (and meeting) you all at the annual meeting. Take time during the busyness to enjoy the changing season and to celebrate the progress our subspecialty has made!

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

President’s Corner

I am pleased to inform you that the process towards a Certificate of Focused Practice is advancing, albeit at a slow speed. There is light at the end of the tunnel and it is not a coming train! As previously announced, a Program Directors Representative position was added to the FMIGS board. The elected person by vote is Gretchen Makai. Congratulations and thank you for your willingness to serve. Megan Wasson and Noah Rhindos have developed a Young Fellows Alumni Network for fellows during their first five years of practice. Job positions are available now on the AAGL web site, and will be one of the functions of this network. The Site Review committee, under the chairmanship of Magdy Milad, ensures standards are met at all fellowship training sites. The Board recognized the importance of this committee and approved an ex-officio position for its Chair for the future. In advance, my deep congratulations to the graduating fellows. We will honor you, jointly with the program directors, at the start of the Graduation Ceremony on Sunday November 12th 2017.

My deepest thanks to Arcy Dominguez for her assistance and dedication to FMIGS and to Mandy Yunker who so efficiently manages this newsletter. See you all very soon at the Gaylord!
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We are excited to announce the formation of the FMIGS Young Alumni Network. This organization will be made up of graduates of the previous five classes (2013-2017) with a goal of creating additional avenues for involvement of our recently graduated fellows with each other and AAGL. We recognize that the first few years after finishing training can involve some unique challenges and the FMIGS Young Alumni Network will enable recent FMIGS graduates to be resources for each other.

As FMIGS Fellows we felt incredibly supported with numerous educational and social opportunities available during our training. Since graduating, we have heard from our colleagues that they are searching for opportunities to stay engaged with AAGL and their classmates in addition to attending the Global Congress. Currently there are limited opportunities for people to present at meetings, organize training and stay involved with the intimate running of the fellowship.

In an effort to address this, we are proposing three annual in person meetings – one at AAGL, one at SGS and one at the Fellows and Resident Surgical Boot Camp. We hope that these meetings will be an opportunity to meet colleagues from other classes and facilitate collaborations on research, job opportunities, etc.

The initial meeting will be held at the AAGL Global Congress and is scheduled from 2:30 to 3:30pm on Tuesday, November 14th in Potomac Room 4. This will be a planning meeting to bring together graduates to discuss the FMIGS Young Alumni Network, creation of our board and determine how the Network can best serve our young alumni.

Fellows’ Corner

Congratulations to all the soon to be new fellows who just matched last week! Welcome to the MIGS family – it is going to be a great experience! For the first year fellows I hope that you have been getting settled in to fellowship life, are getting research projects started (or at least submitting your IRBs)! For the second year fellows, this is the season for working on your plans for next year. We have been posting positions to Facebook as we learn about them (and they are also listed at the end of this newsletter).

The website for arranging away rotations is now up and running and can be found at the AAGL Fellowship website (https://www.aagl.org/observership-login/). If you do an away rotation please send me feedback on how it goes, what we can improve and other suggestions that you have.

We have time set aside for two events specifically designed for current fellows during the AAGL Global Congress in November and hope to see you there! The first is a postgraduate course on Sunday, November 12th from 7am -11am in National Harbor Room 10 “FELO-608 Didactic: Career Tools for Life: How to Navigate a Successful MIGS Career of Your Dreams”. The second is a meeting for all of the FMIGS Fellows on Tuesday November 14th at 11am-Noon in Potomac 5-6. This is a chance for you to discuss what is working well, what we need to improve and suggest things that you would like to see happen in the upcoming year.

On a final note, please let me know if there is ever anything that I can do to make your experience with fellowship better. I am happy to talk if you are having a hard time, if you are trying to figure out the job search process or just want to check in.

All my best,
Noah Rindos, MD
Faculty at Magee Women’s Hospital
The Montgomery GI Bill & Post 9/11 GI Bill

The Montgomery GI Bill and Post 9/11 GI Bill are two programs available to veterans who have completed their service in the US military. To be eligible for these educational benefits, a member must have served an aggregate period of 36 months on active duty and honorably discharged. Recipients are provided a monthly stipend for living expenses, a yearly grant for supplies, and may even qualify for relocation assistance to attend a program at an institution of higher learning of their choice.

Unfortunately the use of the GI bill for postgraduate medical education is limited to fellowship programs formally recognized by the Accreditation Counsel for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). There are benefits but obvious obstacles in achieving ACGME acceptance. As an example, the majority of orthopedic subspeciality fellowships are formally recognized by the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons but they are not ACGME accredited. The fellowships in Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery established by AAGL share the same predicament in regards to ACGME recognition. For veterans who wish to advance their medical education, the inability to utilize their earned education benefit due to this singular government requirement is a frustrating experience.

The MIGS fellowship at St. Luke’s University Health System in Allentown Pennsylvania is first AAGL program to be certified by the US Department of Veterans Administration and eligible for Montgomery GI / Post 911 Bill benefits. To the best knowledge of the Pennsylvania Department of Veterans Education, it is also one of the few, if not the first, non ACGME fellowship in the nation that has been approved. This achievement is the result of 18 month collaboration between representatives of AAGL, St Luke’s University GME department, Drs. Lucente and Patriarco, and the Pennsylvania Department of Veterans Education. By negotiating the “Non College Degree Program” pathway, the fellowship was able to redefine itself and bypass the requirement for ACGME accreditation yet still satisfy the rigorous standards set by the Veteran’s Administration Education Department and AAGL.

“My family and I are extremely grateful for the understanding, patience, and effort put forth by St Luke’s, AAGL, and the VA. The amount of time and paperwork required for this approval was staggering and seemed impossible to complete unless all the participants were fully engaged and vested in the process. It would have been very easy for people to walk away at anytime during the past 18 months but they stuck with me in true military spirit. In fact I personally know four other military veterans who have tried to get their non ACGME fellowships approved but were unsuccessful despite their best efforts. For the first time, I think there is a defined path forward and now a “win” that can help other veterans effectively seek recognition for their non ACGME fellowships with the VA.” - Dr. Michael Ting, 2nd year MIGS fellow St Luke’s University Health Network and US Air Force Veteran.

For more information of the GI Montgomery Bill or Post 9/11 Yellow Ribbon bill please visit http://benefits.va.gov/gibill/. For more information on the approval process please contact AAGL Fellowship office or Dr. Michael Ting (Michael.Ting@sluhn.org)
FPRN Update

The FMIGS/SGS subgroup of the Fellows’ Pelvic Research Network (FPRN)® has had a terrific inaugural year! The first completed FMIGS/SGS FPRN project has been a great success. Dr. Lara Harvey’s study, “Surgical findings and outcomes in premenopausal breast cancer patients undergoing oophorectomy: A multicenter review from the Fellows’ Pelvic Research Network,” has been accepted for publication in JMIG and is currently available online ahead of print. In addition, Dr. Lara Harvey will present the study at this fall’s 46th AAGL Global Congress in National Harbor on Wednesday November 15th at the Open Communications 16 session. We would love for fellows to be present at this pivotal moment for the FPRN.

There are two exciting studies currently underway. Dr. Carolyn Piszczek is leading a study evaluating the use of social media in women with pelvic pain. Dr. Jessica Sisto is assessing sexual function and satisfaction after hysterectomy in women who have sex with women. If you would like to be a participating site for an ongoing study, please contact the primary investigator through the SGS FPRN website.

http://www.sgsonline.org/fprn

We want to thank all of you for making this year a success! The FPRN would not be possible without the mentorship from our senior advisory board and the support and funding provided by SGS and AAGL. A very special thanks to Drs. Carolyn Piszczek, James Casey and Mallory Stuparich who served on the first FMIGS FPRN steering committee and who have continued to support the organization, since their recent completion of fellowship. The FPRN is excited that Drs. Nisse Clark, Laura Matthews Glaser and Leigh Rosen have joined Patricia Mattingly to serve as the 2017-2018 steering committee. Call for nominations for the 2018-2019 steering committee will go out this spring.

The organization continues to grow and received the largest number of submissions for consideration at this year’s 2017 AAGL Global Congress. Please join us at the FPRN meeting at AAGL to review ongoing studies and new submissions. If you missed the chance to submit your proposal this fall, don’t worry because your next chance is just around the corner! Mark your calendar now and submit your research proposal by Monday, January 22nd 2018 to be considered for review at the 2018 SGS Annual Scientific Meeting in Orlando, FL March 11-14 2018. Attendance at SGS is strongly encouraged but a FPRN steering committee member can present proposals on your behalf for those unable to attend.

Chair: Patty Mattingly - patriciamattingly@gmail.com
Secretary: Nisse Clark - nvclark@gmail.com
Treasurer: Laura Matthews Glaser - lauramatthews85@gmail.com
Webmaster: Leigh Rosen - leigh.rosen@gmail.com
From The Board

Introducing the New Members of the Fellowship Board of Directors

We are proud to welcome the newest members who will serve on the Fellowship Board of Directors starting on January 1, 2018.

We want to thank our Board members who will be stepping down at the end of the year for their dedication to the Fellowship Board: Magdy Milad (Immediate Past President); Suketu Mansuria (Director-at-Large); and Amanda Yunker (Director-at-Large).

Director-at-Large
Nash S. Moawad, MD, MS
University of Florida College of Medicine
Gainesville, FL

Secretary-Treasurer
Amanda C. Yunker, DO, MSCR
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, TN

Director-at-Large
Nicole M. Donnellan, MD
Magee-Women’s Hospital
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
Pittsburgh, PA

Program Director Representative
Gretchen E.H. Makai, MD
Christiana Care Health System
Newark, DE

MyTIPreport Update: Full Fellowship Roll Out!

The real-time, on-site feedback platform, myTIPreport, is now approved and ready for roll out at all fellowship sites! The current FMIGS platform has undergone multiple revisions based on feedback from selected fellowship sites, and is now improved and ready for all programs. There are 8 surgical procedures available for evaluation, with the option of customizing these procedures by each fellowship site. Our MIGS specific milestones have been uploaded to allow seamless evaluation of milestone progress. This platform also allows free text comments and generates reports that can assist fellows and attending surgeons identify areas for improvement.

We are now collecting demographic information from each fellowship site including contact details for attending faculty, fellows, and administrative assistants, which is required for myTIPreport set-up. Fellowship sites will be charged $195 per year, which will be added into annual fellowship fees. We know that timely and specific surgical feedback is essential for enhancing fellow performance, and with utilization of this user friendly platform, we are working to further strengthen our already remarkable fellowship! Stay tuned for more details and web access at our annual meeting next month!
Assistant /Associate Professor (MIGS)

The Gynecology Division in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Stanford University seeks outstanding applicants for a full-time position at the rank of Assistant or Associate Professor in the Clinician Educator line. The candidate must have fellowship training in Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery (or its equivalent) and be board-certified or board-eligible by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

New graduates and experienced physicians committed to an academic career in minimally invasive surgery are encouraged to apply. Applicants should have exceptional clinical and surgical skills and enjoy teaching students, residents and fellows. Primary clinical responsibilities include providing high quality minimally invasive surgical treatment for women with complex gynecologic disorders and participation in the Stanford Fibroid Center. Candidates should be interested in working in a multi-disciplinary clinical setting, leading clinical research projects, and helping to build a MIGS division.

Stanford offers a competitive compensation plan and benefits package. Stanford is located in an exciting and innovative environment in the heart of Silicon Valley, and is a friendly and collegial place to work. The surrounding communities of San Francisco and the greater Bay Area offer an unrivaled array of recreational and cultural venues with a temperate climate which allows year-round enjoyment.

Stanford University is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to increasing the diversity of its faculty. It welcomes nominations of and applications from women and members of minority groups, as well as others who would bring additional dimensions to the university's clinical, teaching and research missions.

To apply, please send a copy of your curriculum vitae, a cover letter stating why you are interested in this position and your qualifications and experience that make you an excellent candidate, and a list of three references to:

Dr. Deirdre Lum
Director, Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery
Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology
Stanford University School of Medicine
C/o Cathy Seckel, Faculty Affairs Administrator
email: cseckel@stanford.edu

Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgeon

The Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS) is seeking applications for the position of Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgeon. Candidates should be fellowship trained and have demonstrable experience in advanced gynecological surgeries and a successful track record in leadership and academic activities. The role of the new faculty member will be to provide consultations for complex benign gynecologic conditions as well as perform educational and research activities within the department.

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at EVMS has 30 full time faculty and 75 community faculty. The Department serves a large referral network and is renowned for its expertise in Reproductive Endocrinology, Urogynecology, and Maternal-Fetal Medicine. The Department has two fellowship programs in Maternal-Fetal Medicine and Reproductive Endocrinology and is involved in academic and research activities with funded research by the National Institute of Health.

EVMS is located in the historic city of Norfolk, neighboring the city of Virginia Beach with superb beaches and outdoor activities. This family-friendly area ranks as one of the top places to live in the United States.

Both academic appointment and salary are commensurate with qualifications and are highly competitive on a regional, national, and international level.

All inquiries and applications will be held in the strictest confidence and will be reviewed as they are received. Candidates from outside of the United States are encouraged to apply. Applicants should apply online at www.evms.edu. Candidates may contact Dr. Joseph Hudgens at (757) 446-7902 or by email, HudgenJL@EVMS.EDU for any additional information.

Joseph L. Hudgens, MD
Associate Professor I Vice Chair of Gynecologic Services
Director of Sentara-EVMS Advanced Gynecological Surgical Center
Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology
825 Fairfax Avenue, Suite 544
Norfolk, VA 23507
Established OB/GYN Surgical Practice Recruiting for AAGL Fellows!

Located in the Minneapolis, Minnesota metro area, Oakdale Ob/Gyn (oakdaleobgyn.com) is seeking a fulltime ObGyn with excellent clinical and surgical skills to join its team. As the largest independent ObGyn practice in the Twin Cities, this progressive 65-year-old practice offers a complete continuum of women’s health. Practice features include a unique mix of urogynecology, endometriosis management, and complex surgical cases. It is interested in growing its GYN surgical team. Ideal candidates for this superb position will be trained in minimally invasive gynecologic surgery, AAGL fellowship trained preferred, board certified/eligible (BC/BE). Practice details include:

- Integrated team includes 11 board-certified ObGyn physicians, 6 nurse midwives, 5 nurse practitioners, an ObGyn physical therapist, and a registered dietician who see patients of all ages at 4 metro area clinics.
- 4 day work week; 4-6 weeks PTO, negotiable based on candidate
- Competitive salary and benefits, and reimbursed continuing medical education
- Benefits: health, dental, life, STD, LTD, long-term care, and an HSA plan
- Retirement: maximum qualified retirement plan dollars available by law annually
- Malpractice insurance: Midwest Medical Insurance Company (MN based carrier) with $4mil/$6mil limits, and an additional $10mil umbrella coverage.
- Call schedule: 3.5 days on call per month
- Affiliated with Maple Grove Hospital, North Memorial Health Hospital, and two ambulatory surgery centers in Maple Grove and Blaine, respectively.
- Labor and delivery at Maple Grove Hospital, the 2nd busiest delivery hospital in the state
- Innovative specialty care programs: GYN surgery with and without robotics, the Center for Urinary and Pelvic Health, a Menopause Clinic, and an Infertility Evaluation and Treatment program.

For more information, contact:
Craig Carlson
craig.carlson@oakdaleobgyn.com
763-587-7002

MIGS Surgeon Wanted

The Division of Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital seeks an AAGL fellowship trained, board eligible/certified minimally invasive gynecologic surgeon to work full-time in its academic Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Mass General and within the Mass General Hospital System.

Mass General, one of the top-ranked hospitals in the United States, is also a major teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School. Our Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology physicians deliver exceptional care with both passion and purpose. Our institution utilizes state-of-the-art EMR and prides itself on piloting innovative care delivery models (virtual visits, e-visits, etc). The position will offer a competitive salary and benefit programs, a world-class integrated specialty network, and professional development programs.

Preferred candidates should possess a strong commitment and passion to teaching medical students, residents, and fellows. The candidate should be comfortable in providing complex surgical care and is expected to serve as a resource for other gynecologic surgeons within the department.

We are an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

Address inquiries and letters of interest to:
Jeffrey Ecker, MD, Chief, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology,
c/o Ashley Cambridge
acambridge@partners.org
Attending Physician (Academic Position, Assistant-Associate Professor)

The candidate will be directly responsible to the Medical Director of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Care Center (OGCC) and ultimately to the Chair/Chief of Obstetrics & Gynecology. The percent efforts may be adjusted as deemed necessary by the Medical Director(s) and/or the Chair/Chief of Obstetrics & Gynecology.

This position works actively with the residents and medical students, and helps facilitate development of special areas of research and clinical expertise in general obstetrics, gynecology, and gyn surgeries. Experience with colposcopy, LEEP, family planning, pelvic pain, and vulvar disease, and experience in performance and interpretation of real-time transvaginal and transabdominal ultrasounds is highly desirable. The candidate will split the clinical effort between the OGCC and the Emergency Obstetrics & Gynecology (ED) unit. Clinical responsibilities include medical evaluation and treatment of patients in the outpatient setting, emergency setting, and labor and delivery.

A total of 70% clinical effort, which includes 40% at the OGCC and 30% in the Emergency Obstetrics & Gynecology (ED) unit; Supervise residents, nurse practitioners, and medical students in the outpatient obstetrics, gynecology and primary patient care in the OGCC and ED; With the chief resident, will oversee, supervise, and participate in the resident surgical clinic; Minimally invasive surgery skills and an interest in pelvic pain are highly desired; Performance and interpretation of real-time transvaginal and transabdominal ultrasound examinations. Twenty percent (20%) protected time for scholarly productivity; Will be expected to conduct independent research in the field of obstetrics and gynecology; Ten percent (10%) protected time for teaching and administration; Participate in clinical and didactic teaching of fellows, residents, and medical students; Participate regularly in educational conferences for residents and medical students; Participate in the periodic evaluation of the clinical experience the residents and medical students receive in the outpatient departments; Assist in the organization and evaluation of rotations for residents from other specialties and institutions who seek clinical experience in our outpatient areas; Assist the Medical Directors of both units in the planning and implementation of educational and patient care activities as needed; Serve on appropriate hospital, departmental, and university committees as requested or required.

QUALIFICATIONS

Must be board certified or board eligible in Obstetrics & Gynecology. Must have a demonstrated ability as a teacher, advisor, and/or mentor of medical students, post-doc trainees, residents and fellows, and who has demonstrated an interest in scholarship. Possess strong gynecological surgical skills and obstetric practice experience. ACLS certification and maintenance is required.

For Associate Professor in the teaching scholar track, the candidate must have a national reputation in his/her area of expertise. A continuous record of scholarship since the last appointment or promotion is expected. For an Associate Professor in the research scholar track, the faculty member must have established an independent or collaborative, productive research program, supported by external, peer-reviewed grants and having reasonable assurance of continuity and productivity. A continuous record of highly regarded research publications since the previous appointment or promotion is required. The individual must have a national reputation in his/her area of research.

Applicants should apply via Interfolio using the following link: https://secure.interfolio.com/apply/21377

Assistant Professor or Associate Professor in Clinician-Educator Track

The Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences at Yale-School of Medicine is seeking outstanding applicants for full-time appointments at the rank of Assistant Professor or Associate Professor in Clinician-Educator track for our Division of Gynecologic Specialties. The candidate must possess superior minimally invasive surgical skills and have demonstrated excellence in clinical care and teaching. The applicants are required to be Board certified/eligible in general obstetrics and gynecology. Yale offers a competitive salary along with a comprehensive benefits package. Anticipated date of hire is July 1, 2018. Please forward curriculum vitae and cover letter to:

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