President’s Corner

Happy new year! Your 2018 Fellowship Board is excited about the work ahead. Our new committees are eager to build on the work of 2017, from getting closer to a focused practice recognition to another innovative boot camp. Gretchen Makai will serve in the Board’s new position, Program Director representative. And kudos to Noah Rindos and Megan Wasson for launching a new committee, the Young Alumni Network, whose primary goal is to increase engagement of recent FMIGS graduates with each other and AAGL through networking, mentorship, and collaborative research.

While there is much to be excited about, I also want to recognize the impact of what seems like a daily news story about exploitation of power in every aspect of our culture, from entertainment to the news media to our elected politicians. One need look no further than the Me Too/Time's Up movement to know this behavior has affected countless lives outside the national spotlight as well. We know these topics are in your thoughts and conversations and, as the FMIGS Board, want to reiterate the Fellowship’s clear support of promoting a culture free of harassment and intimidation. An AAGL Anti-Harassment, Diversity and Incident Reporting Task Force has been created with representation of both the AAGL and FMIGS. Members of the task force include Jubiliee Brown, Ted Anderson, Linda Bradley, Barbara Levy, Shanti Mohling, Jessica Shepherd, Matthew Siedhoff and Juan Diego Villegas. The goal of this task force is to review and revise AAGL’s existing policies and procedures in place, to address whistleblowing, anti-harassment, diversity and inclusion. We expect these policies to be published within the next week.

Thank you for the privilege to serve as your President this year. I do so with humility and with gratitude that I have such a wealth of experience and talent to draw from in the rest of the FMIGS board. Please feel free to openly communicate with us through your representative or with me directly: Matthew.Siedhoff@cshs.org.
To date more than 352 Fellows have successfully graduated from the FMIGS program. We continue to gather updated information for our FMIGS Alumni Directory. So make sure you have all of your contact information up to date with Arcy Dominguez. We need your current job location, title, phone and email contact. Send it in soon, or you might just miss getting your pin on the map!

Adomiguez@aagl.org
I am excited to report on the success and progress of the FMIGS Young Alumni Network. Our inaugural meeting was held during the AAGL Global Congress and had great representation from the 2013-2017 FMIGS graduates.

Since that meeting we have elected our committee leaders. Congratulations to Ade Oshinowo (Co-Chair), Jim Casey (Class of 2017 Representative), Vicky Vargas (Class of 2016 Representative), Amanda Sadecky (Class of 2015 Representative), Nima Patel (Class of 2014 Representative), and Suzanne Fenske (Class of 2013 Representative)! Noah Rindos will continue to serve as the committee’s FMIGS Board Representative. Please reach out to myself, or any of the committee leaders, if you have any questions or suggestions for the Young Alumni Network.

The Young Alumni Network has been very active. Many Young Alumni Network members are now serving as ad hoc reviewers for JMIG and will lead the monthly JMIG Journal Club on Twitter (#JMIGjc). We have established a FMIGS mentorship program and will be planning the 2018 FMIGS Graduation. We are looking forward to being involved in the 2018 AAGL Global Congress. If you want to be part of these activities and haven’t signed up, please let me know. Thank you to Mandy Yunker for serving as our advisor as we work on these projects.

Our next in-person meeting will take place during the SGS Annual Meeting and will feature a lecture specifically directed at issues affecting junior staff and faculty. More details to follow!

See you in Orlando!

Happy New Year to everyone!

For those of you still looking for jobs, do not despair! We will keep posting job listings to the Facebook group, and this newsletter, as we hear about them. Also if anyone is reading this and needs another MIGS trained faculty member at their hospital please let me know!

If you are participating in the FMIGS - Young Alumni Network Mentorship program (either as a mentor or a mentee) we will have the results back to you soon! If for some reason you missed the deadline but would still like to participate, please email me.

As you are planning out the next six months of your schedule, consider an away rotation! We have a large number of programs, with a variety of different strengths, that have offered to host you for a week. The complete list is available on the AAGL website (https://www.aagl.org/observership-login/).

Please keep in touch if you ever need anything, want to talk about jobs or have any concerns at all about any aspect of your training. I am always available through email, Facebook or my cell phone.

All my best,

Noah Rindos, MD
Faculty at Magee Women’s Hospital
When applying for jobs during fellowship, I envisioned my dream job. I wanted to be at an academic institution where I could practice only gynecology, have high surgical volume, and continue to teach residents and fellows. At the time I interviewed, the only academic opportunities available required me to do obstetrics. If you are currently a fellow looking for a position, this story might sound familiar to you. Thankfully, I was able to find a job after fellowship by looking beyond what was commonly encountered. I found a unique hybrid of a private/academic GYN-only position where I could teach family medicine residents. However, I was apprehensive; which was apparent from my internal dialogue with myself:

“This is a great GYN only job.” “But you won’t be teaching ob/gyn residents.” “Do you want to do OB?” “Absolutely not! Isn’t that one of the reasons why I did the FMIGs fellowship?!” “Then this job will be great.” “But I REALLY love teaching.” “Who says you won’t be teaching? You have the family medicine residents.” “They are not in the OR.” “Great! You will get to fine tune your surgical skills.” “Good point, but I will need to transition to a job with resident/fellow teaching.” “Fine, then use this job as a stepping stone to your dream job.”

Eventually, I accepted the job and have maximized on all the benefits it has given me. Operating and managing clinic without learners has given me the freedom to develop a system of doing things that is a mix of all the training I received in residency and fellowship with my own unique twist. I have also taken this opportunity to find diverse ways to build my education portfolio. I serve as a clinical preceptor for the family medicine and nurse practitioner program for a local university. I actively pursue opportunities to teach residents and fellows at conferences and AAGL sponsored boot camps, and make it a priority to attend national conferences on resident education like APGO/CREOG. Finally, public speaking has become an important outlet for teaching women of all ages in the community about their health issues and local health care providers about GYN and the importance of MIGS. These opportunities have been beneficial for growth of my practice and career development.

Ultimately, I took a job that wasn’t my “perfect dream job” and catered it to suit my future goals. As I develop my career path, I am always trying to envision my next steps. I believe it is necessary to challenge yourself to think about the future. What should I be doing now to prepare for what I want to do next? Have I updated my curriculum vitae? Should I sleep in, or should I go to that conference and network? Maximize your now to prepare for your tomorrow.

Dr. Adeoti Oshinowo completed her Fellowship in 2015 at Florida Hospital Orlando and currently works for Baylor Scott and White Gynecology Specialists in Garland, Texas. (@DrOshinowo)
First FMIGS Journal Club

Celebrating the meeting of the first Phoenix/Scottsdale FMIGS Journal Club! We had a tremendously educational, fun, and collaborative night discussing articles and sharing expert opinions. With 7 of the 8 fellows in the area represented (1 out of town so could not make it), 7 MIGS/AAGL faculty, and 1 faculty member from Panama City, we had quite the productive night!

Our objectives were to bring together all parties as colleagues and friends, to network, discuss articles as a means for teaching/learning, share a meal, and have a great time. The fellows voted to cover an article related to tissue extraction techniques at time of hysterectomy as well as another article on sterility of various surgical sites at time of TLH. We shared techniques, experiences, and also learned where our group has varying opinions...very helpful topics for all in attendance. Through this lively discussion, we shared ideas, unanswered questions, and posed some fascinating research ideas to continue elevating gynecologic surgery. The monumental event demonstrates the collaboration, inspiration, and excitement that we all share for gynecologic surgery and for better serving our patients! We are planning to do this event at least quarterly and we think it is a great idea to promote similar events worldwide.

Cheers! - Kayvahn Steck-Bayat, MD

FPRN UPDATE

The FMIGS/SGS subgroup of the Fellows’ Pelvic Research Network (FPRN)® continues to grow! We had an unprecedented number of submissions for the 46th AAGL Global Congress. In addition, the four proposals presented for consideration at AAGL were well received. We are delighted at the number of fellows who have voiced interest in participating in these studies. Please visit the SGS FPRN website soon to consider joining one of the upcoming new studies! Fellows that participate in studies serve as a coauthor.

http://www.sgsonline.org/fprn

The first completed FMIGS/SGS FPRN study, “Surgical findings and outcomes in premenopausal breast cancer patients undergoing oophorectomy: A multicenter review from the Fellows’ Pelvic Research Network,” was presented at the AAGL annual meeting and published in the August 2017 JMIG. There are currently two FPRN studies well underway. Dr. Carolyn Piszczek is leading a study evaluating the use of social media in women with pelvic pain and Dr. Jessica Sisto is assessing sexual function and satisfaction after hysterectomy in women who have sex with women.

The FPRN has received new submissions for consideration at the 2018 SGS Annual Scientific Meeting in Orlando, FL March 11-14 2018. We hope to see you at the SGS FPRN meeting on Monday, March 12th! The next opportunity to submit a proposal will be this fall for the 2018 AAGL Global Congress. Fellows can also get involved by serving on the 2018-2019 FPRN steering committee. A call for nominations and further details will go out this spring.

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.

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

Committees and Chairs Update

**ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE (1)**
Cara R. King, DO, Chair

**AUDIT COMMITTEE (2)**
David I. Eisenstein, MD, Chair

**BYLAWS COMMITTEE (3)**
David L. Olive, MD, Chair

**CASE REVIEW COMMITTEE (4)**
Hye-Chun Hur, MD, Chair

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE (5)**
Amanda C. Yunker, DO, Chair

**CURRICULUM STANDARDIZATION COMMITTEE (6)**
Sangeeta Senapati, MD, Chair

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE (7)**
Arnold P. Advincula, MD, Chair
Ted T. Lee, Co-Chair

**FINANCE COMMITTEE (8)**
Amanda C. Yunker, DO, Chair

**GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE (9)**
Bethany D. Skinner, MD, Chair

**INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE (10)**
Magdy P. Milad, MD, Chair

**LIAISON COMMITTEE (11)**
Ted L. Anderson, MD, PhD, Chair

**NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE (12)**
Javier F. Magrina, MD, Chair

**RESEARCH COMMITTEE (13)**
Kimberly A. Kho, MD, Chair
Rosanne M. Kho, MD, Review Group Liaison

**FMIGS- SGS SUBGROUP OF FPRN®**
Senior Advisory Board
David “Ike” Rahn, SGS Designee
Mary Ellen Wechter, FMIGS Designee
Allison Wyman, SGS Research

**FINANCE COMMITTEE (8)**
Amanda C. Yunker, DO, Chair

**GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE (9)**
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Rosanne M. Kho, MD, Review Group Liaison

We are planning our first Program-Director on-line meeting, hoping to have it before the next FMIGS board meeting. Please watch for an invitation and then bring questions, concerns, and conversation! This is an opportunity for us to improve our communication with each other and the FMIGS board. Remember, there is a board meeting every month, so if you have any issues before our PD discussion, please feel free to reach out to me sooner so we can address your concerns in a timely manner.

In the meantime, the FMIGS team continues to work to update and improve the on-line case tracking system. As discussed at the annual meeting, standardized MyTipReport evaluations are now being implemented. This platform was chosen to incorporate MIGS-specific milestones which will relate to other curricular requirements. There is a fee of $200 to participate, which is required. Another curriculum addition, an FMIGS video library to supplement our required reading list, is now live on our website, [https://www.aagl.org/service/fellowships/](https://www.aagl.org/service/fellowships/). Check it out and start including it with your fellow’s reading!

Lastly, on the horizon is a request for fellows to submit their own surgical videos, focusing on specific surgical tasks. More to come on how these things all fit together to strengthen and standardize our curriculum. As we welcome a New Year, we strive to support our FMIGS learners and teachers with respect and equal opportunity for all.

Cheers and Happy 2018!
Important Dates of the 2019-2021 Fellowship Year

Program Start Date: 
July 1, 2019

Match Opens: 
June 27, 2018

Rank Order List Certification Deadline: 
September 26, 2018

Applications Available Online: 
January 1, 2018

Rank Order List Entry Opens: 
August 8, 2018

Interview Deadline: 
September 7, 2018

Application Deadline: 
June 15, 2018

HELPFUL LINKS

FPRN Home page:  http://www.sgsonline.org/fprn


Case Log Entry:  http://caselog.aagl.org/login.php