



XXIX IFSO World Congress

1-4 September 2026 | Toronto, Canada

Registry-Based Research: “The Future” in Research

Introduction and learning objectives

Ronald Liem

Chair, IFSO Global Registry Committee

Registry lead, IFSO European Chapter

Groene Hart Hospital, Gouda · Nederlandse Obesitas Kliniek (NOK), The Netherlands

Co-chair: Maurizio De Luca — Rovigo Hospital, President SICOB

Wendy Brown — Monash University Hospital

TORONTO2026

The Future of Obesity Management:
From Weight Loss to Health Gain



ifso2026.org

Disclosure

Ronald Liem — Registry-Based Research: “The Future” in Research

Roles and experience

- 15+ years in metabolic bariatric surgery
- 4,000+ MBS procedures performed
- Director - NOK The Hague and Gouda
- Clinical Audit Board - DATO
(Dutch Audit for Treatment of Obesity)
- Chair - IFSO Global Registry Committee
- Registry lead - IFSO European Chapter Executive Council

Educational fees

Medtronic
Johnson & Johnson
FitForMe

Nothing further to disclose

No commercial interest related to the content of this presentation.



Why registries, and why now?

1

The field moves faster than trials

New procedures, new devices and now highly effective obesity management medications reach daily practice years before randomised evidence matures.

2

Real populations, not protocol populations

Registries capture consecutive patients across all centres — including those with obesity-associated disease, those undergoing revisional surgery and those followed long term.

3

From counting procedures to generating evidence

The next step is not more data. It is better questions: auditability, linkage, PROMs, embedded trials, definitions that hold across borders.

This session asks what registries must become to answer the questions of the next decade and what it will take to get there.



The session in four steps

Four talks of 12 minutes, each with 3 minutes of questions — then the panel.

1

Foundations

Quality, safety and standardisation in MBS registries

Erik Stenberg

SABS – SOReg

2

Data enrichment

PROMs, data linkage and the role of AI

Guusje Vugts

DSMBS – DATO

3

The next frontier

Registry-based randomised clinical trials

Wendy Brown

ANZMOSS Bariatric Registry

4

Beyond surgery

Integrating obesity management medications

Joe Northup

ASMBS – MBSAQIP

Panel – Felipe Cantu (CMCOEM) · Nasser Sakran (IBSR) · Mehran Anvari (Ontario, Vice Chair Registry Committee and IFSO 2026 Congress President)



Launching: the 10th IFSO Global Registry Report

Metabolic bariatric surgery worldwide — registration year 2024

581,120

procedures reported
for 2024

40

registries, from
38 countries

55.4%

sleeve gastrectomy,
still the commonest

0.039%

primary mortality,
reliable submissions

- Tenth edition, and the fourth built entirely on aggregated national and regional registry data - the first in which four consecutive years (2021–2024) read as one continuous series.
- Volume fell from 597,267 to 580,898, in several regions reflecting the uptake of obesity management medications. The registry records nothing about them - precisely what our fourth speaker will address.

40 of the 44 registries known to IFSO (≈91%). Procedure type is known for 580,898 procedures (99.96%), the denominator for all type-based percentages. United States figures relate to 2023. Full report: ifso.com



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Four questions to keep in mind

Validity and its limits

How should registries handle confounding and the constraints on causal inference? Which completeness and audit targets are feasible without overburdening sites? How do we prevent coding drift as procedures evolve?

PROMs, linkage and AI

How do we collect PROMs at scale with acceptable burden and missingness? Which external linkages deliver value first? Where does AI genuinely add insight - and where does it add opacity or bias?

Trial-readiness across jurisdictions

What steps make registries compatible with registry-based randomised trials internationally? What governance, IT, funding and legal infrastructure is still missing for multinational collaboration?

A learning health system

What governance lets registries span obesity medicine and surgical pathways, enabling continuous learning while preserving privacy, transparency and clinical utility?

Bring your questions to the panel — the last 30 minutes belong to the room.

See you in

