

# IFSO Newsletter



**IFSO**

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## Current IFSO affairs

Dear IFSO members,

This is the first official IFSO newsletter. With this newsletter the IFSO council will keep you all up to date with current IFSO affairs, new developments, new strategies and very important upcoming meetings. It will provide a comprehensive overview of what is going on in the world of bariatric surgery.

In this issue the current IFSO council will be presented to you, the development of the regional chapters will be explained and a highlight of the plans for the future structure of IFSO will be brought to you.

A brief meeting report of the 10th world congress of IFSO in Maastricht the Netherlands will be presented as well.

Jan Willem Greve,  
President of IFSO

### WHAT DOES IFSO DO FOR ITS MEMBERS? (by Andrew Jamieson)

IFSO runs the Annual International Congress featuring courses, invited speakers, special guest speakers, Allied Health sessions, poster presentations and of course plenary sessions which attract presentations on the latest developments in bariatric surgery from around the world. These Congresses have been held in many different countries with Australia, Portugal and Argentina coming up in the next three years. IFSO, with generous help from Ethicon and Inamed has set up a scholarship scheme to allow young surgeons from poorer countries attend the IFSO

Congress. This Scholarship Fund enabled two surgeons from India and one from Russia to attend the IFSO Congress in Maastricht, Holland this year.

IFSO members have been instrumental in the success of the Official IFSO journal, *Obesity Surgery*, edited by Dr Mervyn Deitel. This scientific journal is now published monthly and serves to spread information on all aspects of Bariatric surgery including all the Allied Health disciplines as well as the traditional surgical topics. IFSO members receive a considerable discount in the subscription rate for this highly rated publication. In 2004, *Obesity Surgery* ranked 7<sup>th</sup> out of 139 surgical journals for citations.

A new initiative by IFSO is to set up regional Chapters to run meetings in Latin America, Europe and the Asian-Pacific region. Early this year the first Latin-American Congress was held in Iguassu Falls, Brazil with Spanish and Portuguese being the two languages and this was a huge success and this also featured a well attended Allied Health section.

Till now IFSO has been limited in its activities by lack of funds however with increasing membership, better returns from Congresses and generous support from sponsors more can be done to promote bariatric surgery around the world. Plans are in place to construct a new comprehensive website and publish a regular electronic newsletter.

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## Current situation of IFSO

- IFSO currently has a rapidly growing membership of now 31 associations including 34 countries with 2 more associations announced recently. The membership is well over ....  
**Paying members.**

The need for regional chapters has been recognised and the first chapters have been initiated. These chapters will be tightly linked with IFSO but will have their own yearly meetings, council and bylaws.

## What is IFSO

The International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity was formed in 1995 when on the initiative of Dr George Cowan (USA), Dr Mervyn Deitel (Canada) and Dr Nicola Scopinaro (Italy), five bariatric societies from USA, Italy, Australia/New Zealand, the Czech Republic and Mexico decided to form a world body to encourage communication and education in bariatric surgery and hold an annual congress. Today there are 32 societies representing 38 countries where surgery for obesity is practiced.

IFSO is governed by a General Council made up of two representatives from the member societies and has an Executive Board elected by the Council to run the Federation between the annual Council

## Membership and Obesity Surgery fees 2006

Members of IFSO are members of IFSO member associations for which the yearly fee of US\$ 10 has been paid to the central IFSO account (Treasurer Harry Frydenberg). Bariatric surgeons from countries that do not have an association are encouraged to initiate a national association but for the time being can become individual member of IFSO. Membership fee includes a membership certificate, reduced registration fees for the IFSO and

IFSO chapter meetings and a significantly reduced subscription fee for the official journal of IFSO: Obesity Surgery.

Members of the ASBS have these same privileges.

## Board of trustees

The board of trustees is composed of past presidents, the current president and the executive director. Its main task is review of IFSO functions, selection of candidate IFSO officers, guarding of the IFSO bylaws and an advisory function towards the IFSO executive council and general council. The current chair of the Board of Trustees is Henry Buchwald (members: Cowan, Jamieson, Baltasar, Garido, Fried, Buchwald, Scopinaro and Greve (not on the picture))



## Report the 10th World Congress Maastricht, 2005.

The 10th world congress of IFSO took place in Maastricht the Netherlands. Under a continuous sunshine (it turned out to be the hottest first week of September of the last century!) a tremendously well received meeting took place. The scientific level of the meeting was very high with in total 104 oral presentations, all preceded by a invited lecturer about the same topic. There were 150 posters and 20 video presentations all selected out of a total of 350 abstracts from over 50 different countries. It was also the largest IFSO meeting so far with in the end over 900 participants consisting of 60 accompanying persons, 110 representatives from the industry and over 700 surgeons and allied health participants. At the opening ceremony Mervyn Deitel and George Cowan jr were both awarded the IFSO Distinguished Service Award and were appointed IFSO member for life. The social highlight of the meeting was the congress diner in the famous castle Alden Biezen in Belgium. It was a privilege to organise this meeting in name of the BABS.

Jan Willem Greve, congress president



## IFSO Website

One of the targets for 2006 is the introduction of a dedicated IFSO website. Several companies have been asked to make a proposal after which the website will be opened. Of course Dr Karl Miller, who has done a great job by hosting IFSO information on his website [www.obesity-online.com](http://www.obesity-online.com) will be closely involved with this new website.

### **WANTED**

#### **IFSO MEMBER WITH JOURNALISTIC TALENT**

We need an enthusiastic surgeon working with the Communications Committee and the Executive Director to edit this electronic newsletter and enhance communication within this international society. For details contact Dr Jamieson [acjammo@ozemail.com.au](mailto:acjammo@ozemail.com.au) or Dr Greve [J.Greve@AH.unimaas.nl](mailto:J.Greve@AH.unimaas.nl)

## IFSO Council



The new executive board of IFSO for 2005-2006 is as follows:

President: Jan Willem Greve (Netherlands)  
President-elect: John Melissas (Greece)  
Junior Past-President: Arthur GARRIDO (Brazil)  
Senior Past President: Henry Buchwald (USA)  
Secretary-Treasurer: Harry Frydenberg (Australia)  
Executive-Director: Andrew Jamieson (Australia)  
2006 congress organiser: Paul O'Brien (Australia)  
Honorary President: Nicola Scopinaro (Italy)

Additional members:

Chapter Representatives:

Europe:

Latin America:

North America:

South America:

## Upcoming IFSO meetings

2006: Sydney, Australia ([www.ifso2006.com.au](http://www.ifso2006.com.au))  
2007: Porto, Portugal ([www.ifso2007.com](http://www.ifso2007.com))  
2008: Rio De Janeiro, Argentina  
2009: Paris, France  
2010: USA??



Please note these dates in your agenda.



## New member association

### ROMANIAN SOCIETY ADMITTED TO IFSO

IFSO admitted the Romanian Society for Bariatric Surgery as its 32<sup>nd</sup> Adhering Society recently. Under the presidency of Dr Nicu Iordache, it has 12 members. As a very new surgical speciality in Romania, the usual problem of getting the message through to the health authorities, the medical profession generally and the public is the biggest issue for the new society. Dr Iordache [nicolae\\_iordache@yahoo.com](mailto:nicolae_iordache@yahoo.com) would be appreciative of any advice in this area.

### WHAT DOES IFSO DO FOR ITS MEMBERS? (by Andrew Jamieson) continued

Collaboration with the International Association for the Study of Obesity (IASO) began in 2004 and is ongoing while IFSO is currently examining ways to accredit Bariatric Surgery Centres around the globe with the ASBS Centers of Excellence Program providing a comprehensive and highly successful model to be emulated.

IFSO has come a long way in the ten years since its birth and will continue in its prime goal to help combat the worldwide scourge of obesity.

## IFSO Member Associations



ARGENTINA  
Sociedad Argentina de Cirugia de la Obesidad (SACO)  
AUSTRALIA - NEW ZEALAND  
Obesity Surgery Society of Australia and New Zealand (OSSANZ)  
AUSTRIA  
Österreichische Gesellschaft für Adipositaschirurgie  
BELGIUM - NETHERLANDS - LUXEMBOURG  
BeNeLux Association of Bariatric Surgeons (BABS)  
BRAZIL  
Sociedade Brasileira de Cirurgia Bariátrica (SBCB)  
CZECH REPUBLIC  
Czech Obesity Society (COS)  
EGYPT  
Egyptian Society for Bariatric Surgery (ESBS)  
FRANCE  
la Société Française de Chirurgie de l'Obésité (SOFCO)  
GERMANY  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Chirurgie der Adipositas  
GREECE  
Greek Society for Bariatric Surgery  
Hellenic Bariatric Society for Morbid Obesity  
HUNGARY  
Hungarian Bariatric Surgery Foundation  
INDIA  
Obesity Surgery Society of India (OSSI)  
ISRAEL  
Israeli Association for Obesity Surgery (ILA)  
ITALY  
Società Italiana di Chirurgia dell'Obesità (SICOB)  
JAPAN  
Japanese Society for the Study of Obesity/Malnutrition (JSSOM)  
KUWAIT  
Kuwaiti Society for Bariatric Surgery KSBS)

MEXICO  
Sociedad Mexicana de Cirugia de la Obesidad, A.C. (SMCO)  
PANAMA  
Asociación Panamena de Cirugia Bariátrica (APCB)  
PARAGUAY  
Sociedad Paraguaya de Cirugia de la Obesidad (SPCO)  
PERU  
Surgical Association of Obesity in Peru  
POLAND  
Polish Association for Prevention and Treatment of Obesity  
PORTUGAL  
Portuguese Obesity Surgery Society  
RUSSIA  
Russian Society of Bariatric Surgeons  
SPAIN  
Sociedad Española de Cirugia de la Obesidad (SECO)  
SWITZERLAND  
Swiss Study Group for Morbid Obesity  
TURKEY  
Turkish Obesity Surgery Society (TOSS)  
UKRAINE  
Ukrainian Association of Bariatric Surgery (UABS)  
UNITED KINGDOM  
British Obesity Surgery Society (BOSS)  
USA  
American Society for Bariatric Surgery (ASBS)  
YUGOSLAVIA  
Yugoslav Obesity Surgery Society (YOSS)

## IFSO executive council

Jan Willem Greve, President (2005-2006)



Professor of Surgery at the university hospital Maastricht the Netherlands, Past president of BABS, Organizer of the 10th world congress of IFSO and co-organizer of the 4th world congress of IFSO in Bruges Belgium.

Andrew Jamieson, executive director



Bariatric Surgeon in Private practice, .... Australia, in his second year as executive director and currently retired as surgeon.

Harry Frydenberg, Secretary / Treasurer



Dr Frydenberg is bariatric surgeon in private practice, Melbourne, Australia. He has been member of IFSO right from the start and is in his second year as treasurer and is current president of OSSANZ.

## IFSO Regional Chapter Meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> European Symposium  
2006, Lyon, France

2<sup>nd</sup> Latin American Symposium  
2007 Cancun, Mexico

The International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity was initiated in 1995 (Stockholm). The first official IFSO congress and founding meeting took place in Prague, Tzech Republic 1996.

## IFSO European Chapter

Dear European colleagues and friends:

Finally, an old dream of many of us has become true. Finally, a long sustained claim has been recognized as fair. Finally, what was started two years ago in Prague very softly and with a vague sensation of transgression is now an official reality.

Finally, the IFSO General Council approved the constitution of the IFSO European Chapter.

Finally, what a mix of courage and timidity suggested Martin Fried to name "IFSO European Symposium" has the right of being named today by Jerome Dargent "The Second Congress of the IFSO European Chapter".

However, if you look at the list of the Chapter activities in the Draft of the Chapter Rules, you will find the organization of the Congress exactly at the last place. What we expect from the European Chapter is more, much more.

With the European Chapter we are being given a unique opportunity that we will not certainly miss.

Look again at the Draft of the Chapter rules, where the Definition is "IFSO EUC is an integral part of IFSO, acting in alignment with its bylaws and other official documents". The European Chapter was born, is, and will always be part of the IFSO, what we are and will always be very proud of. However, why not to try to demonstrate that this is the "best" part of the IFSO?

Certainly, Europe is not a unique country, yet, but, does it applies to obesity surgery? I do not think so. Wherever I go in Europe, whatever European obesity surgeon I talk to, I already feel today what will probably take a long time to be felt in Europe generally speaking. I already feel the "European sentiment", I breathe the "European spirit".

The "bariatric surgery Europe" already exists, and to this "country" belong 113 out of

the 250 papers published in Obesity Surgery through January-September 2005, the second country being the USA with 84 papers. Still, the European Chapter is open to all the Mediterranean basin, Africa and Middle East, which would bring the total of papers to 126, that is more than half of the total.

The "bariatric surgery Europe" already exists. All we have to do is to organize it, and I have been given by the Maastricht Assembly the honour, but, above all, the immense pleasure, of being the first President to start this organization.

The Lyon Second Congress of the IFSO European Chapter will be an historical one, because in Lyon the official Rules of the Chapter to be submitted for approval to the IFSO General Council in Sydney will be discussed and approved.

Certainly, there will be an Executive and a General Council, but, as long as I will be President, the power will belong to the Assembly. Discussion and voting will take time, but this will represent a lesson of democracy for other countries in our world.

Europe has actual culture and potential power not certainly inferior to those of any other country in the world. All we lack is unity of purpose and organization. I do hope that the IFSO European Chapter will prove the right instrument for the attainment of these very important goals.

See you all in Lyon,

Nicola Scopinaro  
President of the IFSO European Chapter



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Congress of the IFSO European Chapter

April 27-29 2006



Congress Palace, Lyon, FRANCE

[WWW.ifso2006europe.com](http://WWW.ifso2006europe.com)

Welcome to Lyon,  
To the second meeting  
of the European chapter  
of IFSO!  
Abstract submission is  
online, deadline  
February 1st 2006



Jerome Dargent, congress president

## IFSO Executive Council

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Secretary-Treasurer	Harry Frydenberg	
Immediate past president	Arthur Garrido	
Senior Past President	Henry Buchwald	
2006 congress organisor	Paul O'Brien	
Excecutive Director	Andrew Jamieson	