



# IFSO LAC Fellowship Program

# IFSO LAC FELLOWSHIPS AND FELAC INITIATIVES

## **Natan Zundel MD FACS FASMBS FIFSO(Hon)**

- Professor of Surgery
- University at Buffalo, NY
- JNMC, Miami
- Chair Education Committee IFSO Global (Observerships)
- Director IFSO LAC FELLOWSHIP Program

# OPPORTUNITIES

LEARNING

TEACHING

MENTORING

PUBLISHING



# Fellowship in laparoscopic surgery



▶ Why?

# MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY

- ▶ Training in minimally invasive surgery requires a large number of procedures during the learning curve (ranging from 40 to 100) in order to acquire appropriate knowledge and skills.

ARTÍCULO DE REVISIÓN

## El cambio del paradigma educativo en la enseñanza de la cirugía laparoscópica

GUIHOVANY ALBERTO GARCÍA<sup>1</sup>, GERMÁN JIMÉNEZ<sup>2</sup>, ARNOLD JOSÉ BARRIOS<sup>3</sup>, RAÚL ENRIQUE GUEVARA<sup>4</sup>,  
JUAN PABLO RUIZ<sup>5</sup>, FREDY ORLANDO MENDIVELSO<sup>6</sup>

---

Palabras clave: educación médica; cirugía general; laparoscopia; entrenamiento simulado; educación basada en competencias.

---

# LAPAROSCOPIC SURGERY FELLOWSHIP



Reduction of weekly working hours for resident physicians:  
80 hours in the U.S. and  
48 hours in the E.U.

Many Latin American countries lack sufficient case volume for  
**TEACHING**

Lack adequate resources and opportunities for  
**LEARNING**

# WHERE?

# FEATURES OF THE PROGRAM

- TWELVE months
- High-volume centers with university, national college or association, and IFSO LAC certification.
- Endoscopy training mandatory.
- Twelve-months curriculum
- Paid or tuition free

- ▶ Apply and be accepted
- ▶ Final test: live surgery, hands on
- ▶ At least two papers presented
- ▶ At least one publication

# REVISTA LATINOAMERICANA DE

CIRUGÍA BARIÁTRICA METABÓLICA Y  
CIENCIAS AFINES

LEER MÁS





# REQUIREMENTS

## Applications for IFSO LAC Fellowship Program starting March 2026

1. Specialty in GENERAL SURGERY (documented with digital copy of your specialist degree)
2. Nationality of any country in Latin America or Spain
3. Age UNDER 40 YEARS
4. Three LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION FROM SURGEONS MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY OF BARIATRIC SURGERY OF YOUR COUNTRY
5. Availability for one year FULL-TIME AND EXCLUSIVE DEDICATION
6. Letter of Commitment to become a MEMBER of the Society of General Surgery of your country
7. Letter of Commitment to become a MEMBER of the Society of Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery of your country
8. Letter of Motivation and personal objectives to perform the Fellowship
9. Updated Curriculum Vitae with photograph included, in IFSO LAC format (ATTACHED)
10. Not having an executed sentence in ordinary and ethical courts
11. Willingness to work in a team
12. Diploma in Research (desirable)
13. Languages SPANISH/PORTUGUESE and English INTERMEDIATE
14. There is no remuneration.

doctora 2

**Download the IFSO LAC curriculum vitae format**

**Applicants must fill out the form attaching the curriculum vitae in IFSO LAC format.**

## — REQUIREMENT FOR NEW TRAINING CENTERS IN METABOLIC SURGERY BY IFSO LAC

- Hospital Center CERTIFIED by the Health Authority of the country.
- Accreditation of the presence of an interdisciplinary team formed by members of the NATIONAL Society of Bariatric Surgery.
- Bariatric and metabolic surgery volume of more than 150 procedures per year by Fellow
- Existence of Curriculum or academic program for the whole year.
- Availability of PROTOCOL algorithm for evaluation and management of patients with Obesity and Metabolic Syndrome.
- Follow-up and registry system for patients operated within the program.
- Mandatory ENDOSCOPY service in which Fellows can be trained.
- Letter of Commitment from the Center not to interrupt the Fellowship program UNTIL THE END OF THE INITIATED TRAINING.
- Accreditation of the program in CO-SPONSIBILITY of a LOCAL OR REGIONAL UNIVERSITY
- IFSO LAC CERTIFIED hospital or center for the practice of bariatric and metabolic surgery.
- The Chief Surgeons of the programs must be IFSO LAC CERTIFIED.
- Commitment to submit a biannual report of the Fellowship progress.
- Commitment to allow a periodic on-site audit by members of the IFSO LAC ADVISORY BOARD.
- Commitment not to charge for training to Fellows (MANDATORY)
- NO EXCLUSIVE COMMITMENT TO A SINGLE MEDICAL SUPPLY CORPORATION (MANDATORY).
- Letter of application with accreditation of compliance with these requirements and number of Fellows requested, addressed to the IFSO LAC Presidency and Executive Directorate.





# The Beginnings: 2021, MÉXICO (Two cities)

Endorsed by:

- IFSO LAC
- NATIONAL SOCIETY (BMS)
- REGIONAL UNIVERSITY



**COLEGIO MEXICANO**  
DE CIRUGÍA PARA LA OBESIDAD Y  
ENFERMEDADES METABÓLICAS, A.C.

# NOWADAYS:

- **MEXICO (6 Cities)**

- CIUDAD JUAREZ
- GUADALAJARA
- MONTERREY
- REYNOSA
- TIJUANA
- VERACRUZ

- **CHILE**
  - SANTIAGO DE CHILE

- **EL SALVADOR**
  - SAN SALVADOR

# INSTRUCTORS

- Dr. Francisco Alabi
- Dr. Sebastián Arana
- Dr. Francisco Barrera
- Dr. Mario Cabrera
- Dr. Felipe Cantú
- Dr. Rúul Chapa
- Dr. Gabriel Galván
- Dr. José Eduardo García
- Dr. Manuel García
- Dr. Rafael Luengas
- Dra. Sandy Martínez
- Dr. Otto Montoya
- Dr. Christian Rodríguez
- Dra. Daye Rodríguez
- Dra. Tatiana Velarde
- Dr. Miguel Zapata
- Dra Patricia Roldán
- Dr. Rey Romero
- Dr Jesús Rodríguez



13 COUNTRIES

ARBOCLCO

CRECGTSV

MXDOPEVE



# Performance as first assistant and as surgeon





# Educational, academic and friendship



# ENDOSCOPIC BASIC AND SOME ADVANCED TRAINING



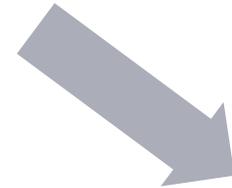
# ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION IN CONGRESS





# CURRICULUM

Currently  
34 FELLOWS



Room classes every  
two weeks



59 graduated Fellows



24 Fellows now  
in the program



9 Fellows begin on  
september



- We are...

**LATIN AMERICA**





**It is not about reaching the summit.  
But after reaching it... looking down,  
making the summit attainable for everyone.  
And then... returning home.**

(Attributed to “Barragán”; authorship unverified)