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I. Mission Statement

The ObesityPAC’s mission is to preserve, protect and defend the inalienable right of the patient with obesity to have safe, effective, equitable and affordable access to care in all of the United States.
II. Letter from the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

In the last few months we have likely seen the end of GOP efforts to fully repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA). In its wake, some in Congress are now signaling the need for bipartisan efforts to prop up the failing individual insurance market and repair a number of ACA coverage and affordability issues. These include greater state flexibility to determine essential health benefits and possible Medicaid reforms.

While the ASMBS and the obesity community have made great strides in securing coverage for bariatric surgery and other obesity treatment avenues, we are now entering a critical period where many of these coverage gains could come under fire. Greater state flexibility will likely pit obesity against other chronic diseases as states struggle to determine what care is deemed essential and what care is not.

On another front, CMS just convened a Medicare advisory committee to examine the scientific evidence for health outcomes surrounding bariatric surgery and new endoscopic procedures such as the gastric balloon. I’m proud to say that more than 10 ASMBS members traveled from around the country – joining other leaders from the patient and clinical/research community -- to speak to the panel regarding the benefits of bariatric surgery. Needless to say, we continue to stay vigilant against any threats to treatment coverage for the millions of Americans affected by obesity.

To date, ObesityPAC has raised more than $135,000 and supported a number of federal and state legislators who continue to champion efforts that promote greater patient access to quality and affordable obesity care. While this number is impressive, it represents the support of only seven percent of the ASMBS membership. Imagine if 20 or 30 percent of members choose to support ObesityPAC this year. We could easily double or triple that $135,000!

I strongly encourage you to support ObesityPAC so that the ASMBS can continue to educate policymakers about the critical needs of our patients!
Taking it to the Next Level at ObesityWeek 2017

The ObesityPAC Board is pleased to announce that giving levels for ObesityPAC are now cumulative! That means if you have been giving $500 a year to the PAC over the last two years, you have now graduated from the Lincoln Level to the Capitol Club! This new change comes after listening to feedback from many ObesityPAC supporters who suggested this approach so that average supporters can be recognized over time for their continuous support of ASMBS’s advocacy efforts through the PAC.

Look for recognition of your cumulative support for ObesityPAC during the PAC reception at OW2017 and at the PAC booth where video boards will chronicle ASMBS member support for ObesityPAC – especially those PAC members who “take their support to the next level!”

The Order of the Oval

Also new for ObesityWeek 2017 is the establishment of a new giving level for the PAC – the Order of the Oval, which will be reserved for those PAC members who have pledged $10,000 or more since 2015 when ObesityPAC was formed. Those in the “Order” will receive special recognition at every ObesityPAC event and exclusive access to PAC honorees during the PAC’s ObesityWeek receptions. Stay tuned for more information about special benefits for reaching this prestigious level!

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<th><strong>ObesityPAC Cumulative Giving Levels</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Jefferson Level: $250 - $499</td>
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<td>Lincoln Level: $500 - $999</td>
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<td>Capitol Club: $1000 - $2499</td>
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<td>President’s Circle: $2500 - $10,000</td>
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<td>Order of the Oval: $10,000 and above</td>
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Sincerely,

John Morton, MD, FASMBS
Chair, ObesityPAC Board of Directors
Stanford, CA
III.  ObesityPAC Board, 2016-2017

John Morton, MD  
FASMBS  
Chair, ObesityPAC  
Stanford, CA  
Bariatric Surgeon

Carl Pesta, DO  
FASMBS  
Board Member  
Mt. Clemens, Michigan  
Bariatric Surgeon

Georgeann Mallory, RD  
Board Member  
Gainesville, FL  
ASMBS Executive Director, Registered Dietician

C. Joe Northup, MD  
Board Member  
Dayton, Ohio  
Bariatric Surgeon

Christopher Gallagher  
Board Member  
Washington, D.C.  
Potomac Currents, President

Ann Rogers, MD  
FASMBS  
Board Member  
Hershey, Pennsylvania  
Bariatric Surgeon

John D. Scott  
Board Member  
Greenville, S.C.  
Bariatric Surgeon
IV. **ObesityPAC Goals, 2016-2017**

- Ensure there is coverage for all forms of bariatric surgery treatment in all forms of health care
- Allow for affordable coverage through equitable patient responsibility (eliminate high deductibles)
- Safeguard safety of bariatric surgery through input upon all quality regulatory issues
- Create a national quality measure through National Quality Forum that requires all patients who have an appropriate BMI to have counseling regarding bariatric surgery
- Remove corporate impediments to sound medical care (pre-operative weight loss requirements by insurers)
- Create safe harbors to allow for discussion and creation of appropriate bundled payments
- Provide oversight of national self-insured corporations creating national networks to ensure adequate follow-up and access
- Work towards coverage of the entire continuum of care for the obese patient from counseling to medications to endoscopy to surgery
- Establish a sound prevention strategy that is linked to treatment
- Generate strong research funding base for the mechanisms and best practices of obesity prevention and treatment
- Identify and support candidates who are supportive of the *ObesityPAC Mission Statement* regardless of political orientation
- Develop and sustain member interest in the political process as advocates, participants, and candidates
- Bring a national focus to local issues to ensure that advocacy occurs locally and nationally
- At least 5% Surgeon Member Participation and $ 100,000 raised annually
- 100% support from ASMBS leadership through the Executive Council, State Chapter Presidents, and Committee Chairs
V. ASMBS Weekend ObesityPAC Reception June 2, 2017 at the San Diego Marriott Marquis & Marina

Dr. John Morton, Dr. Matthew Hutter, Dr. Corrigan McBride, Dr. Rachel Moore, Dr. Teresa LaMasters, Dr. Matthew Brengman and Dr. Anthony Petrick attending the ASMBS Weekend ObesityPAC Reception in San Diego, CA
ASMBS Staff Members Jennifer Wynn and McKenzie O’Leary welcome ASMBS Obesity PAC donors at the ASMBS Weekend Obesity PAC Reception
VI. LEAD Advocacy Award Recipient Sponsored by the ObesityPAC

Please congratulate Dr. Joseph Chebli of Florida and Dr. Michael Seger of Texas as the recipients of the 2017 ObesityPAC Advocacy Award. This cash prize is awarded at the LEAD Luncheon, this year in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Joseph Chebli and his wife, Caroline an orthopedic surgeon

Dr. Joseph and Dr. Caroline Chebli’s daughters Alex, Sophie & Jules

Dr. Michael Seger

Dr. Michael Seger and his wife Jenny with their children Max, Jack, Ben, Lily & Tate
VII. 2\textsuperscript{nd} Annual *ObesityPAC* Donor Recognition Event at ObesityWeek 2017, Washington, D.C.

An *ObesityPAC* goal is to leverage our annual meeting to meet with local representatives in their own backyard and advocate for our patients. To create a personal connection with an elected representative is invaluable in securing an audience with these policy makers. We are able to meet these policy makers and at the same time recognize our top contributors to the *ObesityPAC* at a premium event befitting our high ideals and purpose. This year in Washington, D.C., in order to accomplish our avowed goal of securing access of care for our patient with obesity, US Senator Mark Warner of the Senate Finance Committee Chronic Care Working Group was invited to speak. Due to a personal emergency, he was regrettably unable to attend. In his honor Dr. John Morton, PAC Chairman, and Dr. John D. Scott, PAC Board Member and Access to Care Chair, addressed our PAC members who enjoyed the best of Maryland & Virginia cuisine and spirits. Join us next year in Nashville, TN for another first-class event.
VIII. 2016-2017 ObesityPAC Recipient Honorees

ObesityPAC Honorees

Senator Tom Carper (D-DE)

Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)

Representative Ron Kind (D-WI)

Representative Eric Paulsen (R-MN)

Representative Anna Eshoo (D-CA)
ObesityPAC Honorees

Senator Mark Warner (D-VA)

Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)

Representative Lou Barletta (R-PA)

Representative Tom Reed (R-NY)

Representative Eliot Engel (D-NY)
ObesityPAC Honorees

Senator Tim Scott (R-SC)

Dave Jones, California State Insurance Commissioner

Texas State Senator Jose Menendez (D-TX)

CT State Representative Eric Berthel (R)

CT State Representative Prasad Srinivasan (R)
IX. ObesityPAC Donors

Order of the Oval donors are the “Trailblazers,” the most influential level of profoundly committed benefactors who have pledged $10,000 and above, demonstrating their deep commitment to political advocacy in Washington.
President’s Council donors are “Leaders of the PAC.” By pledging $2500-$5000, they demonstrate their deep commitment to political advocacy in Washington. Thank you to our 2016-2017 President’s Council members!

John Baker, MD FASMBS
Stacy Brethauer, MD FASMBS
J. Chris Eagon, MD FASMBS
Rami Lutfi, MD FASMBS
John Morton, MD FASMBS
Dieter Pohl, MD FASMB
Ann Rogers, MD FASMBS
Priyanka Varghese, MA LPC

Matthew Brengman, MD FASMBS
Terence Clarke, MD FASMBS
Kelvin Higa, MD FASMB
Rachel Moore, MD FASMBS
Carl Pesta, DO FASMBS
Jaime Ponce, MD FASMBS
Raul Rosenthal, MD FASMBS
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<td>Allison Arnett, FNP BC CBN</td>
<td>Hesham Atwa, MD</td>
<td>Robin Blackstone, MD FASMBS</td>
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<td>Brenda Cacucci, MD FASMBS</td>
<td>Joseph Chebli, MD FASMBS</td>
<td>Patrick Domkowski, MD PhD FASMBS</td>
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<td>Wayne English, MD FASMBS</td>
<td>Paul Enochs, MD FASMBS</td>
<td>Neil Floch, MD</td>
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<td>Kenneth Foreman, MD FASMBS</td>
<td>Dominick Gadaleta, MD FASMBS</td>
<td>Chris Gallagher</td>
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<td>Sharon Hillgartner, APRN WHNP-BC CBN</td>
<td>Matthew M. Hutter, MD MPH FASMBS</td>
<td>John Kelly, MD FASMBS</td>
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<td>Teresa LaMasters, MD FASMBS</td>
<td>Samer Mattar, MD FASMBS</td>
<td>Cori McBride, MD FASMBS</td>
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<td>Daniel McKenna, MD FASMBS</td>
<td>John Meilahn, MD</td>
<td>Joseph Nadglowski, Jr.</td>
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<td>Ninh Nguyen, MD FASMBS</td>
<td>C. Joe Northup, MD</td>
<td>Manish Parikh, MD FASMBS</td>
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<td>John Pender, MD</td>
<td>Carl M. Pesta, DO FASMBS</td>
<td>Richard Peterson, MD MPH FASMBS</td>
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<td>Dang Tuan Pham, MD FASMBS</td>
<td>John Pilcher Jr., MD</td>
<td>James Pitt, DO FASMBS</td>
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<td>Alfons Pomp, MD FASMBS</td>
<td>David Provost, MD FASMBS</td>
<td>John D. Scott, MD FASMBS</td>
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<td>Michael Seger, MD FASMBS</td>
<td>Lloyd Stegemann, MD FASMBS</td>
<td>William A. Sweet, MD</td>
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<td>Darren Tishler, MD FASMBS</td>
<td>Erik Wilson, MD</td>
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$500-$999

Aziz Benbrahim, MD FASMBS  Robert Berger, MD  David Carroll, MD FASMBS
David Chengelis, MD  Mark Colquitt, MD  Eric J. DeMaria, MD FASMBS
Raymond Drew, MD  Erik Dutson, MD  George Eid, MD
Luis Garcia, MD MBA  William Graber, MD FASMBS  Peter Hallowell, MD FASMBS
Margaret Inman, MD FASMBS  Amy Johnson, MD FASMBS  Jason Johnson, DO
Gregg Jossart, MD  Christopher Joyce, MD FASMBS  Julie Kim, MD FASMBS
Shanu Kothari, MD FASMBS  Matthew Kroh, MD FASMBS  Richard Lindquist, MD
Georgeann Mallory, RD  Sina Matin, MD FASMBS  Renee O’Daniel, RN MSN CBN
Anthony Petrick, MD FASMBS  Aurora Pryor, MD FASMBS  Rana Pullatt, MD FASMBS
Peter Rantis, MD FASMBS  Ariel Rodriguez, MD  Watson Roye, MD
Philip Schauer, MD  Scott Shikora, MD FASMBS  Brian Smith, MD FASMBS
Andrew Standerwick, MD  Ajay Upadhyay, MD  Stuart R. Verseman, MD FASMBS
Jonathan Wallace, MD FASMBS  Kevin Wasco, MD FASMBS  D. Brandon Williams, MD FASMBS
$250-$499

Joshua Alley, MD
William (Pete) Avara, MD FASMBS
Kulvinder Bajwa, MD

Nilesh Bhoot, MD
Samuel Bledsoe, MD FASMBS
Allen Browne, MD

Yijun Chen, MD
Uyen Chu, MD
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David Diaz, MD FASMBS
Richard Englehardt, MD FASMBS

Christopher Evanson, MD FASMBS
Abraham Fridman, DO FASMBS
Jon Gould, MD

Ajay Goyal, MD FASMBS
Barry Greene, MD
Brandon Helbling, MD FASMBS

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Peter Ng, MD FASMBS

Alexander Onopchenko, MD
David Podkameni, MD
Edward Rapp, MD

James Redmann, MD FASMBS
Angel Reyes-Villanueva, MD FASMBS
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Michael Schweitzer, MD FASMBS
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Matthew Drake Spann, MD FASMBS

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Ranjan Sudan, MD FASMBS
Charles Svendson, MD FASMBS

Dana Telem, MD FASMBS
Miroslav Uchal, MD
Virginia Jenny Weaver, MD
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Dmitri Baranov, MD PhD FASMBS Thomas Bass, MD     Christine Bauer, MSN RN CBN
Tammy Beaumont, BSN RN CBN    Nina Bellatorre, RN CBN MS CBN     Hilary Blackwood, NP
Lynn Bolduc, MS RD LD CDE    Matthew Bosler, BA CCRP     Nancy Bradley, RD LD CDE
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Robert Carpenter, MD MPH FASMBS Rizwan Chaudry, MD     Jennifer Choi, MD FASMBS
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Brandon Grover, DO FASMBS    A. Daniel Guerron, MD     Franchell Hamilton, MD FASMBS
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Connie Klein, NP CBN         Jason Krynicki     James Ku, MD FASMBS
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<td>Nicholas Kuiper, DO</td>
<td>Janine Kyrillos, MD</td>
<td>Michael Lara, MD</td>
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<td>Yen-Chung Lee, MD FASMBS</td>
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<td>Robert Woodbury, MD FASMBS</td>
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