

Dear Colleagues:

Over the past several months, the bylaws that govern the AAGL have been thoroughly assessed and updated through an interactive process involving the AAGL Attorney, Board of Directors, and Bylaws Committee. Most amendments to the Bylaws involved increasing clarity and consistency throughout the document. The following amendments have been approved and are presented to you for your vote.

1. Consistency: *Article IV: Rights and Privileges of Membership* was amended to agree with *Article VII: Elected Officers*, where it states that Regular members in good standing may be elected to the AAGL Board of Directors.
2. Relevance: Removal of *Article VII, Appointed Officers, International Secretary position*. This position was added to the Bylaws in 2020 to ensure international representation on the AAGL Board of Directors. The Board has evolved organically with international members serving in multiple positions on the Board, including the Executive Committee. As such, requiring such a position is no longer relevant.
3. Added: *Article VII, Other Appointed Officers* was added to allow the Board flexibility to appoint additional non-voting officers it deems necessary and proscribe written rules pertaining to the role and function of those officers.
4. Consistency: Honorary Members are respected positions of distinction in AAGL. *Article IV: Rights and Privileges of Membership, Honorary Membership*, was amended to allow Honorary Members to vote and serve on committees.
5. Relevance: Gender neutral pronouns were added throughout the document.
6. Consistency: *Article VII Appointed Officers* and *Article VIII Executive Committee* were amended to agree that the Medical Director and Executive Director are members of the Executive Committee.
7. Redundancy: Removed *Article IX, Section 6, point D* since it is already described in *Article VI, Section 4*.
8. Relevance: *Article XII Committees*: Under the guidance of the AAGL attorney, details about our committees were removed from the bylaws to allow greater flexibility in defining committees based on the evolving needs of the Association.

The original version of the AAGL Bylaws and the **complete, amended Bylaws version with change highlights** are available for your full review. **Please submit your vote by September 30, 2024.**

I would like to thank the following members of the Bylaws Committee for their time and effort towards this important endeavor of internal assessment: Amy Broach, Humberto Dionisi, Jose Tony Carugno and Barbara Levy.

Sincerely,

Arlene Song, MD

Chair, AAGL Bylaws Committee