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.
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) 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
Executive Board
Honorary President
Nicola Scopinaro, MD

President
Rudolf Weiner, MD

President-Elect
Natan Zundel, MD

Secretary/Treasurer
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Latin American Chapter Member at large
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Asian Pacific Chapter Member at large
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North American Chapter Members at large
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Michel Gagner, MD

IFSO 2015 Congress President
Karl Miller, MD

Historian
George Cowan, MD

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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)
NEW WEBSITE

The European and Middle East chapter invites everybody to visit its new webpage 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.

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
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 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
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 counties

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

2. Scientific Program

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>No. of Session</th>
<th>Presentation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture (Keynote, President)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symposium</td>
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<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bariatric Education and Training</td>
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<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-graduate Course for Allied Health Professionals</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Panel Discussion</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>Multi-Disciplinary Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Video &amp; Luncheon Symposium</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>IFSO-APC Consensus Meeting</td>
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<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asking for an opinions</td>
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<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral presentation (Top 5 paper, National Report, Video, Oral)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poster Presentation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>81</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total 27 Sessions 230 presentations
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Early-Registration (By January 30, 2015)</th>
<th>Pre-Registration (By Mar. 20, 2015)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Co-Medical</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

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

Table 2: List of Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Participants</th>
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<td>Malaysia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
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<td>Mexico</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
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<td>Philippines</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Viet Nam</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>372</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Sponsor & Exhibition

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level/Contribution</th>
<th>Company</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diamond</td>
<td>Johnson &amp; Johnson Medical Ltd., Covidien</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>Olympus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>JW Pharmaceutical, Karl Storz Endoscopy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>MEDAS Corporation, Apollo Endosurgery, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibition</td>
<td>Ildong Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd, B Braun Korea, Medifine Corporation Co., Ltd., Stryker, Europos Korea, Bariatric News, Gyeonggi Tourism Organization</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Photo

Scientific Program
Welcome Reception

Presidential Dinner

Meet the Expert

Gala Dinner
Taiwan Society (TSMBS)

Later this year, the Taiwan Society will organize the 6th 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-speciality 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.anzgosaosanz2015.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

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
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 renounced 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.
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. 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.
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 Prentations
- Gastroporiesis 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

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 1st. 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.
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](http://asmbs.org/store)
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.
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

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 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.
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 minimally 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
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

Take advantage of the special Early Bird Discounts by June 1st and secure your desired hotel and travel arrangement!
2016 IFSO World Annual Meeting

XXI World IFSO Congress
27 September - 1 October 2016
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Ricardo Cohen
President of the XXI IFSO Congress
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/m2 and/or % Excess BMI Lost (%EBML) with excess BMI > 25 kg/m2 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.

Scott Shikora, MD, FACS
Editor-in-Chief of Obesity Surgery
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 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 physicians, healthcare 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.

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IFSO WORLDWIDE SURVEY ON BARIATRIC PROCEDURES 2014

You are kindly requested to fill this form and send it to: info@ifso.com

Society/Country:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number and Type of procedures performed in your Country in 2014</th>
<th>NUMBER OF OPERATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROCEDURES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustable Gastric Banding</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sleeve Gastrectomy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Standard Biliopancreatic Diversion (Sleepeano)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Duodenal Switch Diversion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Single Anatomic Gastric Bypass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Single Anatomic Gastric Bypass (Malabsorptive Pune or Sump Loop)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gastric Plication</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vertical Banded Gastoplasty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endoluminal Procedures:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orbera/Reflax</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obalon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stomaphone (Balloon System)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heoosphère Bag</td>
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<td>POSE</td>
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<td>Stomaphone</td>
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<td>Apollo Overtitches</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endobarrier</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other surgical procedure not listed above (please specify):</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

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Number of centres

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of centres</th>
<th>Number of centres &lt; 50 operations</th>
<th>Number of centres 50-100 operations</th>
<th>Number of centres &gt; 100 operations</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Are these data provided by a National Registry? YES NO
If not, approximately, how complete are they? (choose a percentage) %

24
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.

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 replace 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.
INTEGRATED HEALTH COMMITTEE

Activities 2014-2015:

- Elaboration and publication of 1er Latin American Psychological Consensus in 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

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

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 a 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.
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

- 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.
The IFSO Website (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) 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 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 1: Expansion of IFSO Membership since 2010

Figure 2(a): The refurbished IFSO homepage (www.ifso.com)
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.
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 20th IFSO World Congress to be held in Vienna, Austria from August 26th – 29th, 2015 and Obesity Week in Los Angeles, USA from November 2nd – 7th, 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](image)

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 19th 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) 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.
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 E-Newsletter  APRIL 2015

IFSO Endorsement

IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF IFSO ORGANIZING A CONGRESS/COURSE/WORKSHOP/SYMPOSIUM 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 then 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 fulfills 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

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

Congreso Internacional de Cirugía Bariátrica y Metabolica
Mendoza, Argentina
7-9 May, 2015
http://www.congresobariatriica.com.ar/

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 2015
http://www.ucd.ie/medicine/
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:

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 or info@ifso.com