Dear Colleagues,

last months have been very fruitful for our Federation.

Our Executive Board felt the need to update our logo. Excellently designed by Mervyn Deitel, the logo has been redesigned with the addition of the acronym IFSO and the symbol of the world just to remark our international vocation. I hope you’ll like it.

It is with this international spirit that I’m glad to welcome in our “big family” two adhering societies: China and Hong Kong. Azerbaijan will join us very soon. I’m expecting that the inclusion of these countries will imply a wider influence of IFSO in the Far East area.

It is also a pleasure to announce the re-styling of our website, which will be done in the next weeks, to make it more and more interactive and useful for our members.

I take the occasion to invite you all to join us on Facebook and Linked in if you haven’t done it yet.

Like last year our secretariat is working on one of our main important projects: the Survey on bariatric surgery 2013. It is a fundamental goal of our Federation to monitor and study the trend of Bariatric Surgery in the world. That’s why I expect a great participation from the Presidents of all the Societies. I’m sure that year by year, with the cooperation of all of us, this tool will be more and more precise and useful.

Our 10 Committees have been recently renovated and they are all working on new projects and goals. An official report of their activities will be given in Montreal during the General Council meeting and the periodical reports will be published on each issue of our E-Newsletter.

In Montreal, during the XIX IFSO world congress, the new President of IFSO for the period 2015-2016 will be elected and you are all invited to send your proposals of candidates through the Presidents of your national Societies by the end of May.

Last but not least, I am glad to inform you about the imminent publication on our official journal, Obesity Surgery, of the IFSO Position Statement on Bariatric Surgery in Class I Obesity (BMI 30-35), written by Luca Busetto, Maurizio De Luca, John Dixon, Walter Pories, Francesco Rubino, Scott Shikora and myself.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the European Chapter Meeting which will take place in Brussels in May and in Montreal for the IXI World Congress. Luc Lemmens and Michel Gagner are doing a great job and I’m sure both will be successful and outstanding meetings.

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 Brussels and Montreal!

Luigi Angrisani, MD
President of IFSO
Inside this issue:

1 Message from the President

3 IFSO’s numbers

4 Chapters’ News:
- European Chapter
- Asian Pacific Chapter
- North American Chapter
- Latin American Chapter

12 IFSO World Congresses:
- 2014 Montreal, Canada
- 2015 Vienna, Austria
- 2016 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

15 Endorsed meetings

18 IFSO Endorsement

19 Young IFSO

20 Committees News

23 How to join IFSO
IFSO’S NUMBERS

- **55** NATIONAL SOCIETIES
- **8,200** MEMBERS
- **1,900** OBESITY SURGERY SUBSCRIBERS

- European Chapter (EC)
- Latin American Chapter (LAC)
- Asian Pacific Chapter (APC)
- North American Chapter (NAC)
First of all, I’d like to attract your attention to the 6th Congress of the IFSO-European Chapter to be held in Brussels within April 30 - May 3, 2014 under the Presidency of Dr. Luc Lemmens. After the successful previous meetings in Prague (2004), Lyon (2006), Capri (2008), Lausanne (2010) and Barcelona (2012) in 2014 we’ll meet in Brussels – the capital of Belgium – a country where bariatric and metabolic surgery for many years had the highest scope of population by bariatric care in the European region. Many bariatric surgeons working worldwide started their bariatric experience here under the mentorship of the prominent Belgian bariatric surgeons. One of them – Jacques Himpens was recently elected Member at large in the IFSO from European Chapter.

We have many things to discuss: new technical opportunities, optimal approaches for surgical treatment of Diabetes Mellitus, surgical options for children and adolescents, for the patients with BMI <35, interdisciplinary approaches to bariatric patients.


Further development of the Chapter will be discussed during both VI IFSO-EC Congress in Brussels and during Alpine Expert Meeting which will be held on March 9-11 in Salzburg. Presidents of European Societies are invited to propose their candidates to European Scholarship for young surgeons (aged <40), candidates for the next Chapter President-elect (2016-2018) and to send application for the IFSO-European Chapter meeting in 2018. Bylaws Committee of the Chapter asks propositions from the European Societies on further amendments in the Bylaws and MOPP. The deadline for all these applications is February 28, 2014.

Yury Yashkov, President of the IFSO-European Chapter

Next meetings in Europe:
February 20-21 Adipositas Symposium, in Norderstedt, Germany
March 7-8 XVI Diabetes Surgery Meeting University Malaga, in Malaga, Spain
March 9-11 12th International Obesity Surgery Expert Meeting, in Salzburg, Austria
April 25-26 4th International Symposium Noninv, in Lyon, France
April 29-30 12-13 May and 13 June 2014 SORTED Bariatric Course, in Hamburg, London and Bristol
May 14-15 S.I.C.OB. International Live Surgery Meeting, in Naples, Italy
November 20-21 Frankfurter Meeting, in Frankfurt, Germany
Invitation to the 6th Congress of IFSO-EC 2014 in Brussels

Dear friends and colleagues,

The BeSOMS (Belgian Section for Obesity and Metabolic Surgery) is proud to invite you to the 6th IFSO EC congress in Brussels from Wednesday 30th of April till Saturday 3rd of May 2014.

Belgium has a long history of Bariatric Surgery: the first bariatric procedure was performed in 1970; Belgium was the cradle of the “laparoscopic approach” of gastric banding; in a population of 11 million of people, more than 100 surgeons are performing more than 8,000 bariatric procedures per year; several colleagues are world leaders in the bariatric field. This will guarantee the scientific level of the meeting. Even if some of you could think that everything has been said, as well for the surgical techniques as for the metabolic approach, things are still evolving every day.

Standard and new surgical techniques and also metabolic surgery will be discussed with a special focus on long term results.

We are also proud to organize the 2nd European Obesity Medico-Surgical Workshop as a formal satellite of IFSO EC 2014 jointly organized by IFSO EC and EASO. It will be a 1 day workshop where surgeons and endocrinologist will have the opportunity to discuss items of common interest.

Brussels, the Capital of Europe, will take care of the hosting and your comfort. The meeting will take place in the brand new Congress Center, the “Square”, which is situated in the center of Brussels on walking distance from the “Grand Market Place”, one of the most beautiful historical places in Europe. All the hotels are on walking distance from the Square.

Brussels is the center of Belgium. Beautiful cities as Bruges, Ghent, Antwerp and Liège can be reached in a less than 2 hours drive.

Apart from the top restaurants, we have more than 600 different beers to taste.

Belgium is a nation of artistic giants such as our world famous painters Rubens, Breughel, Ensor, Delvaux and Magritte.

We are convinced you will have an unforgettable stay in Brussels.

Luc Lemmens
President of the 6th IFSO-EC Congress
Past-President of IFSO-EC 2008-2010
www.ifsobrussels.com
In 2013, the societies from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates decided to join forces and create GOSS, the Gulf Obesity and Metabolic Surgery Society. They were joined by members from Qatar, Bahrain and Oman, and are now represented as a single entity in the IFSO-Asia Pacific Chapter. The first GOSS annual meeting was held in Kuwait December 11 to 14, 2013. The meeting featured a busy scientific program with high profile international speakers and live surgeries, as well as a pre-congress workshop.
The next IFSO-APC meeting will take place in Seoul, Korea in 2015. The Korean Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Society (KSMBS) joined the Asia-Pacific Chapter of IFSO last year, and it won the bid to host the next meeting. The dates have been set, so mark April 9-11, 2015 on your calendar for what we trust will be a great meeting in an exciting city. Details and information about the meeting will be made available as soon as the program has been finalized.

Those in the region who don’t want to wait until 2015 to meet and exchange ideas can attend the APMBSS meeting in Krabi, Thailand. The meeting, which will focus on “Failure and Redo in Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery”, will be held April 24-26, 2014. The Asia Pacific Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Society (APMBSS) is a “member society” of IFSO-APC; it allows a number of countries with smaller societies, who are ineligible to become a member of IFSO-APC in their own right, the chance to come under the ‘umbrella’ of APMBSS and hence be represented at a higher level. Krabi offers a wonderful setting for the meeting and it is possible to register online until the end of March, 2014.

Pr. Wei-Jei Lee
President IFSO-Asia-Pacific Chapter
Pre RACS Congress Bariatric Surgery Workshop

Following two successful Bariatric Surgery Workshops which were held in Australia last year, OSSANZ is delighted to announce that they will be holding a Pre RACS Congress Bariatric Surgery Workshop on 4th to 5th May 2014 at the Advanced Surgery Training Centre, Level 2, Kent Ridge Wing 2, National University Health System, Singapore.

At the completion of this interactive workshop, it would be expected that participants would have a working knowledge of:

- Obesity as a disease
- Understanding the physiology of bariatric surgery
- Formalised instructions on how to perform:
  - LAGB
  - Sleeve Gastrectomy
  - RYGB
- Simulator training in the basic skills required for laparoscopic bariatric surgery
- Introduction to the assessment of bariatric patients
- Recognising and managing common complications of bariatric procedures
- The radiology of complications
- Introduction to the basics of long-term care and the multidisciplinary team
- Difficult situations, difficult decisions – case discussions
- Setting up a bariatric programme – logistics and practicalities

The Convenors are Dr Lilian Kow, Dr Ken Loi and Dr George Hopkins (representing OSSANZ) with the Faculty including surgeons from OSSANZ, RACS and IFSO-APC (yet to be confirmed).

The cost of the Workshop is $300. Should any member wish to register for the Workshop, please contact Diane Mungall, OSSANZ on info@ossanz.com.au

OSSANZ Conference 2014

I am also delighted to advise that the OSSANZ 2014 Conference will be held in New Zealand from 20-21 November 2015.

As we are all aware, Bariatric Surgery is a constantly changing specialty, evolving as our understanding of the disease of obesity improves. Recognizing a need to keep up with these changes, OSSANZ have moved to annual meetings. I am delighted that this first annual meeting will be at the wonderful Te Papa museum in Wellington.

The more we understand about Obesity, sometimes it seems the less we know. What has become apparent, however, is that the best treatments for obesity don’t just address the biology of the disease, but also the psychology and the sociology. This means that multidisciplinary care with a team approach to a patient is critical if we are going to provide our patients with their best chance of success after surgery.

Recognizing this, rather than a purely scientific programme, this OSSANZ programme will consist of a series of workshops – focusing on finding solutions to problems we commonly encounter in our daily practices. Each day will have separate streams for special interest groups with a common session providing opportunity for cross discipline interaction and learning.

The theme for the Conference is ‘Waiting together for our Patients’.

OSSANZ is excited by this new format, and I am really looking forward to a rewarding meeting in a truly special venue.

Ass/Prof Wendy Brown
President of OSSANZ
OBESITYWEEK 2013

Embarking on a new venture is very exciting and yet a bit nerve wracking since the ultimate outcome is unknown. After many years of collaboration and planning, ASMBS and The Obesity Society (TOS) hosted the inaugural ObesityWeek and, to our great satisfaction, it was a huge success! The number one comment from attendees was how much they learned from having the advantage of the expanded educational offerings that encompassed over 1,000 scientific presentations, continuing medical education courses, live surgery telecasts, symposia and public policy forums. More than 4,700 surgeons, nurses, clinicians, policymakers, integrated health professionals, scientists, researchers and news media traveled to Atlanta for this event including over 700 international attendees. You can view two video highlights of the meeting: Dr. Jaime Ponce’s presidential address (http://youtu.be/GIaBPi28lsg) and Keynote Speaker Thomas Farley, MD, MPH, New York City Health Commissioner in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (http://youtu.be/jsnKBpOll_k).

ObesityWeek 2013 was a great success that established it as the premier meeting on the science and treatment of obesity. Planning for the 2014 meeting is well in progress. Look for the call for abstracts opening soon - Abstract Submission will close May 1, 2014. Registration will open on April 1. With Boston, a city well known for its academic excellence chosen as the host city, you can expect a brilliant program, not to mention the multitude of fun things to do in this historic city. We look forward to seeing you in Boston for ObesityWeek 2014, November 2 - 7.

During the Annual Meeting of the ASMBS at ObesityWeek, new officers and members of the ASMBS Executive Council were inaugurated – Ninh Nguyen, MD, President; Raul Rosenthal, MD, Secretary/Treasurer; Matthew Brengman, MD, Matt Hutter, MD, and David Provost, MD, Councilmembers-at-Large. The complete 2014 Executive Council roster is below:
ASMBS Executive Council 2014

Ninh Nguyen, MD, FASMBS  President
John Morton, MD, FASMBS  President-Elect
Jaime Ponce, MD, FASMBS  Past President
Robin Blackstone MD, FASMBS  Senior Past President
Raul Rosenthal, MD, FASMBS  Secretary/Treasurer
Marc Bessler, MD  Councilperson-At-Large
Matthew Brengman, MD  Councilperson-At-Large
Stacy Brethauer, MD  Councilperson-At-Large
Matthew Hutter, MD  Councilperson-At-Large
Alfons Pomp, MD  Councilperson-At-Large
David Provost, MD  Councilperson-At-Large
Karen Schulz, RN, MSN, CBN  IH President
Christine Bauer, MSN, RN, CBN  IH President-Elect

ASMBS also celebrated its 30-year anniversary by recognizing the many members who helped shape the organization and facilitate the great progress the field has made over the years. Below is a photo of some of the past ASMBS presidents in attendance.

Past ASMBS presidents (left to right): Dr. Phil Schauer (21st), Dr. J. Pat O'Leary (3rd), Dr. Robin Blackstone (26th), Dr. Harvey Sugerman (19th), Dr. Bruce Wolfe (25th), Dr. Mervyn Deitel (9th), Dr. Scott Shikora (23rd), Dr. Kelvin Higa (22nd), Dr. John Baker (24th), Dr. Jaime Ponce (27th), Dr. Alan Wittgrove (18th), Dr. Ken Jones (16th), Dr. Henry Buchwald (13th), Dr. Robert Brolin (15th), Dr. Latham Flanagan (14th), Dr. Ken MacDonald (11th)
On behalf of the Executive Direction 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, October 2013 to February 2014.

1. We have had seven communications with our member societies, announcing the advances of our future 1st Intermedial Congress of IFSO LAC, that will be held in Mendoza, Argentina, from May 21st to May 24th 2014.

2. We have had eight communications with the Board of Governors of our Chapter, asking for candidates for future President and for the next Congress site, we have received 2 future president candidates proposal and 3 future Congress sites.

3. Last November 2013, we had a Board of Governors meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina, with the participation of 12 countries.

4. The next meeting of the Board of Governors of the LAC will be held in Mendoza Argentina, on May 23rd, 2014, during our Intermedial Congress, and we will have the election of our future President and the future Congress site.

5. We have created the new website of the Chapter, please check it out: www.ifsolac.com

This is all what have occurred in the last four months. Please if you need any additional information, please don’t hesitate to contact me,

Sincerely yours,

Estuardo J. Behrens MD MACF FACS
FASMBS
Executive Director
IFSO LAC
Abstract Submission for the 19th World Congress of International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity & Metabolic Disorders is still Open!

We are delighted to invite abstract submissions for IFSO 2014, being held in Montreal, QC Canada from August 26-30, 2014. IFSO 2014 will be an opportunity to highlight the importance of a multidisciplinary approach (including Allied Health) to the surgical treatment of obesity and metabolic disorders.

The deadline for Abstract Submissions is 07 April 2014. There will be no extensions to the deadline. Submit an Abstract today!

Presentation Types
Submissions are welcome for consideration as oral, poster or video presentation. Abstracts will be considered for a wide range of topics within the fields of Bariatric Surgery and Allied Health.

Publication:
All accepted abstracts will be published in Obesity Surgery, the official journal of IFSO.

Program Leaders:
IFSO 2014 will be bringing together leaders in the treatment of obesity. All abstract submissions will have the opportunity to be in the programs of:

- **IFSO**
- **Canadian Association of Bariatric Physicians & Surgeons (CABPS)**
- **Canadian Obesity Network (CON)**
- **The 5th International Conference on Sleeve Gastrectomy (ICSG)**

For complete information and to submit an abstract, please visit [www.ifso2014.com](http://www.ifso2014.com)
2015 IFSO World Annual Meeting

XX World IFSO Congress
26-29 August, 2015 - Vienna, Austria

Karl Miller
President of the XX IFSO Congress
XXI World IFSO Congress
7-11 September, 2016 - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Ricardo Cohen
President of the XXI IFSO Congress
2014 Endorsed Meetings

Adipositas Symposium 2014
Norderstedt, Germany
20-21 February 2014

14th Annual MISS 2014
Las Vegas, USA
26 February - 1 March 2014
www.miss-cme.org/site/Default.aspx

2014 Duke Masters of Minimally Invasive Bariatric Surgery
Orlando, Florida (USA)
6-8 March 2014
innovation.surgery.duke.edu/courses
2014 Endorsed Congresses

XVI Diabetes Surgery Meeting University
Malaga
7–8 March 2014
Malaga, Spain

12th International Obesity Surgery Expert Meeting
Salzburg, Austria
March 9–11, 2014
www.obesity-online.com/Expertmeeting

4th International Symposium Noninva
Lyon, France
25–26 April 2014
www.noninva-obesity.com
2014 Endorsed Congresses

SORTED Bariatric course
Hamburg, London and Bristol
29-30 April, 12-13 May and 13 June 2014
www.agoralive.com/
EthiconProducts/SORTED2014

S.I.C.OB. International Live Surgery Meeting
Naples, Italy
14-15 May 2014
www.sicob2014.it

8th Frankfurter Meeting
Frankfurt A. Maine, Germany
Salzburg, Austria
20-21 November 2014
www.frankfurter-meeting.de
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 than 8,000 IFSO Members
   - posted on IFSO Facebook webpage
2. The Course Director may include IFSO’s Endorsement statement and IFSO Logo on promotional brochures and course materials with the text “Endorsed by”

Individual Endorsement
- Course must be directed or coordinated by an IFSO member, or have as its primary faculty, at least one IFSO member
- Endorsed Courses should offer CME credits (if not, an explanation must be provided)
- Course Director must ensure that disclosure of conflict of interest are enforced
- Reduced course fee must be granted to IFSO Members

The fee for individual course endorsement is 120,00 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 360,00 US$ per year

If you think your meeting fulfils the below mentioned requirements please send your endorsement requests to info@ifso.com together with a PDF file of the scientific program of the Congress.

IFSO-Communication 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 Communication Committee, you will receive from our Secretariat further instructions about the payment of the endorsement fee.
NEWS FROM THE YOUNG-IFSO

The developing new association within IFSO for surgeons younger than 45 years was founded in 2013 in Istanbul and is now in its 1st year of action. Under the presidency of Karin Dolezelova from Czech Republic there will be a YOUNG-IFSO Session again at the EC-IFSO-Meeting in Brussells on May 2nd from 14.00-15.30. All members are invited to join us at the Farewell Dinner of the Brussells Meeting.

The homepage www.young-ifso.com has been successfully implemented and a growing Facebook community. For 2014 it will be important that all possible members join us officially; an application form will be provided on the website. If surgeons want to join Young IFSO they are kindly requested to fill in the application form and send it to us, as far as we cannot generate data from the main IFSO database. Having clearly identified a hopefully growing number of members we can proceed and try to set up the need of session skills courses for the next years.

A special "Young-IFSO" session is planned for the World Congress in Montreal and we kindly address to all researches to send abstracts for that session. As far as there is so much progress in the field of non-surgical treatment options as well as an increasing number of new procedures we will entitle this session : "Future of Bariatric Surgery".

Furthermore an exclusive Young-IFSO-social event in Montreal will be organized and we would like to invite everyone to join us.

At the end of the year the 8th Frankfurter Meeting will take place and we will have an executive Young-IFSO session and the Board Members Meeting in Frankfurt on the 20th and 21st of November. On 20th November we’ll invite you for a nice “Club-Tour” in Frankfurt with the German colleagues after an extensive day on the Meeting and the surgical 2,5 hrs Skills Course, which will be free of charge for Members of the Young-IFSO.

I look forward to receiving all your applications and requests by mail: info@young-ifso.com

Kind regards,

Sylvia Weiner, MD (Germany)

Next Meetings and Own Sessions will take place at:

- 12th International Expert Meeting for the Surgery Obesity and Metabolic Disorders: Salzburg, AUSTRIA  March 9 - 11, 2014
  http://www.obesity-online.com/expertmeeting/
- 6th Congress of the IFSO European Chapter Meeting Brussels, BELGIUM  May 1 - 3, 2014
  www.ifsobrussels.com
- 19th World Congress of the IFSO Montreal, CANADA  August 26-30, 2014
  www.ifso2014.com
- 8th Frankfurter Meeting of Surgery in Obesity and Metabolic Surgery Frankfurt, GERMANY, November 21-22,2014
  www.frankfurter-meeting.de

A separate kick-off meeting will be held at the EC-IFSO Meeting in Brussels in May 2014.

We invite every IFSO member below the age of 45 to join our growing community, to follow us at Twitter, to join our Facebook group and to get updated on our website www.young-ifso.com
Context

Currently 205 million patients in the world suffer from severe and complex obesity together with type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM), often referred to as “Diabesity”. The personal, social, and economic consequences of this “Diabesity” epidemic can be disastrous and put enormous pressure on health systems worldwide. At this stage, the available anti-obesity drugs provided to patients with T2DM are moderately effective at achieving weight loss, whilst their side effects remain problematic. Other conservative treatment options such as dieting or lifestyle interventions deliver also results of limited success.

In contrast, bariatric procedures are not only effective in reducing body weight, but also in the treatment of T2DM, hypertension, hyperlipidemia. They are further associated with a 25% reduction in 10-year all-cause mortality and improvements in quality of life. Interestingly, recent evidence suggests that patients with T2DM or with a very high risk to develop T2DM have a greater mortality benefit from surgery. The fact that post-bariatric T2DM improvement occurs frequently prior to significant weight loss, has induced a gradual ideological shift among bariatric specialists. Consequently, the term “bariatric surgery” is increasingly being substituted by the term “metabolic surgery” to acknowledge the fact that these bariatric procedures don’t merely reduce body weight, but ameliorate the deleterious metabolic burden of T2DM.

Unfortunately this advance in knowledge has not been translated into routine management algorithms for T2DM, as patients with “Diabesity” still represent only less than 25% of the patient population in bariatric surgery practices.

Despite these recent developments, the decision whether an obese individual is considered eligible for bariatric surgery or not, rests predominantly upon the individuals Body Mass Index (BMI) calculated as weight in kilograms divided by height in meters squared. Such criteria allow surgery for patients with a BMI above 35.0 kg/m$^2$ if they have diabetes or other major obesity-related co-morbidity.

However, specialists increasingly criticize the choice of BMI thresholds as arbitrary and lacking evidence. Such criticism is based on the observation that factors other than BMI such as diabetes may be more important in predicting the mortality risk in patients eligible for bariatric surgery.

The numbers of bariatric procedures being performed worldwide have recently started to plateau. It is therefore important to understand the underlying physiological mechanisms by which bariatric surgery induces and sustains weight loss as well leads to a weight-loss independent amelioration of co-morbidities such as T2DM. Traditional mechanical concepts like restriction and malabsorption have now been shown to be outmoded, while other mechanisms including reduced hunger, increased satiation and satiety, altered taste, reduced preference for foods with a high fat and sugar content, altered gut microbiota and changes in bile metabolism may be more important.

Remit

The IFSO Metabolic committee seeks to combine patient focused basic and translational healthcare research, diagnostic care and education to create state of the art improvements in the field of bariatric surgery, by creating a “clinical academic group” of colleagues within the International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity and metabolic disorders (IFSO).

Objectives

1. Distribution of the metabolic surgery concept among IFSO members, bariatric and metabolic surgeons, non-surgeons, policy makers and payers
2. Change of eligibility criteria for bariatric surgery based on presence or absence of T2DM in close collaboration with international diabetes organizations.
3. Accelerate the translation of metabolic surgery into practical treatments and therapies and establish metabolic surgery as part of routine management algorithms for T2DM, alongside lifestyle interventions and pharmacotherapy in conjunction with international diabetes organizations.

4. Promote the identification and investigation of physiological mechanisms underlying metabolic surgery

Aims

The IFSO Metabolic committee considers research, education and training as its central and most important tasks for the future. Members and non-members, surgeons and non-surgeons, policy makers and insurers need to be informed regarding the concept of metabolic surgery and its underlying mechanisms to eradicate traditional concepts which have been proven wrong to further improve and optimize patient selection and treatment. The group is committed to provide high quality teaching and educational opportunities for the next generation of bariatric surgeons, clinical staff and scientists to increase knowledge in diagnosis, medical treatment, physiology and pathophysiology of T2DM. The committee aims to emphasize the potential synergies between conventional antidiabetic treatment options and metabolic surgery communicating the ultimate therapy goal to reduce the risk for fatal and non-fatal cardiovascular events. Similar to the fact that neoadjuvant or adjuvant chemotherapy and surgery are intrinsically tied to each other for the treatment of many gastrointestinal cancer types, metabolic surgery and conventional diabetes treatment should be viewed as synergistic rather than competing treatment options.

The committee therefore aims to organize regular pre congress courses and at least one main session during each IFSO world congress to present and discuss recent key findings in the field and to make the concept of metabolic surgery available to a broader audience. For a similar purpose, the committee further aims to publish regularly review and original articles in form of a periodical column addressing new developments in the field of metabolic surgery in the Obesity Surgery Journal. The committee considers the purpose of such a column in knowledge distribution rather than self-promotion. Thus, the column should not be primarily authored by members of the metabolic committee, but should be written by invited specialists such as metabolic surgeons, endocrinologist, epidemiologist or basic scientists with a proven track record in the field. Content and authorships of the column will be appointed in close collaboration and communication between the committee and the Editorial Board of the Obesity Surgery Journal.

COMUNICATION COMMITTEE

Abdelrahman Nimeri  
Chairman of the Communication Committee

Gerhard Prager  
Chairman of the Scientific Committee

1. **IFSO Facebook**: I suggest to all the members to join our IFSO Facebook page. I think we need to make this a very popular destination for our members.

2. New section on the IFSO Facebook Page: *ask the expert* section. The idea is that a member can ask a clinical question and get it answered by an expert in the field (members of the different committee can be used for such questions). The group is a closed group so only members can see the posts.

3. A Facebook page called **Articles you don't want to miss**, we can start by putting the most important articles published in 2013 and in the future do this quarterly

4. A section on the IFSO Facebook page called **Endorsed IFSO meeting** tabled by month, year, and location.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Michel Gagner and the scientific board are working on the program for the IFSO world congress 2014 in Montreal including pre congress courses, postgraduate courses.

A prospective randomized study comparing reflux in Omega Loop and RYGB has been sent in for ethics committee approval. It is a randomized study to compare (bile) reflux after Omega Loop (Mini Gastric Bypass/One Anastomosis Gastric Bypass) with Roux en Y Gastric Bypass. The study protocol was written by me, small changes have been made by the scientific committee and I sent it to the Ethics committee of the medical University of Vienna.
BYLAWS COMMITTEE

After the celebration of the last IFSO´s World Congress in Istanbul, The Executive Board and the General Council approved the updated versions of the "Statutes and Bylaws" and the "Manual of Policies and Procedures" (MOPP). Those constitute the August 2013´s update.

Last January, the Executive Board remodeled all the Committees structure and their way of working under the leadership of our President Elect Rudolf Weiner.

During the next weeks the Bylaws Committee will finish the definitive composition of their members, including Dr. Harry Frydenberg as Co-chairman an Dr Fobi as a member. We will try to fulfill the requirement of not being more than 10.

On the other hand the two most important future goals of the Committee will be:

First to share between all the members of the General Council the updated version of our Statutes and Bylaws and the MOPP, and second to consolidate the concordance between both documents regarding its total implementation in the day after day activities of the Federation.

INTEGRATED HEALTH COMMITTEE

I would like to introduced to members of IH Committee.

The Committee has the following five areas:

Coordinators:

- Mental Health: Adriano Segal, MD (Brazil)
- Nutrition and Metabolism: Poonam Shah, MD (India)
- Physical Training: Jorge Franchella, MD (Argentina)
- Administration of Bariatric Clinics: Luis Pedraza, MD (México)
- Others Specialties: Laura Boyer, RN, CBN (USA)

- We are continuing with multidisciplinary E-book with IH members of IFSO. The chapters are in review. We are continuing with the goal that we will present in Montreal
- We are organizing the Multidisciplinary Postgraduate Course on line (English language), with the participation of IFSO members and support of IFSO and the use of logo.
- Increase the presence and participation of more IFSO members in Montreal.
- Post-graduate course online (Spanish language) with IFSO LAC endorsement and with support Natan Zundel, MD on Bariatric Psychology, Bariatric Nutrition, Physical Training in Obesity and Surgical Nursing in bariatric.
How to join IFSO

**2014 FEES**

IFSO Membership (included Obesity Surgery): **100,00$**

IFSO Membership (included Obesity Surgery) + SOARD: **192,00$**

IFSO reduced fee only for non surgeons: **20,00$**

- **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](http://www.ifso.com)

- **Membership through the National Society**
  - All National Societies must send IFSO Secretariat the list of their members
  - 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

---

**It’s time to renew for 2014. Ask your national Society how to renew your IFSO membership!**

**WHY RENEW OR JOIN IFSO?**

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

**2014 Fees**

- IFSO Membership: **100,00$** (including Obesity Surgery for free)
- IFSO Membership + SOARD: **192,00$** (including Obesity Surgery for free)
- IFSO reduced fee only for non surgeons: **20,00$**

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

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

[facebook](http://facebook.com)  [info@ifso.com](mailto:info@ifso.com)  [secretariat@ifso.com](mailto:secretariat@ifso.com)  [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com)