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Fellowship in Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery

Effective July 1, 2018

***PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR
FELLOWSHIP IN MINIMALLY INVASIVE GYNECOLOGIC SURGERY***

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66 **REQUIREMENTS FOR A POST-GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP IN THE SUBSPECIALTY AREA OF**
67 **MINIMALLY INVASIVE GYNECOLOGIC SURGERY**

68

69 **Introduction**

70 Fellowships in Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery (FMIGS) are intensive training
71 programs preparing the graduate for advanced minimally invasive gynecologic surgery
72 (MIGS) expertise. The FMIGS Board is a Professional Interest Partner under the auspices
73 of the AAGL and accredits all FMIGS programs.

74

75 **Mission**

76 The mission of the fellowship is to provide a uniform training program for gynecologists
77 who have completed residency in obstetrics and gynecology and desire to acquire
78 additional knowledge and surgical skills in minimally invasive gynecologic surgery (MIGS)
79 so they may: serve as a scholarly and surgical resource for patients and referring
80 physicians; have the ability to care for patients with complex gynecologic surgical disease
81 via minimally invasive techniques; establish sites that will serve a leadership role in
82 advanced endoscopic and reproductive surgery; and further research in minimally
83 invasive gynecologic surgery.

84

85 **Goals**

86 The overall goal of the fellowship is for the graduate to serve as an independent specialist
87 and consultant in the surgical management and techniques of advanced benign minimally
88 invasive gynecology at a level surpassing competence expected by completion of a
89 categorical residency.

90

91 **Fellowship Training Program Requirements**

92 The MIGS Fellowship consists of a minimum of two years of continuous education,
93 training, and research following completion of an obstetrics and gynecology residency.

94

95 **Fellowship Director**

96 The fellowship director is ultimately responsible for the design and implementation of the
97 fellowship-training program.

98

99 There must be a single fellowship director with authority and accountability for the
100 operation of the program. The sponsoring institution (e.g. Designated Institutional
101 Official, department chairperson) and the FMIGS Board must approve the fellowship
102 director.

103 1. The fellowship director must commit to his/her position for a length of time
104 adequate to maintain continuity of leadership and program stability.

105

106 The fellowship director must:

- 107 1. Surgical training and experience
- 108 a. Have documented clinical and scholarly expertise in MIGS
 - 109 b. Have educational and administrative experience
 - 110 c. Maintain current certification by the American Board of Obstetrics
111 and Gynecology or be a current Fellow of the Royal College of
112 Surgeons in Canada
 - 113 d. Have completed a fellowship in MIGS, Gynecologic Oncology (GO),
114 Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery (FPMRS) or
115 Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (REI) for any new or
116 incoming fellowship director (effective 2019)
- 117 2. Have current medical licensure and appropriate medical staff appointment
- 118 3. Have a minimum of 4 years' independent practice post-fellowship
119 experience
- 120 4. Directly supervise the education and mentoring of fellows to ensure that
121 they receive the appropriate clinical instruction and training to provide
122 safe patient care
- 123 5. Ensure that each fellow in the program undertakes and completes the
124 research requirements as described below
- 125 6. Evaluate and document the fellow's performance as described below
- 126 7. File an Annual Report with the FMIGS Board
- 127 8. Respond to any inquiry made by the FMIGS Board
- 128 9. Be an active member of the AAGL and in good standing

129

130 The fellowship director must identify at minimum one Associate Program Director with
131 defined responsibilities that includes acting on behalf of the fellowship director if he/she
132 is not available. If the fellowship director and Associate Program Director(s) are not able
133 to provide training oversight, it will be the responsibility of the sponsoring institution or
134 department to identify a qualified fellowship director who is available and willing to
135 provide the fellow with the required training. Fellowship programs can identify additional
136 Associate Program Directors for oversight at additional training sites (see below).

137

138

139

140 ***Fellowship Director Changes***

141 The FMIGS Board must approve a change in fellowship director. A letter must be sent
 142 electronically to the FMIGS office (within 30 days) and indicate the resignation of the
 143 fellowship director and the appointment of an interim fellowship director until the matter
 144 has been considered by the Board. The Board reserves the right to require additional
 145 information and/or site visit.

146

147 ***Core Faculty***

148 There must be adequate faculty with special interest, expertise, and scholarly activity
 149 related to MIGS that participate in the care of patients and the education of fellows.

150

151 **Facilities**

152 1. All MIGS fellowships (with the exception of military programs) must be affiliated
 153 with an accredited training program(s) as required by the National Resident
 154 Matching Program (NRMP; www.nrmp.org). The educational program must be
 155 sponsored by an ACGME-accredited institution or participating site.

156 2. The primary hospital facilities must be equipped to provide state-of-the-art
 157 inpatient and outpatient MIGS experiences. Office and ambulatory care facilities
 158 must also be appropriately equipped.

159 3. Clinical information systems or libraries and/or online information systems,
 160 including those relevant to the subspecialty, must be readily available as resources
 161 for patient care and clinical research at the host institution.

162 4. A breadth of skills and simulation training must be integrated into fellowship
 163 instruction.

164 5. Research support must be available.

165 6. Animal and cadaver training experiences are desirable.

166 7. A program may utilize more than one patient–care facility. If more than one site
 167 is used, there must be a Program Letter of Agreement (PLA) with the ancillary
 168 site(s) and appropriate faculty, updated every 5 years. An Associate Program
 169 Director may be designated to oversee fellow training at each ancillary site. The
 170 ancillary site(s) will receive the same approval period accredited to the program
 171 unless there are changes to the ancillary site.

172 The Program Letter of Agreement (PLA) must:

173 A) Identify the faculty and possibly Associate Program Director who will
 174 assume both educational and supervisory responsibilities for fellows

175 B) Specify responsibilities of the above faculty for teaching, supervision, and

- 176 formal evaluation of fellows
- 177 C) Specify the duration and content of the educational experience
- 178 D) Specify the fellow's responsibilities at the ancillary institution.

179

180 **Educational Objectives**

181 All Educational Objectives (<http://bit.ly/22FL2yz>) are directed toward the standardization

182 of training in minimally invasive gynecologic surgery. These objectives must be addressed

183 in a structured and systematic manner during the training period. The fellowship director

184 must ensure that fellows are provided and encouraged to complete the *FMIGS Core-*

185 *Reading List* (<http://bit.ly/21HinH2>) and surgical video curriculum

186 (<https://bit.ly/2loLPPC>).

187

188 **Curriculum**

189 1. Didactic. Education of fellows must include structured teaching conferences,

190 seminars, and didactic instruction in both basic science and clinical aspects of the

191 specialty as outlined in the Educational Objectives. The fellow's schedule and

192 responsibilities must be structured and protected (i.e. free of clinical duties) to

193 allow regular attendance at didactics, simulation training, and national

194 conferences. Fellows must have progressive teaching responsibilities for resident

195 physicians and ideally with all types of learners (e.g. medical and/or nursing

196 students).

197

198 2. Clinical. The clinical experience of inpatient and outpatient care must include a

199 sufficient number and variety of cases to fulfill the Educational Objectives.

200

201 A) The fellow must be involved with the preoperative planning and care, the

202 surgical care, and the postoperative management of surgical patients.

203 B) Surgical experience is particularly important and must be carefully

204 organized and supervised by the fellowship director and clinical faculty.

205 The fellow must be capable of performing all appropriate diagnostic and

206 therapeutic procedures relevant to the clinical practice of the subspecialty.

207 During the course of the educational program, the fellow must be

208 supervised in all clinical activities, including surgical procedures. The

209 FMIGS Surgical Competency List must be used and completed for each

210 fellow by the end of the fellowship training (see website).

211 C) Surgical procedures available for the fellow must include but are not

212 limited to: diagnostic and operative hysteroscopy, diagnostic and

- 213 operative laparoscopy, laparotomy, robotic surgery, office procedures,
214 and ambulatory procedures. Additionally, the program must ensure fellow
215 competency in vaginal hysterectomy, the management of small and large
216 bowel concerns as it relates to complex gynecologic disease, and
217 gynecologic conditions that may impact fertility (e.g., uterine septum,
218 intrauterine adhesions, and uterine leiomyomas).
- 219 D) Fellowships must ensure that graduates perform the minimum number
220 and types of surgical cases prior to graduation as specified in the case
221 minimum list available on the FMIGS page www.fmigs.org. Fellowship
222 leadership must confirm on a weekly basis that cases are being
223 appropriately entered into the case log system.
- 224 E) The majority of each fellow's clinical experience must be in benign MIGS.
225 The first-year fellowship surgical experience should be broad based, as
226 outlined in the surgical competency list (see website).
- 227 F) Programs may emphasize specific areas of specialization within MIGS (such
228 as pelvic pain) as an augmentation to the core curriculum.

229

230 **Schedule**

231 The core 2-year fellowship must be structured to show a progression in clinical and
232 teaching responsibilities during the span of the program. A weekly, monthly and yearly
233 clinical and educational schedule must be prepared for both year -1 and -2. A third year
234 of training can be approved by the FMIGS Board on a case-by-case basis but must contain
235 a unique educational experience with defined goals and objectives.

236

237 **Research**

238 1. Research Training

239 It is required that the fellow complete a minimum of one course in clinical
240 research, research design, biostatistics, or epidemiology unless the fellow has
241 documentation of previous graduate level coursework in one or more of these
242 topics or holds a graduate level degree that documents competence in the
243 required area(s). Ideally, the fellow may be given the opportunity to work towards
244 an advanced degree (e.g. MPH) or certificate in clinical research. This can be
245 accomplished in a classroom setting or through a fellowship director-approved
246 online course. The institution must provide financial support for a minimum of
247 one research-related course.

248

249

250

- 251 Research training must:
- 252 A) Provide structured translational, clinical or surgical research as applied to
 - 253 MIGS
 - 254 B) Enhance the fellow's understanding of the latest scientific surgical
 - 255 techniques
 - 256 C) Promote the fellow's academic contributions to the specialty
 - 257 D) Further the ability of the fellow to be an independent investigator

258

259 2. Research Projects

260 During training, the fellow will undertake an independent original research project
 261 approved by the fellowship director. The sequence in which research experience
 262 is integrated with clinical training will vary with each program but should be
 263 initiated in the first year of fellowship training. A research mentor who has
 264 expertise (i.e. proven track record of hypothesis-based research publications) in
 265 clinical research and is available and regularly meets with and mentors the fellow
 266 must be appointed. Under the supervision of the research mentor, the fellow
 267 must complete, by the end of his/her final academic year, at least one IRB
 268 approved (if applicable) research project relevant to minimally invasive
 269 gynecologic surgery. This research project must be an original data-driven project,
 270 meta-analysis or a systematic review that conforms to PRISMA guidelines and
 271 ultimately must be submitted for publication to a peer-reviewed journal by the
 272 end of fellowship. Writing a textbook chapter, clinical opinion review article, or
 273 production of an educational/scientific video does not meet criteria for an
 274 approved research project. It is the expectation that most fellow manuscripts will
 275 result in publication.

276 **Competencies**

277 The fellowship director will provide training and evaluate the fellow according to the
 278 following competencies: patient care-clinical and surgical skills, knowledge base, practice-
 279 based learning, communication skills, professionalism, system-based practice (see
 280 Appendix 1), teaching skills, and scholarly research project development.

281

282 **FELLOWSHIP DATES, LEAVE AND TRANSFER**

283 Each program may be approved for a maximum of 2 fellows unless an increase has been
 284 requested and granted by the FMIGS Board. An increase in fellow complement will be
 285 considered if there exists adequate surgical volume, clinical experience, and research
 286 mentorship to support this expansion and that the current fellow experience will be
 287 enhanced.

288

289 **START DATE**

290 All fellows will be required to start no later than August 1st. Later start date requests will
 291 be given individual consideration. An administrative fee will be incurred if the fellowship
 292 program is unable to start fellowship training by August 1st. If the start date is delayed for
 293 any reason, the fellow's program must still adhere to the minimum 22-month clinical
 294 training requirements as described below.

295

296 **Leave**

297 Leave may be granted to a fellow at the discretion of the Fellowship director in
 298 accordance with local policy but cannot exceed the limits listed below. Such leaves include
 299 maternity, paternity, sick, medical, vacation, funeral, personal, etc. A Fellow's travel to
 300 regional, national, or international meetings in order to attend or present research
 301 conducted during the program or travel to attend other program-approved educational
 302 activities should be counted as an educational endeavor and not as a leave.

303

304 In keeping with the minimum of 22-month clinical training requirement to graduate from
 305 the Fellowship Training, a fellow is allowed:

- 306 • Up to 6 weeks in the first year;
- 307 • Up to 6 weeks in the second year;
- 308 • Not to exceed a total of 8 weeks over the entire 2 years.

309

310 If a fellow's absence from a program exceeds the maximum amount of leave time allowed
 311 in any given year or for the entirety of the program, the expected completion date must
 312 be extended for the duration of time in excess of the maximum leave. This extension must
 313 not detract from the experience of the other fellows in the program.

314 **Transfer Policy**

315 A fellow may transfer from one FMIGS- program to another. To approve the transfer, the
 316 FMIGS Board must receive:

- 317 a) A letter from the fellow requesting the transfer
- 318 b) A letter from the current Fellowship Director:
 - 319 i) Approving the transfer
 - 320 ii) Outlining the number of months the fellow successfully completed and the
 321 date the fellow will leave the program
 - 322 iii) Describing the rotations completed
 - 323 iv) Assessing the level of competency to date
- 324 c) A letter from the Program Director of the potential (new) program:

- 325 i) Approving the transfer
 326 ii) Outlining the dates the fellow is expected to commence and complete the
 327 program

328 The fellow must still meet the 22-month clinical training requirement even if portions of
 329 that interval are spent in more than one location. If the approved total fellow positions
 330 will be exceeded at any time due to a transfer, an increase must be approved prior to the
 331 transfer occurring.

332

333 **Requirements for Graduation**

334 Upon successful completion of the fellowship, each fellow will receive a certificate of
 335 completion from the FMIGS Board. If these requirements have not been met by
 336 graduation, certification will be withheld until all requirements are fulfilled.

337

338 Requirements for graduation will include:

- 339 1. Satisfactory clinical and surgical training as outlined by the FMIGS Board
 340 2. Completion of an original research project as described above.
 341 3. Submit a scientific contribution to a national or international meeting. The
 342 contribution can be a video, oral or poster presentation.
 343 4. Completion of at least twenty-two months of training.
 344 5. When available, completion of the AAGL Essentials in Minimally Invasive
 345 Gynecology Program.

346

347 **EVALUATIONS**

348 The fellows, faculty, and program must be evaluated. All of the evaluations performed
 349 must be documented in writing, and evidence must be available upon request by the
 350 FMIGS Board.

351

352 ***Fellow Evaluations***

353 The Fellowship Director must formally evaluate a fellow's progress. Assessment must
 354 include the regular and timely feedback to the fellow that includes the evaluations of
 355 knowledge, skills, research, and professional growth using appropriate criteria and
 356 procedures.

357

358 **Formative Evaluation** The supervising faculty must regularly evaluate fellow
 359 performance in a timely manner after clinical or surgical encounters and document this
 360 evaluation, using a template such as Mytip report (when available). Additionally,

361

362 1. The Program Director must perform an evaluation on each fellow at least every
363 six months. The evaluation must:

364 • Provide objective assessments of competence in patient care, medical
365 knowledge, practice-based learning and improvement, interpersonal and
366 communication skills, professionalism, and systems-based practice

367 • Use multiple evaluators (i.e. faculty, patients, self, and other professional staff)

368

369 • Document progressive fellow performance improvement appropriate to
370 education level

371 2. **Summative Evaluation** The Program Director must perform a summative
372 evaluation on each fellow at the completion of the fellowship. This may replace
373 the final semi-annual evaluation. The evaluation must:

374 • Document the fellow's performance during the final period of education

375 • Verify that the fellow has demonstrated sufficient competence to practice
376 without direct supervision

377

378

379 ***Faculty Evaluation***

380 The performance of each faculty member must be evaluated at least annually by:

381 • Each fellow – Must be written (typically electronic) and confidential

382 • The program – Must include a review of the faculty's clinical teaching abilities,
383 commitment to the educational program, clinical knowledge, professionalism,
384 and scholarly activities.

385

386 ***Program Evaluation***

387 A meeting to discuss the educational and research mentoring effectiveness of the
388 program and the curriculum must be held at least annually. The Fellowship Director,
389 program faculty, and at least one fellow must attend the meeting. The discussion of the
390 issues must be documented and the results used to improve the program.

391 During the evaluation process, the attendees must consider:

392 • Written comments by faculty and fellows

393 • Fellow performance

394 • Faculty performance

395 • The most recent GME report of the sponsoring institution (if applicable or
396 available)

- 397 • When available, performance of graduates on the EMIG Written Examinations
- 398 (at least 70% pass rate for first-time takers of the last five exams)
- 399 • Any additional material that can be used to judge the achievement of the
- 400 program's educational objectives

401

402 **INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT**

403 The fellowship director must provide evidence of institutional commitment to support
 404 the fellowship. This is to include financial support, clinical environment for education and
 405 adequate research facilities to fulfill FMIGS requirements for a fellowship program in
 406 MIGS.

407

408 **POLICIES**

409 **Anti-Harassment Policy**

410 All faculty involved with fellowship training must be in compliance with AAGL Anti-
 411 Harassment policy (<https://bit.ly/2H9FV53>) and the program director must indicate such
 412 agreement and compliance with the Anti-Harassment policy in the annual report. If an
 413 Anti-Harassment complaint is brought by a trainee, it shall be addressed as set forth in
 414 the AAGL Anti-Harassment policy referenced above, pursued and acted upon by the AAGL
 415 Board. In the event of a finding of violation, appropriate action could include remedial
 416 and/or disciplinary action, and/or termination as a fellowship director or as core faculty.
 417 All program directors and associate program directors must complete sensitivity training
 418 every other year and document compliance in the annual report.

419

420 **Grievance Policy**

421 Fellows that are concerned about their training experience may contact the FMIGS
 422 grievance committee and are referred to the FMIGS Grievance Policy on the FMIGS
 423 website. If a formal grievance is waged, it will be pursued and acted by the AAGL
 424 Grievance Committee and/or the FMIGS Grievance Committee.

425 *Disciplinary Action / Due Process*

426

427 **Types of Disciplinary Actions**

428 Official disciplinary actions are probation, non-reappointment, or termination. In general,
 429 disciplinary action should follow the due process identified by the primary training site as
 430 is commonly distributed by the Department of Graduate Education. If any type of
 431 disciplinary action is taken, the FMIGS Board must be notified. The FMIGS Board requires
 432 the following sequence:

433 Evaluation and feedback

434 The fellow must be advised about deficiencies and the expectations for improvement
435 must be clearly delineated. This must occur every semi-annual evaluation, but also may
436 occur in an interval meeting if needed. The ability to provide useful feedback is contingent
437 upon regularly completed written evaluations of the trainee. The fellowship director
438 needs to provide clear guidance to the training faculty as to the types and frequencies of
439 evaluations expected from them. Verbal feedback from a faculty member to the
440 fellowship director regarding a trainee, either positive or negative, must be followed up
441 with a written communication for the trainee's file.

442

443 Warning

444 When a trainee has been advised about deficiencies but fails to make sufficient
445 improvement, he/she may be warned that continued lack of improvement may result in
446 probation. This information must be provided to the trainee in person and in writing.

447

448 Probation

449 Clearly suboptimal academic and/or clinical performance may warrant probation. The
450 action must be explained to the fellow in person and in writing. Expectations for
451 improvement, the methods for evaluating improvement, the anticipated duration of
452 probation, and possible future actions must be delineated. The trainee must be advised
453 that his/her academic file is always available for review and that he/she may appeal the
454 decision. The trainee should be offered counseling. A sample probationary letter is
455 available from the FMIGS Board but is subject to local variation.

456

457 Non-reappointment/Termination

458 A trainee's failure to remediate suboptimal academic and/or clinical performance may
459 warrant a decision not to reappoint the trainee at the end of the current training year, or,
460 in unusual circumstances, to terminate the contract immediately. The action must be
461 explained to the fellow member in person and in writing. As with a probationary letter,
462 the trainee must be advised that his/her academic file is always available for review and
463 that he/she may appeal the decision. The trainee must be offered counseling. A sample
464 non-reappointment or termination letter is available from the FMIGS Board but is subject
465 to local variation.

466

467 Termination without an intervening period of probation should be reserved for a serious
468 deviation from acceptable academic and clinical performance (e.g., dereliction of duty)
469 that endangers patient care.

470

471 The Purpose of Disciplinary Actions

472 The objective of academic discipline is remediation. Thus, the terms of probation should
473 always be carefully devised to ensure that the trainee has the opportunity to attain the
474 desired improvement and that methods for evaluating that improvement are robust and
475 as objective as possible.

476

477 Timing issues

478 A probationary period must be long enough to permit a thorough evaluation of progress.
479 Except in unusual circumstances, a period of at least 3-4 months is required. The date on
480 which the trainee's status will be reconsidered should be picked in light of possible future
481 actions, such as non-reappointment, so that ideally the trainee will have ample
482 opportunity to find a different training program before the end of his/her training year.
483 Alternatively, if a trainee's lack of progress requires a period of probation late in the
484 training year, there should be consideration of extending the current training year until a
485 decision regarding adequacy of remediation can be made.

486

487 *Accreditation of Fellowship Programs*

488 All new fellowship programs must apply to the FMIGS Board. Programs that have
489 demonstrated compliance with the fellowship standards receive accreditation for one or
490 more years.

491

492 Fellowship programs will be evaluated continuously on their compliance with the
493 program requirements. If a program is found to have areas of non-compliance
494 (deficiencies or areas of concern), the FMIGS Board will list these citations, and expect
495 the program to come into compliance in the time period designated. Based on the
496 number, severity and/or persistence of these citations, a program may be given a
497 warning, placed on probation or accreditation may be withdrawn. Fellowships on
498 probation may not recruit for fellows and must notify the current fellows. Please see the
499 FMIGS Accreditation and Review Policy on the website for more details.

500

501 If there are any significant changes in the program (e.g. change in the number of fellow
502 positions, fellowship director, key faculty members, patient volume and procedures;
503 changes in clinical sites or closure of major research programs), the FMIGS Board must be
504 notified electronically within 30 days (fmigs@aagl.org).

505

506 ***Duty Hours***

507 The FMIGS Board expects the ACGME Guidelines regarding Duty Hours to be considered.
508 Detailed information can be accessed at: <https://bit.ly/2Jw2zZr>.

509 Policies and procedures related to duty hours for fellows must be distributed to the
510 fellows and faculty and the program must:

- 511 1. Monitor according to the program policy, with a frequency sufficient to
512 ensure compliance
- 513 2. Monitor the demands of day, night, OB (if applicable), moonlighting and/or
514 at-home call and intervene as necessary to mitigate excessive service
515 and/or fatigue
- 516 3. Monitor the need for and ensure the provision of back up support systems
517 for patient care

518 ***Stipend and Benefits***

519 Fellows must be provided a stipend which must be at the minimum equivalent to a PGY-
520 5 or -6 housestaff officer in the geographic region of the program. Candidates invited for
521 an interview are to be informed, in writing or by electronic means, of the terms,
522 conditions, and benefits of their appointment, including stipend and other financial
523 support; vacations; parental, sick and other leaves of absence.

524

525 The following benefits are required:

- 526 1. The fellowship must provide fellows with health, disability and professional
527 liability coverage at all sites and all pertinent information regarding this coverage.
528 Liability coverage must include legal defense and protection against awards from
529 claims reported or filed after the completion of the program(s) if the alleged acts
530 or omissions of the fellows are within the scope of the program(s). Specify if
531 liability coverage is provided for external rotations/electives. Research associated
532 costs (IRB, equipment, publication) must be covered.

533

534 The program must inform the candidate about whether or not the following
535 recommended benefits are provided:

- 536 1. 1. Travel to the Global Congress of the AAGL
- 537 2. Certification as console surgeon for robotically-assisted laparoscopy
- 538 3. AAGL Essentials in Minimally Invasive Gynecology (EMIG) examination fee when
539 available

540 It is the expectation that programs will not require their fellows to sign a non-compete
541 agreement or restrictive covenant. If the program does require a restrictive covenant

542 clause, they must notify both the FMIGS Board and notify (in writing) all applicants before
543 an initial interview is scheduled.

544 Application Process

545 The FMIGS Board actively encourages applications from Obstetrician-Gynecologist
546 physicians aspiring to develop their surgical skills in MIGS. The deadline dates for the
547 application process are based upon the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP).
548 Please see our website for details of the deadline dates. Application will be available
549 online at the Fellowship webpage, www.fmigs.org.

550

551 Applications for programs interested in becoming a fellowship training site, are also
552 available on the Fellowship webpage, www.fmigs.org, or by contacting the Fellowship
553 Administrative Assistant at the Fellowship office.

554

555 Match

556 The Fellowship match is conducted through an objective computer matching program
557 (NRMP). Programs and applicants are required to use the match process. No candidate
558 can be offered a position outside the NRMP match without prior approval from the FMIGS
559 Board. If a fellowship program intends to accept a specific candidate outside the match
560 (e.g. graduating resident from their program), they must contact the FMIGS NRMP
561 representative, obtain FMIGS Board approval for the match waiver and avoid subjecting
562 other candidates to the unnecessary burdens of interviewing.

563

564 The match provides a uniform time for both applicants and fellowship programs to make
565 selection decisions without coercion, undue or unwarranted pressure. Both applicants
566 and fellowship programs may express their interest in each other; however, they shall not
567 solicit verbal or written statements implying a commitment. Applicants shall at all times
568 be free to keep confidential the names or identities of programs to which they have or
569 may apply. Any violations will be addressed by the FMIGS Board and will be subject to
570 consequences as determined by the FMIGS Board.

571

572 Further Information

573 For further inquiries, please contact the FMIGS Administrative Assistant:

574 6757 Katella Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630-5105 USA.

575 Ph: (800) 554-2245 or (714) 503-6200 • Fax: (714) 503-6202

576 E-mail: fmigs@aagl.org • Web Site: www.aagl.org

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579 **Appendix 1: Competencies**

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581 1. Patient Care

582 Fellows must be able to provide patient care that is compassionate, appropriate,
583 and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health.

584 Fellows must demonstrate competence in:

585 A) Evaluating a patient's complaint, providing an accurate examination,
586 employing appropriate diagnostic tests, arriving at a correct diagnosis, and
587 recommending the appropriate treatment

588 B) The essential areas of benign gynecology including:

- 589 • normal physiology of reproductive tract
- 590 • gynecologic management during pregnancy
- 591 • gynecologic surgery and complications management
- 592 • management of critically ill patients
- 593 • gynecologic pathology
- 594 • the full range of commonly employed diagnostic procedures, including
595 ultrasonography, Computed Tomographic (CT) Magnetic Resonance
596 Imaging (MRI) and other relevant imaging techniques

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598 2. Medical Knowledge

599 Fellows must demonstrate knowledge of established and evolving medical,
600 clinical, epidemiological and social-behavioral sciences, as well as the application
601 of this knowledge to patient care.

602 Fellows must demonstrate knowledge in:

603 A) Reproductive health care, diagnosis, management, consultation, and
604 referral

605 B) The fundamentals of basic science as applied to MIGS

606 C) Applied surgical anatomy and pathology

607 D) Basics of risk-benefit analysis, epidemiology, statistics, data collection and
608 management, and use of medical literature and assessment of its value

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614 3. Practice-based Learning and Improvement

615 Fellows must demonstrate the ability to investigate and evaluate their care of
 616 patients, to appraise and assimilate scientific evidence, and to continuously
 617 improve patient care based on constant self-evaluation and life-long learning.
 618 Fellows are expected to develop skills and habits to be able to meet the following
 619 goals:

- 620 A) Identify strengths, deficiencies, and limits in one's knowledge and
 621 expertise
- 622 B) Set learning and improvement goals
- 623 C) Identify and perform appropriate learning activities
- 624 D) Systematically analyze practice using quality improvement methods, and
 625 implement changes with the goal of practice improvement
- 626 E) Incorporate formative evaluation feedback into daily practice
- 627 F) Locate, appraise, and assimilate evidence from scientific studies related to
 628 their patient's health problems
- 629 G) Use information technology to optimize learning
- 630 H) Participate in the education of patients, families, students, residents and
 631 other health professionals

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633 4. Interpersonal and Communication Skills

634 Fellows must demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in
 635 the effective exchange of information and collaboration with patients, their
 636 families, and health professionals.

637 Fellows are expected to:

- 638 A) Communicate effectively with patients, families, and the public, as
 639 appropriate, across a broad range of socioeconomic and cultural
 640 backgrounds
- 641 B) Communicate effectively with physicians, other health professionals, and
 642 health related agencies
- 643 C) Work effectively as a member or leader of a health care team or other
 644 professional group
- 645 D) Act in a consultative role to other physicians and health professionals;
- 646 E) Maintain comprehensive, timely, and legible medical records, if applicable
- 647 F) Have the fundamentals of good medical history taking and thoughtful,
 648 meticulous physical examination

649 5. Professionalism

650 Fellows must demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional
651 responsibilities and an adherence to ethical principles. Fellows are expected to
652 demonstrate:

- 653 A) Compassion, integrity, and respect for others
- 654 B) Responsiveness to patient needs that supersedes self-interest
- 655 C) Respect for patient privacy and autonomy
- 656 D) Accountability to patients, society and the profession
- 657 E) Sensitivity and responsiveness to a diverse patient population, including
658 but not limited to diversity in gender, age, culture, race, religion,
659 disabilities, and sexual orientation
- 660 F) Ethics and medical jurisprudence

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662 6. Systems-based Practice

663 Fellows must demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger
664 context and system of health care, as well as the ability to call effectively on other
665 resources in the system to provide optimal health care.

666 Fellows are expected to:

- 667 A) Work effectively in various health care delivery settings and systems
668 relevant to their clinical specialty
- 669 B) Coordinate patient care within the health care system relevant to their
670 clinical specialty
- 671 C) Incorporate considerations of cost awareness and risk-benefit analysis in
672 patient and/or population-based care as appropriate
- 673 D) Advocate for quality patient care and optimal patient care systems
- 674 E) Work in inter-professional teams to enhance patient safety and improve
675 patient care quality
- 676 F) Participate in identifying system errors and implementing potential
677 systems solutions

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