Dear Colleagues,

IFSO is surely reaching new horizons year after year. IFSO has been a witness to the inception, growth, recognition and success that Metabolic & Bariatric surgery has achieved over all these years.

The remarkable improvement in the quality of life that patients experience is one of the most satisfying outcomes for surgeon and the team. This, along with improvement in the resolution of Diabetes and other associated co-morbidities, is resounding evidence of the success of Bariatric and Metabolic surgery. Several clinical trials researching on the improvement in Diabetes Mellitus following Bariatric surgery are in the progress and all of us keenly await the outcomes.

The possibility of considering surgical intervention in lower BMI group is also being assessed. Today, Metabolic and Bariatric surgery is in the midst of rapidly evolving scientific and technological innovations that will surely benefit the surgical outcomes.

One of the major battles that patients with obesity fight in many parts of the world is the lack of insurance cover for Bariatric Surgery. We, as a surgical fraternity, have to take every possible effort to try and expedite this transition where patients can freely access healthcare facilities for a long and healthy life.

I had the opportunity to be a part of the second EASO (European association for the study of Obesity) and IFSO-European Chapter Meeting held in Liverpool (UK) in May 2013. It gave me an opportunity to get updated with the latest inter-disciplinary management and research issues related to Morbid obesity and metabolic syndrome. The European guidelines for Metabolic surgery were discussed in great detail during the workshops. I am sure it is of immense value in defining the future direction to be followed.

With the upcoming IFSO world congress just a few months away, we look forward to assembling again in Turkey in August 2013 in what promises to be a great scientific and social feast.

With warm regards

Pradeep Chowbey
President – 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

13 IFSO World Congresses:
- 2013 Istanbul, Turkey
- 2014 Montreal, Canada
- 2015 Vienna, Austria
- 2016 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

21 Endorsed meetings

23 Obesity Surgery Journal

24 IFSO Endorsement

25 How to join IFSO
IFSO’S NUMBERS

- 53 NATIONAL SOCIETIES
- 8,125 MEMBERS
- 1,812 OBESITY SURGERY SUBSCRIBERS

- European Chapter (EC)
- Latin American Chapter (LAC)
- Asian Pacific Chapter (APC)
- North American Chapter (NAC)
Chapters’ Reports

Yuri Yashkov
President of the European Chapter

On March 11, 2013 the Chapter held its informal meeting in Saalfelden, Austria. The most important question discussed was about further cooperation between IFSO-European Chapter and EASO (European Association for the Study of Obesity). Both organizations have expressed their interest in continuing with the meetings and their consideration of such mutual activity as priority number one.

It was already agreed that such joint Medico-Surgical meetings will be organized every other year by each Society (2013 in Liverpool by EASO, 2014 in Bruxelles by IFSO-EC etc...). This means that EASO and IFSO-EC will take care of providing the organization and will take care of collecting participants fees etc. An Agreement of Understanding between The EASO and IFSO-EC has been worked out.

Due to the rapid development of our discipline especially in the field of metabolic surgery, it became clear that European Guidelines published in 2006-2007 had to be updated. Under initiative of Martin Fried (IFSO-EC) and Volkan Yumuk (EASO) a group from both Societies (M.Fried, V.Yumuk, JM Oppert, N.Scopinaro, A.Torres, R.Weiner, Y,Yashkov, G.Fruehbeck) was formed to update the European Guidelines which would reflect the present new situation (new epidemiological data, new techniques, data on co-morbidities, diabetes). The new guidelines are based on recent scientific-evidence data and contain extensive literature references. The text of updated Guidelines will be published soon.

The updating of the European Guidelines were discussed during official meeting of The Executive Council in Liverpool which was held on May 11.

Other items discussed in Liverpool were:

- reports of Chairs of the Committees: Scientific (M.Bueter), Communication/Development (M.Wyren), Bylaws (R.Weiner). It was proposed to bring in further amendments to the existing European Chapter Bylaws which will be discussed during the next IFSO-EC General Council meeting in Istanbul.
- updating about IFSO-EC meeting in Bruxelles in 2014
- the situation in the countries of the IFSO-EC
- endorsed meetings in the EC. It was mentioned that IFSO has endorsed so far 15 meetings held in the European Chapter

Executive Council of IFSO-EC—Liverpool

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The 2013 edition of the French society for bariatric surgery (SOFFCO) has gathered nearly 800 attendees in Angers testifying of the ever increasing interest for bariatric surgery not only among young surgeons but also nutritionists, dieticians and nurses who joined the audience this year. The president, Jean-Marc Chevallier, has emphasized the leading role of the society in promoting quality of care and surgical training and the progress in the bariatric centers’ certification program.

The meeting was honored to welcome as presidents of honor of the congress Prof Gérard Champault from Paris, a well known and recognized mentor in laparoscopic surgery as well as Prof Picard Marceau from hopital Laval in Québec who shared his impressive experience with biliopancreatic diversion, duodenal switch and his studies on epigenetics and bariatric surgery.

In addition, the congress’ special guests were the members of the bariatric section of the Royal Belgian Surgical Society with an impressive session on « treatment of weight loss failure and redos after bariatric surgery » chaired by Jean Closset from Brussels. On this occasion, the society had the pleasure to welcome Dr Jacques Himpens from Brussels, as honorary SOFFCO member, for his long time and exceptional contribution to bariatric surgery.

Prof Yuri Yashkov from Moscow reported on his 400+ series of duodenal switch procedures marked by a very low complication rate.

Distinguished endoscopists such as Prof Jacques Deviere from Brussels and Prof Marc Barthet from Marseille explored the many possibilities of flexible endoscopy in the treatment of the complications of bariatric surgery as well as future applications in de novo procedures.

Beyond surgery, the need for an ininterrupted and close follow up by an established bariatric coordination program involving nurses and dieticians was emphasized.

More than 50 high quality oral presentations were delivered along with 60 posters. They reflected the dramatic change of the bariatric surgery scene in France over the last few years. In 2012, over 35 000 were performed with a clear domination of the sleeve gastrectomy (18,500 procedures). Also notable, there were more gastric band removals (7,000) than gastric banding procedures. While the 5 year results of the sleeve gastrectomy range from 45% to 67% excess weight loss, the main concern remains the overall 4% gastric leak rate. Among the explanations: the impaired vascularization at the apex of the gastric tube, too small a bougie (<40 Fr) were discussed by several presentations. Dr Michel Gagner from Montreal showed his meta-analyse that will be published soon, suggesting the benefits of staple line reinforcement materials.

Bariatric surgery risks and benefits in adolescents and the elderly were explored concluding to a certain advantage of the gastric band because of its low morbidity and mortality.

Finally, attendees could share their impressions and relax during two evening receptions within historical landmarks buildings of Angers.

All the participants are looking forward to meeting on May 22-24 in the royal city of Versailles, near Paris, for the next SOFFCO congress.

**Evolution de l’activité 2009-2012**
Joint EASO-IFSO-EU Medico-Surgical Workshop

“Medicine and surgery in optimizing the care of obese patients”

The inaugural EASO/IFSO-EC Medico-Surgical Workshop was held in Munich in December 2011. The 2nd EASO/IFSO-EC Medico Surgical Workshop took place at the ACC Liverpool as an official satellite of ECO 2013 on 11-12 May. This European workshop addressed key current challenges in the medical and surgical care of severe obesity and metabolic diseases.

The event was jointly organized by EASO, the European Association for the Study of Obesity, and IFSO-EC, the European Chapter of the International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity and Metabolic Disorders. The aim of the workshop was to provide a unique forum for education and discussion of interdisciplinary management and research issues related to the medico-surgical care of severe obesity and metabolic diseases.

The workshop combined keynote lectures by international experts and smaller group sessions on practical issues. The group sessions, each moderated by a physician and a surgeon with expertise in the field, provided the material for statements/recommendations on “what is known, what is not known, what is done in practice, where should research efforts be directed to”. The outcomes were used to develop a European guideline on Metabolic Surgery.

Keynote Lectures addressed diverse topics including ‘economics of metabolic surgery’; ‘mechanisms underlying the resolution of type 2 diabetes’; ‘personalized surgery: can genetic profiling help in finding reliable predictors?’; ‘patient selection – what are the predictors of success and failure?’; and ‘the shift from bariatric to metabolic surgery – what does it mean?’. Workshops were devoted to more practical topics, including ‘indications/contraindications for metabolic surgery’; ‘what new clinical variables should be included in the preoperative evaluation?’; ‘relevance of psychological and family support’; and ‘redefining success and how to deal with failed treatment’.

The next joint Workshop will be in Bruxelles during the 6th IFSO-European Chapter meeting.

Last meetings in Europe:
March 10-12 11th Alpine Expert meeting, in Saalfelden, Austria
May 20-21 National meeting of bariatric and metabolic surgery in Krakov, Poland
June 6-8 SOFFCO (French Society for the Surgery of obesity and metabolic disorders) meeting, Angers, France.

Yury Yashkov,
President of the IFSO-European Chapter
Welcome message for 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 Thursday 1st till Saturday 3rd of May 2014.

Belgium has a long history of Bariatric Surgery: first bariatric procedure already performed in 1970; Belgium was the cradle of the “laparoscopic approach” of the gastric banding; in a population of 11 million 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.

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 of the "Grand Market Place", one of Europe most beautiful historical places. All the hotels are also on walking distance of 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 Margritte.

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
The 2013 IFSO-Asia Pacific Chapter Meeting (2013 IFSO-APC), hosted by the Taiwanese Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (TSMBS) and Asia Pacific Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (APMBSS), was held in, Kaohsiung, Taiwan, from 10-13 April, 2013.

Having "New Frontiers in Bariatric & Metabolic Surgery", as the theme of the Congress, 2013 IFSO-APC invited over 150 experts from different domains to share their expertise and experience on Bariatric & Metabolic Surgery. Symposia, lectures and presentations (including oral and poster) were held to discuss various aspects of Bariatric & Metabolic Surgery issues.

The Congress had successfully created a platform for experts to exchange ideas, share newly developed findings, and to explore endless possibilities in Bariatric & Metabolic Surgery.

The 2013 IFSO-Asia Pacific Chapter Meeting (2013 IFSO-APC) had an unexpected attendance of 208 participants from 26 countries. This 4-day conference took place at Crowne Plaza Kaohsiung E-Da World with a total number of 215 presentations from 29 sessions.

Wej-Jei Lee
President of APC

Prof. Pradeep Chowbey, President of IFSO and Prof. Wej-Jei Lee, President APC

Meeting of the APC Executive Council

Video Session

Exhibition Area many companies and organizations (with a total booth number of 19) displayed their newly developed products and equipment.
During the 2013 IFSO-APC, the exhibition was held in 8F, Crowne Plaza Kaohsiung E-Da World concurrently. 14 companies and organizations (with a total booth number of 19) displayed their newly developed products and equipment. Through this congress, we believe that not only did it level up the academic standard, promote friendly relationship among member countries, exchange of advanced knowledge and cutting-edge information, but also give training opportunities for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery from the developing countries in the area.

Except the splendid scientific program, the organizing committee arranged many fascinating social events, including Opening/Closing Ceremony, Welcome Dinner, Gala Dinner and APMBSS Banquet, in hopes of providing all the delegates an unforgettable memory for experiencing local food, performance, and culture as well as enjoying their stay in Taiwan.

Wei-Jei Lee
President of the IFSO- APC Chapter

Lilian Kow
Secretary/Treasurer of IFSO-APC
President elect of IFSO APC
ASMBS Spring Educational Event/IFSO North American Chapter Meeting

The ASMBS 2013 Spring Event had the highest attendance and the best feedback of all the Spring Events to date. The meeting led off with the first IFSO North American Chapter (NAC) meeting held at the Spring Event. The NAC meeting directed by Natan Zundel, MD, Samer Mattar, MD, Ricardo Cohen, MD and Sam Szomstein, MD was designed to provide a sharper perspective on metabolic and bariatric surgery worldwide. The program featured three lively debates, two on sleeve gastrectomy and one on how to treat staple line failures. The Spring Event followed for the next two and one half days with a variety of courses for both surgeons and integrated health professionals. The meeting started with a session that included three simultaneous live surgeries – a definite favorite for attendees – and ended with roundtable discussions that also generated great discussion.

CONNECT

On Wednesday, May 22, ASMBS launched a new monthly online news magazine - CONNECT. The online magazine features news articles, similar in style and feel to those that would appear in TIME magazine or USA Today. The first edition featured stories on Obesity in the Digital Age, Emerging Technologies, and Obesity in the Digital Age. The next issue, coming out on June 19, will feature the rise of the Integrated Health, celebrities and weight loss – does it help or hurt when a celebrity has surgery or goes on a diet? -- and an article about ASMBS position statements and guidelines. Each monthly magazine also contains a blog from the president, a summary of the of the major obesity issues making news that month, news and notes about ASMBS members, and upcoming events.

CONNECT is optimized for mobile and social media platforms so you can easily share information to your own social audiences. Look for CONNECT the third Wednesday of each month. You can also click on CONNECT at the ASMBS web site www.asmbs.org to get the latest issue.

ASMBS 30th Anniversary

This year the ASMBS celebrates it’s 30th anniversary. We are proud of our accomplishments over the past 30 years and are making plans to pay tribute to our organization and to our members. We want everyone to be part of the celebration. If you have any photos from past ASMBS events, please share in the celebration and scan them and send them to us to post. Or maybe you have an amusing or interesting memory to share; we are gathering those as well. Photos and memories will be highlighted in a special edition of CONNECT, on the ASMBS web site and/or at the ASMBS 30th Annual Meeting at ObesityWeek. Send as many photos and/or memories as you like to connect@asmbs.org or info@asmbs.org
ASMBS Surgeon and Integrated Health courses offered daily
ASMBS has four concurrent educational tracks (including one 3½ day track dedicated to IH education)

TOS clinician and scientist courses offered daily
TOS has five concurrent educational tracks designed to benefit every members practice

ASMBS and TOS will maintain independent Annual Meeting Program committees independently selected speakers and separate poster sessions in the exhibit hall

www.obesityweek.com

ASMBS Annual Meeting at ObesityWeek - Update:

Things are really taking shape for a successful ObesityWeek (OW) 2013 – The ASMBS received over 200 additional abstracts compared to 2012. The number of abstracts received has always been a strong marker of success for our annual meeting so we are on track for having not only the largest but most comprehensive annual meeting devoted to the science and treatment of obesity.

Dr. Bruce Spiegelman and Dr. Tom Farly are confirmed as OW keynote speakers. Dr. Spiegelman is the Stanley J. Korsmeyer Professor of Cell Biology and Medicine at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School and will speak on the topic of "Transcriptional Control of Brown and Beige Fat: Toward a New Generation of Therapeutics". Dr. Tom Farley, New York City Health Commissioner, will speak on the topic "Saving Gotham: New York City’s Attempts to Reverse the Obesity Epidemic". The Integrated Health section will feature Dr. Brian Wansink, a psychologist from Cornell University known for award winning academic research on changing eating behaviors and popularizing terms such as "mindless eating" and "health halos".

Also, adding depth and interest to the meeting, we have seven Level Two Partners providing symposiums on current trends in their unique areas of obesity research and treatment: International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity and Metabolic Disorders; International Association for the Study of Obesity; American Academy of Clinical Endocrinology; American College of Sports Medicine, American Heart Association/Nutrition; Physical Activity and Metabolism, Society for the Study of Ingestive Behavior; and Weight Management DPG/Academy for Nutrition and Dietetics.

Stay tuned to the OW web site www.obesityweek.com for information on the International Reception. This year the International Achievement Award will also be given out at the ASMBS Foundation Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, November 12. Information on this event will be on the web site soon.

Bariatric Surgery Credentialing Guidelines:
Four national surgical associations, American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS), American College of Surgeons (ACS), Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) and Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract (SSAT), joined together in a task force to consolidate their individual credentialing guidelines into one set of guidelines that would provide guidance to hospitals and institutions in the credentialing process for bariatric surgery. The guidelines were recently completed and will publish in an upcoming issue of SOARD.

Accreditation and Quality Program/MBSAQIP
In the very near future we will be sending out draft two of the Program Standards for the ASMBS Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program (MBSAQIP). We are still on target to have the program fully implemented within the United States by the end of this year. Once we have this program fully in place, we look forward to turning our efforts to outreach to other regions interested in accreditation and quality improvement.
The 5th IFSO Latin American of Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery, hosted by the Association Peruana de Cirugia Bariatrica, was held in Cusco, Peru, from 21-24 May, 2013.

The Congress had 583 participants from 20 countries and 171 presenters.

Latin American Chapter NEWS

Natan Zundel
President of the Latin American Chapter

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First time at an IFSO meeting?

49% Yes
51% No
Dear Colleagues and friends,

It is an honor and great pleasure for me to invite you to the 18th World Congress of IFSO which will be held in Istanbul between 28 - 31st of August 2013. As you know Istanbul is the only and oldest city in the world built on two continents and has two bridges binding Europe and Asia and formed a new continent called as Eurasia. Also in medical community there is an urgent need for unity to fight for the growing pandemic of obesity.

This idea become our main inspiration for organizing a tremendous event, a congress, a consensus platform bridging bariatric and metabolic surgeons with physicians, integrated health professionals, researchers, and pharmaceutical, surgical innovation companies. It would be a unique meeting underscoring the importance of multidisciplinary approach to surgical treatment of obesity and metabolic disorders. The role of metabolic surgery for the treatment of Type 2 Diabetics Mellitus, Metabolic Syndrome and its role in prevention of cardiovascular diseases will also be discussed in detail with the valuable contribution of researchers.

We will also have opportunity to evaluate and discuss the emerging technologies, such as robotic surgery, NOTES, LESS and intraluminal techniques and their safety, feasibility over the conventional laparoscopic bariatric surgical approaches. Our distinguished keynote speakers and panelists will share their experiences and exchange ideas via postgraduate courses, lectures and round table discussions on bariatric and metabolic surgical techniques with the participants. We will also have courses and sessions encompassing basis of scientific research, medical writing and basic sciences for young bariatric surgery fellows and surgery residents. Live surgery sessions on the last day of the congress will provide us to compare or technical knowledge with the experts around the world and adopt new techniques in our practice and also evaluate alternative procedures as mini gastric bypass and ileal transposition.
**Istanbul** being the financial center of modern Turkey, former capital of Byzantine and Ottoman Empires and European Capital of Culture in 2010 provides enchanting historical sites of UNESCO world heritage and modern attractions and sceneries to her visitors. We will also find plenty of time besides the congress program to discover the city and replenish our souls within the mysterious silhouettes of the old byzantine churches, ottoman palaces, minarets, old geneo tower and ancient walls of this mystical city. I am sure that you will feel at home with globally known Turkish hospitality and find a part of yourself in this magnificent city.

On behalf of IFSO and Turkish Obesity Surgery Society, I welcome you to your home, Istanbul.

With warm regards,

**Mustafa Taşkın**

**IFSO 2013 Congress President**
Blue Mosque; one of the biggest mosques of Istanbul from 17th century, famous for its blue tiles and 6 minarets.

St. Sophia Museum; the church of Holy Wisdom, completed in 537 during the reign of Emperor Justinian. It is the major Byzantine relic in the city.

Topkapi Palace; the former imperial residence from where the great Ottoman Empire was once ruled.

Grand Bazaar; the world’s biggest bazaar with over 4000 shops and 300 small streets.
LET’S MEET WHERE THE TWO CONTINENTS MEET...

Istanbul standing on the shores of the Bosphorus, has an impressive setting straddling Europe & Asia. The only city in the world to stand on two continents, it is criss-crossed by water offering dramatic views. The city is a fascinating mixture of East & West, past & present, cosmopolitan & traditional.

CONGRESS VENUE, HALIC CONGRESS CENTER

Haliç Congress Center stands on the shores of the Golden Horn River, an area of great historic interest and one of the most beautiful parts of Istanbul. It contains four different types of meeting rooms and auditoriums all of them are equipped with the latest technology. The whole convention center is fully accessible for participants with disabilities.

Please visit our website for Congress Registration and Accommodation www.ifso2013.com

Exhibitors Manual & Sponsorship Kit is ready. Please contact us for further information: exhibitor@ifso2013.com
POSTGRADUATE COURSES

A. INNOVATIONS IN GASTRIC BYPASS, BPD/DS AND OMEGA LOOP BYPASS SURGERY - TIPS, TRICKS AND MANAGEMENT OF COMPLICATIONS

B. LAPAROSCOPIC ADJUSTABLE GASTRIC BANDING AND LAPAROSCOPIC GASTRIC Plication: Technique, Tips, Tricks, Pitfalls, Complications and Results

C. NEW TECHNIQUES & NEW TECHNOLOGY IN BARIATRIC AND METABOLIC SURGERY

D. SLEEVE GastRECTOMY COURSE: PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF COMPLICATIONS

E. METABOLIC SURGERY: INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF THE ABDOMEN

F. MEDICAL WRITING AND BASIC SURGICAL RESEARCH

G. ANESTHESIA OF BARIATRIC AND METABOLIC SURGERY PATIENT IN PREOPERATIVE, PERIOPERATIVE AND POSTOPERATIVE SETTING

LET’S MEET WHERE THE TWO CONTINENTS MEET...
Michel Gagner
President of the IXX
IFSO Congress

http://www.ifso2014.com
XX World IFSO Congress
26-29 August, 2015 - Vienna, Austria
IFSO E-Newsletter  June 2013

2016 IFSO World Annual Meeting

XXI World IFSO Congress
7-11 September, 2016 - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

BRASIL

Ricardo Cohen
President of the XXI IFSO Congress
2nd Annual Nova Bariatric Surgery Master Class
Mumbai, India
31 May—1 June, 2013
www.obesitysurgery.in

Complications and Revisions
Orlando, Florida, USA
25-26 July, 2013
www.complicationsandrevisions.com

Bariatric Surgery—What is new?
ILS Hospitals,
Kolkata, India
26—27 July, 2013
2013 Endorsed Congresses

Reversing end organ damage through Diabetes Surgery
UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science
Dublin, UK
26 August 2013
www.ucd.ie/medicine

Hands-on Scientific Workshop
“Surgical Treatment of Metabolic Disorders”
Moscow, Russia
7-11 October
www.bareo.ru

25th Annual Conference OSSANZ
Intercontinental Sanctuary
Cove Resort
Gold Coast
2—4 October 2013
www.ossanzconference.com.au

Decision Making
in Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery
Auditorium Antonianum
Rome, Italy
24-26 October, 2013
www.decisionmaking2013.org
IFSO offers all Members the advantage of the reduced subscription rate to *Obesity Surgery* at the special rate of only **USD $80.00** (instead of 211.00 $)

**12 printed issues + Book of abstracts of IFSO Annual World Meeting and Chapters’ Meetings + Free access to the New online SpringerLink platform!**

Never miss an issue! Sign up to receive **Table of Contents (TOC) Alert** emails for *Obesity Surgery*. You will be able to update your email address or unsubscribe at any time. [http://bit.ly/WZAF8g](http://bit.ly/WZAF8g)

**New issue alert:** The latest issue of *Obesity Surgery* is now available online! View all new articles and browse the archive. [http://bit.ly/Y8IkiG](http://bit.ly/Y8IkiG)

**SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2013 ARE STILL OPEN!**

Please contact: info@ifso.com

**CME CREDITS**

ASMBS’ Executive Council has accepted to provide CME for *Obesity Surgery*. The readers, by paying a nominal fee and answering some questions, can get CME credits. The details will be defined in Istanbul during the Editorial Board meeting.

Scott Shikora, MD, FACS

Editor-in-Chief of *Obesity Surgery*

**CITATION ALERT:** Never miss getting cited! Thanks to the information SPRINGER receive from CrossRef.org, a journal article’s corresponding author will be alerted after his/her paper was cited by another article ([http://goo.gl/XGjVc](http://goo.gl/XGjVc))
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 almost 8,000 IFSO Members

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 center 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 fulfills the below mentioned requirements please send your endorsement requests to secretariat@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.
How to join IFSO

2013 FEES

IFSO Membership: 100,00$
IFSO Membership + 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

- Membership through the National Society

All National Societies must send IFSO Secretariat the list of their members

**BENEFITS of being IFSO MEMBERS:**

- Complimentary subscription to *Obesity Surgery*
- Subscription to SOARD at a discounted rate of US $92,00.
- Discounted registration fees to IFSO congresses & meetings endorsed by IFSO
- Regular E-newsletters and updating about congresses in the field of bariatric and metabolic surgery
- Listing in the online Registry on IFSO’s website
- Possibility to apply for IFSO’s endorsement
- Job offers

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 ifso.secretariat@gmail.com or info@ifso.com

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