

# IFSO Newsletter



## Message of the President (John Melissas)

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

During the festive season, a time in which public attention traditionally focuses on the underprivileged and the underfed, it is a sad irony that as developing countries continue their efforts to reduce hunger, others are also facing the opposing problem of obesity.

In a world in which obesity is becoming recognised as a growing epidemic, bariatric surgery is a discipline with an increasingly important role. Although acceptance is certainly becoming wider, those who have contributed to the establishment and development of IFSO will have memories of the era in which bariatric surgery was not always viewed as a safe and effective method for treatment of the severely obese patients by physicians, national health authorities, insurance companies and by extension, the media. It would however seem that these difficult days are a thing of the past and that bariatric surgery will play a key role in alleviating the burden of obesity in the future.

Bariatric surgery is now officially recognised as the only effective treatment for the morbidly obese patients, as declared at the 'WHO European Ministerial Conference on Counteracting Obesity' recently held in Turkey. At this conference in the presence of the European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection, 48 Ministers of Health, organisations and societies representing experts in the field, senior decision makers from sec-

tors such as trade, finance, agriculture, labour, urban planning and education, non government organizations and the media drew up and signed the **European Charter on counteracting obesity**, having realised that obesity poses one of the most serious public health challenges, both in the European region and globally. <http://www.euro.who.int/Document/E89567.pdf>

During this conference that was held over 2 and a half days, the plenary sessions extensively discussed the numerous ways of preventing and treating obesity which has reached epidemic proportions as it currently affects 150.000.000 adults, 15.000.000 children and causes 1.000.000 deaths per annum in the region.

The attendees undertook to *"address the growing challenge posed by the epidemic of obesity to health, economies and development... and adopt, as a matter of policy, the following European Charter on Counteracting Obesity. The process of developing the present Charter has involved different government sectors, international organizations, experts, civil society and the private sector through dialogue and consultations. We declare our commitment to strengthen action on counteracting obesity in line with this Charter and to place this issue high on the political agenda of our governments. We also call on all partners and stakeholders to take stronger action against obesity and we recognize the leadership on this issue being provided by the WHO Regional Office for Europe."*

(continued next page)

## IFSO

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IFSO Secretariat:

MedConnect (see [www.ifso.com](http://www.ifso.com))

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## IFSO Regional Chapter Meetings

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

3<sup>rd</sup> European Chapter meeting,  
2008, Capri, Italy

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, Czech Republic 1996.

**The Executive Board of IFSO wishes to you all  
A very Happy and Prosperous New Year**

I was honoured to represent IFSO (which had also been officially invited) and it is my pleasure to advise that the minutes and proceedings of this conference officially record bariatric surgery as the only available treatment for patients with severe obesity (BMI > 35 kg/m<sup>2</sup>). Surgical weight reduction was mentioned and accepted as being associated with significant metabolic benefits, especially a reduction in the incidence of type 2 diabetes. However, concern was expressed that the surgical treatment of obesity is a very expensive intervention that carries a 0.5% mortality risk.

It was suggested that the development of any bariatric service requires adequately trained multidisciplinary teams to operate and provide long-term support.

[www.euro.who.int/Document/NUT/Instanbul\\_conf\\_edoc06.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/Document/NUT/Instanbul_conf_edoc06.pdf) (see page 44, 45).

Dear friends, this recognition now affords bariatric surgery the basis for solid negotiations between the national bariatric societies and the respective public health systems for the coverage of the anti-obesity procedures in those countries whose governments have consistently refused to accept obesity as a disease in the recent past.

On the other hand, if we are to improve the outcome of the surgical procedures, reduce morbidity and mortality and overcome the fear of both patients and decision makers concerning this surgical intervention, we must intensify our actions. Quality is the key. Adequate surgical training and a sincere commitment to undertake the management of the morbidly obese patient and ensure that well

equipped institutions are also armed with qualified staff are absolutely vital. The Board of IFSO is currently preparing a document on this important issue and will soon be publishing it. We would welcome your feedback and comments on this.

To close my letter in the spirit in which it was opened, allow me a sincere wish that the holidays bring light and laughter, warmth and joy and that the New Year be brimming with health and personal success.

John Melissas MD, MSc, PhD, FACS  
Professor of Surgery  
President of IFSO

## WWW.IFSO.COM

The official website of IFSO has been launched. In the coming year a lot of extra functionality will be added such as links to the upcoming congresses and to the abstract submission modules for these congresses. There will be a find your surgeon site where IFSO members can be located by colleagues or patients searching for a bariatric surgeon in their neighbourhood etc. Suggestions corrections and improvements for the site are welcome. Please send them to the executive director.

**Jan Willem Greve, executive director**

# IFSO World Congress Porto 2007

Located on the north bank of the River Douro, Porto is a city open to the world. Centre of business relations and a hub of industry, it has established a strong mark throughout its history. The wealth of cultures is evidence in its streets, alongside the signs of prosperity resulting from the unquestionably enterprising character of its population.

The origins of the Urban Centre date back to the Late Bronze Age, 8th century BC approximately. Marked indelibly by the Douro, the Historical Centre of Porto constitutes a unique urban landscape, characterised by the wealth and diversity of its architecture and its panoramic beauty. With approximately 400,000 inhabitants, Porto is Portugal's second largest city and the nerve centre of an area of great vitality with a population of over 1.5 million.

In 1996, this wealth was recognised by UNESCO and the historical centre of Porto was made a "World Heritage of Humanity Site," enabling the renewal of old zones and the restructuring of commuting routes.

It's a great privilege and honour to welcome you at the "XII World Congress of IFSO" which will take place, from 5<sup>th</sup> up to 8<sup>th</sup> September 2007, at this beautiful city - PORTO. The event will be held at the Old Custom House, located inside the historical centre of the city, facing the northern bank of river Douro.

## Program Highlights:

The program is currently under construction, but we expect some activities like:

### THREE PRE MEETING COURSES:

1. Bariatric surgery basic course - where will be focused the Psychological, Nutritional problems, and how to avoid and solve them when they happen. The importance of the multidisciplinary team, and the mechanism of work of all surgeries
  2. Advanced bariatric course - where will be discussed the problems that worry all about the best technique, how the best way to do it and solve their problems, and to whom they should be applied
- Bariatric Statistics Course - Fundamental to who wants to deal with statistics applied to bariatric surgery

### FREE PAPERS:

We expect to have the opportunity to present about 80 free papers orally. Many further abstracts will be selected for poster presentation and the two best posters will be awarded.

### LECTURES:

During the sessions several lectures will be made, about the key techniques in Roux en Y gastric bypass, in Bilio Pancreatic Diversion, in Laparoscopic Adjustable Gastric Banding, newest research in neuropeptides, metabolic surgery

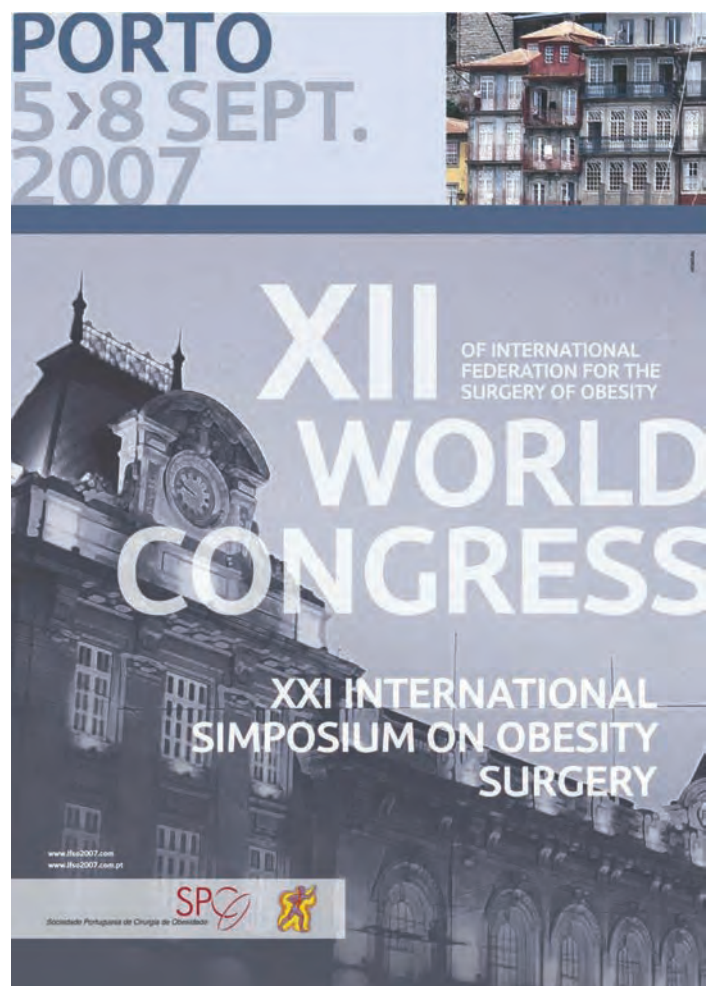
### VIDEO PRESENTATION:

We expect to have the opportunity to show about 30 videos, where we can see the best way how to do surgery and how to solve complications. The session will be on 6 of September during all day.

### ROUND TABLES

1. New therapeutic proposal - Endo and transluminal surgery
2. Consolidation of results

Antonio Sergio, congress president



## IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Payment of membership fees and subscriptions for Obesity Surgery need to be made directly to the member association of your country. Your local secretariat will forward the fees and your

personal details to the IFSO secretariat (MedConnect, see [www.ifso.com](http://www.ifso.com)). To guarantee continuation of your Obesity Surgery subscription early payment is crucial.

## Who is Member of IFSO

Individual Members are those Surgeons or Allied Health Practitioners who are members of IFSO national societies and their dues of \$US20 have been paid to the IFSO Treasurer either through their society or individually. This is done automatically by most IFSO Societies e.g. Brazil, ASBS, Austria so if you are a financial member of these societies you are a member of IFSO.

Affiliated Individual Members are those from countries who do not have their own Societies at this time, such as Lithuania, South Africa, or Honduras

and these members pay their dues directly to IFSO.

The big advantage of IFSO Membership is reduced registration at IFSO sponsored meetings (much more than \$20) and a significant reduction in subscriptions to the Obesity Surgery Journal (for IFSO members \$80 US when paid directly to IFSO, also see [www.obesitysurgery.com](http://www.obesitysurgery.com)). ASBS members also receive the journal SOARD as part of their dues. Another advantage in the near future will be listing on the new IFSO website.

## Latin American IFSO Chapter News

During the recent IFSO World Congress in Sydney, Australia, Latin American surgeons gathered in a special session presided by Arthur Garrido and Rafael Alvarez, and they received information on the progress of the Latin American Chapter consolidation. Colleagues from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Venezuela, Guatemala and México were informed that:

- 1.- The Latin American IFSO Chapter will be officially constituted at the Second Latin American IFSO Congress in Cancun, Mexico, on April 2007.
- 2.- The initial document of the Chapter Bylaws was distributed in order to share it among surgeons of the region, this document will be approved after discussion at the Cancun Congress.
- 3.- The First Assembly of the Chapter will be held during the Congress and two representatives from

each Country, regardless if having National Bariatric Society or not, will be welcomed at the Assembly.

4.- Besides, all attendant to the session were encouraged to participate at the Congress, and they already know that the website is ready to receive their summaries, to register and to make hotel reservations; the website is

[www.latinoamifsocancun.com.mx](http://www.latinoamifsocancun.com.mx)

**Dr Rafael Alvarez Cordero, President**

## IFSO Scholarships 2007

For the 2007 world congress IFSO will again provide a number of Scholarships to facilitate IFSO members to attend the congress in Porto, Portugal. Application for the scholarship can be send to Dr Harry Frydenburg, treasurer or Prof Jan Willem Greve, executive

# Latin American IFSO Chapter Congress 2007

Dear Colleagues:

The impressive growth of bariatric surgery all over the world is evident, and Latin American area is not an exception; thousands obese patients already receive the benefits of excellent bariatric procedures in every Latin American country.

Under the Presidency of professor Arthur Garrido we successfully celebrated the First Latin American Symposium in Iguazu Falls in 2005, and now I want to extend and invitation for the **Second Latin American IFSO Congress** in the beautiful Mayan resort of Cancún.



The Congress will take place in the magnificent **Gran Meliá Cancún Hotel** from **April the 26<sup>th</sup>. to 29<sup>th</sup>. , 2007.**

We have prepared a complete program under the theme: **Total Patient Care**, and that means the invitation is not only for surgeons, but internists, endocrinologists, psychologists, nutritionists, nurses and all professionals involved in the care of our obese patients.

Official languages will be Spanish and Portuguese, -with translation for our English speaking colleagues-, so our Latin American surgeons may present their surgical experiences in their language.

A complete scientific program has been prepared for you to attend, with an interesting tourist program as well.

You may visit our website [www.latinoamifsocancun.com.mx](http://www.latinoamifsocancun.com.mx) to get more information, to register and to enjoy beautiful Cancún next April.

Rafael Alvarez-Cordero



## IFSO Website

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

We need an enthusiastic surgeon to work with the Communications Committee and the Executive Director to edit this electronic newsletter and enhance communication within this international society.

For details contact Prof Dr JW Greve: [J.Greve@AH.unimaas.nl](mailto:J.Greve@AH.unimaas.nl)

## IFSO Executive Board

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

President:

President-elect: John Melissas (Greece)  
Junior Past-President: Jan Willem Greve (Netherlands)  
Senior Past President: Arthur Garrido (Brazil)  
Secretary-Treasurer: Harry Frydenberg (Australia)  
Executive-Director: Jan Willem Greve (Netherlands)  
2007 congress organiser: Antonio Sergion (Portugal)  
Chair Board of Trustees: Henry Buchwald (USA)  
Honorary President: Nicola Scopinaro (Italy)

Additional members:

Chapter Representatives:

Europe: Martin Fried (Czech Republic)

Latin America: Raphael Alvarez Cordero (Mexico, interim)

North America: MAL Fobi (USA)



## Upcoming IFSO meetings

2007: 5-8 September, Porto, Portugal  
([www.ifso2007.com](http://www.ifso2007.com))

2008: October 1-4, Buenos Aires, Argentina

2009: August 26-29, Paris, France

2010: USA

2011: to be decided

2012: India

XIII World Congress IFSO 2008

Sociedad Argentina de Cirugía de la Obesidad

The "Argentine Society for the Surgery of Obesity" Sociedad Argentina de Cirugía de la Obesidad (SACO), organize in the name of the International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity (IFSO), the XIII World Congress. It is a great pleasure and honour to welcome you to Buenos Aires for IFSO 2008.

Apart from sharing information and experience in the decade where the surgical treatment of morbid obesity is accepted all over the world, we would like you to know that at the southern end of America there is an extensive nation that offers visitors natural and cultural wonders: traditions, cuisine, ways of life that can be as wonderful as the scenery to be visited.

A well known expression assures that "All the world can be found in Argentina".

Welcome to the beauty of South America

Prof. Carlos A. Casaluovo, MD, FACS  
SACO President

XIII World Congress IFSO

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION  
FOR THE SURGERY OF OBESITY

IFSO 2008

XIII World Congress

24<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> September 2008 - Buenos Aires  
Argentina

IFSO 2008 Buenos Aires

## 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)

### CHILE

Departamento Cirugia Bariátrica Chile

### 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

### 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

### ROMANIA

Romanian Association of Bariatric Surgeons

### 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/CANADA

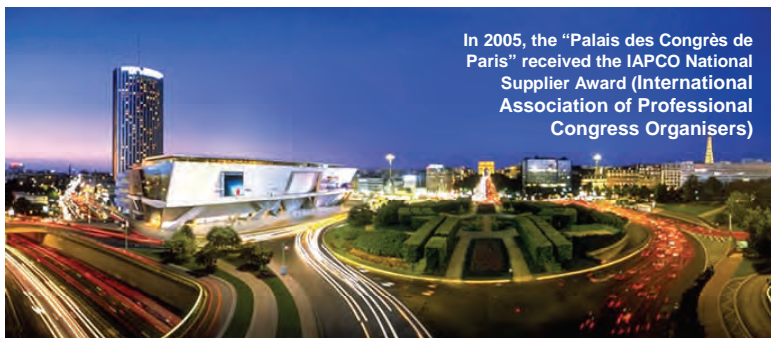
American Society for Bariatric Surgery (ASBS)

### YUGOSLAVIA

Yugoslav Obesity Surgery Society (YOSS)



Palais des Congrès de Paris

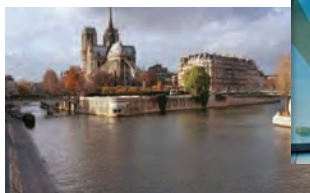


**IFSO 2009 to be held in Paris, France**  
**August 26-27-28-29**

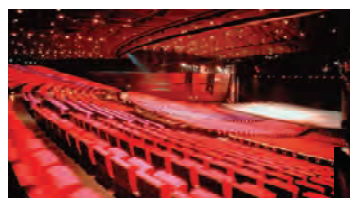


Paris IFSO 2009  
Congress

August 26 - 27 - 28 - 29

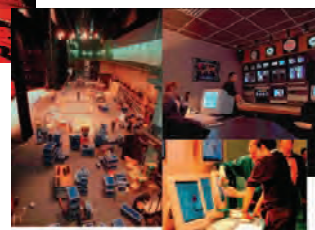


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## IFSO Executive Council

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Chair Board of Trustees Henry Buchwald	E-mail: <a href="mailto:buchw001@umn.edu">buchw001@umn.edu</a>
2007 congress organiser Antonio Sergio	<a href="mailto:antoniosergio@sppo.pt">antoniosergio@sppo.pt</a>
Honorary President Nicola Scopinaro	DICMI - Semeiotica Chirugica R, Università di Genova, Ospedale San Martino, 16132 Genova, Italy; Tel: +39-010-353-7301; Fax: +39-010-502-754; <i>e-mail: <a href="mailto:scopinar@unige.it">scopinar@unige.it</a></i>
Chapter Representatives: European Chapter: Martin Fried Latin American Chapter: Rafael Alvarez Cordero North American Chapter: MAL Fobi	