

# IUGA

international urogynecological association

*Advancing Urogynecological Knowledge Around the World*

## What is Urogynecology?

**U**rogynecology includes disorders of the female pelvic floor, such as urinary incontinence, overactive bladder, genital prolapse, and other associated conditions including fecal incontinence, interstitial cystitis, fistulas and neurological dysfunction of the bladder and pelvic floor.

Urogynecological disorders are common, affecting 30% of women during their lifetime. They affect women from all societies from the most affluent to those in the process of development. It is estimated that over 10% of women will need to undergo surgery for correction of incontinence or prolapse. Urogynecology is the subspecialty within women's health which encompasses the care of women suffering from these very sensitive and debilitating conditions.

The demand for urogynecological services is expanding as the population in advanced economies ages and the expectation for a good quality of life increases; whilst in lower and middle income countries, where the need is often more severe, the most basic urogynecological needs for many women are still unmet. Unfortunately, to date most clinicians do not have the expertise or confidence to address these problems satisfactorily. Most residency training programs around the world do not provide sufficient exposure for management of these conditions. Additional expertise is typically acquired via post-graduate subspecialty training, which is now available at many centers around the world.

## What is a urogynecologist?

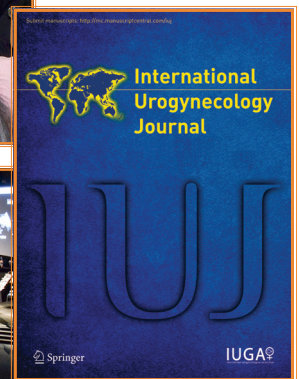
**A**urogynecologist is a gynecologist with subspecialty training in the medical and surgical treatment of urogynecological disorders. For a urologist with similar interests and training the term female urologist is often utilised. Training is obtained via post-graduate fellowships, typically lasting 2-3 years and, in some countries, requires completion of a research thesis. The subspecialty is now formally recognized in many countries around the world, where standards for training have been developed.

## What is IUGA?

**T**he importance of urogynecology is reflected in the number of national urogynecological societies that have formed in recent years. The International Urogynecological Association (IUGA) is the world's first and largest urogynecological society. Founded 37 years ago, it now has over 2500 members from 65 countries, and is affiliated with 22 national societies. IUGA carries out a wide range of activities to promote and educate medical and allied health staff and thus improve the quality of

life for many thousands of women. We provide resources and information to interested clinicians and professional groups who wish to expand their activities in urogynecology and other female pelvic floor disorders. IUGA's mission statement can be summarized as: "Advancing urogynecological knowledge around the world".

IUGA educational activities include eXchange programs in areas of the world where urogynecology is under-represented; Regional Symposia in areas where urogynecologists can benefit from additional technical training, and many other smaller programs. IUGA holds an annual scientific meeting where the latest advances in urogynecology are presented and networking allows for collaboration by urogynecologists from around the world. This is complemented by the IUGA journal the International Urogynecology Journal – a peer-reviewed,



indexed journal recognized as the premier source of literature in urogynecology – and by other publications that disseminate consensus and advances in the field.

IUGA is a thought leader in urogynecology and through broad international collaboration has produced many sentinel documents for expansion of medical and surgical education in urogynecology and pelvic reconstructive surgery.

For more information about IUGA, please contact us.



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