



AAGL 3RD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON MINIMALLY INVASIVE GYNECOLOGY



**AUSTRALIAN GYNAECOLOGICAL ENDOSCOPY SOCIETY** XIX ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

































Alan Lam Congress Chair, AGES President Anusch Yazdani Congress Co-Chair, AGES Treasurer Chris Maher Congress Scientific Chair, AGES Secretary Jim Tsaltas AGES Vice President

Resad Pasic AAGL President Errico Zupi AAGL International Vice President C Y Liu AAGL Vice President Franklin Loffer AAGL Executive Vice President

#### **Invited Faculty**

A/Professor Dorothy Kammerer-Doak, USA A/Professor Leah Millheiser, USA Professor Susan Davis, Australia



20 May 2009

























#### **BRISBANE**

Nestled in the south-east corner of Queensland in the heart of Australia's fastest-growing region, Brisbane is a young, progressive, dynamic city that's known for its fresh friendly attitude, warm welcoming climate and leisurely outdoors lifestyle.

Proclaimed by the New York Times "as an alluring destination in its own right ... the kind of place that you could easily spend several days exploring", Brisbane excels on the leisure and pleasure front — offering everything from urban adventures to cultural pursuits to nature-based excursions. Whether you find yourself kayaking through the river's innercity reaches, admiring the art and architecture of Australia's largest gallery of modern art, hand-feeding wild dolphins on the white sandy shores of Moreton Island or just enjoying a lazy alfresco meal by the river, Brisbane will welcome you with open arms.

#### **QUINTESSENTIAL QUEENSLAND**

Linger longer in the sunshine. Stay and play in paradise. From the far northern beaches of the tropics to the red ochre reaches of the outback, Queensland is home to world famous tourist jewels like the Great Barrier Reef, the Daintree Rainforest and Fraser Island.

#### **ICONIC AUSTRALIA**

A place to re-energise, re-invigorate and re-vitalise. An ancient land. A youthful outlook. All compass points of this beautiful island playground offer scenic wonders and tourism experiences.





# Sex, Surgery & Gynaecology



AAGL 3RD

International







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AGES gratefully acknowledges the support of the following companies:



Platinum Sponsor of AGES

# Johnson Johnson



Major Sponsors of the Congress

#### **Exhibitors**

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N Stenning & Co

Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital sponsor of the Pre Congress Workshop

Queensland

Government

N Stenning & C Scanmedics Sonologic Sydmed

**Fertility Focus** 

# Congress on Minimally Invasive Gynecology

Australian Gynaecological Endoscopy Society XIX Annual Scientific Meeting

# 21–23 May 2009 Brisbane Australia

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# Sex, Surgery Gynaecology











Alan Lam President Jim Tsaltas Vice President **Christopher Maher** Secretary Anusch Yazdani Treasurer

Fariba Behnia-Willison Robert Ford **David Healy** Krishnan Karthigasu

Michael McEvoy Harry Merkur

Michele Bender **Executive Director** 

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#### **ORGANISING COMMITTEE**

Alan Lam Australia Congress Chair Anusch Yazdani Australia Congress Co-Chair **Christopher Maher** Australia Scientific Program

Errico Zupi Italy David Baartz Australia Andreas Obermair Australia Michael Wynn-Williams Australia

#### **INVITED FACULTY**

Dorothy Kammerer-Doak USA Leah Millheiser Susan Davis VIC

Jason Abbott NSW Arnold Advincula USA Peter Borzi **QLD** Melissa Buttini **QLD** Jonathan Carter NSW David Healy VIC Neil Johnson New Zealand Ian Jones QLD Krishnan Karthigasu WA Rosanne Kho USA Benjamin Kraal QLD Alan Lam NSW Chris Maher QLD Peter Maher VIC QLD Michael McEvoy NSW Harry Merkur Charles E Miller USA QLD David Mollov Les Nathanson OIDCeana Nezhat USA Andreas Obermair OIDOseka Onuma SA Robert O'Shea SA Ossie Petrucco SA Alexandr Popov Russia Shailesh Puntambekar India Anna Rosamilia VIC Stuart Salfinger WA Eugenio Solima Italy VIC Jim Tsaltas Michael Wynn-Williams QLD Anusch Yazdani QLD Errico Zupi Italy



#### **MEMBERSHIP OF AGES**

Membership application forms are available on the AGES website <a href="https://www.ages.com.au">www.ages.com.au</a> or from the:

AGES Secretariat, 282 Edinburgh Road, CASTLECRAG NSW 2068 AUSTRALIA P +61 2 9967 2928 W +61 2 9967 2627 E conferences@ages.com.au

#### **MEMBERSHIP OF AAGL**

Membership application is available on the AAGL website <a href="https://www.aagl.org">www.aagl.org</a>

#### PR&CRM/CPD POINTS

AGES has made application to RANZCOG for accreditation of this meeting for PR&CRM and CPD points.

This brochure and online registration are also available on the AGES website: <a href="www.ages.com.au">www.ages.com.au</a> and the AAGL website: <a href="www.aagl.org">www.aagl.org</a>.



















## **WELCOME**

#### **Dear Colleagues**

It gives us great pleasure to invite you to Brisbane, Australia, for the AAGL 3<sup>RD</sup> International Congress on Minimally Invasive Gynecology in conjunction with the AGES XIX Annual Scientific Meeting to be held May 21-23, 2009.

In 2009, we have decided on a unique approach to this congress, entitled: **Sex, Surgery and Gynaecology**. While great advances have been made in gynaecology, particularly in minimally invasive techniques and technology, too little emphasis is placed on the sexual function of our patients. We are privileged to highlight this topic in our scientific meeting.

The 2009 AAGL – AGES Congress offers participants an exciting program, including pre-congress workshops in minimally invasive surgery and basic sciences. Through our focus on gynaecological surgery, the Congress will explore issues pertaining to sexual and reproductive medicine, pelvic pain, endometriosis, prolapse and cancer surgery. We offer new insights into normal sexual function, hormone replacement, cosmetic and 'rejuvenating' gynaecology.

The AAGL represents the world's largest professional association of gynaecologists, representing over 30 international societies associated with its name and almost 4000 worldwide members who specialise in the use of minimally invasive procedures for diagnosing and treating disorders of the female reproductive system.

AGES is a premier gynaecological surgical association representing the majority of practising gynaecologists in Australia and New Zealand. With over 550 active members, the society is amongst the largest and most active of all surgical bodies in the southern hemisphere.

AGES' mission is to promote the safest and highest standards of clinical and minimally invasive surgical care for women through education, surgical training and clinical research. AGES is proud to host this conjoint meeting with the AAGL in 2009.

We invite you to enjoy Queensland - the Great Barrier Reef, the beaches, the rainforests, the outback, and most importantly, the metropolitan centre of our Congress: Brisbane.

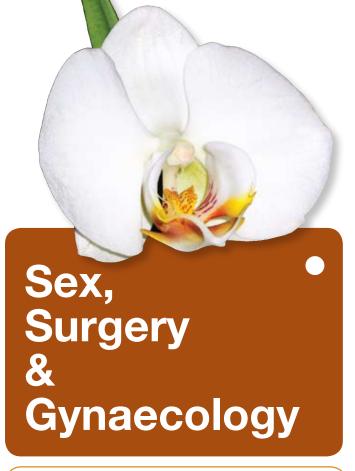
This promises to be a most informative, unique and memorable AAGL and AGES Congress.

Alan Lam Congress Chair Anusch Yazdani Congress Co-Chair Chris Maher Scientific Program Chair Errico Zupi

AAGL International

Vice President





## Wednesday 20 May (optional)

Sofitel Brisbane

Ballroom le Grand

(Live transmission from the Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital and Greenslopes Private Hospital)

#### PRE-CONGRESS WORKSHOP

0900-1000 **Introduction** 

Surgical anatomy

Cadaveric dissection with video illustrations

1000-1200 Live Surgery

Laparoscopic hysterectomy

Robotic hysterectomy

1200-1300 Lunch

1300-1500 Live Surgery

Laparoscopic resection of endometriosis

Laparoscopic myomectomy

Robotic myomectomy

1500-1700 Complications Workshop

1500-1510 Overview

1510-1530 Critical care update

1530-1550 Assessment and management of

gastrointestinal injuries

1550-1610 Assessment and management of

urological injuries

1610-1630 Assessment and management of

vascular injuries

1630-1650 Medical complications in surgical patients

1650-1700 Discussion

1700

#### **FACULTY:**

A Advincula, A Khalil, K Karthigasu, R Kho, A Lam, C Maher, A Obermair, R Pasic, M Wynn-Williams, A Yazdani









#### **Thursday 21 May**

0700-0800 Registration

Sofitel Brisbane

Ballroom le Grand 1 & 2

0800-0815 Welcome

A Lam, R Pasic, F Loffer

0815-1030 SESSION 1 sponsored by Stryker

Sex, Surgery and Gynaecology

Chairs: A Yazdani, F Loffer

Where, when and with whom? 0815-0835

> Defining normal sexual function L Millheiser

0835-0855 Talking about sex... Defining sexual dysfunction

D Kammerer-Doak 0855-0915 Congenital and developmental abnormalities P Borzi

0915-0935 Sex and the teenager L Millheiser

0935-1000 Discussion

1000-1030 Morning Tea and Trade Exhibition

1030-1230 SESSION 2 sponsored by Stryker

**Early Reproductive Years: Endometriosis and Sexuality** 

Chairs: J Tsaltas, E Zupi

Endometriosis in the 21st century 1030-1050 D Healy

1050-1110 Adolescent endometriosis - a management dilemma

K Karthigasu

1110-1130 Nerve-sparing surgery for endometriosis A Lam

1130-1150 Infertility and endometriosis - surgery or IVF? A Yazdani

1150-1210 Impact of endometriosis and treatments on

sexual function and quality of life J Abbott

1210-1230 Expert panel discussion and video case reviews

1230-1330 Lunch and Trade Exhibition

1330-1500 SESSION 3

Free Communications

1500-1530 Afternoon Tea and Trade Exhibition

**1530-1700 SESSION 4** sponsored by Karl Stortz Endoscopy

**New Horizons in Minimally Invasive Surgery** 

Chairs: H Merkur, D Baartz

1530-1545 Robotic surgery: The way forward? A Advincula

1545-1600 NOTES (Natural Orifice Transluminal Endosopic Surgery)

L Nathanson

Microsurgery, laparoscopic to robotic surgery -1600-1615

> are we back where it all began? O Petrucco

1615-1630 Panel discussion

1630-1700 KEYNOTE LECTURE

Surgery for sex LJones

1700 Close

1730 to 1930 WELCOME COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Sofitel Brisbane









#### Friday 22 May

0700-0745 Sponsored Breakfast Session

Sofitel Brisbane

Ballroom le Grand 1 & 2

**0800-1030 SESSION 5** sponsored by Johnson & Johnson Medical

Late Reproductive Years: Hysterectomy

Chairs: R Ford, T Anderson

0800-0815 Hysterectomy in the 21st Century P Maher

Debate: Please let me keep my cervix: 0815-0845

> Total or subtotal hysterectomy D Molloy vs N Johnson

0845-0905 Alternatives to hysterectomy E Zupi 0905-0920 Pitfalls and challenges in hysterectomy R O'Shea

0920-0940 Sexual function following hysterectomy S Davis 0940-1000 Menorrhagia is ruining my sex life – what are my options?

Panel chair: F Loffer

Panel discussion: M Buttini, S Davis, N Johnson, P Maher,

D Molloy, R O'Shea, A Zupi

1000- 1030 Morning Tea and Trade Exhibition

**1030-1230 SESSION 6** sponsored by Karl Storz Endoscopy

**Fertility** 

Chairs: A Yazdani, L Lo

1030-1050 Fibroids – fertility implications and management options

C Miller

1050-1110 Pitfalls and challenges in fibroid surgery C Nezhat 1110-1130 Tubal surgery in the age of IVF J Tsaltas

1130-1145 Panel discussion

1130-1230 Presidential debate:

Sex is for the young J Abbott, P Maher, D Millheiser vs

S Davis, N Johnson, D Kammerer-Doak

Ajudicator: M McEvoy

1230- 1330 Lunch and Trade Exhibition

1330-1500 SESSION 7

**Free Communications** 

1500-1530 Afternoon Tea and Trade Exhibition

1530-1630 SESSION 8

Training, Complications and Risk Management

Chairs: C Maher, R Pasic

1530-1630 Video vignettes with expert panel review

A Advincular, R Kho, F Loffer, H Merkur, L Millheiser, C Nezhat, R O'Shea, M Wynn-Williams, A Yazdani

1630-1700 AGES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1900-2300 **GALA CONGRESS DINNER** 

> KOOKABURRA QUEEN BRISBANE RIVER CRUISE Complimentary coach transfers to Eagle Street Pier

Cnr Charlotte and Eagle Streets, Brisbane

#### Saturday 23 May

0700-0745 Sponsored Breakfast Session

Sofitel Brisbane

Ballroom le Grand 1 & 2

**0800-1030 SESSION 9** sponsored by Johnson & Johnson Medical

Middle Years and Beyond: Oncology

Chair: A Obermair

Expect the unexpected: Inadvertant finding of 0800-0815

> gynaecological cancer S Salfinger

0815-0835 Discussion: Gynaecological cancer management

> outside the big centre J Carter, L McPherson

0835-0850 Human centred designs -

> What the experts' performance looks like B Kraal A Obermair

Surgical performance documentation 0850-0900

0900-0920 Advances in laparoscopic management of

> gynaecological cancer S Puntambekar

Nerve-sparing radical hysterectomy for 0920-0940

E Solima cervical cancer

0940-1000 Robotic surgery in gynaecological oncology -

> marketing or patient value? R Kho

1000- 1030 Morning Tea and Trade Exhibition

1030-1200 SESSION 10 sponsored by Stryker

**Pelvic Floor and Sexual Function** 

Chairs: C Maher, K Bajzak

1030-1055 Sex and pelvic floor S Kammerer-Doak

Dyspareunia C Maher 1055-1110

Is mesh-associated pain re-igniting interest 1110-1125

in laparoscopic surgery? A Popov

1125-1155 Designer vagina: The debate

A Rosamilia, D Kammerer-Doak vs O Onuma, L Millheiser

1155-1210 Video cases to challenge the expert panel

**Awards presentation** 1210-1220 A Lam, F Loffer

1220-1230 Close C Maher

SEX SURGERY & GYNAECOLOGY 21 to 23 May 2009

Registration fees include:

- Attendance at all sessions from Thursday 21 May to Saturday 23 May inclusive
- Congress satchel
- All conference publications
- Conference lunches, morning and afternoon teas on Thursday 21, and Friday 22 May, and morning tea Saturday 23 May
- Welcome Cocktail Reception (one person)

PRE-CONGRESS WORKSHOP 20 May 2009

Registration fees include:

- Attendance at all sessions on Wednesday 20 May
- Lunch, morning and afternoon tea



# CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Free Communications at the AAGL 3RD International Congress on Minimally Invasive Gynecology / AGES XIX Annual Scientific Meeting 2009

AAGL and AGES invite abstracts for oral, video and poster presentations at the Congress.

There will be abstract sessions on two days of the Congress. Posters will be on display throughout the Congress.

All abstracts selected will be published in the Congress proceedings.

#### **FULL DETAILS & SUBMISSION DEADLINE**

Abstracts may be submitted from receipt of the Congress program until 10 March 2009.

Abstracts are to be submitted online via the AGES website: <a href="www.ages.com.au">www.ages.com.au</a>. Hard copy abstracts sent by mail or fax will NOT be considered.

Detailed guidelines for abstract content and format are available on the AGES website.



Several substantial prizes will be awarded for the best oral and poster presentations at the Congress. Prizes will be presented in the final session of the Congress on Saturday 23 May.

Judging will be by an impartial panel comprising senior members of AGES and AAGL. The judges' decisions are final. No correspondence will be considered.

#### **AGES AWARDS IN 2009**

John Kerin Award for Best Free Communication \$500

sponsored by Covidien

Best Video Presentation \$500

sponsored by B Braun

**Best Registrar Presentation \$500** 

sponsored by Johnson & Johnson Medical

All presentations will be assessed during the Meeting by an impartial judging panel.

The AGES Awards will be presented during the final session on Saturday 23 May

#### **AGES TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP IN 2009**

The AGES/Covidien Travelling Fellowship for 2009 will also be presented during the final session on Friday 23 May.



#### WELCOME COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Thursday 21 May 2009 5:30pm to 7:30pm Sofitel Brisbane Ballroom 3 & Ann Street Lobby Exhibition Areas

#### **GALA CONGRESS DINNER**

Friday 22 May 2009 7:00pm TO 11:00pm Kookaburra Queen - Brisbane River Eagle Street Pier Cnr Charlotte and Eagle Streets Brisbane QLD 7000

We will take a leisurely cruise of the Brisbane River in true Queensland style, on the stately Kookaburra River Queen. This authentic paddlewheeler is made of fine Australian timbers and based on the Mississippi originals.

Enjoy world-famous Queensland hospitality, jazz entertainment, fine wines and a sumptuous meal.

Complimentary coach transfers to Eagle Street Pier from the Sofitel.

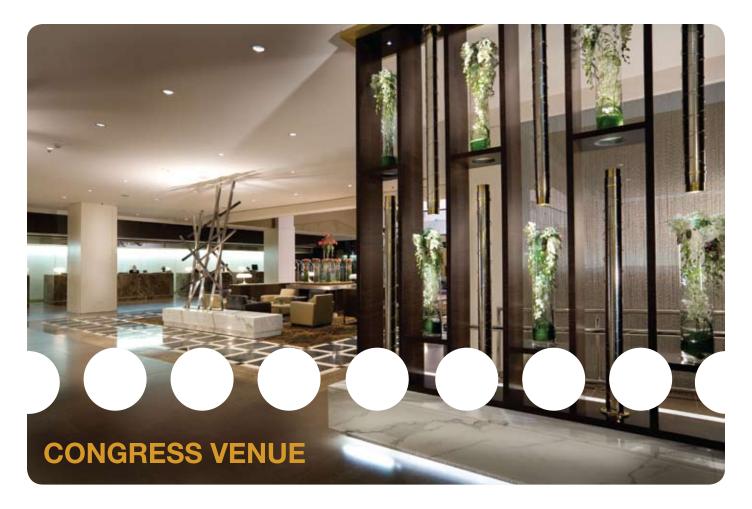












#### **SOFITEL BRISBANE**

249 Turbot Street Brisbane Qld 4000 Phone +61 7 3835 3535

The 5 star Sofitel Brisbane is ideally located in the centre of Brisbane. Just moments from riverside restaurants, galleries, parks and the city's most exclusive shopping precinct, it is characterised by refined elegance and personal service.

The Sofitel Brisbane's 429 rooms are designed with a residential feel in an inviting palette of modern neutral tones with highlights of warm honey, charcoal and rich chocolate. Rooms feature high speed internet access, large desk space, colour televisions with in-house movies and cable channels, tea and coffee making facilities and an in room electronic safe.

Following a multi-million dollar redevelopment, Sofitel Brisbane now boasts the new Cuvée Lounge Bar, interactive Thyme2 Restaurant, Stephanies Spa Retreat, SoFit Gymnasium and the opulent 30th level Club Sofitel Lounge, offering some of the most spectacular views in Brisbane.

Guests will enjoy the new Sofitel MyBed, French bathroom amenities, robe and slippers, complimentary daily newspaper, and access to the SoFit Gymnasium, heated pool and spa.

Sofitel Brisbane has direct access to Central Train Station, providing convenient transport from/to Brisbane Airport and the Gold Coast.

**Superior Rooms** have open outlooks of the city. King and twin (2 x double beds) rooms are available.

**Luxury Rooms**, located on levels 22-24, offer exceptional views over the city. Guests receive: designated priority check-in and express check-out, a welcome drink and complimentary local phone calls.

**Luxury Club rooms** are located on the top five floors of the hotel, and offer premium accommodation with commanding views of the city.

**The Sofitel Suites**, also located on the top five floors of the hotel, have a separate lounge room and bedroom, and a large naturally lit bathroom with separate shower and bath.

Guests staying in Luxury Club and Suite accommodation will enjoy all day access to the Club Sofitel Lounge including, hot and cold breakfast selection with champagne on weekends; all day refreshments; evening drinks and canapés; late evening sweets and coffee, as well as priority check-in and check-out.

#### **Hotel Check-in/Check-out**

Check-in time is 2:00pm and check-out 11:00am. Whilst the hotel will do everything possible to assist with earlier check-in, this cannot be guaranteed without payment of an additional night's tariff.

#### **Parking**

Self parking and valet is available undercover at an hourly rate and a day rate for in-house guests and Congress delegates.

#### **Breakfast**

Buffet breakfast is available in the Thyme2 Restaurant at AU\$30.00 per person for Congress hotel guests.

#### Changes to hotel reservations

Any change must be made in writing to the Congress Organisers and not directly to the hotel.











#### **REGISTRATION & BOOKING FORM**





TITLE	FIRST NAME		SURNAME	
ADDDECC			CTATE	7/D/DOCTOODS
ADDRESS			STATE	ZIP/POSTCODE
PHONE	MOBILE	FAX	E-MAIL	
BADGE NAME	PRACTICE SPECIALTY	PRACTICE SPECIALTY		QUIREMENTS

CONGRESS COSTS			AE	<b>TAX IN\</b> 3N 33 07	<b>/IOCE</b> 5 573 367
FEES (Full registration)	Earlybird	Standard			TOTAL
	Payment on or before 31 March	Payment after 1 April			
Standard delegate	AU\$ 1260 □	AU\$ 1380 □		AU\$	
Member AAGL or AGES	AU\$ 1050 🗌	AU\$ 1155 🗌		AU\$	
Registrar / Trainee	AU\$ 600 □	AU\$ 660 □		AU\$	<u>.</u>
Nurse / Student	AU\$ 450 □	AU\$ 495 □		AU\$	
Accompanying person	AU\$ 450 □	AU\$ 495 □		AU\$	
PRE CONGRESS WORKSHOP Wednesd	day 20 May	AU\$ 400 □		AU\$	
SOCIAL EVENTS					
Welcome Cocktail Reception – Delegate	e	(Included in registration)			
Welcome Cocktail Reception – Partner		AU\$ 60 □		AU\$	<u>.</u>
Gala Congress Dinner – Delegate		AU\$ 150 □		AU\$	
Gala Congress Dinner – Partner		AU\$ 150 □		AU\$	
MULTIPLE MEETING PACKAGES Registration to AAGL/ AGES 2009 & 1	other AGES Meeting in 2000	- CHOOSE ONE ONLY			
Fellow – Member AGES	AU\$ 1890 🗆	+Pelvic	+ Focus	Δ11\$	
Fellow – Non Member AGES	AU\$ 2155 🗆	+Pelvic	+ Focus		
Registrar / Trainee	AU\$ 1000 🗆	+Pelvic	+ Focus	AU\$	
Registration to AAGL/ AGES 2009 & 2				7.0φ	
Fellow – Member AGES	AU\$ 2600 🗆	o (i civio i loci mocting c	r roous mooting)	AU\$	
Fellow – Non Member AGES	AU\$ 2910 🗌				
Registrar / Trainee	AU\$ 1334 🗌			AU\$	
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			TOTAL	AU\$_	

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL MULTIPLE MEETING REGISTRATIONS IS 8 MAY 2009. APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THIS DEADLINE WILL BE CHARGED AT NORMAL RATES

#### AAGL 3<sup>RD</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON MINIMALLY INVASIVE GYNECOLOGY / AGES XIX ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING 2009

ACCOMMODATION Please book the following accommodation (All accommodation is subject to availability)	accommodation Savings
	mgs on
Check in: / / 2009 Check out: / / 2009	
Sofitel Brisbane Rate room per	night
Superior Room (including 1 breakfast per room night)  AU\$ 2	65 AU\$
Luxury Room (including 1 breakfast per room night) AU\$ 3	a15 🗆 AU\$
Luxury Club Room* (single occupancy)  AU\$ 3	65 AU\$
Luxury Club Room* (double occupancy)  AU\$ 3	95 🗆 AU\$
Sofitel Suite* AU\$ 5	50 AU\$
Room Type Request King Twin	
*refer brochure for inclusions	TOTAL AU\$
I will be accompanied by/have arranged to share with (name):	
I would prefer a non-smoking room Yes $\square$ No $\square$	
BOOKING AGREEMENT  On behalf of each person named for whom this booking request is made, I have representations are the second of the second o	PAYMENTS  • Registration form must be accompanied by
Date  PAYMENT PAYMENT BY CHEQUE Please send the registration form and cheque in AU\$ made payable to 'AGES' to:  Conference Connection 282 Edinburgh Road Castlecrag NSW 2068 AUSTRALIA  PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD (Visa or MasterCard only)	chure.  • AAGL/AGES member registration fees apply only to members who are financial members at the time of booking.  • Single day registrations are not available.  • All costs are in Australian dollars, including GST where applicable.  • Registration fees are payable by cheque, Visa and MasterCard.  • Tax invoices will be issued on receipt of registration and payment.  • Registrations are only valid when written confirmation is received from AGES.  • Please ensure that you have received written confirmation from AGES especially if you have faxed your registration form.
CARD NUMBER  EXPIRY DATE  CARDHOLDER NAME	Fax back number +61 2 9967 2627 Registration and payment are now available online. Simply go to
SIGNATURE	www.ages.com.au or www.aagl.org



DATE

and follow the Congress links.

# **stryker**°

**Endoscopy** 

# Reliability You Can Trust, HD Resolution You Would Expect



# GENERAL CONGRESS INFORMATION

















Climate: Sub-tropical Brisbane has a pleasant mild climate in May. Temperatures generally range between 15° and 25°C or 60° and 79°F. For more information see www.bom.gov.au. Brisbane has more sunny days than Florida and warmer winter days than the Bahamas.



Currency: Australia's currency is the Australian dollar. All major credit cards are widely accepted in Australia. Current exchange rates are available at www.xe.com



Language: English is spoken throughout Australia and is the official language for the Congress.



Time: Local Brisbane time is Greenwich Mean Time plus 10 hours. There is no Daylight Saving in Queensland. There are several time zones in Australia. The West Coast is two hours behind the East Coast.



Banks: Banks in Australia are generally open from 0930 to 1600 Monday to Thursday and 0930 to 1700 on Fridays. Some banks are also open on Saturdays. Exchange facilities are available airports and major hotels. Automatic teller machines (ATMs) are widely available.



Shopping: In Brisbane, the majority of shops are open Monday to Thursday and Saturday and Sunday from 0900 to 1730, Friday from 0900 to 2100.



Travel and Health Insurance: We strongly recommend that you take out insurance policies to cover medical and travel expenses. Your travel agent or airline will be able to assist.



Wheelchair access or other mobility disability access during the Congress: At the time of registration please notify the Secretariat of any mobility disabilities you have. For more information about getting around Brisbane, please see www. brisbane.qld.gov.au/BCC:BASE::pc=PC\_331



**Electricity:** The electricity supply in Australia is 240 volts, 50Hz. The connection for appliances is a flat 3-pin plug of unique design. Most hotels provide 110 outlets for shavers.



Taxes: A Goods and Services Tax (GST) of 10% applies to all consumer goods and is included in retail prices. You can claim a refund of the goods and services tax (GST) and wine equalisation tax (WET) that you pay on goods you buy in Australia. The refund only applies to goods you take with you as hand luggage, or wear onto the aircraft or ship when you leave the country. You can obtain more information at: www.customs.com.au



**Tipping:** Service charges are not added to accounts by hotels or restaurants. You may tip hotel porters and food and drink waiters in restaurants if you wish (up to around 10% of the bill). At all times tipping is your choice.



Dress Code: Smart casual attire is recommended for all Congress sessions.



Mobile Phones: Australia operates on a digital network.



Transport from the Airport: There are a number of taxi companies in Brisbane that service the Brisbane Airport so taxis are available at all times. Fare to Brisbane CBD from Airport: Approximately AU\$33 plus a AU\$3 fee for departing taxis only to Brisbane City / **CBD Hotels** 

Coachtrans operates services every 30 minutes to the door of your hotel, AU\$12.00 per person. Phone: Coachtrans +617 3238 4700 or book directly on-line www.coachtrans.com.au.

There is a train service from the Brisbane Domestic Terminal with connection to International Terminal. It is a 22 minute trip. One-way single adult ticket is just AU\$13 (6.00am to 7.59pm - 7 days a week). www.bne.com.au/content/standard\_ v4.asp?name=PublicTransport#30



The Appropriate Visa for Delegates: All visitors to Australia who are not Australian citizens (other than citizens of New Zealand travelling on a New Zealand passport) require a valid visa or Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) to enter Australia. It is essential that you seek further information from your airline, travel agent or the Australian Consulate in your country, as immigration laws are very strict. Please visit for more information www.immi. gov.au

Invitation letter and Visa: If you require an invitation letter for visa purposes, please indicate this on your registration form or contact the Congress Secretariat.

Please note that an invitation letter is simply intended to assist participants who require a visa or permission to attend the AAGL 3RD International Congress on Minimally Invasive Gynecology/AGES XIX Annual Scientific Meeting 2009. It does not represent an official invitation covering fees or other expenses, nor does it imply any financial support for attendance at the Congress.



## **FUTURE AGES MEETINGS**



AGES PELVIC FLOOR SYMPOSIUM & WORKSHOP X 2009

CROWN PROMENADE/CROWN TOWERS

MELBOURNE 7+8

AUGUST

2009

**AGES FOCUS MEETING 2009** 

SURGICAL TECHNIQUES: BASED ON FACT OR FICTION

COOLUM 30 ± 31 QUEENSLAND 2009

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR GYNECOLOGIC ENDOSCOPY (ISGE) 19TH ANNUAL CONGRESS

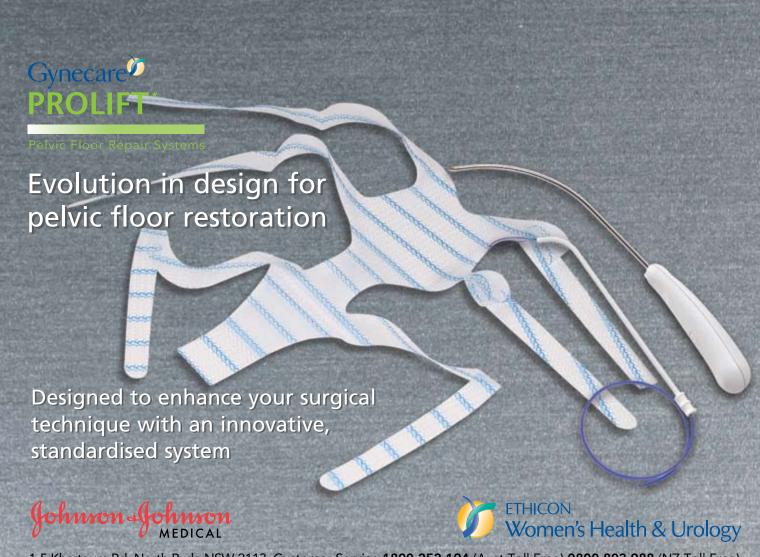
In conjunction with the

AUSTRALIAN GYNAECOLOGICAL ENDOSCOPY SOCIETY XX ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING





Multiple meeting packages are available at substantial discounts for AGES Meetings in 2009. Packages combine AAGL IC-AGES XIX ASM 2009, the Pelvic Floor Conference 2009, and the Focus Meeting 2009. Two or three meeting packages are available. The deadline for all multiple meeting registrations is 8 May 2009. Applications received after this deadline will be charged at normal rates.



# **CONGRESS INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS**



#### **DEPOSITS AND FINAL PAYMENTS:**

All costs are payable in advance. If, for any reason, your entire payment has not been received by the due date, we reserve the right to treat your booking fee as cancelled and will apply the appropriate cancellation fee.

#### **CANCELLATION POLICY:**

Should you or a member of your party be forced to cancel, you should advise the Congress Organisers in writing. Single Meeting Registrations: The cancellation policy for AAGL International Congress / AGES Annual Scientific Meeting allows a cancellation fee of AU\$250.00 of registration fees for cancellations received up to 8 weeks' prior to the first day of the Meeting, and of 50% of registration fees for cancellations up to 4 weeks' prior to the Meeting. No refund will be made after this time. Multiple meeting registrants: No refunds apply.

Hotels and other suppliers of services, depending on date of cancellation, may also impose cancellation charges. Accommodation payments will be forfeited if the room is not occupied on the requested checkin date. Please note that a claim for reimbursement of cancellation charges may fall within the terms of travel insurance you effect. AGES reserves the right to cancel any workshop or course if there are insufficient registrations.

#### **INSURANCE:**

Registration fees do not include insurance of any kind. Insurance is strongly recommended to cover: loss of payments as a result of cancellation of your participation in the Congress, or through cancellation of the Congress itself, loss of airfares for any reason, loss or damage to personal property, additional expenses and repatriation should travel arrangements need to be altered, medical expenses, or any other related losses.

#### **PRICING POLICY:**

It is impossible to predict increases to cost elements such as government taxes and other service provider tariffs. In the event of such fluctuations or increases affecting the price of the Congress, we reserve the right to adjust our prices as may be necessary at any time up to and including the first day of the Congress, even though the balance payment may have been made. If we are forced to change your booking or any part of it for any reasons beyond our control, for instance, if an airline changes its schedule - we reserve the right to vary your itinerary and will give you, or cause to be given to you, prompt notice thereof.

#### **COSTS DO NOT INCLUDE:**

Insurance, telephone calls, laundry, food and beverage except as itemised in the brochure, and items of a personal nature.

#### TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION:

AGES, AAGL and Conference Connection are not themselves carriers or hoteliers nor do we own aircraft, hotels, or coaches. The flights, coach journeys, other travel and hotel accommodation herein are provided by reputable carriers and hoteliers on their own conditions. It is important to note, therefore, that all bookings with the Congress Organisers are subject to the terms and conditions and limitations of liability imposed by hoteliers and other service providers whose services we utilise, some of which limit or exclude liability in respect of death, personal injury, delay and loss or damage to baggage.

#### **OUR RESPONSIBILITY:**

AGES, AAGL and Conference Connection cannot accept any liability of whatever nature for the acts, omissions or default, whether negligent or otherwise of those airlines, coach operators, shipping companies, hoteliers, or other persons providing services in connection with the Congress pursuant to a contract between themselves and yourself (which may be evidenced in writing by the issue of a ticket, voucher, coupon or the like) and over whom we have no direct and exclusive control.

AGES, AAGL and Conference Connection do not accept any liability in contract or in tort (actionable wrong) for any injury, damage, loss, delay, additional expense or inconvenience caused directly or indirectly by force majeure or other events which are beyond our control, or which are not preventable by reasonable diligence on our part including but not limited to war, civil disturbance, fire, floods, unusually severe weather, acts of God, act of Government or any authorities, accidents to or failure of machinery or equipment or industrial action (whether or not involving our employees and even though such action may be settled by acceding to the demands of a labour group). Please note that the Prices quoted are subject to change without notice.

#### PRIVACY ACT 1988, Corporations Act 2001:

Collection, maintenance and disclosure of certain personal information are governed by legislation included in these Acts. Please note that your details may be disclosed to the parties mentioned in this brochure.

