

## Message from the President

04/15

**Rudolf Weiner**

President of IFSO

Dear Colleagues,

Twenty years since the creation of the IFSO! How surgery has changed!

A surgeon from another planet to the planet Earth would probably not recognize the most modern of his or her own techniques anymore. Thanks to the hard work of the past presidents, IFSO has evolved from a small club to a full-fledged international Federation. IFSO is thriving. IFSO is riding the comet and is the Northern light gateway to the future of metabolic surgery.

It is time to change the terms in our daily work: metabolic and obesity surgery instead of bariatric surgery. Obesity per se is a metabolic disease, and there are few, if any, morbidly obese patients free of concurrent metabolic diseases. Concentrating on only one aspect of this mosaic limits, and indeed renders the treating physician ineffectual. The same is true for the bariatric surgeon who envisions the indications for surgery exclusively by weight standards. The BMI should not be the primary reason for treatment. The indication for bariatric surgery should be based on the overall assessment of the current health status of the obese patient and identification of disease risk factors which are not displayed in the calculation of BMI as e.g. distribution of adipose tissue as an important cardiovascular and metabolic risk factor, different fat distribution related to sex, different individual ratio, while presenting equal BMI, between adipose tissue and non-adipose tissue; diverse fat distribution related to age and many other.

The indication for surgery should be the treatment of metabolic diseases.

Recently a method based on the clinical and functional classification of obesity has been proposed, the Edmonton Obesity Staging System (EOSS). Better clinical diagnosis of obese patients and a more careful definition of the operative risk may be of help to a therapeutic decision which can be more logical and thoughtful than the simple value of BMI.

In this situation we started to create a new statement for indications for obesity and metabolic surgery in cooperation with World of Obesity and other organizations. This expert document can be a basis for evidence based guidelines in the future.

All surgeons in this field know, that in 1991, the Consensus Statement of the NIH Consensus Development Conference codified in an organically the first universally accepted guidelines for bariatric surgery

The NIH 1991 guidelines have been repeatedly revised and expanded over the years, while remaining substantially unchanged in the cardinal principles especially regarding BMI and age of the patients. IFSO created 1997 the Cancun statement. For several years no new IFSO statements were established. The first activity was the publication of the "Bariatric Surgery in Class 1 Obesity "by Luigi Angrisani and the Credentials in Obesity Surgery, published in 2015. We hope, that we are able to present the first results during the next World Congress.

I am glad to inform you briefly about the recent activities of our Federation over the last months.

IFSO is still growing and new societies became members in the Asian-Pacific region, but also from North-Africa.

The structure of our Federation changed slightly. With official nomination of the Canadian society the North American Chapter will not be represented by the American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) alone.

The number of committees increased up to 11. The Corporate committee was able to collect successful funds.

After the successful pilot project of a world wide registry we founded a committee to select the best company as a potential IFSO partner. Under the leadership of MAL Fobi the company Dendrite (UK) provides the best conditions, but the provided contract was not signed yet. To continue the work we decided to act with a new IFSO registry committee.

## Message from the President

From my point of view: IFSO should try to maintain a database in order to have general numbers on metabolic procedures around the world, and we need to know if they are growing or declining, and which trend there is in the choice of procedure. But, an international registry is worthwhile only if we are able to collect data not only on the numbers and types of procedures that are performed around the world, but also on their long-term results in the resolution of comorbidities, side effects and more details. The only way to collect long-term data worldwide is to have an international database that is easily compatible with most databases used by surgeons around the world, that enables most of them to only transfer their data to the central registry within a few minutes. This is the point, which seems to me still unclear. The new IFSO registry committee should bring light into this black box, hopefully.

The refurbished IFSO website ([www.ifso.com](http://www.ifso.com)) showcases a wealth of high quality information for bariatric surgery professionals and patients and continues to receive increasing interest since its inception in 2007.

The website is elegant and detailed and is easy to navigate through its valuable contents. It facilitates a 'log in' tab for existing members but also allows new members to join through the website.

The IFSO Executive Council consists of highly respected and eminent bariatric surgery leaders who have contributed to the foundation and progression of IFSO making it the leading global organisation representing bariatric surgery professionals. In addition there are currently 11 IFSO Committees which each address a specific interest of IFSO to allow for its seamless expansion. These committees consisting of dedicating and enthusiastic individuals meet regularly through videoconferencing as well as at the IFSO World Congresses to develop, implement and review new innovations to keep IFSO at the forefront of the battle against obesity and obesity related disorders.

Our official journal, Obesity Surgery is published monthly and currently has over 2180 subscribers. The journal allows the dissemination of high quality scientific research in the field of bariatric/metabolic surgery including all aspects of Allied Health disciplines.

There was a markable increase in the Impact Factor between 2013 and 2014.

For this year we scheduled a level 2 partner symposium during the Obesity week in Los Angeles. We agreed with World of Obesity to organize joint-meetings in both World Congresses 2016 (WOF in Vancouver and IFSO in Rio de Janeiro). This partnership we like to activate more and more in the future.

The location for IFSO 2019 will be decided for the first time by the Executive Board after the application and presentation during the 20th World Congress. The electing committee will present the candidate of the president elect 2015-2016 which should be from the North American Chapter (NAC).

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in August in Vienna for the XX. World Congress of our Federation and I invite you all to be more and more active in IFSO in order to make our Federation stronger and bigger.

See you soon in Vienna

Yours

Rudolf Weiner



IFSO President

www.ifso.com

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**www.ifso.com**

**IFSO'S NUMBERS**

- **59 NATIONAL SOCIETIES**
- **8.200 MEMBERS**
- **2.180 OBESITY SURGERY SUBSCRIBERS**

Welcome to our new Society:

Jordan—Jordanian Society for obesity treatment

- **European Chapter (EC)**



- **Latin American Chapter (LAC)**



- **Asian Pacific Chapter (APC)**



- **North American Chapter (NAC)**



## European Chapter NEWS



**Alberic Fiennes**

President of the  
European Chapter



**Joan Pujol Rafols**

Chairman of the  
Communications &  
Development  
Committee

### NEW WEBSITE

The European and Middle East chapter invites everybody to visit its new webpage [www.ifso-ec.com](http://www.ifso-ec.com), which is provided with the latest digital technology. This online platform is expected to become an important benchmark and a connecting link where all the professionals and people who might be interested in bariatric and metabolic surgery could find, proven, evidence based scientific data, together with useful information about the IFSO-EC great Family.



#### EUROPEAN CHAPTER (Including Europe, Middle East and Africa)

During the year 2004, the IFSO-European Chapter was unofficially founded during several personal meetings of leading European bariatric surgeons. At the IFSO European Symposium in Prague in 2004, the main goals and future activities of the Chapter were formulated. The Chapter has subsequently been officially approved by the Executive Council of IFSO at the IFSO World Congress in Maastricht, the Netherlands, in 2005. IFSO-EC is an integral part of IFSO, acting in alignment with the bylaws and other official documents of IFSO.

IFSO European Chapter is a scientific organization composed of 31 national societies of bariatric surgeons at Europe, Middle East and Africa, bringing together surgeons and allied health professionals, such as nurse practitioners, dieticians, nutritionists, psychologists, internists and anesthesiologists, involved in the treatment of morbidly obese patients and the challenge of bariatric surgery.

Formation of this regional chapter will help having IFSO meetings in this part of the world and hence new researches and findings would surface.

IFSO EC has been mainly a professional organization, with the goal to support its members in aspects directly related to their profession. Its main activity is currently the organization and coordination of broad European bariatric scientific activities, such as European bariatric congresses, national meetings, etc., which provides a forum to exchange knowledge on surgical treatment of severely obese patients, to present new techniques, research and concepts, and to meet the experts in the field.

### SOME FRESH NEWS FROM IFSO-EC

Prof Michel Suter (Lausanne) represents the Chapter on the newly formed IFSO world-wide Registry Committee (agreed in March 2015).

Dr. Shaw Somers (UK) and Dr. Jean-Marc Chevallier (France) represent the Chapter on the IFSO Membership Committee (agreed in March 2015).

Dr. Joan Pujol Rafols (Barcelona) leads the Communication and Development Committee.

Dr Rachel Batterham (London) & Dr Ralph Peterli (Zurich) lead the Science Committee.

### RECENT-PASSED EVENTS:

#### Laparoscopic Surgical Week (13-17th April 2015. Naples, Italy)

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of my first Laparoscopic Bariatric operation in the Department of Surgery of the Federico II University of Naples, I decided to organize the first 3D Live Surgery Course.

We are definitively moving now toward the techniques and technology of the third millennium. Tridimensional space view and powered intelligent stapler, together with the new coagulations instrumentation, will change our daily life of surgeons.

Re-operations and revisions are the most challenging field of application of these advanced technology and I was very pleased to share my insight of this evolving area with the 20 participants who attended this Course from Australia, Lebanon, Turkey, Iran and Italy. I performed 10 operations showing the participants, who were with me in the OR, the most recent techniques of revisional bariatric and metabolic surgery.

Key-note lectures presented by leading Italian surgeons and case presentations enriched the theoretical part of this intensive Course.

The next Course is scheduled to be held in November 2015.

Luigi Angrisani



## European Chapter NEWS



Hospital San Giovanni Bosco, Naples, Italy

### COMING EVENTS:

To be held on **April 24-25th 2015**, the 5th NON INVA MEETING will transform itself into the **1st New Technologies and Expert International Meeting**.

Karl Miller and Jérôme Dargent have indeed decided to merge their annual meeting, which will be held every other year in Lyon and Salzburg alternatively.

This new meeting will continue to deliver the state of the art expertise and a focus on innovative technologies in the bariatric field.

Anticipating the IFSO Vienna meeting, the Lyon New Tech and Expert meeting will highlight on a smaller but more dedicated scale some of the hot topics regarding "state of the art" and very recent minimally invasive procedures. In addition, let us invite our colleagues to attend the forthcoming **IFSO-EC Live Streaming Symposium about Sleeve Leakes & Fistulas**, a three-hour symposium, that will be held during the Spanish National Congress of Bariatric Surgery and that will be transmitted online worldwide via digital media on the **28th of May from 16:00 to 19:30** (UTC + 01:00).

The purpose of this symposium is to help every surgeon in such a difficult scenario. Together with world-renowned experts, we will try to set the most proper protocol for the management of this complication.

Please find details of the program and participants at [www.ifso-ec.com/live-streaming](http://www.ifso-ec.com/live-streaming) where you will also be able to click online and connect during the event. Don't miss out! Make the date!

Last but not least let us invite you all to the **XX World Congress of IFSO**, regarded as one of the primary event on Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery. This time is going to be held in the heart of Europe at the **Viennese Hofburg Imperial Palace** in Austria, from **August 26th-29th, 2015**.

It will continue in the tradition of the International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity and Metabolic Disorders to focus on the newly growing discipline of metabolic surgery, endoluminal and mini invasive approaches as well as the concept of team management.

Don't miss it! It will be indeed a must for all of us.

On behalf of the IFSO –  
European Chapter

Joan Pujol Rafols

Chairman of  
Communications &  
Development Subcommittee



## Asia Pacific Chapter NEWS



**Lilian Kow**

President of the Asian Pacific Chapter



**Seung Ho Choi**

Congress President of the IFSO-APC Meeting

### IFSO-APC2015 Report



#### 1. Overview

The International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity and Metabolic Disorders Asia Pacific Chapter Meeting (IFSO-APC 2015) was held at the KINTEX exhibition center in Goyang, Korea, from April 9-11, 2015. Under the main themes of "Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery beyond the Continent" and "Growing Impact of Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery in Asia Pacific," various scientific programs were prepared and participants discussed up-to-date knowledge, recent research results and technological advances in the broad areas of bariatric and metabolic surgery. Congress brought practitioners, researchers and educators together from around the world who engaged in the field of bariatric and metabolic surgery.

**Title:** IFSO-APC2015 (International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity and Metabolic Disorders-Asia Pacific Chapter Meeting)

**Period:** April 9-11, 2015

**Venue:** Exhibition Center 2, KINTEX, Goyang, Korea

**Participants:** 372 attendees from 31 countries

**Abstracts:** 230 abstracts from 21 countries (Invites: 72, General: 158)

**Exhibition:** 23 booths from 14 companies

**Program:** Opening & Closing Ceremony Keynote & Presidential Lecture, Symposium, Oral & Poster Presentation, Meet the Expert Exhibition, Welcome Reception, Gala Dinner Key

**Date:** • Deadline for Abstract Submission: January 16, 2015

• Notification of Abstract Acceptance: February 6, 2015

• Deadline for Early-Registration: January 30, 2015

• Deadline for Pre-Registration: March 20, 2015

**Website:** [www.2015ifsoapc.com](http://www.2015ifsoapc.com)

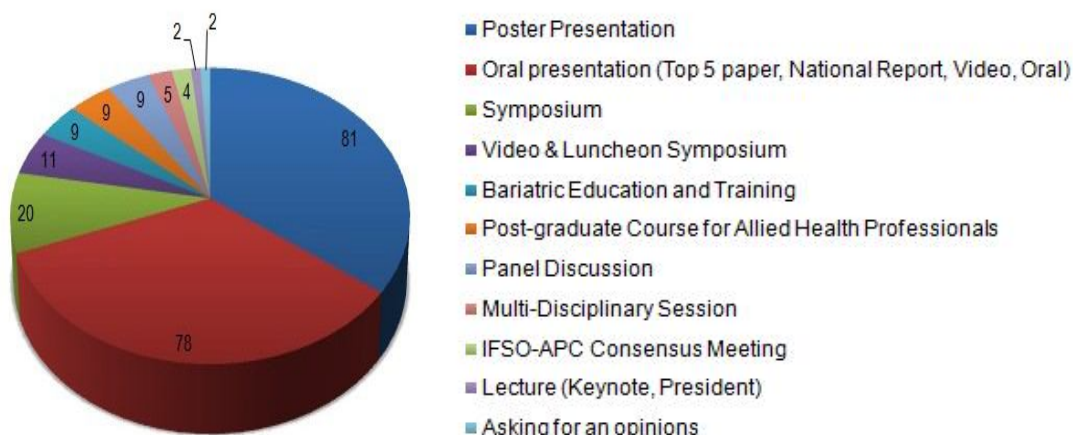
#### 2. Scientific Program

230 papers were presented through 27 scientific sessions. 72 invited papers and 158 general papers were submitted.

<Table 1> List of session category

Category	No. of Session	Presentation
Lecture (Keynote, President)	2	2
Symposium	4	20
Bariatric Education and Training	2	9
Post-graduate Course for Allied Health Professionals	2	9
Panel Discussion	2	9
Multi-Disciplinary Session	1	5
Video & Luncheon Symposium	3	11
IFSO-APC Consensus Meeting	1	4
Asking for an opinions	1	2
Oral presentation (Top 5 paper, National Report, Video, Oral)	8	78
Poster Presentation	1	81
<b>Total</b>	<b>27 Sessions</b>	<b>230 presentations</b>

## Asia Pacific Chapter NEWS



### 3. Registration

Registration fee includes for IFSO, KSMBS Member, Non-Member and Co-Medical, name badge, access to the congress sessions, congress kit, lunches, coffee breaks, access to the exhibition area, opening ceremony and gala dinner.

Category	Early-Registration (By January 30, 2015)	Pre-Registration (By Mar. 20, 2015)
<b>IFSO, KSMBS Member</b>	USD450	USD550
<b>Non-Member</b>	USD500	USD600
<b>Co-Medical</b>	USD300	USD350
<b>Accompanying Person</b>	USD250	USD250

Number of attendees at IFOS-APC2015 was 372 from 31 countries.

<Table 2> List of Participants

Country	Participants	Country	Participants	Country	Participants
Australia	11	Japan	14	Singapore	12
Bahrain	1	Kenya	1	South Africa	1
Brazil	1	Korea	185	Sweden	1
Canada	2	Kuwait	2	Taiwan	25
China	31	Malaysia	6	Thailand	2
Germany	2	Mexico	1	Turkey	4
Greece	1	Philippines	2	United Arab Emirates	5
Hong Kong	9	Poland	2	United Kingdom	4
India	12	Qatar	2	USA	5
Iran	3	Saudi Arabia	22	Viet Nam	2
Israel	1	<b>Total</b>		<b>372</b>	



# Asia Pacific Chapter NEWS

## 4. Sponsor & Exhibition

IFSO-APC2015 attracted a total of 7 sponsors and 7 exhibiting companies and organizations to support the congress.

Level/Contribution	Company
Diamond	Johnson & Johnson Medical Ltd., Covidien
Gold	Olympus
Silver	JW Pharmaceutical, Karl Storz Endoscopy
Bronze	MEDAS Corporation, Apollo Endosurgery, Inc.
Exhibition	ILDong Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd, B.Braun Korea, Medifine Corporation Co., Ltd., Stryker, Europos Korea, Bariatric News, Gyeonggi Tourism Organization



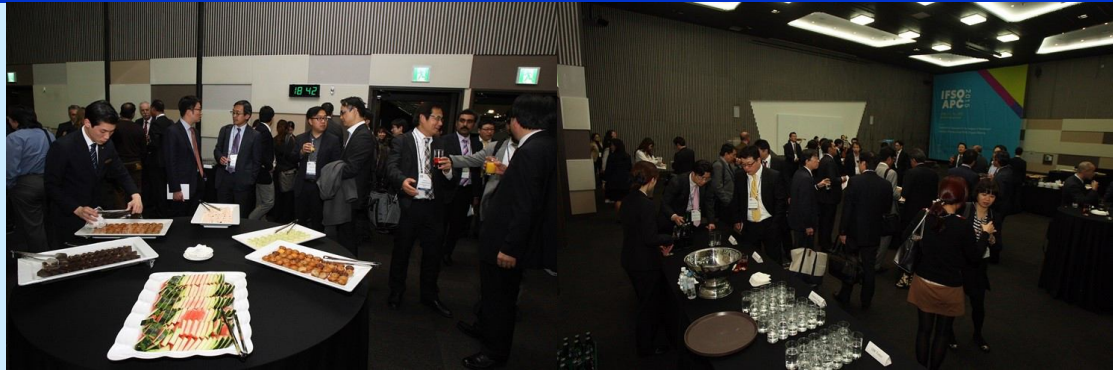
## 5. Photo



Scientific Program



# Asia Pacific Chapter NEWS



Welcome Reception



Presidential Dinner



Meet the Expert



Gala Dinner

## Asia Pacific Chapter NEWS

### Taiwan Society (TSMBS)

Later this year, the Taiwan Society will organize the 6<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Asian Diabetes Surgery Summit (ADSS). The theme of this year's conference which will take place July 18 in Taipei, Taiwan, is *Young Onset Diabetes*. The scientific program features prominent Asian metabolic surgeons and endocrinologists and there will be a pre-congress surgical workshop on July 17, 2015.

### Australia & New Zealand Society (OSSANZ)

#### OSSANZ CONFERENCE 2015

OSSANZ and ANZGOSA (Australia and New Zealand Oesophageal Gastric Surgery Association) will be holding a combined Conference from 7-9 October 2015 which will be held in Hamilton Island, Queensland. This is our first collaborative meeting. We see this as an important initiative as it recognises the points of common interest between our two societies and the opportunity this offers to learn from each other, and improve patient care. There will be a series of sub-specialty workshops, a day of common programme focusing on issues of common interest and a separate day for specific Upper GI and Bariatric topics. The Confirmed Keynote speakers include Professor Scott Shikora and Professor Jeff Peters. More information may be found on our website <http://www.anzgosaossanz2015.com.au>.

#### BARIATRIC WORKSHOPS

Three Bariatric Surgery Workshops have been held over the last 18 months, the last in Singapore prior to the RACS Congress. The primary audience for these workshops are Bariatric and Upper GI fellows, although they have also been attended by advanced general surgical trainees and surgeons wishing to update. We are planning a basic workshop in May in Perth prior to the RACS annual scientific meeting, and an advanced workshop in late November in Sydney, combined with the SUGS meeting. The Perth Workshop will be held from 3rd to 4th May 2015 and will aim to provide Bariatric Surgery Fellows and Trainees with a working knowledge of obesity as a disease and surgical approaches to its management. For information on the Workshop please contact Lorna Christie on [lorna.christie@uwa.edu.au](mailto:lorna.christie@uwa.edu.au)

#### BARIATRIC REGISTRY

The roll out of the Bi-national Bariatric Surgery Registry is going well, with sites now active in most states and territories of Australia, and planning well underway in New Zealand. There are now over 3000 patients on the Registry, and we are achieving >95% follow-up at 12 months. As the roll out is limited by the need to gain ethical approval at each hospital site where patients are accrued, we anticipate that full bi-national coverage will take us another 6-12 months.

#### BOARD OF MANAGEMENT SUB COMMITTEES

As OSSANZ is growing its membership base and lobbying on behalf of members on a number of issues, it has been decided that Sub Committees needed to be formed to look after certain areas of the Society and report back to the Board of Management, who are in the midst of finalizing the Terms of Reference. The Sub Committees are as follows:

- Advisory Committee
- Conference Committee
- Website Scientific Content Committee





## Asia Pacific Chapter NEWS

- Fellow Training Committee
- Member Matters Committee

Associate & Affiliate Members Reporting to the Board

The Board of Management, at its last meeting in November, decided that Sub Committee members should not only come from the Board but from within the membership in general. Further information will be provided to OSSANZ members in the New Year.

### REPORT FROM ASIA PACIFIC REGION FOR IFSO NEWSLETTER 2015

#### METASURG held on 19-21 September 2014 at Mumbai

"METASURG" is a well known, yearly, branded event, conducted by Laparo-Obeso Centre (LOC), has been happening in India for last 10 years. This year it was OSSI's (Obesity Society of Surgeons of India) midterm congress: "METASURG ASIA".

The main features were various live surgeries demonstrated by various nationally & internationally renowned people including focus on duodenal anastomosis & Revision Bariatric procedures : for weight regain or complications.

The most important part of this event was the 1st BMI (Bariatric & Metabolic Integrated) Consensus summit, where various leading Indian organizations as well as International organizations & their presidents from the community of Physicians, Diabetologists, Nutritionists, psychologists, endocrinologists, as well as surgeons participated jointly for a session and voting. These participants were from India, Asia and 16 other countries.

The consensus document when published will be applicable & useful to change the trend of practice for the benefit of the patients in Asian continent.

There were various pre-congress courses including certification course for Bariatric surgeons as well as advanced course for Comprehensive Obesity Management & Care, which also included pre and post Bariatric nutrition & care. All these courses were endorsed by OSSI & AAIRO.



During this congress CCI (Covidien Clinical Institute) as well as CEMAST (Centre of Excellence for Minimal Access Surgery Training) were accredited by OSSI as training centres for Bariatric. At the same time the Chancellor of MUHS (Maharashtra University of Health Sciences) declared Bariatric fellowship officially as a part of University's curriculum.

During the general body meeting of OSSI 4 landmark happenings were recorded and endorsed: -

1. Bariatric Surgery was included as gastro-intestinal surgery by Medical council of India.
2. Indian Medical council & the Indian Government accepted that Bariatric surgery should not be considered as Cosmetic surgery.



## Asia Pacific Chapter NEWS

3. Proposal for National Registry of OSSI was passed.

4. Position statement of OSSI that "Obesity is a Disease and not a Lifestyle Disorder" was unanimously voted for by all those present.



### **OSSICON 2015 held on 23-25 JANUARY 2015 at Mumbai**

OSSICON2015 was held at Hotel J W Marriott, Mumbai from 24-25 January 2015. The event could be conducted successfully due to active participation of delegates, organising committee members from Mumbai & OSSI executive committee.

The event has achieved many 'firsts' for a OSSICN, which includes -

1. 7 pre-conference postgraduate training programs were held on friday 23rd attended by over 225 participants. 2 of these training programs had 'hands on tissue workshops' held at Ethicon & Covidien Institutes.

2. Over 100 free papers were presented during this meeting. most of the papers were presented by young bariatric surgeons & allied members.

3. An allied free paper session was conducted in the main hall.

4. A dedicated issue of peer reviewed 'Journal of Obesity & Metabolic Research' was published on bariatric surgery, which also printed abstracts of all free papers presented at OSSICON.

5. Over 400+ surgeons & allied delegates participated in the meeting.

6. International delegates from 10 other countries registered & participated in the conference.

7. Live surgeries were done entirely by Indian faculty members.

8. Entire conference was live streamed to departments of surgery of over 15 medical colleges across the country. Over 750 students & faculty members of these departments attended the conference from their premises. Even surgeons from Australia & USA attended the conference through live stream.

9. 4 CME points were granted by Maharashtra Medical Council for the participants of the conference.

10. Entire proceedings of conference including live surgeries, plenary sessions & free papers have been archived & any surgeon can access the same on [www.lapguru.com](http://www.lapguru.com). The announcement is enclosed below.

11. 7 experienced & senior surgeons & allied leaders from across the country designed & conducted training programs at Mumbai.

12. Conference was endorsed/supported by International Federation for Surgery of Obesity(IFSO), Indian Association of Gastro-intestinal Endosurgeons(IAGES), Metabolic Surgery Foundation of India (MSFI), Mumbai Surgical Society(MSS), Thane Surgical Society(TSS), All India Association for Advancing Research in Obesity(AIAARO) & Indian Dietetic Association(IDA) Mumbai Chapter.

## North American Chapter NEWS



**Ninh Nguyen**

President of the  
North American  
Chapter

As we move forward into 2015, ASMBS has many initiatives, ideas and activities planned to advance the professional development of our members and colleagues as well as increasing public knowledge and understanding of the disease of obesity and its treatment.

### **EDUCATIONAL EVENTS:**

ASMBS' commitment to providing premier educational opportunities for professionals around the globe and stimulation to share and discuss science and discoveries in metabolic and bariatric surgery remains a strong component of our mission.

### **Obesity Week-End**

June 25 – 27, 2015



We always look forward to this event. It is exceptional education in a relaxed supportive setting perfect for questions, discussions, debates and colleague-to-colleague conversations. This year we will be in the undeniably vibrant city of Las Vegas at the quintessential Las Vegas hotel, Caesar's Palace.



Obesity Week-End starts with a day of Postgraduate Courses followed by a two-day formal program that is brimming with information and resources for a wide range of topics that will peak the interest of professionals at all stages of their careers.

Highlights include:

- 12 Live Surgeries
- Controversies in Bariatric Surgery

## North American Chapter NEWS

- Revisional Surgery
- Video Presentations
- Gastroporiosis Course
- Balloon Course
- Practice Building- Integrating Medical Weight Loss, Quality Payments, Human Resources, Utilizing Media
- And More! See <http://owe.asmbs.org/schedule/> for the full program



John Morton—President of ASMBS

Ninh Nguyen—Immediate Past President of ASMBS

This year the program includes the **IFSO North American Chapter Congress** which is a full day course held on Thursday, June 25, and directed by Drs. Nguyen, Ponce, Weiner, Gagner, and Zundel. The curriculum offers a comprehensive review including comparison and discussion of bariatric interventions around the world with the latest updates on the available relevant data. For more information on this Congress see <http://owe.asmbs.org/courses/ifso-north-american-chapter-course/>

### ObesityWeek 2015



It is not too early to start making plans for ObesityWeek 2015 in Los Angeles November 2-6! Registration is slated to open in April and the ASMBS Program Committee, chaired by Dr. Aurora Pryor, is in the process of developing one of the best programs ever. The program outline is complete. All we need now is to fill in the abstract presentations. **Remember, the abstract submission deadline is May 1<sup>st</sup>.** The meeting starts with two days of Postgraduate Courses that are jam packed with information and resources for bariatric surgery professionals of all levels and educational needs. There are over 20 half-day and full-day course offered in the two-day postgraduate courses schedule this year. Get the latest information at <http://obesityweek.com>.

We are happy to announce that IFSO was once again chosen as an ObesityWeek Level 2 partner and will have a special symposium at ObesityWeek. IFSO also has a symposium within the ASMBS Scientific Sessions tracks that will highlight novel procedures around the world.



## North American Chapter NEWS

Be sure you also make plans to attend the International Reception held especially to honor our international attendees who have traveled great distances and add notable dimension and diversity to the meeting.

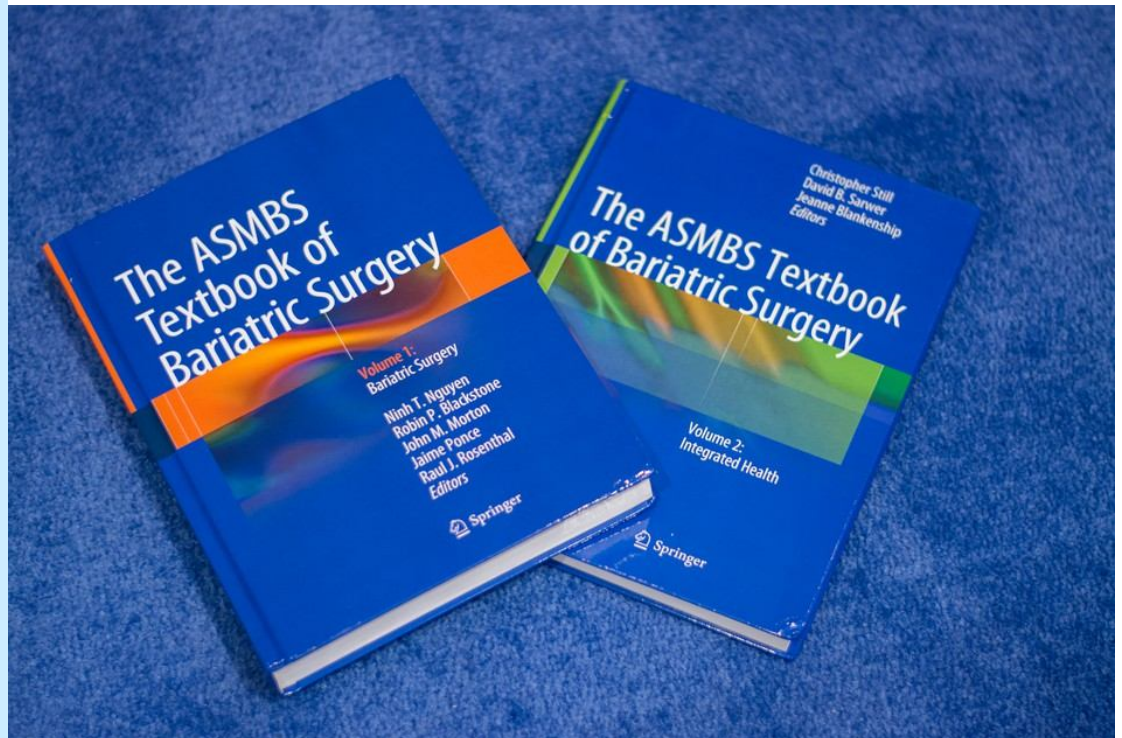


### Essentials of Bariatric Surgery APP

To expand the knowledge base of students and residents pursuing a career in metabolic and bariatric surgery, a task force, chaired by Dr. Dan Jones, is working on an APP that will provide additional standardized education to our up and coming professionals. The curriculum will span preoperative, operative and postoperative surgical care with competencies in anesthesia and medical management.

### Textbook

The 2-Volume ASMBS Text Book (Volume I – The ASMBS Textbook of Bariatric Surgery/Volume II – Integrated Health) provides one of the most valuable, comprehensive guides to the many intricacies of metabolic and bariatric surgery and thus has become a popular resource in the bariatric surgery community.



To order your copy go to <http://asmbs.org/store>



## North American Chapter NEWS

### Patient Education

One of the goals of ASMBS is to increase our efforts on promoting public information and providing general education about obesity as a disease and the treatment options available. The Public Education Committee, chaired by Dr. David Provost, has been working on improving the content for patients on the ASMBS web site, and has three new projects slated for this year 1) patient portal titled This Time It Counts that features patients educating patients via testimonials, 2) a massive online course for patients, and 3) an APP designed to provide patients with information on metabolic and bariatric surgery.

### Motivational Video



If you are not familiar with this video – [check it out, download it and share it!](#) It is available and free for anyone to use. It is just one more way to get the word out. We are working on 30 and 15 second shorts of this video, which will be available soon.

# Latin American Chapter NEWS



**Natan Zundel**

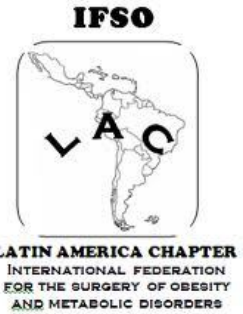
President of the Latin American Chapter,  
President elect of IFSO



**Estuardo J. Behrens**

Executive Director  
IFSO LAC

On behalf of the Board of the Latin American Chapter of IFSO, it is my pleasure to report you what are the main achievements of our chapter, in the last four months, from November 2014 to February 2015.



1) We have had 5 communications with our member societies, in them we have been exchanging ideas for our next IFSO LAC meeting, that, as you know very well we are organizing in Ciudad de Los Cabos, Baja California, Mexico.

2) The dates of our Next IFSO LAC Congress are from July 8th. To July 11th. 2015. Because we are organizing together this meeting with the Colegio Mexicano para la Cirugía de la Obesidad y Enfermedades Metabólicas (CMCOEM), the complete name of it is: VI Congreso de Cirugía Bariátrica y Metabólica IFSO LAC in conjunction with the XVII Congreso Nacional de Cirugía para la Obesidad y Enfermedades Metabólicas (CMCOEM).

3) The information of our meeting is already on our web page, [www.ifsoloscabos2015.com](http://www.ifsoloscabos2015.com)

4) Again, it is important to notify that several countries will need a Visa to get in to Mexico, in our website [www.ifsolac.com](http://www.ifsolac.com) it will appear a special letter with the instructions of how to obtain the visa.

5) We have accepted to actively participate in the Spring Meeting of the ASMBS in Las Vegas in 2015, same as in the FELAC Congress in Dominican republic in 2015.

6) We will have our next Intermediate IFSO LAC Meeting in conjunction with The Brazilian Society of Obesity Surgery on October 2015.



**2015 IFSO World Annual Meeting**



**Karl Miller**

President of the XX IFSO Congress

**IFSO15**  
**20<sup>th</sup> WORLD CONGRESS**

**IFSO GOES TO VIENNA – COME AND JOIN US**

The Austrian Society for Obesity and Metabolic Surgery invites you to the **20th IFSO World Congress** to be held at the Hofburg Imperial Palace in Vienna, Austria, from **August 26th – 29th, 2015**.

In the glittering state rooms of the Imperial Palace, the former winter residence of the Habsburgs, the tradition of the International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity and Metabolic Disorders will be continued to focus on the newly growing discipline of metabolic surgery, endoluminal and mini invasive approaches as well as the concept of team management.

For developing a scientific program of the highest standard covering global perspectives of this ever-evolving discipline that attends to our modern world epidemic that Obesity and Metabolic Disorders have come to represent, **a wide range of issues will be covered:**

Advanced Nursing and Follow-up of Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery Patient.
Alternative and Risk Reduction Treatment Options
Anesthesia of Bariatric/Metabolic Patient in Perioperative Setting
Basic Science and Molecular Research
Bariatric and Metabolic Surgical Techniques
Metabolic Surgery In and Out of the Abdomen
Ethics and Malpractice in Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery
Preoperative and Postoperative Nutritional Status
Live Surgery and Video Sessions
Hands-on Training
Radiology and Digital Diagnostic – Percutaneous Interventions
Management of Complications and Difficult Scenarios in Bariatric/Metabolic Surgery
Epidemiology of Obesity, Diabesity and Adiposity and Impact on Surgical Treatment
Emerging Technologies and Minimal Invasive and Novel Concepts in Bariatric/ Metabolic Surgery and Treatment
Impact of Social Media and Public View of Bariatric Metabolic Surgery
Surgical Training Modalities – Mental Training in Bariatric/Metabolic Surgery
Psychological Issues, Assessment and Surgical Management of Morbid Obese Patients
Diagnostic and Interventional Endoscopy (Stenting – Suturing – Draining) – the Gastroenterologist in the Obesity/Metabolic Management Team



## 2015 IFSO World Annual Meeting



**Special attention** is paid to Hands- on Training by providing various Post-Graduate Courses as well as Animal Labs targeting the topic of Anastomosis and SILS and Anastomosis and Haemostasiology.



Vienna is not only known for its cosmopolitan flair and for being one of the world's leading convention destinations, it will also provide the perfect location for an unforgettable and enjoyable **IFSO Congress Dinner in the tradition of the famous Viennese Ball**. Make sure that you join us for an evening not to be missed.

congress REGISTRATION on: [www.ifso2015.com](http://www.ifso2015.com)

Take advantage of the special Early Bird Discounts **by June 1st** and secure your desired hotel and travel arrangement!





# 2016 IFSO World Annual Meeting



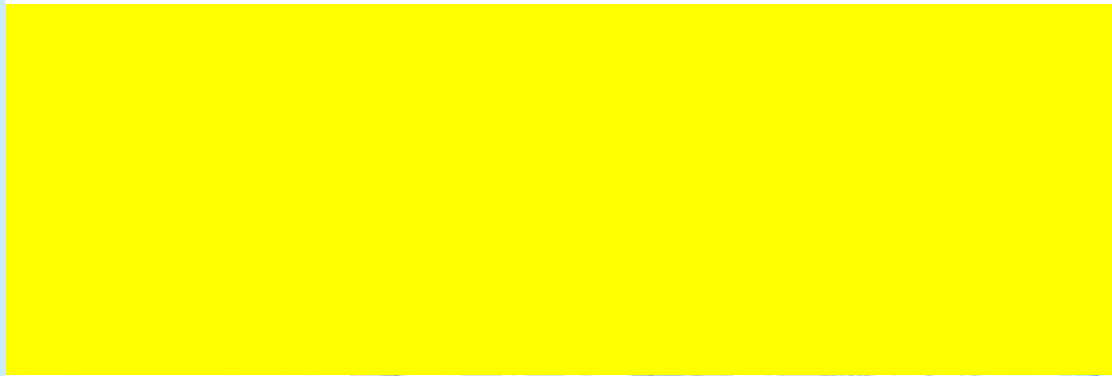
**Ricardo Cohen**

President of the XXI  
IFSO Congress

**XXI World IFSO Congress**

**27 September - 1 October 2016**

**Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**



**IFSO 2016**  
**21<sup>st</sup> WORLD CONGRESS**  
21<sup>st</sup> WORLD CONGRESS OF INTERNATIONAL  
FEDERATION FOR THE SURGERY OF  
OBESITY & METABOLIC DISORDERS  
September, 27<sup>th</sup> to October, 01<sup>st</sup>  
**Rio de Janeiro | Brazil**

Feel welcome with the best of bariatric and metabolic surgery.

Coming soon!



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# Obesity Surgery Journal



**Scott Shikora**  
Editor-in-Chief

Dear Members,

Effective from 1st January, Obesity surgery and SOARD are using the same terminology for weight loss outcomes for all articles submitted to either journal. These changes were approved by the leadership of both IFSO and ASMBS

- **Mandatory**

Weight loss must be expressed as change in BMI or %total weight loss (%TWL)

- **Optional**

Weight loss can be expressed as % Excess Weight Loss (%EWL), with the calculation of ideal body weight as that equivalent to a BMI of 25 kg/m<sup>2</sup> and/or % Excess BMI Lost (%EBMIL) with excess BMI > 25 kg/m<sup>2</sup> AS WELL AS % total body weight loss.

Data extending beyond 30 days MUST INCLUDE lost to follow-up information in the Abstract and Results section, including all tables and figures, with the denominator provided as to how many patients were available at EACH TIME POINT and the number of patients actually seen.



**Michel Suter**  
Consulting Editor

Scott Shikora, MD, FACS

Editor-in-Chief of Obesity Surgery



**Paul O'Brien**  
Consulting Editor



**Ricardo Cohen**  
Consulting Editor



**Never miss an issue!** Sign up to receive **Table of Contents (TOC)** Alert emails for Obesity Surgery. You will be able to update your email address or unsubscribe at any time. <http://bit.ly/WZAF8q>

**New issue alert:** The latest issue of **Obesity Surgery** is now available online! View all new articles and browse the archive. <http://bit.ly/Y8lkiG>

**CITATION ALERT:** Never miss getting cited! Thanks to the information SPRINGER receive from **CrossRef.org**, a journal article's corresponding author will be alerted after his/her paper was cited by another article (<http://goo.gl/XGjVc>)

## Book Release



**Dr Sanjay  
Agrawal**

### **Obesity, Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery - A Practical Guide**

In August, a new book dedicated to Obesity and its surgical management will be published: **'Obesity, Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery - A Practical Guide'**. Published by Springer and edited by Dr Sanjay Agrawal, Consultant Bariatric, Laparoscopic & upper Gastrointestinal (GI) Surgeon, Homerton University Hospital, London and Honorary Senior Lecturer, Queen Mary, University of London, the book will offer a comprehensive yet concise summary in the field of Obesity, Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery, making it an ideal guide for all.

Bariatric surgery is in a constant state of flux. For the clinicians and other health-care professionals involved in the care of an obese patient, keeping up with these changes is a challenging task. In March 2013, Springer agreed to publish this book. Each author was carefully selected and is an expert in their chosen subject. Over 150 experts from 20 countries have contributed to the book. There are 78 chapters spread across 14 sections, each with a Honorary Section Editor.

The book covers all the aspects of Bariatric and Metabolic surgery including perioperative management, surgical techniques of common as well as newer procedures, complications and outcomes. There are dedicated sections on revisional surgery, single incision surgery and innovative endoscopic procedures. The book is well illustrated with photos and video clips along with step-by-step guidance for a complete range of Bariatric procedures. Medical aspects of obesity and metabolic syndrome are included in the introductory sections, and the last two sections cover diverse topics in this exciting field of bariatric surgery.

**Prof. Dr. Weiner, IFSO President has commented in his foreword – "...excellent reference guide for everyone...".** The book is set to be released at the forthcoming IFSO World Congress meeting in Vienna this year.



## IFSO SURVEY 2014

### IFSO WORLDWIDE SURVEY ON BARIATRIC PROCEDURES 2014

Like in the past years, IFSO is collecting data about the number and type of metabolic/bariatric operations performed all over the world.

This survey is one of the main missions of IFSO, that will provide us with a periodical assessment of the numerical status of metabolic/bariatric surgery and its relative distribution of procedures in the 60 societies members of IFSO.

The first IFSO survey on metabolic/bariatric surgery at an international level was initiated for the first time in 1998 and then it was repeated year after year giving us extremely important data on the global trends in metabolic/bariatric surgery in the world.

To well understand the influence and impact of bariatric surgery, it is useful to assess the field annually worldwide, be means of this survey, because the type of operations are in continuous flux.

We strongly believe that periodic surveys on metabolic/bariatric surgery add to the knowledge and understanding of all physicians caring for morbidly obese patients and may guide the decision making of surgeons and patients. This survey is also a source of knowledge to pshysicians, heathcare providers and governments.

Therefore we kindly invite you to participate in this valuable project submitting your national data, by filling in the simple form you find below, at your earliest convenience.

We thank those of you who participated in the past and those who will participate this year in this challenging project and look forward to receiving your form.



International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity and metabolic disorders

#### IFSO WORLDWIDE SURVEY ON BARIATRIC PROCEDURES - 2014

You are kindly requested to fill this form and to send it to: [info@ifso.com](mailto:info@ifso.com)

Society/ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Number and Type of procedures performed in your Country in 2014	
PROCEDURES	NUMBER OF OPERATIONS
Adjustable Gastric Banding	
Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass	
Sleeve Gastrectomy	
Standars Biliopancreatic Diversion (Scopinaro)	
Duodenal Switch Diversion	
Single Anastomosis Gastric Bypass (Mini gastric Bypass or Omega Loop)	
Gastric Plication	
Vertical Banded Gastroplasty	
Endoluminal Procedures: Orbera/BIB Obalon Spatz Adjustable Balloon System Heliosphere Bag POSE Stomaphix Apollo Overstiches Endobarrier	
Other surgical procedure not listed above (please specify):	
<b>TOTAL</b>	

(Please Note: Revisions are to be considered and counted as a primary procedure. i.e.: a lap band converted to bypass is counted as a bypass)

Number of centres	
Number of centres < 50 operations	
Number of centres 50-100 operations	
Number of centres >100 operations	
<b>TOTAL</b>	

Are these data provided by a National Registry? \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

If not, approximately, how complete are they? (choose a percentage) \_\_\_\_\_ %

# IFSO PUBLICATIONS 2015

## IFSO Criteria for Credentialing of General Surgeons to perform Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery worldwide

**Maurizio De Luca, Jacques Himpens, Rudolf Weiner, Luigi Angrisani**

Published on Obesity Surgery – March 2015

The purpose of 2015 IFSO guidelines is to identify minimal requirements for surgeons to obtain credentials from their local institutions and Medical Directors to perform bariatric and metabolic surgery.

IFSO acknowledges the special circumstances existing in different nations worldwide, and consequently recommends the following “minimal requirements” for General Surgeons to perform Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery.

IFSO guidelines should be read in conjunction with local national or regional guidelines, where they exist, and should not be seen to replace such documents, consequently national societies executive board can adapt these criteria according their specific local needs and resources.

OBES SURG (2015) 25:394–396  
DOI 10.1007/s11695-014-1553-y



### IFSO Statement: Credentials for Bariatric Surgeons 2015

Published online: 27 January 2015  
© Springer Science+Business Media New York 2015

**Maurizio De Luca, Jacques Himpens, Rudolf Weiner, Luigi Angrisani**

These guidelines have been written by a working group formed by members of the International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity and Metabolic Disorders (IFSO) and have been discussed and approved by the Executive Board of the International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity and Metabolic Disorders (IFSO).

Maurizio De Luca, Department of General Surgery Montebelluna Treviso Hospital - Italy

Jacques Himpens, Université Libre de Bruxelles, The European School of Laparoscopic Surgery, Brussels, Belgium  
Rudolf Weiner, Sana Klinikum Offenbach GmbH Starkenburgring- Offenbach am Main, Germany

Luigi Angrisani, General and Endoscopic Surgery Unit, San Giovanni Bosco Hospital, Naples, Italy

The purpose of the 2015 IFSO Statement is to identify minimal requirements for surgeons to obtain credentials from their local institutions and Medical Directors to perform bariatric and metabolic surgery. IFSO acknowledges the special circumstances existing in different nations worldwide, and consequently recommends the following “minimal requirements” for General Surgeons to perform Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery. The IFSO statement should be read in conjunction with local national or regional guidelines, where they exist, and should not be seen to replace such documents; consequently, national societies’ executive boards can adapt these criteria according to their specific local needs and resources.

We wish to thank the members of the Executive Board, the Board of Trustees and the members of the Committees of IFSO for their valuable contribution to this important document.

#### History

In 1997, IFSO issued the Statement on Bariatric Surgery Qualifications [1] with the intent of guiding surgeons

interested in bariatric surgery to understand minimal requirements considered acceptable from the international community of bariatric surgeons. In an effort to improve the quality of care offered to bariatric patients worldwide, in 2007 the IFSO Council approved a document, which identified an international board that advised and endorsed national and regional Centers of Excellence (COE) programs. The main purpose was to create guidelines to be applied to different global areas and to define surgeons’ credentials and institutional requirements for safe and efficient management of morbidly obese patients. The implementation of the guidelines, and their evolution to Centers of Excellence programs in different countries, was the responsibility of the IFSO Accreditation Council in collaboration with IFSO regional chapters or national societies.

The 2007 document stated the institutional requirements in order to prepare new centers of bariatric surgery (Primary Bariatric Institutions, PBIs); to improve both the quality and the performance of existing bariatric institutions (BIs), and to upgrade some bariatric centers to the level of excellence (Center of Excellence Bariatric Institution, COEBI), thus optimizing patient outcomes. In the same document, IFSO Council defined surgeons’ credentials related to different types of Bariatric Centers - PBIs, BIs or COEBI [2].

Before 2012, with the implicit goal of ensuring that surgeons have met minimum criteria to safely perform bariatric surgery, three national surgery associations (American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS), American College of Surgeons (ACS) and the Society for American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES)) had independently created credentialing guidelines to guide hospitals and institutions in the credentialing process for bariatric surgery [3–5].

Under the leadership of the ASMBS, a joint Task Force with representation of the ACS, SAGES, Michigan Bariatric Surgery Collaborative (MBSC) and the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract (SSAT), created and approved the general Recommendations for Credentialing of Bariatric

## Statement on Indication for weight related Obesity/Metabolic Surgery

IFSO is currently working together with EASO, WO and IDF on the Statement on Indications for Obesity/Metabolic Surgery.

The two main aims of this document are:

- To state that BMI can no longer be considered as the only indications for Obesity/Metabolic Surgery
- To state that the term “Bariatric” should be replaced with the term “Obesity/Metabolic” surgery

The Statement will be ready and presented in Vienna by Professor Scott Shikora, on Friday morning during the Presidential session.

## Committees Reports

### INTEGRATED HEALTH COMMITTEE



**Blanca Rios**

Chairman of the Integrated Health Committee

#### Activities 2014-2015:

- Elaboration and publication of 1er Latin American Psychological Consensus in [www.bmilatina.com](http://www.bmilatina.com) with participation of IFSO members.
- 10 Online courses on "Allied health" for bariatric surgery from 2010 to date. We have over 250 graduates of Latin America in bariatric psychology, bariatric nutrition, bariatric physiotherapy and bariatric nursing.
- Member organizer in IH program for next IFSO LAC Congress in Los Cabos, BC, México.
- Development ebook Allied Health and Bariatric Surgery, currently available in version for iPad and Mac. I'm waiting for approval IFSO endorsement. I sent it 4 months ago.
- Advice and support for scientific committees organizers of scientific programs in multidisciplinary teams in bariatric surgery, both regional events IFSO and imparting lectures at various conferences of bariatric surgery in several countries.

### STATUTE COMMITTEE



**Antonio Torres**

Chairman of the Statute Committee

In the way of the renovation and consolidation of IFSO 's organization, the Executive Board has been working in updating the "Statutes and Bylaws" and the "Manual of Policies and Policies and Procedures" (MPP) of the Federation. In this way, the Board has recently updated the MOPP, and the Executive Board (EB) approved the following changes:

- To reduce the number of Adhering Bodies' delegates belonging to the General Council Assembly of the Federation (from 2 to 1)
- The way of proposing the President Elect
- The implementation of the new Committees: Scientific; Statute; New Technologies; Communication; Position Statements/Standards; Corporate; Financial; Investigational surgical and endoscopic procedures; Metabolic; Integrated Health; Foundation; Program
- To improve the organization and development of the Clinical Congresses (World and Chapters)
- To facilitate the electronic vote in some specific circumstances
- To work on the implementation of the Manual of IFSO World Congress Organization (MICO)

### NEW TECHNOLOGIES COMMITTEE



**Thomas Horbach**

Chairman of the New Technologies Committee

At first glance, bariatric surgery seems well established in many countries around the world, and gaining popularity along with the continuous increase of the morbidly obese population. Yet the vast majority of the obese population does not take advantage from the surgical possibilities. Clinical research should be oriented towards less invasive procedures that could be accepted by the mainstream. In 2015, most of the new technologies are not standardized and sufficiently assessed, but they are being constantly upgraded.

New technologies can be divided into three groups: the current surgical techniques and their improvements; the endoscopic field; the adjacent fields (biology, smartsensing, etc.). Each of them is equally important, since we do not know from where significant progresses will come in the near future.

In some respects the future of Bariatric surgical procedures belongs to technical improvements that will facilitate the training, decrease the learning curve: 3D and enhanced imaging, robotic platforms, etc. We are also focusing on another kind of new technologies, that aims at increasing the number of patients attracted to bariatric procedures, as well as the BMI range. For the most important part, it deals with endoscopic devices.

Some trends are moving so fast that sometimes "wait and see" seems the appropriate action, sometimes we have to confirm data that look brilliant and advise caution.



## Committees Reports

Many of the operations that can be described are under scrutiny and/or investigation, with or without the support of major international or national scientific societies. Some of the devices do not have an official approval yet (CE market-approval, FDA acknowledgment), and some have not been tested in humans. Some have even been shut down, but represent an interesting step that can benefit to other techniques.

Rating: By principle, every method or device is supposed still investigational; we shall suggest a rating system that will take into account several variables (\*\*\*\* to \*).

We should also implement a platform that will gather physicians and industry in order to set common goals for further trials.

### COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE



**Abdelrahman  
Nimeri**

Chairman of the  
Communication  
Committee

- **Educational obesity public lecture and translation**
- **Facebook page.** Now it has 454 members, started in 2013.
- **IFSO Website new look.** Launched in 2014. The content will be reviewed by the scientific committee.
- **Article to promote the IFSO website.** Produced by Dr H. Khawaja.
- **Educational Obesity public lecture in English and other languages.** The English version is done, we are working on versions in other languages.



**Haris Khwaja**

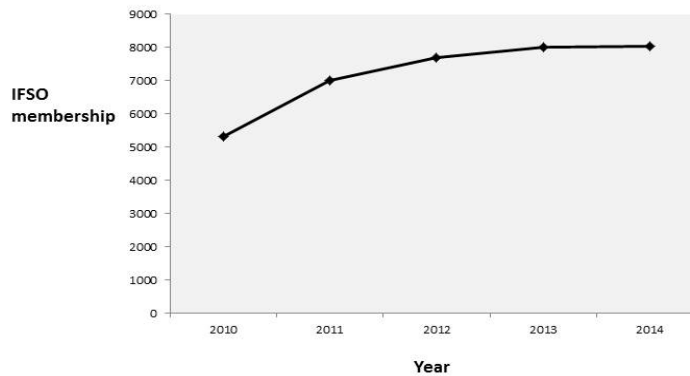
Member of the Communication Committee

**The IFSO Website ([www.ifso.com](http://www.ifso.com)) - the Online Gateway to Obesity and Metabolic Disorders for Bariatric Surgery Professionals and Patients**

**Haris Khwaja MD DPhil (Oxon) FRCS on behalf of the IFSO Communications Committee**

The International Federation for the Study of Obesity and Metabolic Disorders (IFSO) has been at the forefront in the fight against obesity and obesity related metabolic disorders since its inception in Stockholm, Sweden in 1995. It remains the largest bariatric/metabolic surgery organisation with over 8200 members and endorses 58 national societies (Figure 1).

The refurbished IFSO website ([www.ifso.com](http://www.ifso.com)) showcases a wealth of high quality information for bariatric surgery professionals and patients and continues to receive increasing interest since its inception in 2007 (Figure 2a and 2b). The website offers information on the organisational structure of IFSO through its prestigious Executive Council, 58 national societies, dynamic



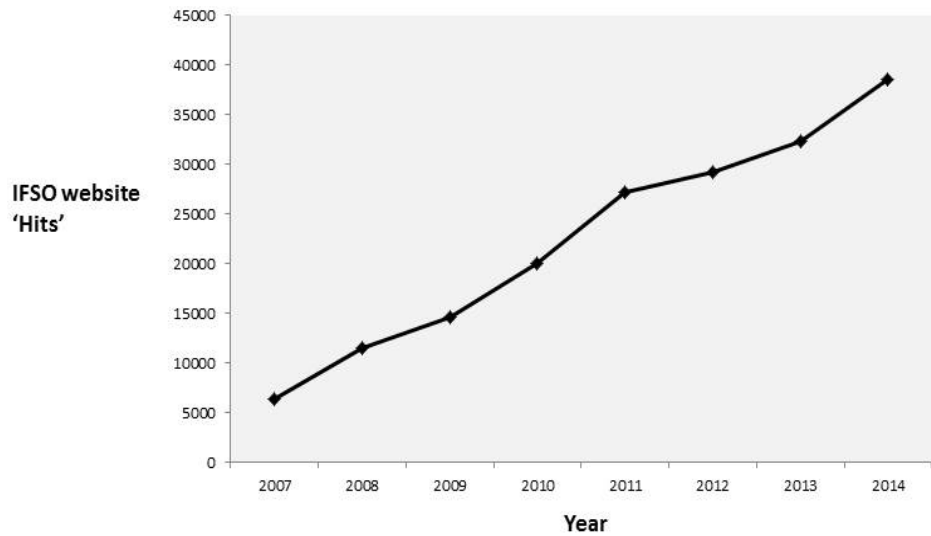
bariatric surgery professionals and patients and continues to receive increasing interest since its inception in 2007 (Figure 2a and 2b). The website offers information on the organisational structure of IFSO through its prestigious Executive Council, 58 national societies, dynamic

**Figure 1: Expansion of IFSO Membership since 2010**

subcommittees and regional chapter committees. A vast amount of educational content is continually being added to the website making it a premier source of information for bariatric surgeons, allied healthcare professionals and patients. The website is elegant and detailed and is easy to navigate through its valuable contents. It facilitates a 'log in' tab for existing members but also allows new members to join through the website. The information that can be gleaned from the website benefits not just the bariatric surgery professional but also has proven to be a valuable patient resource.



**Figure 2(a): The refurbished IFSO homepage ([www.ifso.com](http://www.ifso.com))**

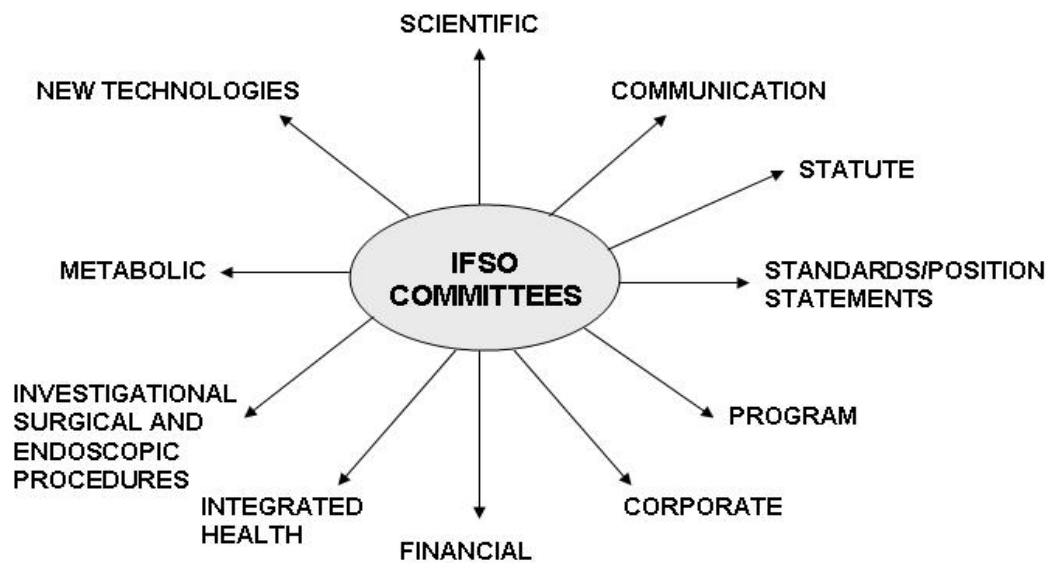


**Figure 2(b): Increase in IFSO website 'hits' since 2007**

The website offers a broad range of information detailing:

**1. IFSO STRUCTURE**

The IFSO Executive Council consists of highly respected and eminent bariatric surgery leaders who have contributed to the foundation and progression of IFSO making it the leading global organisation representing bariatric surgery professionals. In addition there are currently 11 IFSO Committees which each address a specific interest of IFSO to allow for its' seamless expansion (Figure 3). These committees consisting of dedicating and enthusiastic individuals meet regularly through videoconferencing as well as at the IFSO World Congresses to develop, implement and review new innovations to keep IFSO at the forefront of the battle against obesity and obesity related disorders.



**Figure 3: Structure of the IFSO Committees**



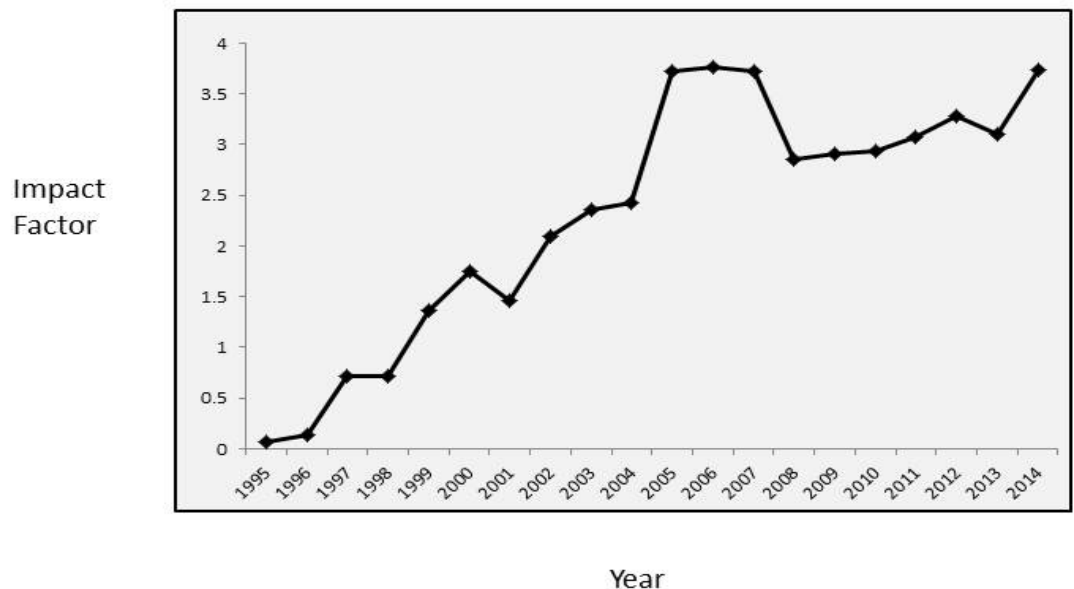
**2. SHOWCASING IFSO ENDORSED COURSES, SYMPOSIA AND CONGRESSES**

All significant educational events/courses pertaining to the field of metabolic/ bariatric surgery are advertised on the IFSO website providing the practicing surgeon/allied healthcare professional ample opportunities to update his/her practice. All such events are rigorously assessed by the IFSO Communications Committee prior to endorsement. In addition details of previous IFSO Chapter Meetings and World Congresses are also uploaded for those unable to attend which help capture the atmosphere and high educational calibre of these meetings. Detailed information of upcoming congresses including the 20<sup>th</sup> IFSO World Congress to be held in Vienna, Austria from August 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and Obesity Week in Los Angeles, USA from November 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 can be currently obtained. The website also allows submission of abstracts for IFSO and IFSO-related congresses.

**3. ACCESS TO THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF IFSO: OBESITY SURGERY**

The website offers access to the official journal of IFSO, *Obesity Surgery* which has been established since 1995 by the eminent Founding Editor, Professor Mervyn Deitel.

Professor Scott Shikora from Harvard University is the current Editor-in-Chief and is assisted by three Advisory Editors, Professor Michel Suter, Professor Paul O’Brien and Professor Ricardo Cohen. The journal is amongst the most widely read in the field with an impact factor that is increasing and allows the dissemination of high quality scientific research in the field of bariatric/metabolic surgery including all aspects of Allied Health disciplines (Figure 4).



**Figure 4: Increase in the Impact Factor of the official journal of IFSO, *Obesity Surgery*, since 1995**

*Obesity Surgery* is published monthly and currently has over 2180 subscribers. The journal allows the dissemination of high quality scientific research in the field of bariatric/metabolic surgery including all aspects of Allied Health disciplines.

#### **4. ACCESS TO THE IFSO E-NEWSLETTER**

The IFSO Newsletter was established in 2005 and is circulated to all IFSO members 3 times a year. It provides a concise review of all IFSO affairs including policy changes, new developments and significant upcoming meetings/ congresses as well as reviews of recent meetings such as the educationally entertaining 19<sup>th</sup> IFSO World Congress in Montreal, Canada held in August 2014 under the leadership of Professor Michel Gagner and the well attended, high quality, autumnal 8th Frankfurter Meeting held in Frankfurt, Germany hosted by Professor Rudolph Weiner and Dr. Sylvia Weiner. Comprehensive reviews of significant meetings hosted/planned by the various IFSO Chapters: North American Chapter (Obesity Week 2014 in Boston, USA), Asia-Pacific Chapter and Latin American Chapter are also advertised and subsequently reviewed in the e-Newsletter. Indeed over the past 10 years the Newsletter has matured into a comprehensive medium for the efficient dissemination of IFSO endorsed events throughout the year.

#### **5. PATIENT EDUCATION**

Using simple, easy to understand terminology the sections on 'Obesity and Bariatric Surgery' outline the commonly practiced bariatric surgeries, their benefits and risks for our patients. This information is reinforced by videos of the procedure. Further information pertaining to gastric banding in the 'frequently asked questions' section can also be accessed. The website also allows patients and surgeons to find bariatric surgeons in countries throughout the world.

#### **6. MEMBERSHIP OF IFSO**

Membership of IFSO can be easily made through the IFSO website and affords a myriad of benefits to professionals with an interest in obesity, obesity related disorders and bariatric surgery. These include significant discounts to all IFSO Congresses and IFSO endorsed meetings, free subscription to *Obesity Surgery* and regular e-mail communications of all IFSO endorsed meetings/courses, the IFSO Newsletter and IFSO Scholarships. IFSO members will also be eligible to gain IFSO endorsement for any courses/meetings they organise. In addition to membership via the website, membership can also be made via the national bariatric/metabolic surgery society of the applicant. Individuals who live in countries where there is no national society can apply to become 'Individual affiliated members' by writing to the IFSO Secretariat ([ifso.secretariat@gmail.com](mailto:ifso.secretariat@gmail.com)) and requesting an application form.

#### **7. IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION**

The success of IFSO as an organisation is spearheaded by the highly dedicated IFSO secretariat consisting of Manuela Mazzarella and Francesco Carignani based at IFSO headquarters in Naples, Italy. The IFSO secretariat coordinate all meetings and efficiently address all issues of surgeons/ allied healthcare professionals registered with IFSO. Indeed the IFSO secretariat remains very much the 'heart beat' of IFSO allowing for the IFSO family to continue to grow from strength to strength

## "YOUNG IFSO" NEWS



**Karin  
Dolezalova**

Young IFSO  
Chapter President

### NEWS FROM THE YOUNG-IFSO

#### **News and activities in 2014/2015**

In 2014 Young-IFSO was very active in participating in several, high caliber scientific meetings.

At the meetings, dedicated Young-IFSO Sessions were held, and the sessions program was created and coordinated by Young-IFSO Board in alignment with the local Scientific Committees.

Just to name some of the major events in which Young-IFSO was visible, let's mention the 6th Congress of the IFSO-European Chapter in Brussels in Belgium, followed by the IFSO World Congress in Montreal, Canada, and in Autumn 2014, Young-IFSO organised a successful Session at the Frankfurter Meeting.

In 2015, Young-IFSO focused its activities mainly at two events, the 22nd European Congress on Obesity (ECO) in May in Prague, Czech Republic. ECO is the annual Congress of EASO (European Association for the Study of Obesity), usually attended by more than one thousand participants. Presence of Young-IFSO at the EASO Congress is indeed a break through event, as it's for the first time in history of the Congress when Young-IFSO is jointly involved with a similar EASO counterpart – the EASO Young Investigators United.

In August 2015, Young-IFSO is going to be highly visible at the IFSO World Congress in Vienna.

On top of these activities, Young-IFSO officially applied to IFSO-European Chapter (IFSO-EC) for a post of Young IFSO Representative in IFSO-EC Executive Council. The IFSO-EC Executive Council approved Alexander Newmark (Russian Federation) as the Young-IFSO Representative to IFSO-EC Executive Council.

There are further, ambitious development plans of the Young-IFSO for the next years.





## IFSO Endorsement



**IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF IFSO ORGANIZING A CONGRESS/COURSE/ WORKSHOP/SYMPIOSIUM ON BARIATRIC SURGERY YOU CAN APPLY FOR IFSO ENDORSEMENT AND GET THE GREAT ADVANTAGES OF BEING ADVERTISED THROUGH IFSO COMMUNICATION CHANNELS**

### Benefits:

1. Endorsed Congresses will be:
  - listed on IFSO's Website on the Endorsed meetings page
  - included in IFSO's E-newsletters
  - mailed to more than 8.000 IFSO Members
  - posted on IFSO Facebook webpage
2. The Course Director may include IFSO's Endorsement statement and IFSO Logo on promotional brochures and course materials with the text "*Endorsed by*"

### Individual Endorsement

- Course must be directed or coordinated by an IFSO member, or have as its primary faculty, at least one IFSO member
- Endorsed Courses should offer CME credits (if not, an explanation must be provided)
- Course Director must ensure that disclosure of conflict of interest are enforced
- Reduced course fee must be granted to IFSO Members
- The fee for individual course endorsement is **400,00 US\$**

### Institutional Endorsement

- More than two (2) courses must be held per year at the same physical institution
- Course must be directed or coordinated by an IFSO member, or have as its primary faculty, at least one IFSO member
- All brochures and faculty lists must be submitted to the IFSO-CC for annual review
- The centre must be equipped with adequate facilities
- Endorsed Courses should offer CME credits (if not, an explanation must be provided).
- Course Director must ensure that disclosure of conflict of interest are enforced
- Reduced course fee must be granted to IFSO Members

The fee for institutional course endorsement is **1.200,00 US\$** per year

If you think your meeting fulfils the below mentioned requirements please send your endorsement requests to **info@ifso.com** together with a PDF file of the scientific program of the Congress. IFSO Committee will carefully review the concepts and objectives of the course as well as the faculty, the structure and content of the course. Endorsement does not in any way offer credentialing or grant approval to the participant regarding future skills or outcomes.

After the approval of the Committee, you will receive from our Secretariat further instructions about the payment of the endorsement fee.

## 2015 Endorsed Congresses

**5th BOMSS Spring Symposium at Homerton  
London, UK  
18-19 May, 2015**



**5th BOMSS Spring Symposium at Homerton**  
Bariatric Surgery Symposium on  
**Controversies, Revisions, Innovations, Metabolic Effects & Live Surgeries**  
London on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2015  
Due to the overwhelming success over the last 4 years we are holding a 5th congress in 2015. Once again this will include live surgery and international speakers.

**Sleeve Leaks and Fistulas: The Achilles Heel of the  
Technique  
Vitoria, Spain  
28 May 2015**  
<http://www.ifso-ec.com/live-streaming>



**SLEEVE LEAKS & FISTULAS:  
THE ACHILLES HEEL OF THE TECHNIQUE**

**CO CHAIRS:**  
A. Finlayson, President of IFSO-EC  
A. Tziaris-Garbis, President of IFSO 2012-13  
J. Ponce-Belido, Chairman of the Certification,  
& Development Committee IFSO-EC

**To be held during the  
17th Spanish National Congress for the Surgery of Obesity,  
Vitoria, Spain.**

**May 28th, 2015. From 16:00 to 19:30h (UTC + 01:00)**

*Everything you must know about prevention, prompt diagnosis  
and sleeve leak treatment.  
Panel discussion with world renowned experts.  
Join us at -  
[www.ifso-ec.com/live-streaming](http://www.ifso-ec.com/live-streaming)*



**Congreso Internacional de Cirugía Bariátrica  
y Metabólica  
Mendoza, Argentina  
7-9 May, 2015**  
<http://www.congresobariatrica.com.ar/>



**7, 8, 9 de mayo 2015, Hotel Intercontinental,  
Mendoza - Argentina**

**1st International Consensus Conference on  
Duodenal Switch  
Montreal, Canada  
22-23 June, 2015**  
<http://dsconsensus.com/>



**Reversing end organ damage through diabetes  
surgery  
Dublin, Ireland  
24 August 215**  
<http://www.ucd.ie/medicine/>



**Monday 24th August 2015  
09.00 - 17.00**  
UCD Conway Lecture Theatre

This study day, hosted by UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science is targeted towards all health care professionals interested in treating diabetes and its complications. The programme brings together experts in diabetes, metabolic surgery and diabetes related disease from across the world. The format is designed to update and inform participants with regard to the latest developments and best practice in this evolving area.

**Topics include:**

- Updates from the randomized controlled trials in diabetes surgery
- Small mesh prosthetics and/or surgery: are responsible for reversal of end organ damage
- Update from rodent models of diabetes surgery
- Medical Devices and Vertical Sleeve Gastrectomy as emerging new treatments for diabetes
- Health economic benefits of reversing end organ damage

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
Professor Carol Le Ross,  
Diabetes Complications Research Centre  
UCD Conway Institute, UCD School of Medicine & Medical Science  
E: carl.le@ucd.ie | www.ucd.ie/med

**Key Topics / Speakers**

- PROF FRANCESCO RUBINO** King's College London  
*Challenging the dogma that obesity causes diabetes*
- DR WENDY BROWN** Henshaw University  
*How do randomized controlled trials change our practice?*
- PROF PHIL SCHAUER** Cleveland Clinic  
*Does gastric bypass improve outcomes for preventing complications of diabetes?*
- DR CAMILO BOZA** Catholic University of Chile  
*Using laparoscopy to gain a better perspective for treating complications of diabetes?*
- DR RICARDO CHEN** Cleveland Clinic Hospital  
*What can Medical Devices add?*
- DR TORBEN SIEBER** University of Göttingen  
*Should we proceed with sleeve gastrectomy by treating adolescents?*
- DR MARCO BUETER** University of Zurich  
*How does the gastric sleeve affect delivery of surgery?*
- PROF ALAN SPECTOR** Florida State University  
*How does sleeve gastrectomy affect diabetes?*
- PROF THOMAS LITZ** University of Gießen  
*Animal models as a tool to study diabetes investigations.*
- PROF IAN KAPLAN** Harvard  
*The effect of fibrates and bile acids after surgery.*
- PROF DAVID CUMERBA** Washington State University  
*The effect of gastric bypass on insulin resistance after surgery.*
- DR ALEX HIRSH** Imperial College London  
*The medical system, can we reverse surgery?*

## IFSO SCHOLARSHIPS 2015

IFSO offers every year **4 Scholarships** to IFSO members in good standing

Deadline for applications: **May 25th 2015**.

Each Scholarship offers a stipend of: **\$2.500 + the registration in the IFSO Annual World Congress** with public recognition of their presence + **ticket to the Gala dinner**.

The requirements are:

- Applicants must be graduates of schools of medicine and/or other associated disciplines
- Applicants must demonstrate interest in bariatric surgery and/or other allied health disciplines
- Applications will be accepted only when the applicants have been in surgical or other bariatric surgery related specialties practice for a minimum of one year at their intended permanent location, after completion of all formal training (including fellowships/other scholarships)
- Applicants must be **under 40 years old**, in his/her training period, or, at the date of the application no more than 5 years have to be passed after finishing their training period
- Applicants whose careers are in the developing stage are deemed more suitable than those who are serving in senior academic appointments

Applicants must submit the following documents to [secretariat@ifso.com](mailto:secretariat@ifso.com):

- 1) **A type-written in English Curriculum Vitae** (no more than 2 pages) **with a list of publications**.
- 2) **A recommendation letter** from an IFSO member in good standing (mentor)
- 3) **A type-written in English Personal Statement** describing the applicants past and present contributions to bariatric surgery and their plans for the future (no longer than 1 side of a page).
- 4) **Applicants must have at least one abstract accepted at the world congress of the year of their application**. Their abstracts will be evaluated by the Scholarship Committee.

The applicants will be informed about the assignment, at latest two weeks after the deadline, by the Secretariat by email and will have to provide their bank details for the bank transfer.



## How to join IFSO?

### **2015 FEES**

**IFSO Regular Membership** (complimentary subscription to *Obesity Surgery*): **100,00\$**

**IFSO Integrated Health Membership** only for non surgeons: **20,00\$**

From this year it is not possible anymore to subscribe to SOARD through IFSO. If you are a non ASMBS member and you want to subscribe to SOARD please visit: [asmbs.org/professional-education/soard/ifso](http://asmbs.org/professional-education/soard/ifso)

- **Individual Membership**

Only members who live in Countries where there is no National Society for the Surgery of Obesity can apply to become "Individual affiliated members", writing to the Secretariat and asking for the application form.

Payment can be made either by bank transfer or credit card/Paypal on [www.ifso.com/join-ifso](http://www.ifso.com/join-ifso)

- **Membership through the National Society**

For details on how your National Society for the Surgery of Obesity can become a member of IFSO, for Individual membership requests and for any other information feel free to contact our Executive Secretariat's office at: [secretariat@ifso.com](mailto:secretariat@ifso.com) or [info@ifso.com](mailto:info@ifso.com)



*It's time to renew for 2015. Ask your national Society how to renew your IFSO membership!*

## **WHY RENEW OR JOIN IFSO?**

- Big discounts to all our Congresses or endorsed meetings all over the world
- Free subscription to our official journal: **Obesity Surgery**
- E-blast with info about the endorsed meetings
- Regular E-Newsletters
- An official Certificate of Membership
- Use of IFSO website to advertise the activities of the national societies
- Eligibility to IFSO endorsement for meeting/workshop/course
- Membership in a professional global network
- Listing in the online registry on the IFSO website
- Eligibility to IFSO Scholarships

### **2015 Fees**

- **IFSO Membership: 100,00\$** (including *Obesity Surgery* for free)
- **IFSO Integrated Health** reduced fee (only for non surgeons): **20,00\$**

*Even attending only one meeting a year, being an IFSO member, you will get a discount that writes off your annual membership fee!*

Meetings, pictures, comments? Follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn!

**facebook.**

[info@ifso.com](mailto:info@ifso.com)  
[secretariat@ifso.com](mailto:secretariat@ifso.com)

**Linked in.**