February is Black History Month and March is Women’s History Month. As I pondered a topic for the first President’s Address article of 2021, I kept coming back to the reality of 2020 juxtaposed with my hopes for 2021. While we can identify hidden gems from the past year, the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on our lives, our communities, and our patient’s lives has been both profound and tragic. This reality disproportionately impacts communities of color and women who have been forced to withdraw from careers to negotiate the challenges of on-line child education. As we look to a new year, we are buoyed by the promise of a vaccinated majority, but we again see that early vaccine distribution is missing both high risk communities of color and “low risk” stay at home mothers.

The burgeoning Black Lives Matter movement with its calls for police reform, the rise of white nationalism, national isolationism, and the increasing polarization of American politics highlights the imperative of a national reckoning and healing.

The process of reconciliation and healing is a bottom-up phenomenon. As individuals we can identify and confront our unconscious bias’s and actively strive to be antiracist and inclusive in our daily lives. As institutions of higher learning, we can make changes to diversify recruitment, promote research that focuses on underrepresented minorities (URMs), and develop robust curricula that shine a light on our historic failures and promotes an equitable future. As organizations we can partner with like-minded organizations to magnify our powerful collective voice for the causes of inclusion and diversity, anti-harassment (https://www.aagl.org/)
anti-harassment/), antiracism, and science. When influential organizations begin to leverage their influence on a larger stage, we will begin to see the effects on our national consciousness.

I am immensely proud to be an AAGL member and am humbled to be this year's FMIGS president. Our organization led the development of the joint statement “Obstetrics and Gynecology: Collective Action Addressing Racism,” published in August 2020 (https://www.aagl.org/press-releases-statements/joint-statement-collective-action-addressing-racism/) and the board’s Diversity and Inclusion Committee has been active on numerous fronts.

In our final months of 2020, the FMIGS board surveyed new fellow applicants and fellowship programs for feedback on last year’s virtual interviews. Participants overwhelming cited the convenience of the process and felt that by eliminating the financial burden of travel the process became more accessible and inclusive. During our first fellowship board meeting this year, we voted to decrease unconscious bias in our fellow applications by removing personal headshots until after interview invitations are sent. We also began discussing ways to assess the impact of our fellowship on MIGS care in URM communities.

Perhaps most exciting is the work being done by our Young Alumni Network (YAN) as highlighted in our October 2020 newsletter. Take the time to go back and re-read their letter to the board (https://aagl.sharefile.com/share/view/s788ff64bb3c4b33a) along with the board’s supportive response (https://aagl.sharefile.com/share/view/s9f17ba2f2c64fddb).

February is Black History Month and March is Women’s History Month - let’s take this opportunity as a community of FMIGS programs to identify areas where we can each actively honor that history. Let the board know how we can continue working towards a more representative organization. If we do the work now, when we finally emerge from the pandemic, we will be stronger, more inclusive, and more reflective of the world we want for our children.

Jim Robinson
Fellows’ Corner

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your fellow representative. It is with great honor and privilege that I accept this position and I am looking forward to working together over the next two years. An enormous thank you to Jim Casey who was a tremendous leader, mentor and advocate with big shoes to fill! We appreciate your hard work the past two years.

Congratulations to the newly matched fellowship Class of 2023! Welcome to the FMIGS Family! Looking forward to meeting you all in person (hopefully soon). Also, kudos to everyone who skillfully navigated the very first round of virtual fellowship interviews. We appreciate your patience as we strive to improve this process. Your insightful feedback from the survey and town hall will be incorporated into this upcoming interview season to benefit both the interviewees and FMIGS programs.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic we were unable to meet in person for the annual fellows’ town hall at Boot Camp and AAGL. However, the virtual town hall in December 2020 was well attended and thank you to everyone who actively participated. The FMIGS board incorporated your feedback and made several changes, specifically changes which prioritize fellow education in the virtual world. We recognize the need for protected time for online lectures and virtual conferences and our policies now reflect this commitment to education. Stay tuned for upcoming Spring webinars on life after fellowship and how to begin the job search.

Lastly, I encourage everyone to look back on the past 12 months and recognize all you overcame amidst public health, political, racial and economic crises. Be proud of your successes and humbled by the journey. In medicine there is the intense pressure to move forward and overcome but pausing to reflect is critical for coping. When you are ready to look forward, focus on how you want to learn and grow as a surgeon in the next six months (which for some of you is your last six months of training – exciting!). Make actionable goals and communicate your objectives to your program directors to maximize your progress. FMIGS and AAGL support you and are invested in your happiness and success! Let us know how we can help. Please reach out with any concerns, feedback, or ideas for improvement. I am your advocate, resource, mentor, problem solver, friend and peer! - Foley
Greetings PDs and APDs!

Well, here we are! 2021 has arrived and with it, the hope of a new era where we can start looking forward to some return to normalcy. We now have secured 600M vaccine doses in the US, new administration in Washington working hard to help advance efforts to combat the virus, and we are looking forward to full OR schedules soon.

The FMIGS Board and the AAGL are working very hard to ensure fellows continue to have access to the best educational content through webinars, Bootcamp and the upcoming Global Congress in Austin. Let’s all take advantage of these opportunities and make some lemonade!!!!

Hoping to see you all soon and have our very first in person, PD/APD meeting in Austin.

Jamal Mourad, DO


Hello, 2021!
In 2019, the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) approved the creation of a focused-practice designation within ABOG for Minimally-Invasive Gynecologic Surgery. This designation is meant to recognize ABOG Diplomates who have additional surgical expertise and dedicate a significant percentage of their practice to benign and complex gynecologic diseases. Those awarded the designation will find their annual MOC (Maintenance of Certification) with ABOG more focused, relevant, and pertinent to a practice dedicated to MIGS. What this designation is NOT is a subspecialty board certification such as GO, REI, FPMRS, and MFM. Instead, it follows the same path that Peds & Adolescent Gynecology became a recognized designation in 2018.

This Spring marks the inauguration of this effort. Interested board-certified ob/gyns may apply to take the computer-based exam in May of 2021. The exam will be conducted at Pearson VUE national centers from May 3-7 and is expected to be 100 multiple-choice questions conducted over 2.5 hours. The content of the exam, per ABOG, is:

- General perioperative management (20%)
- Postoperative complications, diagnosis and management (5%)
- Principles of energy, equipment, tissue extraction (5%)
- Gyn conditions eval and management (bleeding, pain, benign adnexal masses, benign uterine conditions) (20%)
- Surgical procedures (hysterectomy, laparoscopy, hysteroscopy) (40%)
- Neoplasia (5%)
- Cross content (ethics, professionalism, interpersonal/communication skills (5%)}
To be eligible for the exam, candidates must have:

1. Minimum of 3 years of practice focused on MIGS (MIGS fellowship can count for 2 of these)
2. Minimum of 20 Category 1 CME in MIGS (or any gyn subspecialty) in the past 3 years.
3. Minimum of 100 MIGS procedures in 12 consecutive months. Candidate must have been the Primary Surgeon and cannot include fellowship cases.
4. Apply by March 30, 2021 (but will be offered annually) and submit the $200 application fee.
5. ABOG board-certification

Qualifying MIGs procedures, with their minimums, include:

- 20 - MIS hysterectomy (Laparoscopic, Robotic, Vaginal or LAVH)
- 20 - Other Laparoscopy (Myomectomy, Adnexal surgery, Stage III/IV endo)
- 10 - Hysteroscopy (Myomectomy, Septum, Isthmocele, Endometrial Resection, Office-based)

= 100 Total cases over 12 consecutive months (from 1/1/18-12/31/20)

Applicants must list their TOTAL NUMBER from each category on their application. No specific case information is required.

To apply and get more information, visit the ABOG website: [https://www.abog.org/maintenance-of-certification/focused-practice-designation/minimally-invasive-gynecologic-surgery/overview](https://www.abog.org/maintenance-of-certification/focused-practice-designation/minimally-invasive-gynecologic-surgery/overview)

We are pleased to inform you of an exciting opportunity! AAGL has developed **NEW** educational materials, “*Essentials in Minimally Invasive Surgery (EMIG) Didactics*” to assist practicing physicians and subspecialty fellows in the performance of basic and advanced endoscopic surgery. The EMIG Didactic has 12 modules with 81 teaching lessons available for **$375!** (members).

At the conclusion of the EMIG Didactic, you will gain a better understanding of the fundamentals of endoscopic surgery and minimum standards for cognitive and technical skills used in performing endoscopic gynecologic procedures.
Join our monthly events!
#JMIGVisualAbstracts
2nd Sunday #JMIGPodcasts
3rd Wed & Thurs #JMIGjc Twitter Journal Club
Have you seen our new social media events?
#TakeHomeTuesdays
#FotoFridays Authors’ spotlights

APPLY TO BE A JMIG SCHOLAR TODAY!
DEADLINE MARCH 15 2021

Link to apply:
JMIG SoMe Scholar Application
Email: jmigsocialmedia@gmail.com

We would like to recognize Dr. Emad Mikhail for his contribution as a JMIG Social Media Scholar who recently completed his term this year. He was a vital member of our social media team over the last 2 years and brought to life #JMIGVisualAbstracts.

THANK YOU!

Get involved with JMIG!
Host a journal club.
Get featured as an author.
Discuss your study in our podcast.
Email us: jmigsocialmedia@gmail.com
Young Alumni Network Update

Happy 2021 from the Young Alumni Network (YAN)!

I am sure everyone joins me in the sentiment of hope that this year leads to positive change in many regards. I am honored to be taking over as the Chair of YAN and hope to continue to build upon the amazing work that YAN has already achieved. We are currently conducting elections for committee representatives so stay tuned for these to be announced in the near future!

YAN is proud to be supporting AAGL’s anti-racism initiative with projects including: the creation of a webpage resource for anti-racism literature, development of a survey focused on unconscious bias, and proposing a post-graduate course on the impacts of unconscious bias on healthcare and training of underrepresented minorities. Additionally, as part of the MIGS on the Mic podcast series, a two-part episode entitled “Exploring Racism Through the Eyes of Black Surgeons” has been published and is currently available. It is excellent and I would highly recommend that you take the time to listen to this episode in particular!

The 2020 AAGL YAN post-graduate course entitled “Climb or Fall? Reaching New Heights While Navigating a Surgical Academic Career” was well attended and received positive reviews. We are hoping to host another PG-course at AAGL 2021. With SGS moving their annual meeting to June, we are currently in the process of planning the YAN lecture that will occur at the SGS meeting. If you have topic suggestions, please contact me at eckera@ohsu.edu.

Another exciting project that was developed in 2020 and will launch this year, is YAN “office hours.” These will be quarterly, virtual events presenting various educational topics and creating a forum for brainstorming and networking among new FMIIs graduates. Stay tuned for the dates which will be announced in the near future!

This is just a sampling of our many activities. If you are an FMIIs graduate in your first 5 years of practice and there is some way that we can help support you, please feel free to reach out. That is what our organization is designed for! If you are a member of another AAGL committee and there is a project that you need help with, please consider YAN as we have many eager volunteers wanting to get more involved within AAGL!

Stay healthy and well,

Amanda Ecker, MD (Class of 2015)
Fellow Research Update

We are excited to announce the reestablishment of the FMIGS-SGS Subgroup of the FPRN! The Fellows’ Pelvic Research Network (FPRN) is a fellow-led multi-center research network that has been in operation since 2007 under the sponsorship of the Society of Gynecologic Surgeons (SGS). The FPRN has a long history of promoting fellow research, providing the resources and support to conduct studies at multiple sites. Each year, fellows are invited to submit potential research projects to the FPRN for consideration. Impactful and well-designed studies that would benefit from multi-center participation are presented at the SGS Annual Scientific Meeting and voted on by a group of peers and faculty advisors. Selected studies work together with a fellow-led Steering Committee and Faculty Advisors to execute their study during fellowship. This process has resulted in a number of high-quality research publications by AUGS fellows. The FMIGS-SGS Subgroup of the FPRN provides an opportunity for FMIGS fellows to take advantage of this network, collaborating with other FMIGS fellows across the country.

We will be conducting our first fellowship-wide FMIGS-SGS Subgroup of the FPRN meeting virtually next month! All fellows are invited to participate as we discuss current projects and new proposals. The meeting is an opportunity for all fellows to learn from one another’s research, provide input on study design and vote on new proposals. The meeting will be led by our excellent Steering Committee Members, Olga Muldoon, Kate Chaves, Courtney Fox, Anna Zelivianskaia and Ghadear Shukr. Stay tuned for a date soon. We look forward to sharing this resource with you all!

To learn more about the network, existing projects and research tips, please visit: https://www.sgsonline.org/fmigs-sgs-subgroup-of-fprn.

Sincerely,

Nisse V. Clark, MD MPH
FMIGS Research Committee Chair
MIGS Job Postings

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center - GYN Surgeon

The General Division of Obstetrics and Gynecology seeks an outstanding gynecologic surgeon for a full-time position. This is an exciting opportunity to expand the Department’s gynecologic services in a newly opening multidisciplinary outpatient office with attached surgical center. Ideal candidates are board certified or eligible physicians with fellowship training in minimally invasive surgery or equivalent experience who are interested in resident surgical education and direct patient care in an academic center. Members of the General Division supervise resident continuity clinics, the gynecology teaching service, and provide in hospital gynecologic consultation. Additionally, they have an active role in medical student education. Current faculty includes two specialists in minimally invasive surgery. Other expertise includes family planning, vulvar disease, menopause, pediatric and adolescent gynecology, and breastfeeding.

The Wexner Medical Center at Ohio State University is a tertiary care center with planned opening of a new hospital facility in 2025. The Ohio State University College of Medicine graduates 200 medical students per year. The Ob/Gyn residency program is integrated with the Mount Carmel Medical System and trains 11 residents per year.

Interested candidates should send a cover letter expressing their academic interests and a copy of their curriculum vitae to:

Tiffany Bauman, Faculty & Physician Recruitment
The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center
Lisa Keder, MD, Vice-Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
tiffany.bauman@osumc.edu
lisa.keder@osumc.edu

Women's Health Connecticut

GYN only group looking to add 3rd MD to practice of 2 MD (one MIGS trained) and 3 APP in greater New Haven area in CT. General GYN interest a must. Very supportive group for new fellowship grad. Opportunities to operate with residents at nearby large academic institution.
Contact: Amanda B. Rostkowski, MD, PhD
Email: arostkowski@womenshealthct.com

Little Rock

CHI St. Vincent Urogynecology Clinic

Little Rock group looking to expand (2 urogyns and 2 APNs) and add an MIS colleague.
Contact: Sallie Oliphant, MD
E-mail: sallieoliphant@gmail.com
412-480-9664
The Department of Medical and Surgical Gynecology at Mayo Clinic in Phoenix, Arizona, is seeking a full-time, minimally invasive gynecologic surgeon. The Department of Gynecology consists of seven board-certified physicians providing care to a rich patient mix involving regional, national, and international patients. All Gyn sub-specialties, including Medical Gynecology, MIGS, Urogynecology, and Gynecologic Oncology are represented in the department. We are also excited to be launching our Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility practice in 2021. The department also supports Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine medical students, residents through ACGME accredited training programs, four fellows through AAGL/FMIGS, and one research fellow.

We are seeking to hire an academic gynecologist who possesses strong interest in research and clinical expertise in one or more of the following focus areas:

- Complex Pelvic Pain
- Endometriosis
- Uterine Fibroids
- Abnormal/Dysfunctional Uterine Bleeding
- Female Sexual Health
- Fellow, Resident, and Medical Student Education
- Innovative Practice Models

The Department of Medical and Surgical Gynecology has a diverse and challenging referral practice. Care is provided through a network of procedural and disease-based focus groups in collaboration with physician assistants. Research endeavors are well supported by strong departmental and institutional resources, including a Center for Clinical and Translational Science Activities as well as the Center for the Science of Health Care Delivery. No obstetrical coverage will be required for this position.

For more information and to apply, visit https://jobs.mayoclinic.org/jobs/minimally-invasive-gynecologic-surgeon-146917r. You may also contact Dr. Megan Wasson at wasson.megan@mayo.edu

We are seeking a Full-Time Gynecologist to join a busy private practice in Scottsdale, Arizona

Practice Highlights:
Gynecology only
Office, Ambulatory Care Center and Hospital all on one campus
Focus on Gyn minimally invasive procedures as well as all aspects of Gyn care
Support of the largest primary care base in the region
Dedicated physician liaison to introduce you to referring physicians, specialists, and colleagues
Collegial supportive relationship with hospital administration

Compensation & Benefits:
Standardized provider contract with first year base guarantee
Company paid malpractice insurance
Company health insurance and retirement plan

Required Qualifications: Must be board certified/eligible, Eligible to receive unrestricted medical license in Arizona
No visa assistance available

Please email your CV to Admin@GynToday.com
May also call GynToday 480-291-6600