

I joined AAGL in 2008 with no idea the impact it would have on my career. I was a 2nd year resident interested in laparoscopic surgery with a desire to become a better surgeon. During my first few years, I learned about new technology, instrumentation and techniques that would allow me to better serve my patients.

I have had opportunities to grow as a surgeon, educator and researcher because of AAGL. It provided me with a platform to present my scholarly work/research and develop as a teacher. AAGL gave me opportunities as an educator- teaching laparoscopic suturing, cadaver dissection and vaginal surgery. I also gained leadership experience through serving on the Urogyn/Vaginal surgery SIG board, JMIG editorial board, FMIGS board and multiple committees.

AAGL is so much more than it was in 2008. We are a major global society, influencing the training and education of gynecologic surgeons worldwide. We now face new challenges.

Domestically, we strive to become a board-certified subspecialty. This requires further standardization of the fellowship training. It is also a complex issue that will impact many existing quality fellowships that may not have the resources necessary to meet all the ACGME requirements. Sub-specialization is important for our colleagues to recognize the expertise they offer to our patients. I trained as Urogynecology became board certified, and this experience will help the future transition of MIGS in this path.

Internationally, AAGL brings together experts in gynecology with varied interests. Due to the unique infrastructure of healthcare in each country, it is difficult to share the experiences of surgeons across borders. I will seek to expand our global connection utilizing virtual and AI tools to overcome our differences in language, creating more open collaboration and international research opportunities, to avoid mistakes we have made in the past and develop new safe and novel techniques to improve gynecologic care worldwide.

My skills as an educator, researcher and international collaborator have set me up to be a strong contributor to the AAGL board. I hope to give back to AAGL as it has given so much to me in my career.