

ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021

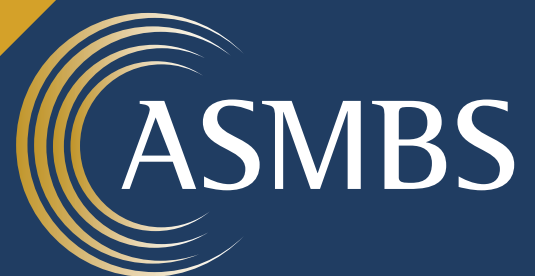


Table of Contents

Message From Our President	3
Message From Our Integrated Health President	5
The ASMBS Staff	8
Surgeon Executive Council	9
Integrated Health Executive Council	10

ASMBS Surgeon Committee Reports

Access to Care	11
Bariatric Surgery Training	13
Clinical Issues	14
Communications	16
Community/Independent Practice	17
Diversity & Inclusivity	18
Emerging Technologies & Procedures	19
Flexible Endoscopy	20
General and Foregut Surgery	21
Insurance	22
International Development	24
Membership	25
Military	26
Pediatric Surgery	28
Program	30
Public Education	32
Quality Improvement & Patient Safety	35
Research	33
Rural	34
Video	36
State and Local Chapters	46

Integrated Health Committee Reports

Advanced Practice Provider	37
IH CBN Certification	38
IH Clinical Issues	40
IH Communications	41
IH Membership	43
IH Multidisciplinary Care	44
IH Program and Professional Education	45
IH Support Group	42
Corporate Council	51
SOARD Annual Report	52
Advocacy Update	53
The ASMBS Foundation	55

From Our President



Dear ASMBS Members,

Oh, what a year (and a half) it has been! Our last Annual Report was in November 2019 when we last met as part of ObesityWeek, before COVID rocked our world. So much has happened in the past 19 months and through this all ASMBS and our members have not just survived but thrived, and we are poised for even a brighter future.

First of all, let's address the timing of our meeting and returning to a standalone ASMBS Annual Meeting in May/June. After it was decided to separate from The Obesity Society and ObesityWeek, we had the opportunity for our members to determine the timing for our meeting. With the second-best turnout of all time for any vote (the highest was the vote to continue with accreditation), a vast majority made it clear that May/June was ideal. We are excited to announce the following locations for the upcoming years:

2022: Dallas, 2023: Las Vegas, 2024: San Diego, 2025: Washington DC, 2026: San Antonio. We now will have better control over the finances and operations for our big event in order to tailor it to our members and we have set the course with favorable contracts and venues through 2026.

Extrication from ObesityWeek unfortunately required legal proceedings for the past year and a half. However, I am happy to say that, as of two weeks ago, these have now concluded favorably and \$2.4m from proceeds from the past ObesityWeek meetings have now been received. Though such legal actions are expensive, they were necessary to secure these funds and our future. This involved dissolving all the contracts for the future meetings for ObesityWeek that were scheduled out for the next 5 years and rescheduling for different sites and times for each society. No small feat.

COVID-19 swept through our nation and the world starting in March 2020, and has led to unprecedented loss of lives, livelihood, and life as we know it. The fear and uncertainty for our patients and our members was immense, yet I am proud how we responded to advocate for our patients by postponing surgery when appropriate, but proceeding when it was safe. For many this involved shutting down for 3 months or more in both the first and second waves, depending on local conditions. During this time, ASMBS initiated regular webinars to communicate and address issues our members were facing. The every-other-week webinars started with COVID-19 updates. Given the robust turnout, subsequent topics ensued, including embracing telehealth, restarting surgery (when), independent/community practices surviving COVID-19, restarting surgery (prioritization), as well as further discussion about prioritization, resuming practice, and wellness for patients and providers. The Top 5 on the 5th was also an effective method to communicate with our members as we were facing these most challenging times. Starting in October 2021, a monthly two-minute video from the presidents was initiated to better communicate the issues we were facing. In addition, ASMBS released a position statement online in SOARD titled "Safer through Surgery" to clear the path for the safe resumption of metabolic and bariatric surgery during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Though COVID has certainly caused much death and destruction, two things can be seen as a silver lining. First, COVID facilitated the adoption of telehealth by overcoming legal and billing issues, expediting the development of compliant platforms, and by the sheer necessity to safely treat patients remotely. ASMBS has developed a Telehealth Task Force to help our members embrace telehealth. Telehealth is immeasurably helpful for our patients, as it decreases the burden of in-person visits while they navigate the multidisciplinary path of surgical care both pre- and postoperatively. This has revolutionized the way we provide care at our center, and the numbers of patients we can treat from both near and far.

The second factor is that COVID has made it clear to others that obesity is a disease, and not just a lifestyle choice or a cosmetic issue. People overall are now more aware due to the frequent news highlighting that people with obesity are at increase risk for developing severe COVID leading to increased rates of hospitalization, of the need for intubation and ICU care, and of death. Furthermore, obesity has been highlighted as a medical condition for which patients can receive vaccinations earlier. With the increased awareness that obesity is a disease, we are hopeful that patients will seek effective treatments, including the most effective therapy – surgery.

COVID-19 forced our meetings to become virtual. Our planned ObesityWeek meeting in Atlanta for November 2020 had to be canceled, and COVID required that the ASMBS Weekend, which was held in January, be a virtual event. It was an amazing success!

The number of registrants was three times higher than the record for previous meetings, and those who participated truly enjoyed the live discussions, panels and certainly the "chat" function. Our Annual Meeting for June 2021 was originally rescheduled to be a hybrid meeting in Las Vegas, but the timing was not yet right to safely gather for in-person events, so it

was changed to a virtual event as well.

Our meetings serve as the major forum for educational offerings, social interactions, and fostering our relationships with our industry partners. Our meetings are also the economic engine that provides the Society with the resources to allow us to serve our members and our patients. COVID is forcing us and our industry partners to rethink how best to hold meetings in the future, whether they should be in-person meetings versus hybrid, and raises questions about the future finances of such events. We are fortunate that the past ASMBS leaders had the foresight to create a corpus to weather economic storms. Financially we remain solid despite the meeting challenges and two lawsuits (one as described previously and the other relating to our association with the ASMBS Foundation). However, as we look strategically towards the future, we need to redefine how we are resourced, given the uncertain future of revenue from journals and meetings. The data we collect for accreditation and to drive continuous quality improvement and the infrastructure necessary to do so are other potential income sources that are being explored.

In the spring of 2020, the brutal killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and countless untold others triggered widespread outrage in the US and the world about racial injustice. ASMBS released a Statement on Racial Injustice in June of 2020, and the ASMBS Diversity and Inclusion Committee, the leadership and our members have been making positive steps towards more inclusivity not only for our members, but for the patients we treat.

After a strategic planning initiative, it had been decided to embark on a multi-year initiative to help move the dial so that more patients with obesity who could benefit from surgery would understand the benefits of doing so. The goal is to increase the less than 1% of eligible patients who undergo surgery every year to 2% and then build from there. ASMBS developed and then initiated a direct-to-consumer public awareness campaign in October 2020 on WebMD, which is considered the leader in patient-facing digital information. With support from the Corporate Council, Medtronic and ASMBS, the six-month trial was a smashing success, vastly exceeding the web-based metrics that were expected. The Executive Council has approved the funding for an additional 6 months, so that the WebMD tailored content would educate more patients and educated consumers would then seek ASMBS providers at our embedded site in WebMD. Make sure to update your "Find a Provider" profile on ASMBS.org since we are driving patients to you - our members.

Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery was chosen by the American Board of Medical Specialties to be the first surgical specialty under the American Board of Surgery to be granted Board Certification through the Focused Practice Designation (FPD) pathway. This designation recognizes our field as a specialty and at long last confers acceptance and legitimacy for what we do. Furthermore, it is a culmination of all we have accomplished as a Society to define our field including a journal, a textbook, fellowship programs, and an accreditation and quality improvement program with nationwide, benchmarked data. ASMBS has created a Board Certification Committee which is working in partnership with the American Board of Surgery to create a high stakes exam. So far, a blueprint has been created, and item writers have been trained. With an aggressive timeline, we hope for surgeons to be able to sit for the first exam as early as Spring 2022. Logistics and details are being worked out and input will be appreciated throughout this process. We are very excited for this opportunity to define our field by determining the knowledge base necessary to practice, and to be recognized as specialists.

Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery is also leading the way in incorporating Patient Reported Outcomes (PROs) which measures what patients care about most. A PCORI funded project has facilitated the development of PROs into the MBSAQIP data collection program which focus on changes in physical health, obesity problems and obesity and weight loss quality of life before and after surgery. So far over 120 centers have opted into the program. Based on the experience in Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, the American College of Surgeons has decided to integrate PROs onto the IQVIA based platform that houses the MBSAQIP and all other quality registries this summer to provide a more seamless experience. The American College of Surgeons will be kicking off the roll-out of PROs as their next major quality initiative for all the quality programs – Cancer, Trauma, the NSQIP and the other QIP programs. Yet again Metabolic and Bariatric surgery is blazing the trail of progress.

Sadly, 2020 saw the passing of three giants who helped create and define the field of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery. Harvey Sugerman the founder and editor of our journal SOARD passed in August. Nicola Scopinaro, who developed not only the biliopancreatic diversion – known as the Scopinaro procedure – but who also was the founder of IFSO, the International Federation for Surgery of Obesity passed in October. Ed Mason, the creator of the gastric bypass, the founder of the ASBS and our first president, passed away December 29th, at the age of 100. All three are icons in our field, and through hard work, innovation and persistence helped to create the field of metabolic and bariatric surgery. The Mason Lecture at the ASMBS Annual Meeting will be a tribute to these three who pioneered and persevered to define this field. As we reflect on the impact these giants had on our field and on innumerable patients, we should think what we, the subsequent generations, can do to have an impact.

The engine that drives all this work is made up of you, our members and the 26 committees that have worked diligently since our last Annual Meeting. The accomplishments of each committee are too numerous to describe in this brief

letter but are included in the following Annual Report. I would like to personally thank each and every Chair, Co-Chair and committee member who have spent countless hours and innumerable Zoom calls furthering the mission of our society to advance the art and science of metabolic and bariatric surgery. I thank the State Chapters, their leaders, and members for doing the same at a local or regional level. I congratulate the Program Committee for being chosen "The Committee of the Year" by the Executive Council.

I encourage all members to engage on a committee or participate at the national or local level. Engaging in the Society is a powerful way to have a voice and have an impact. Working collectively and collaboratively, we are able to make a meaningful difference to our patients.

Our Society is one of the few societies where voting for future leaders actually matters, and our members voted for Marina Kurian to be President from 2023-2024, and for Farah Husain, Cori McBride, and Joe Northup to join the Executive Council for a 3-year term. Our new electorates have unique perspectives from their practices and lived experiences which further strengthen our leadership and our Society.

The Executive Council is the decision-making body for the organization, and through spirited, but respectful discussions, we were able to encourage each and every member to speak out. Robust deliberations with different perspectives from members you elected allowed us to make thoughtful and sound decisions. I would like to thank the ECEC - Shanu Kothari, Teresa LaMasters and Eric DeMaria - who met for at least two hours each and every week on Zoom calls plus countless hours preparing and deliberating through discussions, emails, and texts. I would like to thank the entire Executive Council who similarly made themselves available for scheduled and emergent Zoom calls as well as intermittent weekly legal calls to address the needs of the Society.

I especially would like to thank the entire ASMBS administrative team and their leader Georgeann Mallory. This past year and half have had so many challenges with working remotely, moving to Zoom calls, legal issues, financial uncertainty, switching our meetings to virtual platforms, and planning for and contracting for future meetings for the next five years. The ASMBS staff excelled in the face of all these issues. Georgeann – a special thanks to you for being the heart, mind and backbone of the organization who steers the ship through troubled waters no matter what crew is on board for their fleeting tenure. And always with a smile on your face.

The challenges we have faced during these uncertain times have required flexibility, adaptability, agility, and candid and open deliberations with input from all. But they have also afforded us great opportunity. In the end, these challenges have made us stronger and have positioned us with a sturdy foundation for a bright future. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Hutter, MD, MPH, FASMBS
President, ASMBS

From Our Integrated Health President



Greetings to everyone from our Integrated Health (IH) leadership, for which I have had the honor of serving as President since November of 2019. The past year and half of the COVID-19 pandemic and incidences of social injustice have taken all of us through an unprecedented time of uncertainty and great loss. And throughout these difficulties we have, as an organization, remained responsive and committed to serving the needs of our patients, programs and members. What a comfort and inspiration it has been for me to see the hard work and expertise of the IH Executive Council, Surgeon Executive Council and ASMBS Staff shine through.

As my term as the first Behavioral Health IH President comes to a close, I would like to recognize and introduce your incoming IH Executive Council (IHEC) leadership and outgoing council members. Following me as your new IH President, we welcome Nate Sann, MSN, FNP-BC. Mr. Sann is truly one of the hardest working servant leaders I have ever met. He is deeply engaged with not only his practice in bariatrics but also in the inner workings of our organization. I look forward to supporting him in his term. Upon completion of his term, Nina Crowley, PhD, RDN, LD, will serve as our President-Elect. Dr. Crowley's leadership, similar to Mr. Sann's, will be a tremendous asset to our organization moving forward. Our new Secretary/Treasurer is Paul Davidson, PhD, who is well-known and respected in the field of bariatrics with his strong social media presence. His service as IH President will follow Dr. Crowley's.

Many thanks to Stephanie Sogg, PhD, and Abigail Schroeder, PA-C, our outgoing IHEC members. And a special thanks to Karen Schulz, MSN, CNS, CBN, who stepped in to serve as Senior Past President after Chris Bauer, MSN, RN, CBN's, retirement. And of course so many thanks to Karen Flanders, NP-C, CBN, for her wisdom and ongoing servant leadership.

Finally, I would like to thank and congratulate all of the hardworking IHEC and IH Committee members on these important accomplishments:

IH Advanced Practice Provider, under the leadership of Karen Flanders, NP-C, CBN, progressed from a Task Force into a committee in August 2020. In a short amount of time they developed, disseminated and evaluated two surveys exploring the interest/feasibility of credentialing options to advanced practice providers, a survey for the American Board of Medicine, and published two articles in Bariatric Times.

Behavioral Health Credentialing Taskforce, led by Dr. Stephanie Sogg is hard at work on a long-awaited response to membership and field at large requests for some type of education and/or credential to support behavioral health providers who wish to provide specialty care to adult bariatric surgery patients. Watch for a course offering, most likely in 2022.

IH CBN Certification, Dr. William Gourash, Chair, created a "Leadership Council" within the committee with the primary function of reviewing, developing and efficiently processing policies, and as a consensus for significant operational decisions as they work to achieve accreditation. This diligent committee will host a Patient Education Symposium during our 2021 Annual Meeting.

IH Clinical Issues, led by Katie Chapmon, MS, RD, spent an enormous amount of time collecting and vetting resources for the online educational IH Toolkit which was successfully transferred it to the ASMBS IH Facebook page where it is a timely, monitored "live" repository for our IH members. Additionally, they contributed to and continue to develop several statements, among them are the Preoperative Optimization, Pregnancy, and Marijuana Use papers.

IH Communications, chaired by Abigail Schroeder, PA-C, spent countless hours developing and producing webinars in the earliest crisis times of COVID-19 to provide content and support to our entire membership on topics of concern as we navigated our way through patient care and program management.

IH Membership, under the guidance of Heidi Bednarchuk, APRN, CNS, CBN, listens and works tirelessly to find new, innovative ways to meet the needs of our IH membership, even creating a new "Small Business" membership category for those applicants employed by Industry. They fashioned new communication letters, highlighting membership benefits and resources available, and a letter to organizations highlighting the benefits of supporting IH membership for their staff.

IH Multidisciplinary Care, led by Dr. Genna Hymowitz, developed a measure of prescribing practices that was distributed to BSTOP project participants, educational materials for the IH Toolkit, and several members authored content for the ASMBS Foundation's Walk from Obesity newsletter. They also presented two webinars to ASMBS membership and are busy planning a possible mentorship program for our IH members.

IH Program and Professional Education, under the careful leadership of Dr. Leslie Heinberg, Laura Andromalos, MS, RD, CDE, CSOWM, and Kelli Freidman, PhD, during a world-wide pandemic, planned and directed a hugely successful virtual ASMBS RE-VISION educational event in January, the first of its kind for our organization. They continue to amaze us, adapting with the ever-changing landscape, and have developed a one-of-a-kind program for our ASMBS Annual Meeting.

IH Support Group, Dr. Francine Broder, Chair, updated the incredibly important IH Support Group Manual, maintained the Facebook group for IH ASMBS members, and presented a support group training course at the ASMBS RE-VISION educational event in January 2021.

And finally, I can't even begin to express my gratitude to our ASMBS Staff. Georgeann Mallory, RD, Executive Director, Jennifer Wynn, Deputy Executive Director, and Leslie Vinson, Staff Liaison, who spend countless hours behind the scenes keeping us on time and on track. Their expertise and passion for our organization is remarkable. Also, many thanks to our ASMBS surgeon President Matt Hutter, MD, MPH, FASMBS, and incoming President Shanu Kothari, MD, FASMBS, for their kind counsel and strong support of the role of IH as thought leaders and content experts in our respective disciplines - and our organization.

The past two years as your IH President will forever be a highlight of my career. I sincerely hope my facilitation during this time has been and will continue to be of great value to all of us in the years to come.

With my fondest regards,

*Lisa West-Smith, PhD, LISW-S
Integrated Health President, ASMBS*

The ASMBS Staff

Georgeann Mallory

Executive Director

Kristie Kaufman

Director of Operations

Jennifer Wynn

Deputy Executive Director

Liaison to Awards, Ethical Advisory and Pathway for Endorsement of New Devices and Procedures Committees and Executive Council

Kim Carmichael

Financial & Membership Manager

Karen Loerzel, CMP

Meeting Manager

Amie Buehler

Program Manager

Liaison to Program, IH Program and General and Foregut Surgery Committees

Leslie Vinson

State Chapters Manager

Liaison to ObesityPAC, State Chapters, Access To Care, Clinical Issues, Community/Independent Practice, Emerging Technology & Procedure, Insurance, Military, Obesity Prevention, Pediatric Surgery, Quality Improvement & Patient Safety, Rural, IH Clinical Issues and Guidelines and IH Multidisciplinary Care Committees

Danielle Marsh

Grants, Sponsorships & CME Manager

Liaison to Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Bariatric Surgery Training Committee, International Development Committee and Video Committee

Susan Haury

CBN Program Manager

Liaison to CBN Certification Committee

Jillian Tartt

Marketing & Communications Coordinator

Liaison to Communications, Public Education, and IH Communications Committees

James Osterhout

Director of Information Technology

Michael Lucas

Web Application Developer

Vanessa Govindan

Graphic & Web Designer

Executive Council



President

Matthew Hutter, MD MPH
FASMBS



President-Elect

Shanu Kothari, MD
FASMBS



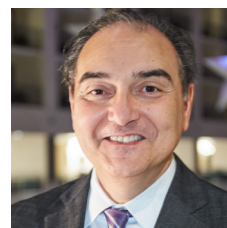
Secretary/Treasurer

Teresa LaMasters, MD
FACS FASMBS DABOM



Past President

Eric DeMaria, MD FASMBS



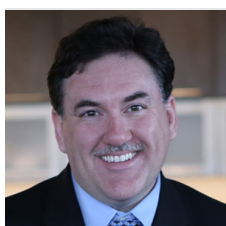
Senior Past President

Samer Mattar, MD
FASMBS



Councilperson-At-Large

Matthew Brengman, MD



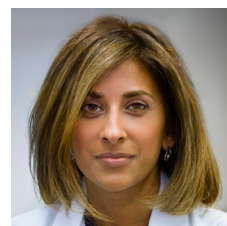
Councilperson-At-Large

Joseph Northup, MD
FASMBS



Councilperson-At-Large

Rami Lutfi, MD FACS
FASMBS



Councilperson-At-Large

Marina Kurian, MD
FASMBS



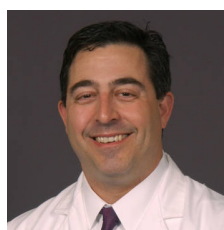
Councilperson-At-Large

Richard Peterson, MD
MPH FACS FASMBS



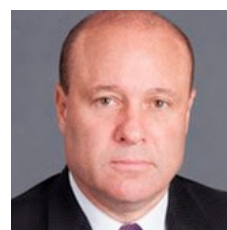
Councilperson-At-Large

Ann Rogers, MD FASMBS



Councilperson-At-Large

John Scott, MD, FACS
FASMBS



Councilperson-At-Large

Natan Zundel, MD



IH President

Lisa West-Smith, PhD,
LISW-S



IH President-Elect

Nathaniel Sann, MSN
CRNP FNP-BC

Integrated Health Executive Council



President

Lisa West-Smith, PhD LISW-S



President-Elect

Nathaniel Sann, MSN
FNP-BC



Secretary

Nina Crowley, PhD RD LD



Past President

Karen Flanders, MSN,
ARNP



Senior Past President

Christine Bauer, MSN RN
CBN



Executive Council Liason

Shanu Kothari, MD
FASMBS



Member-At-Large

Heidi Bednarchuk, CBN



Member-At-Large

Lillian Craggs- Dino, DHA
RDN LDN CLT



Member-At-Large

Paul Davidson, PhD



Member-At-Large

Rachel Goldman, PhD



Member-At-Large

Stephanie Sogg



Member-At-Large

Abigail Schroeder PA-C



ACCESS TO CARE COMMITTEE

Chair: C. Joe Northup, MD, FASMBS

The Access to Care Committee has the principal mission to assist patients affected by metabolic disease and obesity in obtaining appropriate, safe and effective medical care. Committee activities include developing the strategic vision and strategies to make improvement in access to care; advocating for legislative changes on the state and local level that will affect health care coverage; addressing the politics, policies and ethics of access issues on the local, state and national levels; and bringing together initiatives/partners to effectively address access issues.

Committee Members

Co-Chairs: Margaret Inman, MD ACS & Michael Seger, MD FASMBS

Executive Council Liaison:
C. Joe Northup, MD FASMBS

Immediate Past Chair: John D. Scott, MD FASMBS

ASMB Staff Liaison: Leslie Vinson

Members:

Amir Aryaie, MD
Nicholas Brown, MD FASMBS
David L. Chengelis, MD
Tuesday Cook, MD (Diversity & Inclusion Committee Liaison)
Christopher Daigle, MD FRSC
Maher El Chaar, MD
Wayne English, MD FASMBS,
Linden Karas, MD

Ashutosh Kaul, MD,
(Insurance Committee Chair Liaison)
Colleen Kennedy, MD MBA FASMBS
Shanu Kothari, MD
Teresa LaMasters, MD DABOM
Walter Lindstrom, Esq
Jamie Loggins, MD
John Morton, MD MPH MHA FASMBS

Fady Moustarah, MD MPH FRCSC
Blake Movitz, MD
Carl Pesta, DO FASMBS (State Chapter Committee Chair Liaison)
Joshua Pfeiffer, MD
Nancy Puzziferri, MD
Lloyd Stegemann, MD FASMBS
Dana Telem, MD FASMBS (Insurance Committee Co-Chair Liaison)

REGIONAL SUPER STARS AND STARS (STATE ACCESS TO CARE REPRESENTATIVES)

Super STAR Northeast Region — Matthew Hutter, MD MPH FASMBS
CT — Darren Tishler, MD FASMBS
MA — Sheila Partridge, MD FASMBS
ME — Open
NH — Robert Catania, MD FASMBS
NY — William O'Malley, MD
RI — Siva Vithiananthan, MD FASMBS
VT — Patrick Forgione, MD
All New England — Melissa Page, MS RD CSOWM LDN (IH)

Super STAR Mid-Atlantic Region — Guilherme Campos, MD FASMBS
DE — Open
MD — Joseph Greene, MD MBA
NJ — Michael Bilof, MD FASMBS
NC/SC — Keri Seymour, DO; Nina Crowley, PhD RD LD (IH)
PA — Ann M. Rogers, MD FASMBS; Cynthia Hipszer, RN MSN CNML CBN (IH)
VA/WV — Guilherme Campos, MD PhD FACS FASMBS; Nathaniel Sann, MSN CRNP FNP-BC (IH)

Super STAR Southeast Central Region — Brandon Williams, MD FASMBS
AL — Todd Foreman, MD FASMBS
FL — Dennis Smith, MD FASMBS; Vicky Blackard, RN MBA/HCM CBN (IH)
GA — Renee Hilton, MD
KY — Joshua Steiner, MD
OH — C. Joe Northup, MD
TN — Jenny Weaver, MD

Super STAR Upper Midwest Region — Luke Funk, MD FASMBS
IA — Matthew Christopherson, MD
IL — Juaquito Jorge, MD
IN — Ambar Banerjee, MD FASMBS; Sarah Muntel, RD (IH)
KS — Robert Aragon, MD
MI — Kathryn Ziegler, MD; Colleen Buda, PA-C CSOWM (IH)
MN — Geoffrey Fasen, MD MS
MO — Christopher Eagon, MD FASMBS; Angela Britt, BC (IH)
NE — Gary Anthone, MD FASMBS
WI — Kevin Wasco, MD FASMBS

Super STAR Lower Midwest Region — Robert O. Carpenter, MD MPH FASMBS
AR — Open
CO — Matthew Metz, MD
LA — Peter Lundberg, MD; Laura Boyer, FNP C CBN (IH)
MS — Jennifer O'Flarity, RN BSN
NM — Karina McArthur, MD
OK — Roy Greenway, Jr., MD
TX — Tanyaradzwa Kajese, MD FASMBS

Super STAR Northwest Region — Valerie Halpin, MD FASMBS
AK — Michael Todd, MD
ID — Cory Richardson, MD FASMBS
MT — John Pender, MD
ND — Ellen Vogels, DO
OR — Farah Husain, MD FASMBS; Greg Showell, RN (IH)
SD — Kristin Turek, CNP
WA — Mohan Mallipeddi, MD
WY — Kevin Helling, MD

Super STAR Southwest Region — Ajay Upadhyay, MD FACS FRCS
AZ — Christine Lovato, MD FASMBS; Lauren Pellizzon, MS RD (IH)
CA — Ajay Upadhyay, MD FACS FRCS
HI — Steven Fowler, MD FASMBS
NV — Open
UT — Eric Volckmann, MD FASMBS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

INDUSTRY AD HOC APPOINTED

Ishita Doshi - Ethicon
Juthika Pal — Ethicon
Anuprita Patkar - Ethicon
Maria Thompson - Ethicon
Scott Wolven – Ethicon
Andrew Zebrak – Intuitive Surgical
Santosh Agarwal, Medtronic
Gina Baldo – Medtronic
Michael Morseon – Medtronic
Vincent Zeringue — Medtronic
Joe Nadglowski — Obesity Action Coalition
W. Scott Butsch, MD MSc – The Obesity Society
Pamela Davis – Pamela Davis Consulting
Jeanine Sherman - ProCare Health
Chris Gallagher — Potomac Currents, Washington Lobbyist

ASMBS Mission(s) Met by the Committee:

- › To improve the care and treatment of people with obesity
- › To advocate for the health care policy that ensures patient access to high quality prevention and treatment of obesity

Committee Objectives:

- › Increase awareness of access issues and progress among public and members
- › Identify reasonable targets for progress in short mid and long term

Short-Term Goals:

- › Utilize the STAR and Super STAR Network more effectively, adding Integrated Health STARs, and involving State Chapter Presidents
- › Support the OAC's annual Obesity Care Week
- › Support the ASMBS Foundation's Virtual Walk from Obesity
- › Support our members during the COVID Pandemic
- › Monitor insurance companies' policy updates and support our members in regard to those requirements that impede their patients' access to care regarding bariatric surgery
- › Creation of a project to assess commercial insurance coverage

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- › STARs and Super STARs
 - › Contribute regional reports during monthly meetings
 - › OCC All STAR Program established/managed by Chris Gallagher
 - › Adding Integrated Health STARs
- › Participating in March 2, 2020 and March 1 and 5, 2021 Obesity Care Week Advocacy Days, which focused again on supporting passage of the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act
- › Monthly reminders to members to host an ASMBS Foundation Virtual Walk from Obesity
- › Committee members participation in an ASMBS COVID Webinar in April 2020
- › Sent several COVID-related (i.e., telehealth, deductibles) letters to the Medical Directors of the top 25 insurance companies, and a "Safer Through Surgery" position statement was published
- › Committee Co-Chair joined the ASMBS Telemedicine Task Force
- › Disseminated news of updated insurance policies to state chapters
- › A group is being formed to address outpatient/same day surgery requirements to prepare for responses; and possibly write a position statement

Mid-Term Goals:

- › CMS Bundled Payments

- › Help the OAC build their membership via OAC Patient Advocacy

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- › The committee continues to monitor CMS Bundled Payments
- › Monthly updates from the OAC President
- › OAC Access to Care Postcards continue to be available on the ASMBS and OAC websites for download; members will continue to urge patients to join the OAC

Long-Term Goals:

- › More legislative efforts
- › Continued tracking of commercial payors and their coverage of bariatric surgery
- › Maintain the ASMBS Access to Care Facebook page
- › Assist the ObesityPAC with State Chapter Advocacy Day Grants
- › Continue efforts to improve State Health Exchange coverage - convert 27 "No" states to "Yes" states
- › Continue state employee coverage in all 50 states; monitor any new pilot programs
- › Medicaid Coverage in all 50 States; only Montana remains
- › Continue support of the passage of the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act
- › Continue advocacy presence and response to healthcare changes
- › Continue monitoring and responding to regulatory changes affecting ACA patient protections
- › Advocacy efforts tracking
- › Encourage our members to become AMA members
- › Continue support of our members during the COVID Pandemic

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- › We have 145 members on our Facebook page; will continue to use this page as a method to disseminate information to members
- › Monthly reminders of the ObesityPAC State Chapter Advocacy Day Grants; support of members in obtaining these grants
- › Mid-month Access to Care conference calls with Chair, Co-Chairs, ASMBS Liaison, OAC President, and our Washington Lobbyist to discuss issues that arise in between monthly calls
- › Monthly Access to Care Committee calls
- › Continue monitoring and responding to regulatory changes affecting ACA patient protections
- › Monthly reminders to join the AMA

2020-2021 Completed Projects:

- › The committee and its members promoted the OAC's Obesity Care Weeks March 1-7, 2020 and February 28 – March 6, 2021; committee members participated in OAC's Advocacy Days on March 2, 2020 and March 1 and 5, 2021
- › Committee members participated in an ASMBS COVID Webinar in April 2020
- › Added 11 IH STARs to the committee
- › Committee Chair, in collaboration with the Executive Council, authored and sent several COVID-related letters to the Medical Directors of the top 25 insurance companies
- › Committee contributed to the ASMBS Safer Through Surgery position statement that was published in SOARD June 2020
- › Committee Co-Chair joined the ASMBS Telemedicine Task Force
- › Disseminated news of updated insurance policies to state chapters
- › An ObesityPAC Grant was awarded to the Louisiana State Chapter and the committee continues to support their advocacy efforts in their state



BARIATRIC SURGERY TRAINING

Chair: Matthew Martin, MD, FASMBS

The Bariatric Surgery Training Committee is responsible for designing guidelines and resources for metabolic and bariatric surgery training and fellowship programs. It also certifies that trainees have received adequate training through validation of their experience and the development and continuous updating of examinations

Committee Members

Co-Chair: Adrian Dan MD, FASMBS

Executive Council Liaison: Shanu Kothari, MD FASMBS

Fellowship Council Liaison: Daniel B. Jones, MD, FASMBS

ASMBS Staff Liaison: Danielle Marsh

Members:

Ambar Banerjee, MD
Judy Chen, MD
Gregory Dakin, MD
Shaina Eckhouse, MD
Maher El Chaar, MD
Laura Fischer, MD
Matthew Fourman, MD

John Gabrielsen, MD
William Gourash, MSN CRNP
Brandon Grover, MD
Chandra Hassan, MD
Kunoor Jain-Spangler, MD
Daniel Jones, MD
S. Julie-Ann Lloyd, MD
Emanuele Lo Menzo, MD

Carl Pesta, MD
Dana Portenier, MD
Raul Rosenthal, MD
Scott Schimpke, MD
Bruce Schirmer, MD
Scott Shikora, MD
Yulia Zak, MD

Committee Goals

ASMBS Mission(s) Met by the Committee:

- › To improve the care and treatment of people suffering from obesity
- › To be the recognized authority and resource on metabolic and bariatric surgery
- › To be a highly valued specialty society that serves the educational and professional needs of its diverse membership

Committee Objectives:

- › Establish the standard for bariatric surgery training by trainees in general surgery and advanced fellowship training
- › Collaborate with the Endoscopy Committee and the Integrated Health Committees with regards to training issues that cross into their domains.

Short-Term Goals:

- › ASMBS Certificate of Satisfactory Training in Bariatric Surgery Fellowship (award annually)

Specific Projects that Achieve Short-Term Goals and Objectives:

- › Application window is closed
- › Applications reviewed and certificates were sent
 - › Pilot curriculum participants- 1
 - › Traditional tract applicants- 64

Mid-Term Goals:

- › Create a Competency Based Fellowship Curriculum for Broad Adoption
- › Year 2 Pilot completed
- › Survey fellows and PD regarding content and evaluation tools
- › Modify curriculum and evaluation tools for year 2
- › Coordinate the EPA to meet the Fellowship Council work to standardize across all fellowship
- › Establish a survey to evaluate ASMBS members contributions to the COVID-19 pandemic efforts
- › Collaborate with the Clinical Issues committee to revise the ASMBS statement on credentialing for Bariatric Surgeons
- › Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) related to the intra-operative and peri-operative care of bariatric surgery patients have been developed in collaboration between members of our committee and SAGES for use by the Fellowship Council. These EPAs have been mapped to various clinical competencies and a web-based

pilot program is currently underway to validate this process as an instrument used to evaluate trainee aptitude for independent practice. The goal is to potentially role out this tool on a larger scale as a part of a Competency Based Educational Program.

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- › Year 2 Pilot completed
 - › Survey fellows and PD regarding content and evaluation tools-completed
- › Modify curriculum and evaluation tools for year 2.
- › Coordinate the EPA to meet the Fellowship Council work to standardize across all fellowship
 - › Example: Adv GI fellowship Adv MIS/bari fellowship, Bari fellowship who have an EPA on an anastomotic bariatric operation should all use the same EPA
- › Created a Credentialing Guidelines Task Force to revise statement on credentialing for Bariatric Surgeons

2020 Completed Projects:

- › Launched a Fellow Lecture Series to ensure didactic requirements are met by fellows
- › Established a second pathway for Fellows to obtain their Certificate during the COVID-19 impact
- › With the support of the ASMBS Bariatric Surgery Training Committee, a study was undertaken to evaluate the changing landscape of the early career job-market for new fellowship graduates. A national retrospective cohort survey over an 11-year period was conducted. Bariatric surgery fellowship graduates from 2008 to 2019 and Program Directors were surveyed electronically. Univariate analysis was performed comparing responses between earlier (2008–2016) and recent graduates (2017–2019). The analysis revealed decreasing opportunities for new graduates to obtain employment with a bariatric surgery focus and declining case volume numbers. These challenges may be useful to future trainees to determine their career path and choice to pursue a fellowship in bariatric surgery.
- › The Credentialing Guidelines Task Force convened several times to review credentialing guidelines for Bariatric Surgeons and are actively collaborating with the Access to Care Committee to revise them as applicable.



CLINICAL ISSUES

Chair: Dan Eisenberg, MD

The mission of the Clinical Issues Committee is to create evidence-based guidelines and position statements regarding clinical issues to enhance quality in metabolic and bariatric surgery patient care and to support ASMBS member practices. The Clinical Issues Committee also performs systematic review of existing statement and guidelines, research the current data and makes appropriate updates and revisions as evidence becomes available. The committee is also charged with developing time-sensitive statements or recommendations related to new developments in the field of bariatric surgery.

Committee Members

Co-Chairs: Jonathan Carter, MD & Sayeed Ikramuddin, MD MHA

Executive Council Liaison & Immediate Past Chair:

Ann Rogers, MD FASMBS

ASMBS Staff Liaison: Leslie Vinson

IH Clinical Issues Committee Liaison: Katie Chapmon, MS RD & Kasey Goodpaster, PhD

Ad Hoc Literature Review:

Kara Kallies

Members

Cheguevara Afaneh, MD FASMBS

Essa Aleassa, MD MSc FRCSC

Maria Altieri, MD MS

Ali Aminian, MD

Toms Augustin, MD MPH

Dan Azagury, MD

T. Javier Birriel, MD

Guilherme Campos, MD FASMBS

Julietta Chang, MD

Salvatore Docimo, DO MS

Maher El Chaar, MD

Sofiane El Djouzi, MD MS MBA FRCS

Saber Ghiassi, MD MPH

Brandon Grover, DO FASMBS

Peter Hallowell, MD FASMBS

Marcelo Hinojosa, MD FASMBS

Anna Ibele, MD

Jason Michael Johnson, DO

Zhamak Khorgami, MD

Julie Kim, MD FASMBS

Shanu Kothari, MD FASMBS

Guilherme Mazzini, MD PhD FASMBS

Fady Moustarah, MD MPH FRCSC

Abdelrahman Nimeri, MBBCh

Sabrena Noria, MD PhD FRCSC FASMBS

Rodolfo Oviedo, MD FASMBS

Pavlos Papasavas, MD FASMBS

Rana Pullatt, MD FASMBS

Almino Ramos, MD FASMBS

Bruce Schirmer, MD

R. Wesley Vosburg, MD

Committee Goals

ASMBS Mission(s) Met by the Committee:

- › To advance the science and understanding of metabolic and bariatric surgery
- › To be the recognized authority and resource on metabolic and bariatric surgery
- › To be a highly valued specialty society that serves the educational and professional needs of its diverse membership

Committee Objectives:

- › Identify existing and emerging gaps in guidelines/position statements
- › Increase understanding of clinical issues
- › Establish and disseminate standards and protocols
- › Establish timeline based on relative clinical importance of issues

Short-Term Goals:

- › 2020 and 2021 calls for statements from membership; identify CIC priorities.
- › Publish the ASMBS Position Statement on the Rationale for Performance of Upper Gastrointestinal Endoscopy before and after Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery in SOARD
- › Update the "Choosing Wisely Recommendations 2015"
- › Increase CIC Member engagement

Specific Projects that Achieve Short-Term Goals and Objectives:

- › Sent call for statements from membership in January 2020 and 2021. 2020 CIC priorities and writing topics were approved and writing groups formed. Writing of position statements/updates are currently in advanced stages of preparation; the Statements below are in review with EC:

- › Position Statement on Bariatric Surgery and Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease
- › Position statement on one-anastomosis gastric bypass (OAGB)
- › Position Statement on Preoperative Patient Optimization before Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery
- › Position Statement on Endoscopic Transgastric Gastroscopy (Biliopancreatic access following anatomy altering bariatric surgical procedures)
- › Update of 2013 VTE position statement
- › Position Statement on the Need for Upper Gastrointestinal Endoscopy before and after Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery – SOARD In Press
- › Update to 2015 Choosing Wisely Recommendations completed and reviewed
- › Committee Member Participation: there are currently 32 members of the CIC actively involved in on-going writing projects

Mid-Term Goals:

- › Endoscopic Sleeve Gastroplasty statement – collaboration with the Emerging Technology & Procedures Committee
- › Publish Bariatric Surgery and Cancer statement
- › Publish update of 2014 Metabolic Bone Disease statement
- › Update "ASMBS's Guideline for Granting Privileges 2006" - Joint Task Force with Bariatric Surgery Training Committee

Specific Projects that Achieve Mid-Term Goals and Objectives:

- › Endoscopic Sleeve Gastroplasty writing team formed, literature review completed.
- › Bariatric Surgery and Cancer Statement published
- › Update of 2014 Metabolic Bone Disease statement published
- › ASMBS Guideline for Granting Privileges 2006 – CIC members assigned to joint Task Force

Long-Term Goals:

- › Ongoing identification of issues to develop statements and provide topics for EC Review
- › Provide ongoing clarity on issues related to bariatric and metabolic surgery
- › Ongoing review/revision of all existing and new statements
- › Publish Management of Patients after Pregnancy statement – collaboration with IH CIC
- › Management of Prevention of Contraception statement - collaboration with IH CIC
- › Update 2014 Reoperative Guidelines
- › Sleep Apnea with AASM statement – CIC writers assigned

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- › Call for statements sent out to membership in January of each year
- › Review of existing ASMBS statements
- › Management of Patients after Pregnancy paper final draft reviewed by IH CIC; in progress
- › Management of Prevention of Contraception in progress
- › Review of 2006 Guidelines for Granting Privileges in Bariatric Surgery in progress

2020-2021 Completed Projects:

- › American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery position statement on the relationship between obesity and cancer, and the role of bariatric surgery: risk, timing of treatment, effects on disease biology, and qualification for surgery by Saber Ghiassi, M.D., Maher El Chaar, M.D., Essa M. Aleassa, M.D., Fady Moustarah, M.D., Sofianne El Djouzi, M.D., T. Javier Birriel, M.D., Ann M. Rogers, M.D., for the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Clinical Issues Committee – published in SOARD in May 2020
- › American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery updated position statement on single-anastomosis duodenal switch by Kara Kallies, M.S., Ann M. Rogers, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.A.S.M.B.S., for the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Clinical Issues Committee - published in SOARD in May 2020
- › American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Metabolic updated position statement on bone changes after bariatric surgery by Julie Kim, M.D., Abdelrahman Nimeri, M.D., Zhamak Khorgami, M.D., Maher El Chaar, M.D., Alvaro Galvez Lima, M.D., R. Wesley Vosburg, M.D., on behalf of the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Clinical Issues Committee – published in SOARD in December 2020
- › 2015 Choosing Wisely Recommendations updated and submitted in December 2020



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair: Neil Floch, MD FACS

The aim of the Communications Committee is to facilitate communication between the ASMBS and its members, potential members and the public. This includes making recommendations on new opportunities and technologies to enhance communications; working with the ASMBS staff to develop methods for timely identification of pertinent journal articles, special reports, media events, and society activities appropriate for promotion; and maintaining active communication channels with the ASMBS President and the Executive Council.

Committee Members

Co-Chair:

Arghavan Salles, MD PhD

Executive Council Liaison:

Richard Peterson, MD FASMBS

ASMBS Staff Liaison: Jillian Tartt

Members:

Jawad Ali, MD
Joshua B. Alley, MD
Matthew Dong, MD, MPH
Elizabeth Dovec, MD FACS
Carlos Galvani, MD FACS
Karan Grover, MD PharmD
Monique Hassan, MD FACS

L. Renee Hilton, MD
Matthew Martin, MD FASMBS
Venkat Modukuru, MD MBBS MRCS
Abdelrahman Nimeri, MBChB
Kevin Reavis, MD
Sarah Samreen, MD

Nathaniel Sann, MSN CRNP
FNP-BC
Zaher Toumi, MD FRCS

Committee Goals

Committee Objectives:

- › Disseminate the Society's educational events, grant offers, and opportunities to members
- › Help provide the Society's information to consumers
- › Facilitate communication between members
- › Communicate for the ASMBS Committees and SOARD Journal

Short-Term:

- › Continue to develop and deploy social media content to recruit prospective ASMBS members and serve as patient education/awareness tools
- › Continue creating and sharing several SOARD Visual Abstracts on a monthly basis
- › Promote SOARD Journal articles through social media and video

Mid-Term:

- › Create video content for both patients and surgeons to be housed on the ASMBS YouTube channel
- › Involve more patients and patient advocates in committee activities
- › Increase engagement with SOARD Visual Abstracts to Twitter and periodic journal clubs on Facebook

Long-Term:

- › Build an ASMBS Media Network to utilize member connections with hospital marketing and propel important research findings to newspapers, radio, and TV
- › Redesign ASMBS.org to feature distinct points of entry for surgeons/physicians, integrated health members, and patients/the public
- › Build a seamless social media content production pipeline that covers all social media outlets with "plug and play" staff and surgeons participating

2020 Completed Projects:

- › Created and posted Visual Abstracts on the SOARD Twitter account throughout the year
- › Posted SOARD journal articles, fostering discussion and engagement on the SOARD Twitter account
- › Began new SOARD video interview series
- › Continued to grow the ASMBS Instagram account, accumulating a following of over 2,000 members, patients, and constituents
- › Communicated information specifically about obesity and COVID-19
- › Began work on ASMBS.org website redesign



COMMUNITY/INDEPENDENT PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Chair: Marina Kurian, MD FASMBS

The Community/Independent Practice Committee is composed of surgeons who work to serve their community, primarily focusing on the clinical aspects of bariatric surgery. The members are in private practice or are employed by community hospitals or nonacademic health care systems.

Committee Members

Co-Chair: Paul Kemmeter, MD

Executive Council Liaison: Marina Kurian, MD FASMBS

Immediate Past Chair: Rami Lutfi, MD FASMBS,

Staff Liaison: Leslie Vinson

Members

Folahan Ayoola, MD FASMBS
Helmuth Billy, MD
Matthew Brengman, MD FASMBS
Paul Cirangle, MD
Daniel Cottam, MD
Paul Enochs, MD FASMBS
Karen Flanders, MSN ARNP CBN

Shawn Garber, MD
Makram Gedeon, MD FASMBS
Charlotte Hodges, MD MBA
Theodore Hufford, MD
Margaret Inman, MD FASMBS
Robert Kenney, DO
Shanu Kothari, MD FASMBS
James Leithead, MD
Blake Movitz, MD

Joshua Pfeiffer, MD
Jaime Ponce, MD FASMBS
Paige Quintero, MD FASMBS
Harvey Rainville, MD
Shiva Seetahal, MBBS
Virginia Weaver, MD
Matthew Weiner, MD
Tom White, MD FASMBS

Committee Goals

ASMBS Mission(s) Met by the Committee:

- > To improve the care and treatment of people suffering from obesity
- > To foster communication between health professionals on obesity and related conditions
- > To be the recognized authority and resource on metabolic and bariatric surgery
- > To be a highly-valued specialty society that serves the educational and professional needs of its diverse membership

Committee Objectives:

- > To represent the interests of the independent surgeons in the field of metabolic and bariatric surgery
- > To identify the challenges unique to independent surgeons in the field of metabolic and bariatric surgery and provide practice-based solutions to these challenges
- > To address best practice guidelines in the context of unique practice models
- > To screen for different trends in the practice of bariatric surgery or endoscopy and communicate as needed with the Executive Board about patterns that may lead to major changes that need to be addressed in a timely manner
- > To offer a course outlining best practices and utilization of resources to maximize success of the surgeon

Short-Term Goals:

- > Publish one educational Private Practice Solutions Video per month
- > Practice Building Webinars
- > Insurance Denials, Letters of Necessity, Tips & Tricks on ASMBS Website as part of Private Practice Toolkit

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- > Private Practice Solutions Tips & Tricks Video Series completed:
 - » Lessons Learned From My First 5 Years in Private Practice – published January 2021
 - » Adding new topics
- > Presented the Independent/Community Practices: Surviving COVID-19 Webinar May 2020
- > Collected denial and letter examples from committee members

Mid-Term Goals:

- > Practice Building Courses at the virtual ASMBS Weekend 2021 and 2021 Annual Meeting

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- > Planned and directed a Practice Building course at the virtual ASMBS Weekend in January 2021
- > Planning for the virtual Practice Building course at the Annual Meeting in June 2021

Long-Term Goals:

- > Increase engagement of large groups
- > Increase private practice membership at national and State Chapter level
- > Increase private practice attendance at ASMBS Weekend and Annual Meeting
- > Continue educational videos by experts in field of business for all members, academic, private and community for practice building/optimization
- > Private Practice Toolkit
- > Preceptorships through ASMBS

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- > Private Practice courses at ASMBS Weekend and Annual Meeting
- > New members added to the committee
- > Private Practice Toolkit in progress

2020-2021 Completed Projects:

- > "Independent/Community Practices: Surviving COVID-19" Webinar May 2020
- > Private Practice Solutions Video published: <https://asmbs.org/resource-categories/practice-tips-and-tricks>
- > ASMBS Weekend 2021 Practice Management Course, January 2021
- > ASMBS Annual Meeting Private Practice: Overcoming New Challenges" Course, June 2021



DIVERSITY & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

Chair: Farah A. Husain MD FACS FASMBS

The mission of the Diversity and Inclusivity Committee is to study and support the educational and professional needs of under-represented members, support inclusion/participation of all members, promote the acquisition of members from all ages, genders, and ethnicities, and increase access to care for our diverse patient population.

Committee Members

Co-Chair: Monique Hassan MD, FASMBS

Executive Council Liaison:
Teresa LaMasters MD FASMBS

ASMBS Staff Liaison:
Danielle Marsh

Members

Eric Ahnfeldt, MD
Folahan Ayoola, MD
Clinton Bolton, PhD
Kevin Brown, MD
Diego Camacho, MD
Dana Cantiello, APRN DNP FNP-C
Judy Chen, MD
Tuesday Cook, MD FACS
Michael Edwards, MD
Sylvia Herbozo, PhD

January Hill, MD
Shaneeta Johnson, MD FACS
Crystal Johnson-Mann, MD
Neil King, MD
Shauna Levy, MD MS FACS
Robert Lim, MD
Rebecca Lopez, MD
Pearl Ma, MD FACS
Janet Ng, PhD
Abdelrahman Nimeri, MBBCh, FACS

Arghavan Salles, MD
Joon Shim, MD MPH, FACS
Jessica Smith, MD
Ian Soriano, MD FASMBS
Donn Spight, MD
Nova Szoka, MD
Samuel Szomstein, MD
Andre Teixeira, MD
Charles Thompson, III, MD FACS
Eric Velazquez, MD FACS FASMBS
Amy Yetasook, MD

Committee Goals

ASMBS Mission(s) Met by the Committee:

- Create a slate of members who reflect the target population of under-represented members and patients.
- Identify gaps in addressing the needs of under-represented members and patients.
- Create, design and implement projects that will support the mission of the DIC committee and of ASMBS
- Engage membership and nonmembers to encourage involvement and participation in ASMBS

Committee Objectives:

- Create a session on diversity and inclusion for The ASMBS 2021 Annual Meeting
- Build relationships with community partners to outreach patient populations who traditionally under-utilize bariatric surgery
- Liaise with Access to Care Committee to work on ensuring all patients have access to bariatric surgery
- Liaise with Membership Committee on increasing the current 17% female membership
- Work on initiatives (incorporating social media) to recruit young members for mentorship and support
- Partner with the Program Committee to build a speaker list for the Annual Meeting
- Build a centrally housed speaker list that can be utilized while planning meetings for the ASMBS
- Present a webinar series on Diversity and Inclusion for CME
- Complete a diversity study on the ASMBS membership to ensure the ladder to leadership is fair and transparent

Short-Term Goals:

- Complete a climate survey to understand demographics of ASMBS (beyond just race/gender) and progress/barriers to involvement
- Create a database of members who are interested in participating actively via a website link
- Help ASMBS with sponsorship of new members/members interested in being more involved

Mid-Term Goals:

- Increase female membership within 2 years (currently 17%)
- Quantify change in female/underrepresented minority groups offered roles in sessions at both ASMBS Weekend & Annual Meeting
- Propose a session on community engagement and barriers to care for patients of certain demographics- include underrepresented patients in this session, if possible

Long-Term Goals:

- Partner with community groups to increase awareness and encourage treatment of obesity in underrepresented patient groups
- Create transparent pathways to involvement/leadership in both "traditional" and "nontraditional" tracts

2020 Completed Projects:

- Created #ASMBSisMe and shared a video campaign across social media platforms to increase ASMBS committee awareness and bolster inclusivity
- Updated Ethnicity Profile on ASMBS Database to be more inclusive of race, ethnicity and gender identification
- Assigned liaisons to other ASMBS committees to ensure diversity and inclusivity were on the forefront of decision making



EMERGING TECHNOLOGY & PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

Chair: Dean Mikami, MD

The Emerging Technology and Procedures Committee advises the Executive Council, other committees and general membership of new technologies and procedures and how these may impact current and future care of patients. The goal of the committee is to not only evaluate these technologies and procedures, but also to better educate our members on how they can evaluate and possibly incorporate them into practice.

Committee Members

Co-Chair:

Alan Saber, MD MS FASMBS

Executive Council Liaison:

Natan Zundel, MD FASMBS

Immediate Past Chair:

Erik Wilson, MD FASMBS

ASMBS Staff Liaison:

Leslie Vinson

Members

Jawad J. Ali, MD

Mohamed R. Ali, MD

Sergio Jose Bardaro, MD FASMBS

Allen Browne, MD

Gregory F. Dakin, MD

Salvatore Docimo, MD MS

George M. Eid, MD (Senior Past Chair)

Paul E. Enochs, MD FASMBS

Keith S. Gersin, MD FASMBS

Barry Greene, MD

Donald T. Hess, MD

Matthew M. Hutter, MD MPH
FASMBS

Leon V. Katz, MD

Shanu N. Kothari, MD FASMBS

Matthew D. Kroh, MD FASMBS

Matthew Y. Lin, MD

Emanuele Lo Menzo, MD PhD
FASMBS

Cynthia Long, MD (Ad Hoc FDA)

Kamal Mahawar, MD FRCSEd

Dmitry Oleynikov, MD

Jaime Ponce, MD FASMBS

David A. Provost, MD FASMBS

Prashanth Ramachandra, MD

Michael A. Russo, MD FASMBS

Jennifer Salluzzo, MD

Kuldeep Singh, MD MBA FASMBS

MD Timothy Snow, DO

Konstantinos Spaniolas, MD

Nova Szoka, MD FASMBS,
Diversity & Inclusion Committee
Liaison

Committee Goals

ASMBS Mission(s) Met by the Committee:

- › To improve the care and treatment of people suffering from obesity
- › To advance the science and understanding of metabolic and bariatric surgery
- › To be the recognized authority and resource on metabolic and bariatric surgery

Committee Objectives:

- › Engage all stakeholders in the field of emerging bariatric and metabolic procedures, in the form of educational sessions or by inviting them to contribute data and new information to our web-based educational tools

Short-Term Goals:

- › Committee will be involved with Pathway for Endorsement of New Devices and Procedures Committee as part of a process for new procedures and technologies to focus more on evaluating new procedures
- › Endoscopic Sleeve Gastropasty paper – collaboration with Clinical Issues Committee

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- › Chair of Emerging Technology & Procedures Committee also sits on the Pathway for Endorsement of New Devices and Procedures Committee
- › Endoscopic Sleeve Gastropasty paper writing group formed, draft written, review by committee in process

Mid-Term Goals:

- › To streamline and standardize emerging technology and procedural clinical research for presentation in collaboration with the Clinical Issues Committee to the Executive Committee

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- › Endoscopic Sleeve Gastropasty paper – collaboration with Clinical Issues Committee – writing group formed, draft written, review by committee in process

Long-Term Goals:

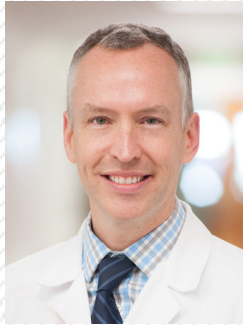
- › Early access to new technologies
- › Establish ASMBS as one of the main societies for reference and authority for new procedures especially endoscopic interventions
- › More emphasis and presence at our annual meetings

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- › Collaboration with the Clinical Issues Committee in evaluating emerging technology and procedures

2020-2021 Completed Projects:

- › Endoscopic Sleeve Gastropasty data review completed and presented to the Executive Committee
- › Session schedule for ASMBS 2021 Annual Meeting



FLEXIBLE ENDOSCOPY COMMITTEE

Chair: Matthew Kroh, MD

The mission of the Flexible Endoscopy Committee of ASMBS is to examine methods of training, clinical applications, and research for existing and evolving endoscopic therapies in the treatment of the bariatric patient. Ideal training focuses on understanding the anatomy and physiology of patients with obesity, past and current surgical procedures, and the role of endoluminal therapies. Currently, the practice of endoscopy has important roles in the pre-operative evaluation and the diagnosis and management of post-operative complaints and complications.

Committee Members

Co-Chair: Dean Mikami, MD

Executive Council Liaison:
Marina Kurian, MD

ASMBS Staff Liaison: Jennifer Wynn

Members

Aaron Carr, MD
Afanah Cheguevara, MD
Daniel Guerron, MD
Brooke Henson, RN
Leena Khaitan, MD
Shanu Kothari, MD
Eric Marcotte, MD

Corrigan McBride, MD
John Morton, MD
Sabrena Noria, MD
Ninh Nguyen, MD
Jaime Ponce, D
Aurora Pryor, MD
Kevin Reavis, MD
Corry Richardson, MD

John Rodriguez, MD
Nabil Tariq, MD
Kevin Wasco, MD
Natan Zundel, MD

Committee Goals

ASMBS Mission(s) Met by the Committee:

- › To improve the care and treatment of people suffering from obesity
- › To advance the science and understanding of metabolic and bariatric surgery
- › To be a highly valued specialty society that serves the educational professional needs of its diverse membership

Committee Objectives:

- › Promote bariatric endoscopy through the BE-SAFE program as a formal curriculum for ASMBS members
- › Develop guidelines with the other ASMBS committees when using endoscopy in the management of obesity, especially Emerging Technologies and Procedures (all phases)
- › Provide high-quality, data-driven educational courses (didactic and hands-on) in flexible endoscopy in the bariatric patient at the ASMBS Annual Meeting, ASMBS Weekend, and with SAGES to promote BE-SAFE

Short-Term Goals:

- › Update video curriculum on Endoscopic management of bariatric surgery complications, co-hosted by ASMBS and SAGES
- › Make BE-SAFE available at live courses- ASMBS 2022, SAGES 2022, proposal for ACS submitted
- › 100% of Flex Endo committee BE-SAFE certified, select additional proctors for testing
- › Increase Flex Endo in 2020 meetings- Managing complications, Primary and revisional procedures

Mid-Term Goals:

- › Continue to evaluate low stakes exam, following video curriculum outline
- › Enhance hands-on curriculum for the lab from feedback received from participants

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- › Expansion of BE-SAFE website
- › More content of website to support BE-SAFE and endoscopy education
- › BE-SAFE hands-on labs during the ASMBS Annual Meeting, SAGES, and individual centers

Long-Term Goals:

- › Identify "training centers" for the hands-on and train the trainer
- › Dissemination of endoscopy educational curriculum among trainees, vetted and approved by ASMBS

2019/2020 Completed Projects:

- › Work with SAGES Bariatric Surgery Committee to establish joint working group for updates to BE-SAFE curriculum- including question writing, cross-promotion to SAGES meeting
- › BE-SAFE-based modules to be offered at SAGES Learning Center- hands-on in Las Vegas
- › Contributions to ASMBS Weekend and Annual Meetings from Committee suggestions, support of Emerging Tech & Clinical Issues ESG project



GENERAL & FOREGUT SURGERY COMMITTEE

Chair: Ranjan Sudan, MD FASMBS

The mission of the General and Foregut Surgery Committee is to develop evidence-based guidelines and identify unique diagnostic and treatment strategies required for the management of general surgical and foregut disease in patients undergoing metabolic and bariatric surgical procedures.

Committee Members

Co-Chair:

Maheer El Chaar, MD

Executive Council Liaison:

Shanu Kothari, MD FASMBS

Past-Chair: Anthony Petrick, MD

ASMBS Staff Liaison: Amie Buehler

Members:

Vamsi Alli, MD

Sergio Bardaro, MD FASMBS

Arunkumar Baskara, MD FASMBS

Adam Beall, MD

Diego Camacho, MD

Shaun Daly, MD

Daniel Davis, DO

Patrick Domkowski, MD FASMBS

Sofiane El Djouzi, MD

Neil Floch, MD

Victoria Gershuni, MD

Karen Gibbs, MD FASMBS

Anthony Gonzalez, MD

Daniel Guerron, MD

Matthew Hubbard, MD

Colleen Kennedy, MD FASMBS

Keith King, MD

Kathleen Lak, MD

Devan Lenhart, DO

Adolfo Leyva-Alvizo, MD

Emanuele Lo Menzo, MD FASMBS

Alexander Onopchenko, MD

John Romanelli, MD

William Rupp, MD

Hazem Shamseddeen, MD FASMBS

Ian Soriano, MD FASMBS

Vasanth Stalin, MD FASMBS

Andre Teixeira, MD FASMBS

Michael Tran, MD

James Wooldridge, MD FASMBS

Committee Goals

ASMBS Mission(s) Met by the Committee:

- > To improve the care and treatment of people suffering from obesity
- > To advance the science and understanding of metabolic and bariatric surgery
- > To be a highly valued specialty society that serves the educational professional needs of its diverse membership

Committee Objectives:

- > Increase awareness of the incidence of common general surgical and foregut problems in patients before and after metabolic and bariatric surgery
- > Establish and disseminate guidelines and protocols for the management of general surgical and foregut problems before and after metabolic and bariatric surgery
- > Establish and disseminate guidelines and protocols for the management of GERD following bariatric patients
- > Establish and disseminate guidelines and protocols for the workup of foregut diseases in bariatric patients

Objectives and Goals 2021:

- > Analysis and publication of the 2019 surgeon's survey
- > Evidence review on the management of GERD in bariatric patients
- > Working with clinical issues committee on developing EGD screening guidelines for sleeve patients
- > Gastroparesis 1 and 2 submitted for review and get published
- > Cholecystectomy part 2 submitted for review and get published
- > Start new projects with Robotics as the topic
- > Increase committee membership and participation

Accomplishments 2020:

- > Evidence review on the optimal workup of bariatric patients presenting with GERD
- > Published paper on Cholecystectomy 1
- > Gastroparesis paper and webinar in progress



INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Chair: Ashutosh Kaul, MD FASMBS

The Insurance Committee bridges the gap between the details of insurance coverage and coding and the practicing surgeon. We focus on education of the surgeon and office administrative staff on the trends and changes in insurance coverage, coding and insurance access. The committee acts as a liaison between the ASMBS, insurers and CMS on the specifics of coverage for bariatric procedures. The committee seeks to identify new and commonly performed bariatric procedures and acts as a champion for the development of CPT codes for effective and efficient reimbursement. issues.

Committee Members

Co-Chair: Dana Telem, MD FASMBS

Executive Council Liaison:

Rami Lutfi, MD FASMBS

Past-Chair: Anthony Petrick, MD

ASMBS Staff Liaison: Leslie Vinson

Members:

Helmuth Billy, MD,
Rebecca Grace Lopez, MD
Matthew Brengman, MD FASMBS
Mario P. Morales, MD
Ann Couch, RN CBN CPC
Alexander Onopchenko, MD
Christopher Crawford, MD
Jaime Ponce, MD FASMBS
Todd Foreman, MD FASMBS

Michael Seger, MD FASMBS,
(Access to Care Co-Chair)
Margaret Inman, MD ACS,
(Access to Care Committee Co-Chair)
Don Jay Selzer, MD
Wael Khreiss, MD
Matthew Drake Spann, MD
MMHC, FASMBS
Ben Kocaj, MBA

Nova Szoka, MD
Peter C. LePort, MD FASMBS
Thomas J. White, MD FASMBS
Walter Lindstrom Jr., Esq

Industry Ad Hoc Appointed:

Natalie Heidrich, Ethicon
Chris Gallagher, Potomac
Currents

Committee Goals

ASMBS Mission(s) Met by the Committee:

- > To advocate for the health care policy that ensures patient access to high quality prevention and treatment of obesity
- > To be a highly valued specialty society that serves the educational and professional needs of its diverse membership

Committee Objectives:

- > Increase reimbursement for bariatric and metabolic surgery
- > Educate on appropriate CPT coding
- > Provide clarity on insurance issues to members
- > Be a resource to ASMBS State Chapters, Access, and Membership Committees

Short-Term Goals:

- > Communicate with State Chapters and Access to Care Committees to identify local & national insurance concerns with respect to insurance issues that affect access to care with policy plan changes and other restrictions affecting bariatric surgery; current and ongoing issues include:
 - » Medicaid and private insurance bundled payment proposals
 - » Blue Cross, United Healthcare, and other insurances nationwide 3, 6, 9 and 12-month medically supervised preoperative weight management
 - » Aetna's requirement for medically supervised preoperative weight management program during which there can be no net weight gain as a condition of approval for bariatric surgery
 - » Regional discrepancies regarding access to care and Medicare guidelines secondary to apparent "crosswalk" issues as they arise
 - » Insurance policy changes - maintain communication between insurance carriers' Medical Directors and ASMBS State Chapter Presidents
- > "How to Survive a RAC Audit" checklist - develop a resource to educate members regarding RAC (Recovery Audit Programs)

- > Work with EC on necessity and timing of any new code generation proposal for intragastric balloon placement

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- > Continued review of CMS changes affecting membership and the associated impact on access to care
- > RAC audit checklist was submitted to EC in 2017; need to complete development of a web-based toolkit resource
- > Currently in the early forms of implementing the new code generation proposal for intragastric balloon placement project

Mid-Term Goals:

- > Webinar/videos/YouTube Channel
- > Staged procedures position statement
- > Survey on how to deal with revisions: make it simple, what market they are in, what their biggest insurance companies are
- > Monitor AMA CPT or RUC issues that would involve bariatric surgery

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- > Continue to develop and pursue need for CPT Codes for bariatric issues as they arise and approach AMA CPT panel as required

Long-Term Goals:

- > Achieve leadership on insurance issues
- > Pursue and negotiate with major carriers a plan to implement exceptions to 6-month medically supervised weight management criteria or once in a lifetime bariatric surgery restrictions based on evidence based medicine
- > Prepare for bariatric CPT codes review when notified
- > Be a resource to and expand the utilization of the Insurance Committee to ASMBS State Chapters, Access, Membership and their staff

Long-Term Goals (Cont.):

- › Develop and implement a resource guide for understanding Medicare Guidelines; assist members in improving documentation of having met Medicare guidelines prior to performing bariatric procedures:
 - » Implementation of a step by step algorithm designed to assist Members in understanding the Medicare Recovery Audit Program
 - » Outline the process from start to finish of the Medicare Recovery Audit Program
 - » Assist Members in improving Medicare documentation and demonstration of having met criteria prior to performing bariatric procedures
 - » Assist the Access to Care Committee in 1. designing a study to evaluate discriminatory insurance benefit design in bariatric surgery, and 2. negotiations between ASMBS and major carriers to modify overly restrictive plan language in current benefit language
- › Maintain and Update the Re-Operative Tool Kit as needed
- › Regularly evaluate and update the CPT and ICD-10 Codes for Bariatric Surgery for the website; develop communication/alerts to inform members about new codes
- › Respond to member inquiries via insurance@asmbs.org “hotline” regarding insurance issues; update Insurance FAQs and online information for the website
- › Continue Process for BPD-DS CPT code in conjunction with ACS and SAGES
- › Continue to respond to initiatives and requests for information by CMS

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- › Access to Care Co-Chairs added to committee and Insurance Co-Chair added to Access to Care Committee
- › Continue communication process with State Chapters and Access to Care Committees on local and national Insurance issues
- › Frequent and timely responses to insurance inquiries via the coding hotline – committee discusses and responds to approximately five member inquiries per month via insurance@asmbs.org

2020-2021 Completed Projects:

- › Continued to be a valuable resource for members on coding and billing queries and helped resolve their issues
- › Along with Access to Care Committee presented a symposium on bundled care for ASMBS members



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Chair: Homero Rivas, MD

The ASMBS International Development Committee works to integrate international members from around the world by developing relationships between the ASMBS and its members with organizations and institutions in foreign countries with similar goals and activities; facilitating international collaboration and cooperation to advance the treatment of obesity through education, research and policy initiatives; and maintaining an active relationship with the International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity and Metabolic Diseases.

Committee Members

Co-Chair: Rana Pullatt, MD

Executive Council Liaison:

Natan Zundel, MD, FASMBS

ASMBS Staff Liaison: Danielle Marsh

Members

Sanjay Agrawal, MD

Ramzi Alami, MD FACS

Dan Azagury, MD

Mousa Khoursheed, MD

Estuardo Behrens, MD

Moataz Bashah, MD

Diego Camacho, MD

Guilherme Campos, MD

Abdelrahman Nimeri, MD

Ian Soriano, MD FACS

Alan Saber, MD

Peng Zhang, MD

Committee Goals

ASMBS Mission(s) Met by the Committee:

- › To foster communication between health professionals on obesity and related conditions

Committee Objectives:

- › Increase membership of international members
- › Enhance experience for international members

Committee Goals:

- › China specific Young Surgeon section of ASMBS annual meeting which will help young Chinese surgeons present at the meeting. This can be rotated annually by Country. This may help boost International participation.
- › Creation of a Video atlas of Operative Surgery under the Umbrella of ASMBS with participation of International experts. Some of these procedures may be considered experimental in the USA. This would help our young Surgeons recognize the anatomy and physiology behind these procedures and help with medical tourism patients who may land in their practices in addition to stimulating academic curiosity. This could be released at the Annual meeting with a disclaimer of non endorsement of the experimental procedures.
- › Extending a diluted version of focused practice designation in Bariatric Surgery to the International audience. This could be started with one country as a pilot project. This would involve recruiting a local leader in Bariatric Surgery who would vet surgeons who are already in the practice of Bariatric Surgery for 5 years, have the requisite no of anastomotic cases and then attend a ASMBS endorsed advanced Course in Bariatric Surgery and sit for an exit exam. This could, if successful, be a great source of revenue for the Society like the Royal College of surgeons Edinburgh fellowship examination is for the Royal College.



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Chair: Vafa Shayani, MD, FACS, FASMBS

The function of the Membership Committee is to act as a liaison for members to ensure needs of membership are being met by the society, address member concerns, review membership applications, assist applicants in the application process when necessary, facilitate the FASMBS program, promote membership, and ensure access of members to Society benefits.

Committee Members

Co-Chair: Andre Teixeira, MD

Executive Council Liaison:
Rami Lutfi, MD FACS FASMBS

ASMBS Staff Liaison:
Kim Carmichael

Members:

Crystal Alvarez, DO
Heidi Bednarchuk, APRN CNS
Igal Breitman, MD FACS
Chris Ducoin, MD MPH FACS
FASMBS
Aarthy Kannappan, MD FASMBS
Keith Kreitz, MD

Bradley Needleman, MD
Aurora Pryor, MD MBA FACS
FASMBS
Keith Scharf, MD FACS FASMBS
Talar Tatarian, MD
R. Wesley Vosburg, MD FACS
FASMBS

Committee Goals

ASMBS Mission(s) Met by the Committee:

- › To be a highly valued specialty society that serves the educational and professional needs of its diverse membership.

Committee Objectives:

- › Increase membership
- › Enhance value of membership
- › Improve retention

Short-Term Goals:

- › New Member Campaign
 - › Recruitment of recent graduates of fellowship programs and conversion of candidates to full membership upon qualification
 - › Capitalize on Friday morning lecture series (monthly) to reach out to non-candidate fellows in training
- › (In conjunction with administrative staff) reach out to lapsed members for renewal
- › Target non-ASMBS member attendees at the ASMBS Annual Meeting
 - › Non-ASMBS member attendees to receive email blast & follow up

Mid-Term Goals:

- › Increase FASMBS membership
 - › Explore the barriers for becoming a fellow of the Society
- › Incentivize existing society members to introduce non-member local and regional bariatric surgeons
 - › Discount on next year dues
 - › Discount on future meeting attendance
 - › Gift cards
- › Explore incorporation of international member and non-surgeon member into the membership committee

Long-Term Goals:

- › Yearly increase in new members
 - › Practicing bariatric surgeons
 - › Potential use of mailing lists for sale
 - › Non-surgeon proceduralists
 - › International members
- › Improve Retention
 - › Enhance Value of ASMBS Membership
 - › Recognition of long-term members
- › Work towards creation of financially sound methodology to incentivize large groups of bariatric surgeons and their IH associates to join the society as a group

2019-2020 Completed Projects:

- › Social Media campaign:
 - › 12% increase in surgeon member engagement and 3% increase in IH member engagement
- › Non-surgeon membership category (in collaboration with Executive Council)
- › Incorporation of committee members between Physician Membership Committee and IH Membership Committee



MILITARY COMMITTEE

Chair: Gordon Wisbach, MD MBA FACS FASMBS

The Military Committee supports the uniformed services and their members through ASMBS to provide a collaborative forum committed to improving the care of the bariatric patient within the military/Tricare system and VA Healthcare Systems. This committee's focus is to advance the science of metabolic and bariatric surgery through a robust research consortium. This committee's focus is to establish a collective within Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs) and VA Hospitals, create uniform pathways among centers, and have MBSAQIP/VASQIP participation, respectfully.

Committee Members

Co-Chairs: Joel Brockmeyer, MD FACS FASMBS (Military) and Vivian Sanchez, MD (VA)

Executive Council Liaison: Matthew Brengman, MD

Immediate Past Chair: Eric Ahnfeldt, DO FACS FASMBS,

ASMBS Staff Liaison: Leslie Vinson

Members:

Michael Barker, MD FASMBS (VA)
Martin Binks, PhD
Jamie Carr, BSN RN CBN
Susan Clark, MD
Tiffany Cox, MD (Ad Hoc)
Daniel Eisenberg, MD (VA)
Byron Faler, MD FACS
Kyle Gadbois, MD
Tricia Goins, RN CBN (VA)
Monique Hassan, MD FACS

Marcelo Hinojosa, MD FASMBS
Leah Loomis, DNP ACNP-BC CBN (VA)
Kevan Mann, MD
Anthony Mark, MD MBA
Mike Mulcahy, MD
Robert O'Rourke, MD (VA)
Carl Pesta, DO FASMBS
Richard Peterson, MD MPH FASMBS
Christopher Porta, MD FACS FASMBS

Michael Logan Rawlins, MD
Angel Reyes, MD FASMBS
John Paul Sanders, MD
Tamara Worlton, MD
Christopher Yheulon, MD

Committee Goals

ASMBS Mission(s) Met by the Committee:

- To advocate for the health care policy that ensures patient access to high quality prevention and treatment of obesity
- To foster communication between health professionals on obesity and related conditions
- To be a highly valued specialty society that serves the educational and professional needs of its diverse membership

Committee Objectives:

- Aid all major MTFs in becoming MBSAQIP accredited
- Quality improvement initiatives with State Chapters, Quality Improvement and Patient Safety and Research Committees
- Be a consortium to enhance care by sharing information
- Improve communication between military and VA members and ASMBS
- Identify needs and opportunities for improvement for military hospitals and VA Hospital System
- Offer CME credits to deployed military ASMBS members
- Support the unique aspects of VA beneficiaries and enhance the relationship between military resources and VA facilities

Short-Term Goals:

- Create Private Facebook page for VA Members (pending - Dr. Sanchez to ask for permission)
- Recommend Military committee member(s) to participate on other ASMBS committees & panels

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- Discussed adding military members to the Diversity Committee with Dr. Peterson, Diversity Committee Co-Chair

Mid-Term Goals:

- Encourage uniform care pathways between military facilities; encourage participation in the ASMBS Quality Improvement Initiative project: Sleeve Gastrectomy Care Pathway
- Foster continued growth of a Military Research Collaboration and a VA Research Collaboration
- Create centralized, standardized best practices for all military and VA bariatric surgery institutions' bariatric programs
- Improve access to care for various new weight loss procedures

Long-Term Goals:

- Assist ASMBS VA members with bariatric surgery access issues; assist VA members with patient care issues, patient throughput
- DHA centralized funding and support for

Bariatric Centers of Excellence distinction in the Military

- MBSAQIP accreditation for all major MTFs utilizing a Clinical Reviewer as data collection administrator for multiple centers
- Determine avenues for earning CME for deployed surgeons including ASMBS Annual Meeting on Demand at no cost for ASMBS active duty members
- Military members to become ASMBS Fellows and MBSAQIP Verified surgeons
- Maintain the directory of military and VA bariatric surgeons
- Utilize private Military Facebook page/repository for shared military documents

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- Implementation of ASMBS Sleeve Care Pathway at military facilities
- Continue to obtain updates from committee members assigned to other committees in order to "cross-talk" to participate/achieve goals/prepare MTFs to participate in the ASMBS Quality Improvement Initiative when organized
- Continue Military Research Task Force utilizing Bariatric Research Resident secured at Beaumont and Eisenhower Army Medical Center to be used at all centers
- Drafting of IRB registry for innovative bariatric procedures in the Military
- Annual face-to-face meeting at ASMBS Annual Meeting where the committee will meet and evaluate common pathways

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives (Cont.):

- › Naval Medical Center San Diego started a program for intragastric balloons and is reaching out to Madigan Army Medical Center and Brooke Army Medical Center to start similar programs; particular application for active duty members
- › With the 2 VA lead members and VA Co-Chair on the committee, will continue to support VA members and centers in encouraging VA centers to participate in VASQIP, and maintaining the VA Bariatric Network document of who, what kind, and volume regarding bariatrics at their centers
- › Continue to meet with DHA regarding centralized funding and letter of necessity, i.e. the “White Paper”
- › Using ASMBS, SOARD primarily online, and hard copies where internet is deficient, and webinars, when deployed to receive CME; possible use of ASMBS Annual Meeting On Demand for free
- › DHA strongly supports funding of all MTF's to participate in MBSAQIP
- › Ongoing maintenance of the Military Bariatric Network and VA Bariatric Network documents; quarterly queries to committee members regarding information on their centers
- › Continued use of private Facebook page – adding members, documents, and discussions

2020-2021 Completed Projects:

- › Utilized private Military Facebook page as a repository for shared military documents
- › Updated Military Bariatric Network this year via quarterly queries to members



PEDIATRIC SURGERY COMMITTEE

Chair: Janey Pratt, MD FASMBS

The mission of the Pediatric Surgery committee is to develop, foster and promote best care practices and resources for the pediatric bariatric surgery patient. The Pediatric committee has continued to carry out its strategic mission in response to the increase prevalence of severe obesity within the pediatric population and associated rise in the number of weight loss surgeries being performed as a result of this public health crisis.

Committee Members

Co-Chair: Bradley Linden, MD
FASMBS

Executive Council Liaison:

Ann Rogers, MD FASMBS

Immediate Past Chair:

Kirk Reichard, MD

ASMBS Staff Liaison:

Leslie Vinson

Members:

Marwa Abu El Haija, MBBS

Jeremy Aidlen, MD FAAP

Allen Browne, MD

Nancy Browne, MS PPCNP-BC
FAANP CBN

Matias Bruzoni, MD

Judy Chen, MD FASMBS

Joy Collins, MD

Anita Courcoulas, MD MPH

Robert Cywes, MD PhD

Daniel DeUgarte, MD

Thomas Inge, MD PhD

Lori Lynch, MSN APRN CPNP CBN

Marc Michalsky, MD FASMBS

Ann O'Connor, MD

David Podkameni, MD FASMBS

Niti Shahi, MD

Kimberly Steele, MD PhD

FASMBS

Nancy Thompson, MS RN CPNP

CBN

Mark Wulkan, MD

Jeffrey Zitsman, MD

Ad Hoc Member

Jessica Savage Williams, PhD,
TOS

Committee Goals

ASMBS Mission(s) Met by the Committee:

- > To improve the care and treatment of people suffering from obesity
- > To advocate the science and understanding of metabolic & bariatric surgery
- > To foster communication between health professionals on obesity and related conditions
- > To be the recognized authority and resource on metabolic and bariatric surgery
- > To advocate for the health care policy that ensures patient access to high quality prevention and treatment of obesity
- > To be a highly valued specialty society that serves the educational professional needs of its diverse membership

Committee Objectives:

- > Provide leadership on pediatric bariatric surgery
- > Develop and maintain resources for existing/developing centers that provide care for pediatric patients
- > Develop and maintain web content for pediatric patients (public information to be coordinated with public education committee)
- > Collaborate with Access to Care Committee for adolescent-pediatric bariatric surgery issues
- > Push Pediatric Bariatric Surgery in the Pediatric literature

Short-Term Goals:

- > Update ASMBS website on pediatric bariatric surgery

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- > The committee will review current pediatric bariatric surgery resources on the ASMBS website and update accordingly

Mid-Term Goals:

- > Create a Resource Toolkit to assist with developing a pediatric program
- > Publish ASMBS Pediatric Surgery Committee's "Role of endoscopy in bariatric surgery - Consensus recommendations"
- > Update the 2018 ASMBS Pediatric Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Guidelines

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- > Development of an easy to locate repository of bariatric handouts and resources for pediatric patients containing nutrition handbooks, consent/assent forms, templates, protocols for surgery, anesthesia, preop evaluation, etc.
- > ASMBS Pediatric Surgery Committee's "Role of endoscopy in bariatric surgery - Consensus recommendations" in progress

Long-Term Goals:

- > Continue to push MBS publications in pediatric literature
- > Increase young people on the pediatric committee
- > Continue to develop relationship with the TOS pediatric committee

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- > Several MBS papers were published in non-surgical journals
- > TOS Pediatric Committee Chair joined the committee

2020-2021 Completed Projects:

- > MBSAQIP standards regarding age limits
 - » Sent letter to MBSAQIP regarding 2019 Standards' age specifications
 - » Meeting with MBSAQIP Standards Committee and ASMBS Pediatric Surgery Committee's former committee chairs to discuss the issues
 - » Second draft circulating offering revisions to standards that address the age issue
- > Endoscopy statement
 - » Submitted for public comment currently in edits to go to ECEC next
- > TOS committee chair on ASMBS committee

2020-2021 Completed Projects (Cont.):

- » Bariatric Surgery papers published in non-surgical journals:
 - » Cigarette Use and Adolescent Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery. Zeller MH, Kidwell KM, Reiter-Purtill J, Jenkins TM, Michalsky MP, Mitchell JE, Courcoulas AP, Inge TH Obesity (Silver Spring). 2021 Mar;29(3):579-586.
 - » Nutritional Risks in Adolescents After Bariatric Surgery. Xanthakos SA, Khoury JC, Inge TH, Jenkins TM, Modi AC, Michalsky MP, Chen MK, Courcoulas AP, Harmon CM, Brandt ML, Helmrath MA, Kalkwarf HJ, Teen Longitudinal Assessment of Bariatric Surgery Consortium. Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2020 May;18(5):1070-1081.e5.
 - » Influence of Weight Loss on Obesity-Associated Complications After Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery in Adolescents. Derderian SC, Patten L, Kaizer AM, Moore JM, Ogle S, Jenkins TM, Michalsky MP, Mitchell JE, Bjornstad P, Dixon JB, Inge TH. Obesity (Silver Spring). 2020 12;28(12):2397-2404.
 - » Comparison of Short and Long-Term Outcomes of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery in Adolescents and Adults. Stanford FC, Mushannan T, Cortez P, Campoverde Reyes KJ, Lee H, Gee DW, Pratt JS, Boepple PA, Bredella MA, Misra M, Singhal V. Front Endocrinol (Lausanne). 2020;11:157.
 - » Loss of Control Eating and Health Indicators Over 6 Years in Adolescents Undergoing Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery. Goldschmidt AB, Khoury JC, Mitchell JE, Jenkins TM, Bond DS, Zeller MH, Michalsky MP, Inge TH Obesity (Silver Spring). 2021 Apr;29(4):740-747.
 - » Physical activity impacts insulin sensitivity post metabolic bariatric surgery in adolescents with severe obesity. Price PH, Kaizer AM, Inge TH, Eckel RH. Int J Obes (Lond). 2020 07;44(7):1479-1486
 - » Change, predictors and correlates of weight- and health-related quality of life in adolescents 2-years following bariatric surgery. Reiter-Purtill J, Ley S, Kidwell KM, Mikhail C, Austin H, Chaves E, Rofey DL, Jenkins TM, Inge TH, Zeller MH, in cooperation with the TeenView Study Group and Teen-LABS Consortium. Int J Obes (Lond). 2020 07;44(7):1467-1478.
 - » The effects of adolescent laparoscopic adjustable gastric band and sleeve gastrectomy on markers of bone health and bone turnover. Weiner A, Cowell A, McMahon DJ, Tao R, Zitsman J, Oberfield SE, Fennoy I. Clin Obes. 2020 Dec;10(6):e12411.
 - » Thirty-Year Risk of Cardiovascular Disease Events in Adolescents with Severe Obesity. Ryder JR, Xu P, Inge TH, Xie C, Jenkins TM, Hur C, Lee M, Choi J, Michalsky MP, Kelly AS, Urbina EM. Obesity (Silver Spring). 2020 03;28(3):616-623.
 - » Bone outcomes following sleeve gastrectomy in adolescents and young adults with obesity versus non-surgical controls. Misra M, Singhal V, Carmine B, Bose A, Kelsey MM, Stanford FC, Bram J, Aidlen J, Inge T, Bouxsein ML, Bredella MA. Bone. 2020 05;134:115290.
 - » Effect of Surgical Versus Medical Therapy on Diabetic Kidney Disease Over 5 Years in Severely Obese Adolescents With Type 2 Diabetes. Bjornstad P, Hughan K, Kelsey MM, Shah AS, Lynch J, Nehus E, Mitsnefes M, Jenkins T, Xu P, Xie C, Inge T, Nadeau K. Diabetes Care. 2020 01;43(1):187-195.
 - » Outcomes of Bariatric Surgery in Older Versus Younger Adolescents. Ogle SB, Dewberry LC, Jenkins TM, Inge TH, Kelsey M, Bruzoni M, Pratt JSA. Pediatrics. 2021 Mar;147(3)



PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Chair: John Scott, MD FACS FASMBS

The Program Committee is responsible for developing and arranging all of the annual educational events for the ASMBS Annual Meeting and ASMBS Weekend being the primary educational events. The committee identifies needs, professional gaps, and barriers; reviews and grades submitted abstracts; selects relevant topics and educational design; secures guest speakers; and contributes to the development of overall conference programming.

Committee Members

Co-Chair:

Mona Misra, MD FASMBS

Executive Council Liaison:

Shanu Kothari, MD FASMBS

Past-Chair:

Anthony Petrick, MD

ASMBS Staff Liaison:

Amie Buehler

Subcommittees:

Poster Chair: Julie Kim, MD

Jason Johnson, DO

Peter Hallowell, MD

Brandon Grover, DO

Emerging Technology & Concepts Chair:

Deam Mikami, MD

Mehran Anvari, MD

Rachel Moore, MD

Scientific Papers Chair:

Ann Rogers, MD

Chris Daigle, MD

Tammy Kindel, MD PhD

David Podkameni, MD

Corrigan McBride, MD

Teresa LaMasters, MD

Mohamed Ali, MD

Awards Chair: Eric Ahnfeldt, MD

Renee Hilton, MD

Diego Camacho, MD

Dana Telem, MD

International Effort Chair:

Jaime Ponce, MD

Scott Shikora, MD

Samer Mattar, MD

Bruce Schirmer, MD

Laurent Biertho, MD

Video Education Chair:

Rana Pullatt, MD

Samuel Szomstein, MD

Sivamainthan Vithiananthan, MD

Maher El Chaar, MD

Monique Hassan, MD

Labs Chair: Matthew Kroh, MD

Elias Chousleb, MD

Vivek Prachand, MD

CME/MOC Chair:

Wayne English, MD

Keith Scharf, MD

Committee Goals

ASMBS Mission(s) Met by the Committee:

- › To improve the care and treatment of people with obesity and related diseases
- › To advance the science and understanding of metabolic and bariatric surgery
- › To be a highly valued specialty society that serves the educational and professional needs of our diverse membership

Committee Objectives:

- › Increase diversity of talent pool for directorships, moderators, & speakers
- › Increase proportion of first-time moderators/speakers while maintaining a standard of quality and deserved recognition
- › Increase awareness of the incidence of common general surgical and foregut problems in patients before and after metabolic and bariatric surgery
- › Establish and disseminate guidelines and protocols for the management of metabolic and bariatric surgery

Short-Term:

- › Suggest areas of focus for member submissions; identify subject area gaps and plan new sessions for ASMBS Weekend/IFSO 2021 and ASMBS 2022 Annual Meeting
 - › Scientific Sessions
 - › Presidential Grand Rounds

- › Single Anastomosis Duodeno-Ileal Bypass – With Sleeve (SADI-S) Course
- › Current Controversies
- › MBG/OAGB content
- › Revisional Surgery
- › Video based teaching
- › IH – MBSAQIP Clinical Reviewers Course
- › Balloon/Endolumenal therapy
- › Practice Management Building
- › Collaborative Sessions with other Medical Societies
- › Evaluate educational course offerings.
- › Continue with popular initiatives discovered during our virtual meetings from 2021 such as chat rooms, virtual forums, virtual only content
- › Provide recommendations for future educational activities based on data collected from learner evaluations and post-tests which clearly identify professional practice gaps and needs assessments.
- › Define success for professional education offerings; number of offerings, attendance and revenue.
- › Utilize audience response system based on smart phone texting.
- › Utilize an electronic system for submission of questions.

Mid-Term:

- › Offer downloadable program and record/replay of concurrent sessions
- › Live/virtual hybrid activities
- › Establish educational activity targets for each year
- › Develop leaders and succession planning for future program chairs/co-chairs

Long-Term:

- › ASMBS Annual Meeting program development
- › Improve attendance at ASMBS Annual Meeting and ASMBS Weekend
- › Increase member satisfaction
- › Create new opportunities to attract members to educational activities
- › Establish educational activity targets for each year

Committee 2021/2022 Objectives:

- › Enhance value and quality of programming for ASMBS members
- › Increase presenter diversity at national meetings
- › Identify professional education needs: topics, faculty, teaching models, venues, regional vs. national, international and online
- › Increase member attendance by 5%

2020 Activities Accomplished to Meet the Objectives

- › Great program for RE-VISION ASMBS virtual meeting in January
- › Excellent reviews and attendance at RE-VISION ASMBS.

Activities Still in Progress

- › Finalizing plans for 2022 Annual Meeting and future meetings.
- › IFSO versus Fall meeting 2021?

Meeting Overview:

- › RE-VISION ASMBS 2021
 - » Total Attendees – 953 (816-Registered Attendees, 137-Faculty)
- › ASMBS 37th Annual Meeting 2021
 - » Abstracts
 - » Total submitted - 238 (590 submitted in 2019)
 - » Total accepted - 225 (149 as Poster) [474 (267 as Poster) 2019]



PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chair: Jason Kempenich, MD

The Public Education Committee is responsible for educating the public on bariatric surgery via printed and web-based materials as well as through the media; i.e. radio, newspaper, television and journals.

Committee Members

EC Liaison:

Teresa LaMasters, MD FASMBS
FACS DABOM

Staff Liaison:

Jillian Tartt

Members

Joshua B. Alley, MD
Adam Beall, MD
Lauren Buck, MD
Adrian Dan, MD
Elizabeth A. Dovec, MD FACS
FASMBS
Franchell Richard-Hamilton, MD
FASMBS
Sylvia Herbozo, PhD
January Hill, MD FASMBS FACS
ABOM

Ryan Lehmann, DO FACS FASMBS
Valerie Matthews, RN
Bethany Mulone, MSHA, BSN,
RN, CBN
Joe Northup, MD
Carl Pesta, DO FASMBS
Richard Peterson, MD FASMBS
Flavia Soto, MD FACS, FASMBS
Benjamin White, MD
Rickehse Wilson, MD

Liaisons to Obesity Action Coalition

Joe Nadglowski
James Zervios

Ad Hoc

Roger Kissin

Committee Goals

ASMBS Missions Met by the Committee:

- > To improve the care and treatment of people suffering from obesity
- > To advance the science and understanding of metabolic and bariatric surgery
- > To be the recognized authority and resource on metabolic and bariatric surgery

Committee Objectives:

- > Identify gaps in patient education
- > Identify tools to help ASMBS members

Short-Term:

- > Complete the revision all Patient Learning center articles to ensure content is up-to-date and at a sixth-grade reading level
- > Incorporate videos from the ASMBS YouTube channel into Patient Learning Center articles
- > Complete the patient seminar slide deck and make it accessible for use by the ASMBS membership

Mid-Term:

- > Hire a professional voice actor to record narration for patient seminar slide deck
- > Translate articles in the Patient Learning Center into Spanish
- > Use the newly updated Patient Learning Center articles to create informational brochures or pamphlets for ASMBS members to download and distribute to patients

Long-Term:

- > Develop an Expected Weight Loss Calculator for patient use on ASMBS.org
- > Continue collaboration with the ASMBS Website Subcommittee to develop a more patient-friendly interface for ASMBS.org
- > Create new articles about topics including endoscopic treatment for obesity, SADI-S, surgery for the elderly, revisions, and robotics in bariatric surgery

2020 Completed Projects:

- > Revised and updated six Patient Learning Center articles on ASMBS.org to lower the reading level and improve the formatting of the webpages
- > Updated the It Starts Now/Video Testimonial page with easier navigation for patients
- > Created a regular schedule of monthly committee calls
- > Welcomed four new members to the committee



RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Chair: Nancy Puzziferri, MD, MS, FACS, DABOM

The mission of the Research Committee is to advance the science of metabolic and bariatric surgery by advocating clinical and basic science research.

Committee Members

Co-Chair: Dimitrios Stefanidis, MD, PhD

Executive Council Liaison:
Eric DeMaria, MD, FASMBS

ASMBS Staff Liaison: Karen Loerzel

Members

Ali Aminian, MD
Dimitrios Athansiadis, MD
Benjamin Clapp, MD
Byron Faler, MD
Jonathan Finks, MD
William Fuller, MD

Luke Funk, MD, FASMBS
Luis Garcia, MD, FASMBS
William Gourash, RN, CRNP, PhD
Tammy Kindel, MD, FASMBS
Wendy King, PhD
Subhash. Kini, MD
Victoria Lyo, MD, MTM

Michael Schweitzer, MD FASMBS
Kimberley E. Steele, MD, PhD, FASMBS
Dimitrios Stefanidis, MD, PhD, FASMBS
Andrew Wheeler, MD

Committee Goals

ASMBS Mission(s) Met by the Committee:

- › To advance the science and understanding of metabolic and bariatric surgery
- › To improve the care and treatment of people with obesity

Committee Objectives:

- › Promote the highest quality research in metabolic and bariatric surgery through committee activities and projects.
- › Explore new research funding opportunities for academic and private practice research.
- › Understand factors contributing to success of ASMBS grant-funded research projects.
- › Establish a research collaborative with MBSAQIP sites that addresses important gaps in our knowledge about the care of the post bariatric surgery patient.

Short-Term Goals:

- › Institute monthly committee meetings to address above objectives.
- › Promote high-quality bariatric surgery research through the review process of ASMBS grant awards.
- › Pursue new funding opportunities for ASMBS members.
- › Use previously defined research priorities to formulate a first-step research consortium project (Stefanidis, King, Puzziferri, et al. SOARD 2019 Sep;15(9):1563-1569).
- › Determine factors that contribute to success of ASMBS funded grants by formally evaluating the experience of ASMBS grantees.

Specific Projects that Achieved Short-Term Goals and Objectives:

- › Established monthly zoom meetings.
- › (Usual ASMBS Research Grant Process 2020 deferred secondary to COVID & funding.)
- › Developed a new robotic surgery research funding opportunity.
- › Used established ASMBS member-driven research priorities of testing standard VTE and pouch ulcer prophylaxis regimens to develop initial research consortium project. Developed 2 surveys to identify current VTE and pouch ulcer prophylaxis regimens of ASMBS member practices.
- › Conducted a first-round survey of ASMBS grantees to discern factors contributing to success of ASMBS-funded grant projects.

Mid-Term Goals:

- › Maintain monthly zoom meetings.
- › Participate in announcement creation once ASMBS research grants are re-established.
- › Enroll sites interested in research consortium participation, and formulate an impactful, feasible project. Conduct VTE & pouch ulcer practice survey to screen for practice variability and feasibility of a future study.
- › Complete 2nd-round survey data collection on experience of ASMBS grantees. Formulate interview questions for qualitative assessment.
- › Develop a Minimal Clinically Important Difference (MCID) Project for obesity comorbidities.

Specific Projects that Achieved Mid-Term Goals and Objectives:

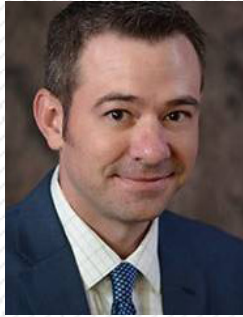
- › Continued monthly zoom meetings.
- › Created grant announcement with ASMBS Foundation for two COVID-prioritized grants in 2021.
- › First draft of invitation letter to Bariatric Surgery Program Directors to participate in research consortium.
- › In process of recruiting a qualitative partner to help devise structured interview of ASMBS grantees.
- › Have identified comorbidities of HFpEF, OSA and osteoarthritis for MCID project going forward. In process of devising query for patient input and identifying cardiac, pulmonologist and orthopedic experts to collaborate with.

Long-Term Goals:

- › Increase availability of research support funds for members
- › Develop an ASMBS research collaborative that addresses research priorities of members

Specific Projects that Achieve Long-Term Goals and Objectives:

- › Work with ASMBS Foundation and others to increase available funding and work to identify other potential funding sources
- › Form research teams from research committee members and ASMBS members to address specific topics in the identified research priorities
- › Investigate the potential to create mechanisms for multi-institutional studies through collaboration of ASMBS members



RURAL COMMITTEE

Chair: Kevin Helling, MD

The committee is composed of surgeons and integrated health professionals who provide care to bariatric patients in a rural or isolated setting. Members of the committee will advise the Executive Council on trends of practice and issues unique to rural bariatric surgeons. This will facilitate a proactive approach to resolving programmatic and clinic issues pertaining to the rural surgery setting. The committee serves as a resource for rural surgical practices to achieve high quality comprehensive programs in a rural setting.

Committee Members

Co-Chair:

Tammy Fouse, DO

Executive Council Liaison:

John D. Scott, MD FASMBS

Past-Chair: Luis Garcia, MD MBA
FASMBS

ASMBS Staff Liaison: Leslie Vinson

Members:

Franklin Bendewald, MD
Guillermo Bolanos Avila, MD
Kelly Burke, MSN-Ed RN
Stephanie Cox, PhD ABPP
Bree Dewing, MD
Frank Felts, MD FASMBS
Rama Rao Ganga, MBBS
Magdy Giurgius, MD

Brandon Helbling, MD FASMBS
Linden Karas, MD
Howard McCollister, MD
Curtis Peery, MD FASMBS
John Pender, MD
Walter Pories, MD
Raza Shariff, MD
Jessica Smith, MD
Andrew Wheeler, MD FASMBS
Andrew Van Osdel, MD

Ellen Vogels, DO
Kashif Zuberi, MD

Committee Goals

ASMBS Mission(s) Met by the Committee:

- › To improve the care and treatment of people suffering from obesity
- › To foster communication between health professionals on obesity and related conditions
- › To advocate for the health care policy that ensures patient access to high quality prevention and treatment of obesity

Committee Objectives:

- › To identify rural bariatric surgical practices
- › To represent the interests of metabolic and bariatric surgery in a rural setting
- › To identify the challenges unique to rural practitioners in the field of metabolic and bariatric surgery
- › To provide a template of collaboration to improve the care of the bariatric patient in the rural setting
- › To provide practice- or evidence-based solutions to these challenges
- › To define best practice guidelines and best standards of care in rural environments
- › To offer advice and support in recruitment, retention, mentoring, and post-residency/fellowship education to assure quality surgical care for rural bariatric patients
- › To address financial and business challenges of rural practitioners
- › To advocate for and support the accreditation of bariatric centers in rural America
- › To develop and maintain resources for existing rural accredited centers that provide care for bariatric patients
- › To improve access to care for the Bariatric patient in rural settings

Short-Term Goals:

- › Continue to grow committee membership
- › Define inclusion criteria, what constitutes a rural bariatric surgery practice (using ACS model)
- › Determine barriers for MBSAQIP accreditation
- › Rural Bariatric Symposium at the virtual ASMBS Weekend in January 2021

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- › New members added throughout the year, including members in a

rural setting and members whose patients come from a rural setting

- › Continued discussion of definition of inclusion criteria for potential members of the committee
- › Ongoing discussions to develop a “toolkit” for the use of Telemedicine for care of patients located in remote areas
- › Planned the curriculum for and directed the Rural Bariatric Symposium at the virtual ASMBS Weekend in January 2021

Mid-Term Goals:

- › Develop a Rural Collaborative, i.e., network of rural programs
- › Mentorship program for new rural program (Toolkit, site visits)
- › Mentorship for quality improvement (proctoring opportunities, advice hotline)
- › Follow-up toolkit for non-surgeons in rural setting

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- › Continue identification of potential rural programs across the nation to be included in the Rural Collaborative
- › Continued participation of rural committee members in committees of broader reach; Chair is a member of the Access to Care Committee

Long-Term Goals:

- › Help develop rural practice accreditation standards (if it is determined that they need to be different than current standards)
- › Participation of all rural practices in MBSAQIP and ASMBS
- › Mentorship pathway for committee members into ASMBS leadership/EC
- › Tracking of outcomes data for rural centers

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- › Continued research of rural practices, ongoing committee meetings and discussions with members to determine rural practice/patient needs
- › Participated in Rural Health Day 2020 and 2021

2020-2021 Completed Projects

- › Rural Bariatric Symposium at the virtual ASMBS Weekend in January 2021
- › Rural Health Day November 19, 2020 on social media



QUALITY IMPROVEMENT & PATIENT SAFETY COMMITTEE

Chair: Jon Gould, MD

The Quality Improvement & Patient Safety Committee supports the mission and values of the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgeons by promoting continuous improvement in patient safety and risk reduction. These goals are achieved by the integration and coordination of patient safety initiatives of member surgeons. Patient safety initiatives are processes designed to reduce medical errors through process analysis and participation in quality improvement reporting.

Committee Members

Co-Chair:

Anthony Petrick, MD FASMBS

Executive Council Liaison:

Matthew Brengman, MD

Immediate Past Chair:

Dana Telem, MD FASMBS

ASMBS Staff Liaison:

Leslie Vinson

Members:

Ali Aminian, MD FASMBS
John W. Baker, MD FASMBS
Naveen Ballem, MD FASMBS
T. Javier Birriel, MD FASMBS
Arthur M. Carlin, MD FASMBS
Michael Edwards, MD
Luke Funk, MD MPH FASMBS
Rama Rao Ganga, MBBS MS MRCS
Caitlin A. Halbert, DO MS
Daniel B. Jones, MD MS FASMBS, Senior Past Chair
Tammy Kindel, MD PhD
Kathleen Lak, MD
Shauna Levy, MD MS

Henry Lin, MD
Saniea F. Majid, MD FASMBS
Sara Martin Del Campo, MD MS
Tracy Martinez, BSN RN CBN
Karina McArthur, MD
Katherine Meister, MD
C. Kenneth Mitchell Jr., MD FASMBS
Geoffrey Nadzam, MD
Bradley Needleman, MD FASMBS
Sabrena Noria, MD PhD FRCSC
Nabeel Obied, MD
Philip A. Omotosho, MD
Carl Pesta, MD FASMBS
John Pilcher, Jr., MD

Kinga A. Powers, MD, PhD
April Smith, PharmD
Konstantinos Spaniolas, MD
Andrea Stroud, MD MS
William A. Sweet, MD
Andre F. Teixeira, MD FASMBS
Oliver Varban, MD
Eric Volckmann, MD
Clark Warden, MD FASMBS
Noel N. Williams, MD FASMBS
Randal Zhou, MD

Committee Goals

ASMBS Mission(s) Met by the Committee:

- › To improve the care and treatment of people suffering from obesity
- › To foster communication between health professional on obesity and related conditions
- › To be the recognized authority and resource on metabolic and bariatric surgery
- › To be a highly valued specialty society that serves the educational and professional needs of its diverse membership

Committee Objectives:

- › Identify gaps and members needs in patient safety, risk management and professional liability
- › Identify and develop optimal resources for patient safety, risk management and professional liability
- › Provide recommendations for promotion and dissemination of patient safety and risk management information
- › Identify and employ process measures to identify and disseminate quality improvement initiatives

Short-Term Goals:

- › ASMBS endorsed clinical pathway for Gastric Bypass

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- › RYGB pre-op pathway complete; edits in progress
- › RYGB intra-op pathway sub-committee formed and work initiated
- › RYGB post-op pathway sub-committee formed and work initiated

Mid-Term Goals:

- › Pursue alternate publication/online discussion options for Patient Safety/Malpractice Vignettes with Invited Discussion commentary
- › Utilize sleeve pathway to identify research initiatives and priorities
- › Intervention to Reduce VTE Rates to Promote Patient Safety - VTE collaborative

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- › Continual literature review to update sleeve pathway as necessary

Long-Term Goals:

- › Development of a longitudinal education curriculum for non-surgeon providers who care for our patients, i.e., Patient Safety Education programs for surgeons, nurses, anesthesiologists
- › ASMBS Clinical Care Pathways Library
- › To include revisions, primary endoscopic procedures
- › Therapeutic interventions to weight regain
- › Partner with liability carriers to create patient safety curriculum to reduce exposure and injuries
- › Partner with insurers to establish a national presurgical pathway
- › CQI projects with sleeve pathway (possible joint venture with Research Committee)
- › Provide updates to members on important professional liability and patient safety issues as they arise
- › Continue to develop resources for risk management
- › Help create a mechanism by which ASMBS can endorse and encourage high performing programs exhibiting patient safety and quality improvement in all aspects of bariatric care

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- › We will develop these projects in the future; currently we are focusing on the three main projects detailed above in the Short-Term goals and Mid-Term goal #3



VIDEO COMMITTEE

Chair: Arthur Carlin, MD

The Video Committee is charged with advancing the surgical techniques for metabolic & bariatric surgery and improve the care and treatment of people with obesity and related diseases. They are responsible for creating and continuously updated the ASMBS Video Library and organizing video presentations for ASMBS Educational Meetings.

Committee Members

Co-Chair:

Colleen Kennedy, MD

Executive Council Liaison:

Richard Peterson, MD MPH FACS
FASMBS

ASMBS Staff Liaison:

Danielle Marsh

Members:

Mustafa Aman, MD
Corrigan McBride, MD FASMBS
Adrian Dan, MD
Neil Floch, MD
Emanuel Lo Menzo, MD
Venkat Modukuru, MD
Keith Scharf, MD
Andre Teixeira, MD

Aley Tohamy, MD
Stuart Verseman, MD
Flavia Soto, MD
Ian Soriano, MD FACS

Committee Goals

ASMBS Mission(s) Met by the Committee:

- › To advance the surgical techniques for metabolic and bariatric surgery
- › To improve the care and treatment of people with obesity and related diseases

Objectives:

- › To raise the quality and safety of bariatric and metabolic surgery
- › To create and continuously update the ASMBS video library
- › To establish a standardized format for video presentation
- › To organize and coordinate unedited video case presentation for the ASMBS Annual Meeting and ASMBS Weekend
- › To work closely with the program committee to:
 - » Review the feedback from previous years video sessions to look for opportunities for improvement
 - » Review submitted videos

Committee Goals

- › To create an audio visual resource for metabolic and bariatric surgery procedures
- › Increase awareness and visibility of the Video Library
- › Expand Video Library content
- › Optimize video sessions for the ASMBS Annual Meetings

2020 Completed Projects

- › Reached Milestone of 200+ videos highlighted in ASMBS Top 5 on the 5th Newsletter
- › Reviewed the entire Video Library
- › Ranked top videos in the Video Library
- › Shared Featured Videos in ASMBS Top 5 on the 5th Newsletter
- › New Category of Fellowship Lectures added to Video Library
- › New Video Library link added to ASMBS home page



ADVANCE PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Chair: Karen Flanders, MSN, ARNP, CBN

The primary mission of the APP committee is to explore, develop and maintain credentialing and educational offerings for nurse practitioners, physician assistants and clinical nurse specialists, as well as other projects as identified by ASMBS leadership.

Committee Members

Co-Chair: Michael Dougherty II, PA-C

IHEC Liaison: Karen Flanders, MSN, ARNP, CBN

ASMBS Staff Liaison: Jennifer Wynn

Members

Deb Allis, PA-C

William Gourash, PhD, CRNP, RN

Kristin Kamprath, MPAS, PA-C

Connie Klein, NPC

Marina Kurian, MD

Ginny Ledbetter, MSN, APRN, ACNS-BC

Aura Petcu, AG-ACNP, CNS

Committee Goals

ASMBS Mission(s) Met by the Committee:

- To advance the science and understanding of metabolic and bariatric surgery
- To be the recognized authority and resource on metabolic and bariatric surgery
- To be a highly valued specialty society that serves the educational and professional needs of its diverse membership

Committee Objectives:

- Identify credentialing/certification options for advanced practice providers, such as certification, portfolio, assessment-based certificate and other potential options.
- Assess feasibility of credentialing/certification/certificate options.
- Develop credential/certificate for advanced practice providers.
- Develop educational opportunities within the Society specific for advanced practice providers including but not limited to the annual meeting, weekend event, and webinars.
- Collaborate with professional organizations, i.e. AANP, AAPA, OMA and other, for educational and credentialing opportunities.

Short-Term Goals:

- Invite additional APPs to assist with development of ABC
- Determine baseline components (ie experience of attendee, number and timing of offering, cost, etc...) of ABC
- Develop curriculum for webinars, symposiums and other educational opportunities offering CME and CEU for APPs
- Assist with Adjustable Gastric Band Guidelines

Specific Projects that Achieve Short-Term Goals and Objectives:

- Establish baseline components of assessment based certificate as identified in short-term goals
- Schedule webinar in May/June 2021 for advanced practice providers to review progress of ABC and elicit feedback
- Agenda development for advanced practice provider symposium offering at the Annual Meeting
- Assist with professional networking group at the annual meeting
- Develop ad hoc committee to work with IH CIC on Adjustable Gastric Band Guidelines

Mid-Term Goals:

- Develop assessment-based certificate agenda and topics;
- Develop curriculum for Annual Meeting
- Specific Projects that Achieve Mid-Term Goals and Objectives:
- Decide topic offerings for assessment based certificate;
- Maintain topic recommendations for Annual Meeting

Long-Term Goals:

- Explore opportunities for accreditation
- Assess interest in certification for APPs

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- Work with Certified Bariatric Nurse chair for recommendations of accreditation;
- Consider survey for interest in certification for APPs pending ABC interest and participation (once completed)

2020-2021 Completed Projects

- Development, dissemination and evaluation of 2 surveys exploring interest and feasibility of credentialing options to advanced practice providers
- Publication of 2 articles in Bariatric Times
- Development of interest/feasibility survey for American Board of Medicine
- Change in status from task force to committee.



CBN CERTIFICATION

Chair: William Gourash, RN, CRNP, PhD

This CBN Certification committee is responsible for maintaining all aspects necessary for the maintenance, further development and growth of the CBN certification program. It is divided into 9 subcommittees of one or more members which focus on areas vital to the certification program: Practice Analysis, Examination Development, Policy and Procedures, Marketing & Feasibility, Educational Preparation, Accreditation, Financial, Recertification and International. There is a core group, the "Leadership Council", who oversee the operations of the CBN Committee and reviews, further develops, and approves the committees' policies/procedures and provide consensus on broad operational issues.

Committee Members

Co-Chair:

Jessie Moore

IHEC Liaison:

Karen Flanders

ASMBS Staff Liaison:

Susan Haury

Accreditation

Sharon Hillgartner (leader)

Payal Sharma

Karen Groller

Practice Analysis

Susan Dugan (leader)

Teresa Fraker

Marketing

Narelle Story

Examination Development

Ruth Davis (leader)

Cheryl Holsworth

Maureen Quigley

Mara Berman

Carmela Pontillo

Examination Preparation

Bobbie Lou Price (leader)

Barb Lawrence

Karen Flanders

Finance

William Gourash (leader)

Tracy Martinez

Bobbie Lou Price

Jessie Moore

Recertification

Ron Permenter

Wanda Szymanski

Nicole Forryan

Marcella

Other Discipline Credentialing

William Gourash

Jessie Moore

International (new)

Committee Goals

ASMBS Integrated Health Missions Met by this Committee:

- › Primary
 - › Cultivate and support a knowledgeable, skilled and empowered membership
- › Secondary
 - › Improve outcomes through the multidisciplinary approach to the care of patients affected by obesity
 - › Increase awareness of the critical role the multidisciplinary approach throughout the continuum of care
 - › Promote best practices and an evidence-based approach to the treatment of patients affected by obesity

Mission Statement:

- › This committee is dedicated to enhancing and promoting the specialty of bariatric nursing care. The committee vision is to provide the premier credential to professional nurses caring for the morbidly obese and metabolic and bariatric surgical patients.

Committee Objectives

- › Continue to develop, maintain, and grow an RN professional practice certification for the specialty of Bariatric Nursing Care.
- › Seek to improve the quality of care and outcomes for all individuals with severe obesity and those who undergo metabolic and bariatric surgical procedures
- › Administer a fair, valid, reliable and legally defensible examination process.
- › Administer an examination that certifies professional knowledge and skill in bariatric standards of care and expected outcomes.
- › Seek to provide a "best practice" certification to the public, stakeholders, and certifications.
- › Communicate the value of this credential to the public and other key constituencies.
- › Administer a fiscally responsible certification program while allocating appropriate resources for growth.

- › Extend the availability of the CBN examination/certification to international registered nurses.
- › Extend the availability of the CBN examination/certification to international registered nurses.
- › Support the credentialing interest and efforts for all Integrated Health Professionals.

Major Accomplishments for 2019 & 2020

- › Examination Development:
 - › The examination Item Bank was expanded and updated – An Item Writing Drive was completed which recruited, educated, and mentored item writers and reviewed and approved the items. Completed in 2-2021
 - › Completed live examination construction April 2019 and virtual in April 2020
- › Examination Preparation:
 - › Continued to develop the "state chapter" review course initiative, curriculum and process options. Completed 4 courses in 3 locations in 2019 & 1 in 2020.
 - › Completed an In-person CBN examination preparation course at OW 2019
 - › Completed a virtual update of the CBN examination preparation course on new platform in 2020/2021 and launch will be in April of 2021.
- › Recertification:
 - › LearningBuilder IT Platform was launched on 10-2018. Subsequently the CBN manager, reviewers and certificants have increased their proficiency with platform. It has been well received by certificants, reviewers, & manager
- › Accreditation and focus on "best practice efforts":
 - › Summer/fall 2019 – commissioned Gap Analysis by SeaCrest Inc.. who produced an 80-page report which has been reviewed throughout the CBN Committee. A number of the "gaps" that were identified have been addressed:
 - › Lack of enough evidence that bariatric surgical nursing is a

- “nursing” specialty.
 - » Initiated a symposium on the topic of patient education which was approved for OW 2020 and again approved for the ASMBS annual meeting of 2021. The symposium includes a survey of IH provider patient education practices.
 - » The results of the survey will be presented during the symposium and submitted to SOARD as a manuscript.
- » Recommended Policy & Procedure Development
 - » Review of all process & policies
 - » Developed & initiated the CBN “Leadership Council” with the primary function to review, develop, & efficiently process policies. Additionally, it will function as consensus for significant operational decisions.
- » Identified specific CBN documentation inconsistency and recommended changes
 - » Numerous changes in CBN publications and website were implemented for consistency and to meet accreditation standards.
- » Governance recommendations to meet standards.
 - » The CBN developed a transitional structure, the “Leadership Council” to help move in an acceptable direction.
- » Marketing Initiatives ...
 - » Sent CBN Certification materials and a congratulatory email to all CBNs in recognition of National Nurse Certification Day Activities – 3-19-2019 and 3-19-2020.
 - » CBN Award was awarded in 2019 and not in 2020.
 - » Gave access to the “outdated” CBN review course free of charge until the course was updated
 - » Placed a freeze on recertification fees during the “grace period” until the end of 2021.
- » Other Certifications
 - » Shared credentialing guidance and information with the Advanced Practice Committee and ASMBS Behavioral Health Professionals in their credentialing explorations.
- Examination Construction policies & procedures.
 - » Documentation of policies for examination construction and management and item writing.
 - » Recategorize and update the examination item bank with results from the Practice Analysis
- » Examination Preparation
 - » Q and A Session at 2021 Annual Meeting, live regional & annual courses when can, and policy/procedure documentation
 - » Explore and implement a strategy to develop a bank of practice questions for candidates.
- » Marketing initiatives ...
 - » Explore barriers/reasons for failure to recertify with survey
 - » Develop and initiate strategy to assess barriers/reasons not to certify
 - » Explore, develop and implement strategies to increase the CBN presence in ASMBS state chapters.
 - » Continue Freeze of grace year increase in recertification cost
 - » Develop a guide to low cost CEUs to help recertificants with recertification requirements
 - » Online course price reduction from \$129 to \$99 for 2021
 - » Exploring larger windows or no examination windows with our testing vendor PSI.
 - » Launch the “Retired CBN” option which has been approved
 - » Re-establish CBN Newsletter (5-1-2021)
- » Continue support to Other ASMBS disciplines with credentialing efforts
 - » Further support of Advanced Practice Provider Committee and Behavioral Health Professionals

2021 Projects

- » Accreditation
 - » Further develop of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgical Nursing as a Nursing Specialty
 - » Patient Education Symposium at 2021 Annual Meeting.
 - » Patient Education Provider survey of current practices to be presented at the above symposium and submitted to SOARD for publication.
 - » Nursing Course at the 2021 Annual Meeting
 - » Encourage bariatric surgical nurses to present/publish.
- » CBN Leadership Council – Continue review, development, and approval of policies/procedures and adding consensus on broad operational issues
- » Governance – Further investigation, discussion with consultant, and initiate further discussions with IHEC and EC
- » Document and develop additional QI initiatives and policies
- » Practice Analysis Update
 - » Initiate, carryout, present at the 2022 ASMBS Annual Meeting, and publish in SOARD the results of the Practice Analysis
 - » Incorporation of results into examination development
- » Examination Development
 - » Virtual Examine Construction & review and further develop



IH CLINICAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

Chair: Katie Chapmon, MS RD

The ASMBS Clinical Issues Committee represents multiple disciplines of bariatric Integrated Health professionals with at least one member representing the following disciplines - nursing, behavioral health, nurse practitioner or physician assistant, registered dietitian, and pharmacist. The Committee members are appointed by the IHEC President with input from the Committee Chair and Co-Chair.

Committee Members

Co-Chair:

Kasey Goodpaster, PhD

IHEC Liaison & Immediate Past Chair:

Stephanie Sogg, PhD

ASMBS Staff Liaison:

Leslie Vinson

Registered Dietitians:

Sue Benson-Davies, PhD DCN MPH RD FAND LN
Julie Parrott, MS RD CPT

Registered Nurses:

Gwendolyn Crispell, MSN RN CBN
Debra Proulx, RN BHS MBA CBN

Behavioral Health:

Melissa Santos, PhD
Stephanie Sogg, PhD

Nurse Practitioners/Physician's Assistants:

Nancy Browne, MS PPNP-BC FAANP CBN
Michael Dougherty, II, PA-C
Karen Flanders, MSN ARNP CBN
Charmaine Gentles, ANP-BC RNFA

Clinical Issues Surgeon Representative:

Dan Eisenberg, MD

Committee Goals

ASMBS Mission(s) Met by the Committee:

- › Improve outcomes through the multidisciplinary approach to the care of patients affected by obesity
- › Increase awareness of the critical role the multidisciplinary approach plays throughout the continuum of care
- › Promote best practices and an evidence-based approach to the treatment of patients affected by obesity
- › Cultivate and support a knowledgeable, skilled and empowered membership

Committee Objectives:

- › Identify, develop, and revise best practice recommendations, clinical guidelines, position statements and protocols for the different disciplines within Integrated Health - Review and reassess every 2 years
- › Identify and provide support to the committee/member(s) developing best practices, clinical guidelines, position statements and recommendations

Short-Term Goals:

- › Complete the Nutrition for Pregnancy after Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery: Literature Review and Practical Guide
- › Transfer the IH Toolkit from the ASMBS website to the ASMBS Active IH Members Facebook page
- › TelePsych Survey Task Force – papers on General Controversies, Qualitative and Quantitative Data
- › Collaborate with the CIC on the ASMBS Position Statement on Preoperative Patient Optimization before Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- › Final draft of the Nutrition for Pregnancy after Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery: Literature Review and Practical Guide complete and with the IHEC for final review
- › Reviewed current non-published and published resources for the IH Toolkit – collaboration with the IH Multidisciplinary Care and IH Communications Committees. Transferred all documents to ASMBS IH Facebook Page and transferred project outside of IH CIC

- › TelePsych Survey – the qualitative examination of the free-text responses is complete and the paper is in near-final draft
- › Several committee members contributed to the ASMBS Position Statement on Preoperative Patient Optimization before Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, now in review with the committee after member comments

Mid-Term Goals:

- › Nutrition Guidelines: Macronutrients
- › Behavioral Health Adolescent & Pediatric Psych Guidelines

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- › Nutrition Guidelines: Macronutrients in progress
- › Behavioral Health Adolescent & Pediatric Psych Guidelines – scoping review – have determined their focus and their questions, beginning the literature search/review phase

Long-Term Goals:

- › Review potential and existing statements, papers, and resources
- › Cannabis Paper
- › Possible SADI micronutrient review

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- › Reviewed and updated the 2014 MBS Coordinator Job Description
- › Cannabis Paper - writing group formed; added an Ad Hoc member for this paper. Currently working on the literature review and outline.
- › Proposal for a SADI micronutrient review currently with the IHEC for a decision

2020-2021 Completed Projects

- › Integrated Health Toolkit moved to Active AMSBS IH Members Only Facebook page (coordination with IH Communications Committee)
- › Assisted the IHEC on updating the IH Process for Statement Development for manuscript writing and approval
- › 2014 MBS Coordinator Job Description updated and published on the MBSAQIP website and Active AMSBS IH Members Only Facebook page



IH COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair: Abigail Schroeder, PA-C

The aim of the Integrated Health Communications committee is to facilitate communication within AMSBS IH membership, surgeon members, as well as potential IH members. This includes communicating in outside forums, moderating communication over official forums, and ensuring that relevant IH topics are available to all members.

Committee Members

Co-Chair: Cynthia Hipszer RN MSN CNML

IHEC Liaison: Nathaniel Sann, MSN CRNP FNP-BC

ASMBS Staff Liaison: Jillian Tartt

Members:

Teresa Fraker, MS RN

Sarah Muntel, RD

Elizabeth Paca, MS RD CSOWM

Colleen Tewksbury, PhD RD CSOWM

Emily Thevis, RDN LD CSOWM CDE

Committee Goals

ASMBS Mission(s) Met by the Committee:

- Increase awareness of the critical role the multidisciplinary approach plays throughout the continuum of care
- Optimize patient access to comprehensive obesity treatment
- Cultivate and support a knowledgeable, skilled and empowered membership

Committee Objectives:

- Improve communication within ASMBS membership
- Increase awareness of IH activities to external audiences and stakeholders
- Facilitate communication between committees
- Identify and provide mechanisms for communication and collaboration for project development

Short-Term Goals:

- Continue to build and monitor the growing Active ASMBS IH Members Only Facebook professional networking group
- Continue the IH Webinar series to promote education and professional development
- Continue to work with the IH Membership Committee to develop materials and resources that highlight the value of Integrated Health membership

Mid-Term Goals:

- Promote IH initiatives and member benefits to both prospective and current members
- Collaborate with other IH Committees to develop and promote quarterly webinars
- Continue to review public, patient, and member pages on ASMBS.org

Long-Term Goals:

- Continue to build and improve online content for IH professionals
- Continue collaboration with the ASMBS Website Subcommittee to develop a more provider and patient-friendly interface for ASMBS.org

2020 Completed Projects

- Hosted three successful educational IH webinars
- Developed a new "Units" feature in the Active ASMBS IH Members Only Facebook group to categorize resources shared by members
- Worked in collaboration with the IH Clinical Issues Committee to transfer the Integrated Health Toolkits to the Active ASMBS IH Members Only Facebook group, making numerous papers, pathways, and other reference materials more readily accessible to the membership
- Assisted the IH Membership Committee with revising and improving the ASMBS New Member Letter



IH SUPPORT GROUP

Francine Broder, PsyD

The mission of the Support Group committee is to promote the development of the concept of support groups in the care of bariatric surgical patients; identify the needs of support group leaders and develop strategies to meet these needs; identify, develop and distribute resources for support groups and support group leaders, and encourage the exchange of ideas and networking among support group leaders.

Committee Members

Co-Chair:

Lauren Carey, RD

IHEC Liaison & Immediate Past Chair:

Paul Davidson, PhD

ASMBS Staff Liaison:

Karen Loerzel

Members

Nina Boulard, PhD

Lillian Craggs-Dino, DHA RDN LDN CLT

Lori Nevins, LCSW

Lindsay Pasdera, MS RDN CSOWN LDN CDE

Ninoska Peterson, PhD

Andrea Rigby, Psy.D

Janet Tuuri, BSN, CNOR

Committee Goals

ASMBS Mission(s) Met by the Committee:

- › Improve outcomes through the multidisciplinary approach to the care of patients affected by obesity
- › Increase awareness of the critical role the multidisciplinary approach plays throughout the continuum of care
- › Optimize patient access to comprehensive obesity treatment
- › Promote best practices and an evidence-based approach to the treatment of patients affected by obesity
- › Cultivate and support a knowledgeable, skilled and empowered membership

Committee Objectives:

- › Provide resources for the education and continued advancement of support group leaders
- › Increase awareness of the necessity for support groups and improve patient access
- › Further the development, implementation and continued advancement of support groups
- › Facilitate exchange of ideas and networking among support group leaders

Short-Term Goal:

- › Presenting a scientific session on virtual bariatric support groups at ASMBS 2021 Annual Meeting.

Long-Term Goals:

- › Populating support group facilitator toolkit
- › Working towards the implementation of a support group facilitator training program
- › Conducting a literature review of bariatric support group research for eventual publication
- › Establishing and publishing best practices for facilitating virtual support groups

2020 Completed Projects

- › Updated the IH Support Group Manual
- › Maintained the Facebook group for IH ASMBS members
- › Presented a support group training at ASMBS Weekends 2020, 2021
- › Support Group Leader Manual uploaded to IH Facebook group



IH MEMBERSHIP

Heidi Bednarchuk, APRN CNS CBN

The IH Membership Committee works to ensure needs of membership are being met by the society, address member concerns, review membership applications, assist applicants in the application process when necessary, stimulate both new and renewal memberships, increase visibility of IH members in the ASMBS and ensure access of members to society benefits, thereby increasing value of membership.

Committee Members

Co-Chair:

Kristin Kamprath, MPAS, PA-C

EC Liaison:

Heidi Bednarchuk, APRN, CNS, CBN

ASMBS Staff Liaison:

Kim Carmichael

Members:

Adam Dungey, BSN, RN

Kathryn Cottell, RD CDN CDE

Marianna Dayre, CDN

Rachel Millard, DNP, FNP-C

Jeff Stromswold, NP

Committee Goals

ASMBS Mission(s) Met by the Committee:

- › Optimize patient access to comprehensive obesity treatment
- › Cultivate and support a knowledgeable, skilled and empowered membership

Committee Objectives:

- › Update/enhance new member welcome packet and further outreach to potential new members.
 - » Develop a welcome packet with more information on membership benefits.
 - » Develop a letter to send to all ASMBS IH bariatric coordinators to encourage further outreach amongst colleagues.
- › Complete application review protocol with addition of process to expedite referral of industry concerns to IHEC.
 - » Review of the membership application review process.
 - » Review of Industry related applicants.
- › Explore process for promoting/facilitating state chapter connection.
 - » Analyze new membership as a result of state chapter involvement.
 - » Coordinate membership outreach through state chapters.

2020 Activities Still in Progress:

- › Finalize the letter to organizations and coordinators highlighting benefits of supporting IH membership.
- › Reach out to prior applicants that qualify for the new small business membership category.

2020 Activities Accomplished to Meet the Objectives:

- › Created new communication letters.
 - » Facilitated approval of the existing welcome letter from the IHEC President and President-Elect highlighting a few of the membership benefits.
 - » Revised the existing membership acceptance letter to highlight membership benefits and resources available, providing links to those resources.
 - » Created a new letter to organizations highlighting the benefits of supporting IH membership for their staff.
- › Creation of a new “Small Business” membership category for those applicants employed by Industry.



IH MULTIDISCIPLINARY CARE COMMITTEE

Genna Hymowitz, PhD

This committee includes representatives from disciplines that comprise the integrated team; behavioral health, nursing, nutrition, physical activity, surgery and obesity medicine. The goal of the committee is to investigate the extant literature regarding the role of the team members in the care and long-term success of the bariatric surgical patient.

Committee Members

Co-Chair: Colleen Schreyer, PhD

IHEC Liaison: Adam Dungey, MBA BSN

ASMBS Staff Liaison: Leslie Vinson

Members

Guilherme Campos, MD FASMBS
Lynelle Diede, MS RN-BC CBN
Brooke Doucet, RN CBN
Nicole Franklin, PsyD

Lora Grabow, LCSW
Jeanne Hutson, NP-C
Dawn Stepnowski, DNP APN-C
Catherine Tuppo, PT MS CLT-LANA

Committee Goals

ASMBS Mission(s) Met by the Committee:

- Improve outcomes through the multidisciplinary approach to the care of patients affected by obesity
- Increase awareness of the critical role the multidisciplinary approach plays throughout the continuum of care
- Promote best practices and an evidence-based approach to the treatment of patients affected by obesity

Committee Objectives:

- Define optimal multidisciplinary approach to surgical care
- Evaluate current evidence and identify knowledge gaps regarding the impact of multidisciplinary approach on patient outcomes
- Develop and conduct research projects aimed at addressing gaps in the multidisciplinary care literature
- Disseminate findings related to multidisciplinary patient care to appropriate audiences

Short-Term Goals:

- Gain understanding of the multidisciplinary pain management strategies used in bariatric patient care
- Increase committee membership by adding a dietitian, pharmacotherapy, and exercise/physical therapy specialists

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- Developed measure to assess current pain management prescribing practice as part of BSTOP project – data collection is ongoing
- Develop measure to assess non pharmacologic pain management practices among ASMBS membership- draft of measure is complete and being finalized
- Develop survey to evaluate mentorship needs of ASMBS IH membership
- Our committee is looking for exercise specialists to join
- Host annual webinars on emerging research for the IH community

Mid-Term Goals:

- Distribute survey to assess non pharmacologic pain management practices among ASMBS membership
- Distribute survey to assess mentorship needs of ASMBS IH

membership

- Present webinar to assess mentorship needs of ASMBS IH membership
- Completed several documents for the IH Toolkit on the ASMBS Website; will submit more for review/publication

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- Survey is drafted and being finalized
- Mentorship survey project proposal submitted to IHEC for review
- Mentorship scheduled for 5/6/2021
- Develop patient education materials reviewing pain management in the context of bariatric surgery
- Develop educational materials focused on physical activity for IH Tool Kit

Long-Term Goals:

- Work with MBSAQIP as consultants for BSTOP project
- Write up and disseminate findings from non-pharmacologic pain management survey
- Develop a mentorship program for IH membership
- Continue to contribute to the IH Toolkit on the Active ASMBS IH Members Only Facebook page - Collaboration with IH Clinical Issues Committee

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- Participated in BSTOP development meetings and provided feedback on materials developed for this project
- Mentorship Project proposal complete and in review with the IHEC
- Non pharmacologic pain management project proposal approved by IHEC

2020-2021 Completed Projects

- Developed measure of prescribing practices that was distributed to BSTOP project participants
- Developed educational materials for the IH Toolkit on the Active ASMBS IH Members Only Facebook page - Collaboration with IH Clinical Issues Committee
- Several members authored content for the Walk from Obesity newsletter
- Presented 2 Webinars to ASMBS membership



IH PROGRAM AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Laura Andromalos, MS, RD, CSOWM, CDCES

The mission of the Integrated Health (IH) Program and Professional Education Committee is to promote and support the development of accredited post-professional education programs to improve the care and treatment of people with obesity and related diseases; to advance the science and understanding of metabolic and bariatric surgery; and to be a resource for the educational and professional needs of our diverse membership.

Committee Members

IHEC/EC Liaison:

Lisa West-Smith,
PhD, LISW-S

ASMBS Staff Liaison:

Amie Buehler

Members:

Core Committee:

Leslie Heinberg, PhD
(past-chair)

Kelli Friedman, PhD
Connie Klein, NP
William F. Gourash,
MSN CRNP
Dale Bond, PhD
Melissa Majumdar,
MS, RD, CSOWM
Michael Dougherty,
PA-C

David Creel, PhD
Teresa Fraker, MS,
RN

Nutrition Chair:

Colleen Tewksbury,
PhD, MPH, RD
Emily Thevis, RD,
CSOWM

Post-graduate: Chair:

Connie Klein, NP

April Smith, Pharmd

Behavioral Health Abstract and Course:

Chair: Janelle
Coughlin, PhD
Karen Grothe, PhD
Dale Bond, PhD
Kelli Friedman, PhD
Kristine Steffen,
PharmD PhD
Ryan Marek, PhD

Multidisciplinary:

Chair: Kristine Steffen,
PharmD, PhD
Dale Bond, PhD

Abstract Committee:

Chair: Kellie
Armstrong, RN, MS,
CBN
Kelli Friedman, PhD
Rachel Goldman,
PhD

Laura Andromalos,
MS RD LDN
Leslie Heinberg, PhD
Melissa Majumdar,
MS, RD, CSOWM

Committee Goals

ASMBS Mission(s) Met by the Committee:

- › Improve outcomes through the multidisciplinary approach to the care of patients affected by obesity
- › Increase awareness of the critical role the Integrated Health approach plays throughout the continuum of care
- › Promote best practices and an evidence-based approach to the treatment of patients affected by obesity
- › Cultivate and support a knowledgeable, skilled and empowered membership

Committee Objectives:

- › Enhance the value and quality of educational programming at ASMBS Annual Meeting, ASMBS Weekend and throughout the year
- › Expand opportunities for professional presentations to new members and early career professionals
- › Identify potential collaborations with relevant organizations
- › Fill vacancies for all subcommittees
- › Adding an area on the ASMBS website for suggestions for future presentations would increase access for all members.

Short-Term Goals:

- › Implement first virtual ASMBS Annual Meeting in June 2021 with 5 IH pre-conference sessions (18 hours content) and 10 IH scientific sessions (15 hours content)
- › Provide continuing education credits for all IH professionals

Mid-Term Goals:

- › Develop leaders and succession planning for future program chairs/co-chairs

Long-Term Goals:

- › Document conference planning workflow for consistency throughout volunteer and staff turnover
- › Increase interaction and engagement of educational sessions at ASMBS meetings (more discussions and workshops; less lecturing)

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- › Implementation of educational meetings in in-person and/or virtual sessions
- › Development of resources to encourage directors and speakers to increase engagement at sessions

2020 Completed Projects

- › Virtual ASMBS Weekend 2021
 - » Attendance: 945



STATE AND LOCAL CHAPTERS COMMITTEE

Carl Pesta, DO FASMBS

The State and Local Chapters Committee is charged with promoting the ASMBS State Chapter initiative and advancing the work of the chapters. They are responsible for reviewing applications and charter agreements, assisting chapters in the formation process and ongoing monitoring of chapter activities.

Committee Members

Co-Chair: Jenny Weaver, MD

EC Liaison: John D. Scott, MD FASMBS

Immediate Past Chair: Rachel Moore, MD FASMBS

ASMBS Staff Liaison: Leslie Vinson

Members:

Kenneth Todd Foreman, MD FASMBS, Alabama
David Podkameni, MD, Arizona
Helmuth T. Billy, MD, California/Nevada
Dana Portenier, MD, Carolinas
Jonathan Schoen, MD, Colorado
Pavlos Papasavas, MD FASMBS, Connecticut
John Pender, MD, Dakota Yellowstone

Isaias Irgau, MD, Delaware
John P. Gonzalvo, Florida, Puerto Rico & Caribbean
Shaneeta Johnson, MD FASMBS, Georgia
Brian Wong, MD, Hawaii
Steven Cahalan, MD, Iowa
Daniel Wool, MD, Illinois
Margaret Inman, MD FASMBS, Indiana
G. Brice Hamilton, MD FASMBS, Kansas

William Richardson, MD FASMBS, Louisiana
Barry Greene, MD, Maryland
Oliver Varban, MD FASMBS, Michigan
Bradley C. Linden, MD, Minnesota
Shauna Eckhouse, MD FASMBS, Missouri
David Carroll, MD FASMBS, Mississippi
Thomas White, MD FASMBS, Nebraska

Matthew Hutter, MD FASMBS, New England
Alexander Onopchenko, MD, New Jersey
William Graber, MD FASMBS, New York
Christopher Daigle, MD FASMBS FRCSC, Ohio/Kentucky
Laura Fischer, MD MS, Oklahoma/Arkansas
Farah Husain, MD FASMBS, Oregon
Ann M. Rogers, MD FASMBS, Pennsylvania

Christopher Sanborn, MD FASMBS, Tennessee
Sina Matin, MD, Texas
Guilherme Campos, MD FASMBS, Virginias
Judy Chen, MD ABOM FASMBS, Washington
Brandon Grover, DO FASMBS, Wisconsin

Committee Goals

ASMBS Mission(s) Met by the Committee:

- › To foster communication between health professionals on obesity and related conditions
- › To be the recognized authority and resource on metabolic and bariatric surgery
- › To be a highly valued specialty society that serves the educational and professional needs of its diverse membership

Committee Objectives:

- › Improve communication between individual members and the ASMBS leadership
- › Promote collegiality among colleagues and programs in the chapter
- › Encourage participation of practicing metabolic and bariatric surgeons in ASMBS
- › Offer joint sponsorship to provide CME credits during chapter meetings
- › Provide accounting and tax filing assistance for the chapters
- › Help implement projects from other committees as they roll out to the general ASMBS membership

Short-Term Goals:

- › Propose to the Executive Council that the state chapters be utilized during the next election as the turnout gains that were made last year were lost again
- › Create campaign for state chapters to increase more engagement, activity:
 - » Identify local challenges and performers and outliers via email survey to State Chapter Presidents
 - » Project that will increase value for them, i.e., local quality meetings

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- › Planned and directed the State Chapter Presidents Forum at the virtual ASMBS Weekend in January 2021

Mid-Term Goals:

- › Strengthen existing chapters
- › Increase regional collaboration within and between states to foster best practices and improve quality outcomes

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- › Continued support of all chapters as needs arise/via communication of important national and state initiatives to chapter members
- › Committee Chair participation in the IH Access to Care/ State Chapters Leaders Group calls

Long-Term Goals:

- › Maintain webpages on ASMBS site for chapters, i.e., leadership updates, meeting and event announcements
- › Promote positive relations and ongoing communication between members and national ASMBS
- › Increase membership of practicing bariatric surgeons in ASMBS
- › Encourage all ASMBS members to become state chapter members
- › Utilizing the state chapter system to encourage participation in the most important voting initiatives of the year as identified by the Executive Council

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- › Update chapter webpages with new President, meetings, and news as per chapter communication with ASMBS Staff Liaison; encourage chapters to set up and use websites more often
- › Collect State Chapter Annual reports that are submitted by the State Chapter presidents prior to our annual meeting
- › IH and MD STARs and Super STARs in all 50 states to coordinate with Access to Care Committee as needs arise
- › Collect state chapter dues (for all but HI, NJ, and New England) and distribute quarterly dues reports and member lists to chapter Presidents to assist with communication

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives (Cont.):

- › Provide ASMBs-sponsored CME for state chapter meetings
- › Continue chapter presence and support in all 50 states

2020-2021 Completed Projects:

- › Quarterly committee conference calls
- › State Chapter ASMBs webpages updated accordingly
- › Collected and disseminated quarterly dues for all participating chapters
- › Collected 2020 State Chapter Reports
- › State Chapter Presidents Forum at the virtual ASMBs Weekend in January 2021
- › Assisted the ASMBs Delaware State Chapter with finding a new Chapter President

STATE CHAPTERS

Alabama

President:

Kenneth Todd Foreman, MD
FASMBs

Past President:

Richard Stahl, MD

Vice President:

Andrew DeWitt, MD FASMBs

STAR (State Access to Care Representative):

Kenneth Todd Foreman, MD
FASMBs

Arizona

President:

David Podkameni, MD

Vice President:

James A. Madura, MD FASMBs

Secretary:

Robin Blackstone, MD FASMBs

Treasurer:

Carlos A. Galvani, MD

Executive Director:

Flavia C. Soto, MD FACS FASMBs

STAR (State Access to Care Representative):

Christine Lovato, MD FASMBs

IH STAR (State Access to Care Representative):

Lauren Pellizzon, MS RD

California/Nevada

President:

Helmuth T. Billy, MD FASMBs

Vice President:

Kelvin D. Higa, MD FASMBs

Secretary:

John M. Morton, MD FASMBs

Treasurer:

Alan C. Wittgrove, MD FASMBs

STAR (State Access to Care Representative) CA:

Ajay Upadhyay, MD FACS FRCS

STAR (State Access to Care Representative) NV:

Open

Board of Directors

Kelvin Higa, MD FASMBs
John Morton, MD FASMBs
Alan Wittgrove, MD FASMBs
Mathias A.L. Fobi, MD
Keith Boone, MD FASMBs

Carolinas

President:

Dana Portenier, MD

President-Elect:

Open

Secretary:

Charles Kenneth Mitchell, MD
FACS FASMBs

Treasurer:

Keri Seymour, DO

IH Liaison:

Nina Crowley, PhD RDN LD

STAR (State Access to Care Representative):

Keri Seymour, DO

IH STAR (State Access to Care Representative):

Nina Crowley, PhD RDN LD

Immediate Past President:

Rana Pullatt, MD MS MRCS
FASMBs

Past President:

David Wayne Overby, MD
Jason Johnson, DO
Ranjan Sudan, MD FASMBs

Colorado

President:

Jonathan A. Schoen, MD

Secretary:

Robert A. Quaid, MD

Treasurer:

Matthew Metz, MD

Integrated Health Chair:

Lynelle L. Diede, MS RN-BC CBN

STAR (State Access to Care Representative):

Matthew Metz, MD

Board Members:

Eric J. Hanly, MD
Thomas R. Brown, MD FASMBs
Joshua W. Long, MD FASMBs
Michael A. Snyder, MD FASMBs

Connecticut

President:

Pavlos Papasavas, MD FASMBs

Vice President:

Goeffrey Nadzam, MD FASMBs

Immediate Past President:

Neil Floch, MD

Past Presidents:

Aziz Benbrahim, MD FASMBs;
Jonathan Aranow, MD

Secretary/Treasurer:

Saber Ghiassi, MD MPH FASMBs

Integrated Health Chair:

Dawn Garcia, APRN

STAR (State Access to Care Representative):

Darren Tishler, MD FASMBs

Executive Director:

Katy Dunay

Members at Large:

Jonathan Aranow, MD FACS
Makram Gedeon, MD FACS
FASCRS FASMBs
Jon Pirrello, MD

Dakota Yellowstone (ID, MT, ND, SD, WY)

President:

John R. Pender, MD FACS

Vice-President:

Kevin D. Helling, MD

Secretary/Treasurer:

Kristen Loper, BSN RN

Immediate Past President:

Luis Garcia, MD MBA

STAR (State Access to Care Representative) ID:

Cory Richardson, MD FASMBs

STAR (State Access to Care Representative) MT:

John R. Pender, MD FACS

STAR (State Access to Care Representative) ND:

Ellen Vogels, DO

STAR (State Access to Care Representative) SD:

Kristen J. Turek, CNP

STAR (State Access to Care Representative) WY:

Kevin D. Helling, MD

Delaware

President:

Isaias Irgau, MD

Past President:

Michael B. Peters, MD FASMBs
FACS

Vice President:

Open

Treasurer:

Open

STAR:

Open

Florida, Puerto Rico & Caribbean

President:

John Paul Gonzalvo, DO FASMBs

Vice President/President-Elect:

Alexander Ayzengart, MD MPH

Secretary/Treasurer:

Alexander Ramirez, MD FACS

Member at Large Region 1:

Michael Edwards, MD
(Jacksonville)

Member at Large Region 2:

Andre Teixeira, MD FASC (Orlando)

Member at Large Region 3:

Bharti Shetye "Dr. Abby",
MD FOMA Dipl. ABOM (South
Pasadena)

Chapter Liaison Region 4:

Limaris Barrios, MD (Miami)

Past Presidents:

Michel Murr, MD
Samuel Szomstein, MD FASMBS

Integrated Health President:

Vicky Blackard, RN MBA/HCM
CBN

Integrated Health President-Elect:

Daniel Baughn, PhD

Integrated Health Past President:

Lynne Thompson, RN

Integrated Health Member at Large:

Aileem Schilling, MHSc RD LDN

STAR (State Access to Care Representative):

Dennis Smith, MD FASMBS

Integrated Health STAR (State Access to Care Representative):

Vicky Blackard, RN MBA/HCM
CBN

Georgia**President:**

Shaneeta Johnson, MD FASMBS

Past President:

Titus Duncan, MD
Danny Vaughn, MD

Vice President:

Open

Treasurer/Secretary:

Jamil Stetler, MD FACS

Executive Director:

Kathryn Browning

STAR (State Access to Care Representative):

Renee Hilton, MD

Board Members

Oliver Whipple, MD
Fritz Jean-Pierre, MD
Robert Richard, MD
Paul Cartwright, MD

Hawaii**President:**

Brian K. Wong, MD

Vice President:

Mark Verschell, PsyD

Secretary:

Steven Fowler, MD FASMBS

Treasurer:

Brian K. Wong, MD

Immediate Past President:

David Henry, MD
Past President:
Mark W. Grief, MD

IH Health Chair:

Julie Oliveira-Payton, LCSW

STAR (State Access to Care Representative):

Steven Fowler, MD FASMBS

Illinois**President:**

Daniel Wool, MD

Vice President:

Amir Heydari, MD

Past Presidents:

Frederick Tiesenga, MD
Jonathan Wallace, MD FASMBS
Vafa Shayani, MD FASMBS
Rami Lutfi, MD FASMBS
Christopher D. Joyce, MD
FASMBS

Secretary:

Jayaraj Salimath, DO FACOS BSN

Treasurer:

Alfonso Torquati, MD MSCI

Integrated Health President:

Laura Wool, PsyD

STAR (State Access to Care Representative):

Juaquito Jorge, MD

Executive Director:

Christine Glatz
Board Members
Gregory Dalencort, MD
Daniel Hoeltgen, MD
Juaquito Jorge, MD

Indiana**President:**

Margaret Inman, MD FASMBS
FACS

Vice President/Secretary:

Open

Treasurer:

Eric Knapp, DO FACS

Integrated Health Chair:

Sarah Muntel, RD

STAR (State Access to Care Representative):

Ambar Banerjee, MD FASMBS
FACS

Integrated Health STAR (State Access to Care Representative):

Sarah Muntel, RD

Board Members:

Denise C. Murphy, MD FACS
Dimitrios Stefanidis, MD FACS

Iowa**President:**

Steven Cahalan, MD

Past President:

Michael Phelps, MD FACS
Senior Past President: Teresa L.
LaMasters, MD FACS FASMBS

Vice President/President Elect:

Shireesh Saurabh, MD

Secretary/Treasurer:

Teresa L. LaMasters, MD FACS
FASMBS

Integrated Health Chair:

Alissa Lilla, PA-C

Integrated Health Co-Chair:

Kimberly Hibgy, RN CBN

STAR (State Access to Care Representative):

Matthew Christophersen, MD

Member at Large:

Kyle Ver Steeg, MD FASMBS

Board Members:

Teresa L. LaMasters MD FACS
FASMBS
Kyle Ver Steeg, MD FASMBS
Michael Phelps, MD FACS

Kansas**President:**

Brice Hamilton, MD FASMBS

Vice President:

Stanley Hoehn, MD FASMBS

Secretary:

Stanley Hoehn, MD FASMBS

Treasurer:

Robert Aragon, MD

STAR (State Access to Care Representative):

Robert Aragon, MD

Louisiana**President:**

William S. Richardson, MD
FASMBS

Vice President:

Christopher DuCoin, MD MPH
FASMBS

Immediate Past President:

James G. Redmann, MD FASMBS

Past President:

Uyen Chu, MD

Secretary/Treasurer:

Jonathan Taylor, MD

Integrated Health Chair:

Marci Parker, LDN RD

STAR (State Access to Care Representative):

Peter Lundberg, MD

Integrated Health STAR (State Access to Care Representative):

Laura Boyer, FNP C CBN

Board Members:

Philip Gachassin, MD
Rachel Moore, MD FASMBS
James Parrish, MD FASMBS

Maryland**President:**

Barry Greene, MD FACS

Immediate Past President:

Alejandro Gandsas, MD MBA

Vice President:

Michael Schweitzer, MD FASMBS

Secretary:

Carol Cronauer, MSN RN

Treasurer:

Joseph Greene, MD MBA

STAR (State Access to Care Representative):

Joseph Greene, MD MBA

Board Members:

Betsy Dovec, MD FACS FASMBS
Gustavo Bello, MD
Christopher You, MD FASMBS
Annie Clift
Alejandro Gandsas, MD MBA

Michigan**President:**

Oliver Varban, MD FASMBS

Vice President:

Mindy K. Lane, DO

Treasurer:

Jon Schram, MD

Secretary:

Nabeel Obeid, MD

Integrated Health Chair:

Rachel Blind, NP-BC CBN

Integrated Health Co-Chair:

Tracy Hannan, BSN RNFA CNOR

Past Presidents:

David Chengelis, MD
Jeffrey Genaw, MD FACS FASMBS
Carl Pesta, DO FASMBS

Jamie Foote, MD

Matthew Weiner, MD

Wayne English, MD FAC FASMBS

Stuart Verseman, MD

Arthur Carlin, MD FASMBS

Randal Baker, MD

STAR (State Access to Care Representative):

Kathryn Ziegler, MD

IH STAR (State Access to Care Representative):

Colleen Buda, PA-C CSOWM

Board of Directors:

Amanda Stricklen, RN MS
Rachel Ross, RN MS
Mandy Pate, RN
Colleen Buda, PA-C CSOWM
Alexandra Kennedy, MPH RDN

Minnesota

President:

Bradley C. Linden, MD

Past Presidents:

Todd Kellogg, MD

Howard McCollister, MD

Charles Allen Svendsen, MD
FASMBS

Vice President/President Elect:

Girish Luthra, MBBS

Treasurer:

Matthew Bettendorf, MD

Secretary:

Barbara Sampson, MS RN

Integrated Health Chair:

Kristen Ewing, RD

Access to Care Representative:

Geoffrey Fasen, MD MS

Integrated Health Access to Care Representative:

Kristen Ewing, RD

Mississippi

President:

David Carroll, MD

Past President:

Kenneth Cleveland, MD

Vice President:

Jonathan Adkins, MD

Treasurer/Secretary:

Annette Low, MD

STAR (State Access to Care Representative):

Jennifer O'Flarity, RN BSN

Missouri

President:

Shaina Eckhouse, MD FASMBS

Immediate Past President:

Norbert Richardson, MD FASMBS

Past Presidents:

James Pitt, DO FASMBS

J. Stephen Scott, MD

J. Chris Eagon, MD FASMBS

Secretary:

Angela Britt, BC

(STAR) State Access to Care Representative:

J. Chris Eagon, MD FASMBS

IH (STAR) State Access to Care Representative:

Angela Britt, BC

Board Members:

Mark J. Perna, MD

John M. Price, MD FASMBS

Nebraska

President:

Thomas J. White, MD FASMBS

Vice President/Secretary:

Gary J. Anthone, MD FASMBS

Treasurer:

Corrigan L. McBride, MD FASMBS

STAR (State Access to Care Representative):

Gary J. Anthone, MD FASMBS

New England (MA, ME, NH, RI, VT)

President:

Matthew Hutter, MD MPH FASMBS

Vice President/Secretary:

John Romanelli, MD

Treasurer:

David Lautz, MD

STAR (State Access to Care Representative) MA:

Sheila Partridge, MD FASMBS

STAR (State Access to Care Representative) ME:

Jamie Loggins, MD

STAR (State Access to Care Representative) NH:

Robert Catania, MD FASMBS

STAR (State Access to Care Representative) RI:

Siva Vithiananthan, MD FASMBS

STAR (State Access to Care Representative) VT:

Patrick Forgione, MD

IH STAR (State Access to Care Representative (All New England):

Melissa Page, MS RD CSOWM LDN

New Jersey

President:

Saniea Majid, MD FACS ABOM
FASMBS

Vice President:

TBA

Treasurer/Secretary:

TBA

Past Presidents:

Alexander Onopchenko, MD FACS;
Naveen Ballem, MD FACS FASMBS;
Michael Bilof, MD FACS FASMBS;
Muhammad Feteiha, MD FACS

Executive Director:

Andrea Donelan

Integrated Health Chair:

Alexander Onopchenko, MD FACS

Integrated Health Co-Chair:

TBA

STAR (State Access to Care Representative):

Michael Bilof, MD FASMBS

New York

President:

Aurora Pryor, MD MBA FASMBS

Immediate Past President:

William Graber, MD FASMBS

Secretary:

Dang Tuan Pham, MD FACS

Treasurer:

Konstantinos Spaniolas, MD
FASMBS

Integrated Health Chair:

Genna Hymowitz, PhD

Integrated Health Co-Chair:

Mae Zoltowsky, RN

Integrated Health Member at Large:

Darragh Herlihy, NP CBN

Executive Director:

Caroline Sanicola, MBSCR

Founder-Past President:

Mitchell Roslin, MD FASMBS

Past Presidents:

William O'Malley, MD

Terence Clarke, MD FASMBS

Ashutosh Kaul, MD

Dominick Gadaleta, MD FASMBS

Bylaws Committee Chair:

Collin Brathwaite, MD

Website Forum Chair:

Daniel Herron, MD FASMBS

STAR (State Access to Care Representative):

William O'Malley, MD

Ohio/Kentucky

President:

Christopher Daigle, MD FASMBS
FRCSC

Vice President:

Sergio Bardaro, MD FACS FASMBS

Past Presidents:

Adrian Dan, MD FASMBS

C. Joe Northup, MD FASMBS

Bradley J. Needleman, MD
FASMBS

Secretary/Treasurer:

Leslie Pristas, DO

Integrated Health Chair:

TBD

STAR (State Access to Care Representative Ohio):

C. Joe Northup, MD FASMBS

STAR (State Access to Care Representative Kentucky):

Joshua Steiner, MD

IH STAR (State Access to Care Representative Ohio/Kentucky):

Open

Oklahoma/Arkansas

President:

Laura Fischer, MD MS

Secretary:

Zhamak Khorgami, MD

Treasurer:

Mohammad Farukhi, MD

Past President:

Hamilton Le, MD FASMBS; Luis
Gorospe, MD

STAR (State Access to Care Representative) OK:

Roy Greenway, Jr., MD

STAR (State Access to Care Representative) AR:

Josh Roller, MD

Oregon

President:

Farah Husain, MD FASMBS

Past Presidents:

Mark Eaton, MD

Catherine Boulay, MD FASMBS

Joshua Pfeiffer, MD

Donald Yarbrough, MD

Kevin Reavis, MD

Vice President:

Andrea Stroud, MD MS

Secretary:

Stephen Archer, MD, FASMBS

Treasurer:

Valerie Halpin, MD FASMBS

Integrated Health Chair:

Jaymey Sweeney, FNP

STAR (State Access to Care Representative):

Farah Husain, MD FASMBS

Integrated Health STAR (State Access to Care Representative):

Greg Showell, RN

Pennsylvania

President:

Ann Rogers, MD FASMBS

Past Presidents:

Michael D. Bono, MD

Fernando Bonanni, MD FACS
FASMBS

Vice President:

Joseph McPhee, MD FASMBS

Secretary/Treasurer:

Luciano Dimarco, DO

Integrated Health Chair:

Cynthia Hipszer, RN MSN CNML
CBN

STAR (State Access to Care Representative):

Ann Rogers, MD FASMBS

Integrated Health STAR (State Access to Care Representative):

Cynthia Hipszer, RN MSN CNML CBN

Founding Members:

Amjad Ali, MD
Fernando Bonanni, MD FACS FASMBS
Michael D. Bono, MD
Alan Brader, MD
Scot Currie, DO FACOS FASMBS DO, Luciano DiMarco, DO

Executive Director:

Allen J. Cwalina

Tennessee

President:

Christopher Sanborn, MD FASMBS

Immediate Past President:

Virginia (Jenny) M. Weaver, MD FACS

Past President:

Brandon Williams, MD FACS FASMBS

Vice President:

Matthew Spann, MD FASMBS

Secretary/Treasurer:

Mariah Beasley, MD

Integrated Health Chair:

Sarah Grimes, RN CBN

Integrated Health Co-Chair:

Cynthia Blalock, APRN, RN

STAR (State Access to Care Representative):

Jenny M. Weaver, MD FACS

Integrated Health President:

John Archibeque, MSN MBA CBSGL RN CBN

Integrated Health Vice President:

Open

Integrated Health Secretary:

Blanca Villarreal, RD LD

Integrated Health Past Presidents:

Carol Wolin, MA RD LD
Sharla Stroup, RN CBN CNOR
Renee O'Daniel, RN MSN
Cyndi Inkpen, DHA MPA MA CBSGL

Connie Klein, NP CBN

Executive Director:

Carrie Steffen

STAR (State Access to Care Representative):

Tanyaradzwa Kajese, MD FASMBS

Lower Midwest Regional Super STAR:

Robert O. Carpenter, MD MPH FASMBS

Past Lower Midwest Regional Super STAR:

Richard Peterson, MD MPH FACS FASMBS

Board Members:

Kulvinder Bajwa, MD FASMBS (Coastal)
Folahan Ayoola, MD FASMBS (Member at Large)
Monique Hassan, MD FACS FASMBS (Member at Large)
Kristopher Knoop, MD (Member at Large)
Jennifer Seger, MD (Member at Large)

Virginia/West Virginia

President:

Guilherme M. Campos, MD PhD FACS FASMBS

Vice President:

Gregory Adams, MD FACS

Secretary/Treasurer:

Rachel Wilson, BS

Integrated Health Chair:

Nathaniel Sann, MSN CRNP FNP-BC

Integrated Health Past Chair:

Jeannine Moss, NP

Integrated Health Co-Chair:

Stacy Gittler, PAC

Past Presidents:

Kinga Powers, MD PhD SAMVAMC
Troy Glembot, MD FASMBS

STAR (State Access to Care Rep):

Guilherme M. Campos, MD PhD FACS FASMBS

IH STAR (State Access to Care Representative):

Nathaniel Sann, MSN CRNP FNP-BC

Washington

President:

Judy Chen, MD ABOM FASMBS

Vice President:

Thien Nguyen, MD

Past Presidents:

Alana Chock, MD FASMBS
Ross McMahon, MD
Robert Michaelson, MD
Jeffrey Hunter, MD

Secretary:

Monica Young, MD

Treasurer:

Sarah Martin Del Campo, MD MS

Integrated Health Chair:

Julie Vieselmeyer, PhD

STAR (State Access to Care Representative):

Mohan Mallipeddi, MD

Board Member:

Laura Montour, MD (Member at Large)

Wisconsin

President:

Brandon T. Grover, DO FASMBS

Immediate Past President:

Luke Funk, MD MPH FASMBS

Vice President:

Daniel McKenna, MD

Secretary:

Tammy Kindel, MD FASMBS

STARs (State Access to Care Representatives):

Kevin Wasco, MD FASMBS

Board Members at Large:

James Rydlewicz, MD (Aurora Health Care, Grafton)
Hassanain Jassim, MD (Prevea Health, Green Bay)

Corporate Council

Corporate Council enriches community relations, contributes financially, and plays a leadership role in the future of treatment of individuals with obesity. ASMBS' builds the relationship between industry and ASMBS' members, offering monthly/quarterly meetings, conferences, marketing opportunities, and other collaborative ventures. Industry plays an essential role in providing services, products, and equipment that supplement the relationship between the healthcare provider and the patient. ASMBS recognizes the importance of industry and is proud to partner with leading bariatric/metabolic companies through the ASMBS Corporate Council offering avenue for awareness and support.



In addition to supporting the ASMBS Weekend & the ASMBS Annual Meeting; the Access to Care Initiatives; this past year the Council contributed to a one-time special project: an "Obesity in America" survey. ASMBS Leadership will utilize the results from the survey to help guide program planning and establish goals for the future.

Steering Committee Members:

Chair Conor McCrea, W.L. Gore	Secretary Jim Stockham, Bariatric Advantage	Director-At-Large Aaron Wik, New Tri Health	ASMBS IH President Elect Nathaniel Sann, MSN, CRNP, FNP-BC
Chair Elect Christopher Moccia, Bariatric Times	Director-At-Large Jarrod Buchman, Sequence Health	ASMBS President Matthew Hutter, MD	ASMBS Executive Director Georgeann Mallory, RD
Past Chair Brian Costello, Medtronic	Director-At-Large Kimberly Williams, Novo Nordisk	ASMBS President Elect Shanu Kothari, MD FASMBS	ASMBS Staff Liaison Danielle Marsh
Senior Past Chair Bob Dougherty, Bariatric Times	Director-At-Large Hilary Dilsaver, Olympus	ASMBS IH President Lisa West-Smith, PhD, LISW-S	

Corporate Council Members:

Advantage Point Behavioral	Ethicon	Sequence Health
Bariatric Advantage, Inc.	Health Economic Advisors, Inc.	The Parthenon Co/Devrom
Bariatric Fusion, Inc.	Medtronic	Universal Body Labs
BariatricPal	NewTri Health	Unjury
Bariatric Times	Novo Nordisk	W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc.
Baritastic	Olympus America Inc.	
Baritax360	ProCare Health	
Celebrate Vitamins	ReShape Lifesciences, Inc.	
Endo Pharmaceuticals	Seaport Insurance Services, Inc.	

For full details of the goals and future projects of the Corporate Council visit [ASMBS.org](https://www.asmbso.org)

SURGERY FOR OBESITY AND RELATED DISEASES

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR METABOLIC AND BARIATRIC SURGERY

SOARD Annual Report

IMPACT FACTOR

- › Our 2019 Impact Factor (IF) increased to 3.812 from its previous recorded IF last year (3.758). In the 'Surgery' category, SOARD is ranked 30th of 210 titles, still a slightly higher place than Obesity Medicine (36th). The IF is calculated by measuring the average number of citations received in a particular year by items published in the journal during the two preceding years.

SUBMISSIONS

- › 2020 was a strong year for the journal. The journal received 897 new submissions in 2020, which was a 32% increase. We received 619 Original Reports, 95 Paired Editorials, 63 Review Articles, 59 Case Reports, 25 Letters, 11 Controversies in Bariatric Surgery, 7 Images, 4 ASMBS Guidelines, 3 Surgeon at Work, and 3 Methodology. The top 5 countries for submissions were USA (310), Italy (51), China (49), France (44) and Brazil (36); and the top 5 countries for accepted articles were USA (193), France (25), Canada (22), Spain (15) and Italy (15).

ACCOUNTABILITY

- › The increase in submissions has allowed the journal to be more selective in the articles we accept. In 2020, the acceptance rate for all submissions was 45% and 38% for reviewed articles; in 2019 we accepted 50% of all submissions and 43% of reviewed articles. We continue to process papers efficiently: The average time from submission to editor assignment was less than 1 day; the average time from submission to reviewer invitation was 10 days; and the average time from submission to first decision was under 23.7 days.

REVIEWERS

- › We are extremely appreciative for the efforts of our reviewers all of whom are acknowledged in the journal. There are six reviewers who completed 18 or more reviews in 2020: Michel Gagner (68), Benjamin Clapp (25), Anthony Petrick (18), Mathew Martin (18), Ricardo Cohen (18) and Vance Albaugh (18).

FEDERAL ADVOCACY

Treat and Reduce Obesity Act

- › We continue to aggressively advocate for passage of the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act (TROA) – especially in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and clear data linking obesity to severe outcomes for COVID-19. While this legislation has now been introduced in a 5th consecutive Congress, we are hopeful for a number of reasons.
- › Obesity being recognized only behind old age as leading risk factor for severe outcomes from COVID
- › Former House GOP TROA lead Brett Guthrie (R-KY) is now the Ranking Member of the House Energy & Commerce Health Subcommittee and joins E&C Health Subcommittee Chair Anna Eshoo (D-CA) as former cosponsors of TROA. Given this Committee has shared jurisdiction over TROA, this should help secure a hearing and movement on the legislation.
- › We are currently working with TROA House champion Rep. Raul Ruiz, MD (D-CA) to become more active on the legislation from the angle of health disparities and minority health. Rep. Ruiz is the new Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) and we have already laid some of this groundwork through a meeting with CHC Executive Director Alma Acosta.
- › ASMBS helped promote a congressional webinar during Obesity Care Week, entitled “Obesity Care, COVID-19 and Communities of Color” that focused on TROA and featured obesity medicine specialist and AMA Minority Affairs Section Chair Dr. Fatima Cody Stanford.
- › ASMBS Washington Representative Chris Gallagher participated in a meeting between OCAN Co-Chairs and lead Biden transition team staff for CMS, CDC and FDA, which included Jon Blum who will soon be heading up the Medicare side of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. During this meeting, Mr. Blum asked whether the obesity community had developed an ideal benefit design for obesity care. We responded by sharing the STOP Obesity Alliance’s Comprehensive Obesity Benefit. Gallagher also provided a document he developed entitled, “Supplemental Background on the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act and other Patient Access to Care Issues” that highlighted the previous decade of advocacy efforts by the obesity community to promote coverage of comprehensive obesity care.

Affordable Care Act: Essential Health Benefits

- › Given that the new Biden Administration has signaled that it will focus on expanding access to care through strengthening Affordable Care Act (ACA) regulations and programs, we are beginning outreach with CMS’ Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO), which is the agency overseeing state healthcare exchanges and essential health benefits (EHB). President Biden’s newly confirmed CMS Administrator is Chiquita Brooks-LaSure who served in a leadership role at CCIIO during the Obama Administration. I brokered a meeting between the Obesity Care Continuum and Brooks-LaSure roughly a decade ago as the Obama Administration was crafting the final regulations to implement the ACA. Our approach with CCIIO will be to highlight how millions of Americans continue to lack access to and coverage of comprehensive obesity care 10+ years following passage of the ACA.
- › Our primary objectives with CCIIO and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS):
- › HHS should issue guidance recognizing obesity as a chronic disease to preclude state health exchange plans from excluding coverage for obesity treatment services such as IBT, pharmacotherapy and bariatric surgery.
- › At a minimum, HHS should issue guidance that parallels OPM’s policy for FEHBP carriers to prohibit state health exchange plans from excluding obesity treatment coverage on the basis that obesity is a “lifestyle” condition or that treatment is “cosmetic” and requiring health plans to provide a clinical rationale for excluding obesity care coverage.
- › Reinstate the Department of Labor FAQ regarding general health plan exclusions for weight management services.

STATE ADVOCACY

State Updates

- Louisiana: ASMBS provided support for the ASMBS Louisiana State Chapter's advocacy efforts to secure final passage of Senate Bill (SB) 150, which is being championed by State Senate Health Committee Vice Chair Regina Barrow (D), fellow Committee member Gerald Boudreaux (D), and House Health Committee Chair Larry Bagley (R). This legislation would provide bariatric surgery coverage to treat severe obesity under the state employee health plan. At the time of this report, SB 150 had passed the Senate in May and was just approved by the House on June third and now awaits the Governor's signature.
- Connecticut: ASMBS CT State Chapter members worked with obesity medicine advocates to support passage of Senate Bill 1007, legislation which is being championed by Senators Eric Berthel (R-32) and Saud Anwar (D-3) and Representatives Bobby G. Gibson (D-15) and Tom Delnicki (R-14). SB 1007 calls for the State Medicaid program and private health insurance plans in Connecticut to provide robust coverage for metabolic and bariatric surgery and FDA-approved obesity drugs. This legislation was unanimously approved by the Joint Real Estate and Insurance Committee in March following a hearing on the bill where several obesity advocates testified in support of the bill. ASMBS Washington Representative Chris Gallagher provided oral testimony during the hearing on behalf of the Obesity Action Coalition (OAC) to bring the patient voice to bear on Committee members. Gallagher also worked with the OAC on a state action alert to engage ASMBS members and other obesity advocates in Connecticut to urge their state senator and state representative to support this legislation.
- Virginia: in 2019, ASMBS Washington Representative Chris Gallagher helped establish the Virginia STAR working group, which involves numerous advocates from the member groups of the Obesity Care Continuum. Participants in the working group include ASMBS surgeon and integrated health members Dr. Guilherme Campos, Nate Sann and Nina Crowley. This broad group continues to dialogue with state policymakers regarding coverage issues within the state employee plan such as limited obesity drug options and egregious bariatric surgery prior authorization requirements.
- ASMBS is also very active in supporting continuing efforts at the state level to secure coverage for comprehensive obesity care in state employee health plans and Medicaid. For example, ASMBS supported efforts to provide state level coverage for pharmacotherapy in Connecticut, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.
- STOP Obesity Alliance: As a first step toward standardizing the availability of obesity care across plans, the STOP Obesity Alliance has designed a comprehensive obesity benefit that provides guidance on the core components of obesity care and the conditions under which these services and/or items ought to be covered. Development of this benefit was informed by input from experts and key stakeholders, including representatives from large employers, health care plans and payers, patients and providers.
- Potential future actions include:
 - Identify a large employer champion that has committed to implement the comprehensive obesity benefit for their employees and create opportunities to lift up their experience.
 - Continue to share the comprehensive obesity benefit with employers, individuals who make decisions on benefit design, and health care plans that are competing for employers. Channels could include journal publications, targeted media outreach and speaking engagements.
 - Share the comprehensive obesity benefit with state and federal policymakers as well as avenues for inclusion in state employee health plans, Medicaid and Medicare.
 - STOP is currently gathering data on the utilization of obesity care benefits in State Employee Health plans for at least ten states. The insights from this research would align prevalence of obesity as a disease to the access and utilization of benefits.



The ASMBS Foundation has given a total of over \$2 million in support of ASMBS programs and projects.

The ASMBS Foundation has helped kick start programs, awarded research and community grants and fueled advocacy, education and awareness initiatives that have helped shape policy and perceptions of obesity and metabolic and bariatric surgery:

- > ASMBS Certified Bariatric Nurse (CBN) Program
- > Awarded 30 ASMBS Research Grants
- > ASMBS Nutrition Guidelines Project
- > ASMBS Online CME Program
- > ASMBS Integrated Health Abstract Session Awards at Obesity Week
- > Edward Mason Professorship at the University of Iowa
- > Educational and advocacy initiatives of the Obesity Action Coalition (OAC)
- > Nationwide Walk from Obesity awareness events (annual since 2003) – The 2008 Walk from Obesity's Walk on the Capitol in Washington, DC – Walk from Obesity Cookbook
- > Awarded Bryan G. Woodward Community Grants to support local initiatives to address the obesity epidemic
- > ASMBS Fall Educational Courses (2010 & 2011)
- > The Foundation supports the ASMBS' multi-pronged initiatives to increase patient access to safe and effective treatment for the disease of obesity
- > ASMBS International Committee Awards
- > ASMBS Patient Booklet (revised)
- > ASMBS jLog™ Program
- > ASMBS State Chapter Summit
- > ASMBS Educational Meetings at ObesityWeek
- > ASMBS Quality Improvement Project
- > 2/22 Pedometer Challenge (awareness campaign)
- > ASMBS Essentials of Bariatric & Metabolic Surgery App
- > ASMBS Report on Obesity National Survey
- > The ABS/ASMBS Fellowship Curriculum Pilot Program's Objective Performance Data App
- > Launched AWARE, the monthly giving campaign
- > Launched ASMBS Foundation video
- > Introduced a Gala Evening to LEAD Awards
- > Launched #KeepWalking social media campaign
- > Implemented the Virtual National Walk from Obesity Day
- > Awarded special grants focused on the impact of Covid-19 on patients before and/or after bariatric surgery

ASMBS Foundation's Board of Directors:

President

Paul Enochs, MD

Secretary/Treasurer

Carl Pesta, DO, FASMBS

Past President

Rami Lutfi, MD

Members

Victoria Bruce
Karen Flanders, MSN
Eric DeMaria, MD
Neil Floch, MD
Carlos Galvani, MD
Farah Husain, MD

Matthew Kroh, MD
Saniea Majid, MD
Georgeann Mallory, RD
Rich Peterson, MD
Jaime Ponce, MD
Nate Sann, MD

Staff:

Executive Director

Michael Votta

Program and Events Director

Randy Slade

The ASMBS Foundation's LEAD Awards

The Foundation's Outstanding Achievement, Master Educator, Excellence in Nutrition, Patient Safety & Quality and Distinguished Industry Partner awards honor leaders in the field of bariatric surgery and are presented at the annual LEAD Awards event, held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the ASMBS at ObesityWeek.

ASMBS Foundation's Mission:

The mission of the ASMBS Foundation is to raise funds for conducting research and education, increasing public and scientific awareness and understanding, and improving access to quality care and treatment of obesity and morbid obesity.

- > Raise Funds that directly support critical research and education on obesity, severe obesity, and metabolic and bariatric surgery.

- > Increase Scientific and Public Awareness and Understanding of obesity as a disease and that treatment of obesity and severe obesity can prevent, improve or resolve many metabolic diseases including type 2 diabetes and other diseases including cancer.
- > Improve Access to Quality Care and Treatment for Americans with obesity and severe obesity by eliminating policy, societal, economic and medical barriers that deny people appropriate treatment and support.

The ASMBS Foundation shares the vision of the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) to improve the public health and well-being by lessening the burden of the disease of obesity and related diseases throughout the world.