

Connecting Innovation, Education, and Collaboration Across Borders

Shin Takenaka

From the operating room in Japan to the AAGL stage where I was honored with the Jordan M. Phillips Award in 2023, my career has been driven by a single belief: innovation and collaboration can transform women's surgical care worldwide. As a gynecologic oncologist and minimally invasive surgeon, I have dedicated myself to making surgery safer, more precise, and more accessible—while mentoring the next generation of surgeons.

My vision for the AAGL is to further strengthen its role as the global leader in minimally invasive gynecologic surgery by connecting innovation, education, and collaboration—particularly across the Pacific Rim, India, and Asia.

Technological advances such as artificial intelligence, advanced imaging, and robotics are not just tools—they are catalysts for safer surgery and objective skill assessment. In my own work, I have developed AI-based surgical navigation and skill evaluation systems to assist intraoperative decision-making and reduce complications. I believe AAGL can integrate these emerging technologies into its educational programs, ensuring members stay at the forefront of the next generation of surgical practice.

Equally important is making education inclusive and accessible. In many parts of Asia and the Pacific, disparities in training opportunities persist. I envision expanding remote surgical education platforms, virtual mentorship, and region-specific workshops, using technology to bridge geographic and economic barriers. As the operator of an online surgical education platform connecting thousands of surgeons, I have seen firsthand how digital communities can inspire continuous learning and professional growth.

Finally, I believe in the power of cross-border collaboration. By building stronger research networks, sharing surgical video libraries, and harmonizing standards, AAGL can accelerate innovation and amplify diverse voices in our field.

If elected to the Board, I will bring my experience in surgical innovation, education, and community building to help AAGL remain both a scientific authority and a supportive global family—one that inspires surgeons to pursue excellence, embrace innovation, and mentor the next generation, so that women everywhere may benefit from the best that minimally invasive gynecologic surgery can offer.