



2022-2023

ASMBS Annual Report

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Teresa LaMasters, MD FACS DABOM FASMBS

The 2022- 2023 year has been an exciting year for ASMBS and for the growth of metabolic bariatric surgery. This year saw an explosion of anti-obesity medication use and significant media interest and coverage. ASMBS published a review on anti-obesity medication and the increased media attention gave us many opportunities to discuss the disease of obesity and the power of surgical treatment of the disease with a broader audience. We were able to continue to reinforce the understanding of obesity as a chronic disease that needs multiple options for treatment including multimodal treatment and combined therapy. We discussed the treatment of obesity using an oncological model of treatment. This includes neo-adjuvant therapy for the downstaging of disease and treatment of very early disease. This would include lifestyle and behavior changes, medications, and possibly endoscopic therapy. The next step would be surgical therapy which is the critical component to change the biochemistry and hormones that are the basis of the disease state, allowing the brain to reset the “set point” or weight at which the body defends weight change. Metabolic bariatric surgery is the only therapy that has been demonstrated to actually change this set point. Then we consider adjuvant therapy for improving the response to surgery for those with severe disease, improving the response for partial responders, and for treatment of recurrent disease. Because there is no known cure for obesity, some people will have progressive disease that may require additional treatment including additional medication, endoscopic, or surgical therapy. We know for every treatment modality there is a trade-off. As we increase the power of the intervention, we also increase the expected adverse events and the potential for complications. Using a shared decision model with the patient to understand their goals, risks, and what level they can participate in the treatment of their chronic disease can help inform the treatment options.

COVID-19 increased awareness of obesity as a disease that increased the risk of death and major health problems. ASMBS partnered with NORC an independent research organization at the University of Chicago to further understand the perception of the public around obesity in America. The obesity in America survey conducted by NORC was supported by the ASMBS Foundation, now with a new name, TREO Foundation. More people felt obesity was a very serious disease and about 28 million people started considering obesity treatment they had never considered before including medical and surgical treatment. The results of the survey have been published in SOARD.

One of the biggest events of the year was the joint publication of the 2022 ASMBS/IFSO Indications for Bariatric Surgery. This was a joint effort between ASMBS and IFSO to bring the guidelines for indications for bariatric surgery up to date with current evidence. Many insurance companies were still using the 1991 NIH guidelines from over 30 years ago. The new indications supported expanding the BMI range to a lower BMI with or without comorbidities, especially for patients with Type 2 diabetes with a BMI down to 30, use of bariatric surgery in high-risk populations, and expanded age ranges including older patients and adolescents, MBS as a bridge to other procedures, and use of a multidisciplinary team approach in MBS surgery. This was a tremendous collaborative effort led by Dan Eisenberg and Shanu Kothari. Our Access to Care Committee under the leadership of Mickey Seager has worked extremely hard to increase the adoption of the new indications as well as expanding access for SADI-S and OAGB. There was a great deal of media coverage around the expanded indications and many major insurance providers have already incorporated large portions of the updated indications guideline. The expanded indications are directly related to the safety and outstanding outcomes that have come with the widespread adoption of MBSAQIP accreditation with continuous quality improvement and multidisciplinary team approaches to the care of the patient.

We have had other success in collaboration with organizations that focus on the treatment of obesity. We have been working with the Roundtable on Roadblocks to Obesity Treatment consisting of ASMBS, Obesity Medical Association (OMA), The Obesity Society (TOS), Obesity Action Coalition (OAC), STOP Obesity Alliance, and Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND). We have had several meetings to understand how we can work together to improve education, awareness, and access to evidence-based obesity treatment.

We have developed a consensus statement on obesity and are working on obesity care standards. We have also had significant success in gaining support for obesity treatment, including metabolic bariatric surgery from the AMA. Our representatives, Drs. John Scott and Samer Mattar have been able to work with other societies including SAGES to marshal resources and support from the AMA.

We have also launched a re-design of the ASMBS website. The goal is to make the site more modern and user-friendly for members as well as provide a separate entry point for patients with patient-facing materials. There are many fantastic resources for our members to use on the website and we want to be sure they are accessible. Surprisingly we found during our assessment of the current website that 40% of the traffic identified themselves as patients. Our previous website was only designed for member use. This will be the first time we will have a place for the public and potential patients to access patient-facing materials directly from ASMBS. The public education committee led by Drs. Ryan Lehman and Rickesha Wilson have done a tremendous amount of work to update our patient resources area of the website in preparation for the new website launch.

One of our primary focus areas is a strategy to increase the utilization of metabolic bariatric surgery by those who are eligible for surgery. As a part of that strategy, we have increased our efforts in direct-to-consumer engagement. Previously, we have engaged in projects including Escape Diabetes and WebMD to reach the public. We are starting to enhance these efforts by collaborating with partners in industry and other societies who treat people with obesity. The next step is a direct-to-consumer marketing campaign. We need to win the hearts and minds of the public to increase the number of people who seek treatment for the life-threatening disease of obesity.

The engine of the society is the members and the 26 committee members who produce a tremendous amount of work in support of our members and our patients. These committees have been very active and I want to thank each of you for your efforts and for sharing your time and talent with ASMBS. It takes a great deal of time, including evenings and weekends to produce the work product of the organization. We have an incredibly productive volunteer army. ASMBS is my surgical home, and I am so proud to be a part of this organization with such dedicated members who are my extended family.

The committees have been very active, including the committee of the year, the Public Education Committee. Not only have they updated the patient resources for the website, but they have also created a virtual education seminar with a voiceover that our members can use in their practice, created educational materials with Spanish translation, and are preparing for a national obesity awareness forum. This is a very active energetic committee where every member has made a significant contribution. Congratulations to Drs. Ryan Lehman and Rickesha Wilson as well as each committee member!

The Communications Committee under the leadership of Drs. Omar Ghanem and Christine Lovato have been very active in helping communicate with our members about the great work of our committees, highlighting landmark articles from SOARD, and highlighting our educational meetings. They have produced videos to help demonstrate the value of membership and what it is to be a member of ASMBS. They also created a whiteboard tool to help the committees stay abreast of the work of the society to best collaborate and support each other. This committee has done a tremendous amount of work this year.

We also had a successful second year for the American Board of Surgery Focused Practice Designation in Metabolic Bariatric Surgery exam. This exam provides the opportunity to demonstrate the skills of the specialty designation of metabolic bariatric surgery that sets us apart as experts in the field with a body of knowledge separate from general surgery. We are the first specialty to have the focused practice designation. There are now over 200 metabolic bariatric surgeons with this special designation DABS-FPMBS. Surgeons can receive 50 CME credits from the American Board of Surgery for completing the exam.

The Bariatric Surgery Training Committee created the Surgical Technique and Advanced Robotic Training Program (START) for fellows to learn advanced robotic techniques. The first class of fellows received their certificate and a celebration at the annual ASMBS meeting.

ASMBS wants to support our members in the constant effort to show the value we bring as metabolic bariatric surgery specialists. We conducted an update of the ASMBS Compensation and Practice Survey led by Dr. Wesley Vosburg.

The original survey was conducted more than 10 years ago by Nate Sann and me. ASMBS has had many requests from members to update the survey. We were able to provide members with recent data on compensation to help with job searches and negotiations.

The integrated health members have been very active in producing excellent resources for our members including webinars around support groups, nutrition, and behavioral health. The IH CIC along with the diversity and inclusion committee produced a paper “American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery review on fasting for religious purposes after surgery” to support improved cultural sensitivity with our patients. I want to thank Nate Sann for serving an extended two-year term as the IH president and doing an excellent job. The Executive Council has been actively involved in the process of selecting the Executive Director for ASMBS. There has been a formal search process to evaluate both internal and external candidates for this role. We have employed the services of Sterling Martin and Associates to assist with the process which is nearing conclusion, and we hope to make an announcement soon.

I want to give a special thank you to Kristie Kaufman, who has done an excellent job serving in the Interim Executive Director role for the past 2 years. She graciously accepted the role after the retirement of Georgeann Mallory, who served as Executive Director for 25 years. I cannot thank her enough for all the time and dedication to serving ASMBS. She has been serving ASMBS for 20 years as the chief operating officer and has done an excellent job managing our meetings, accreditation, and staff. For the past two years, she has had the additional responsibility to support the ASMBS President and the Executive Council. I appreciate her passion and energy, and I could not have been successful this year without her.


I would like to thank the entire staff of ASMBS especially Jenny Wynn Deputy ED, James Osterhout IT, and Leslie Vinson Access to Care, who have given many years of dedicated service to ASMBS. This is a very active and vibrant society, and we could not achieve this high level of success without our staff that supports the society and its members every day.

Our society is one of the few societies where the members elect the leadership. This year our members voted for Richard Peterson as Secretary/Treasurer who will progress on to be president in 2025-2026, and for Monique Hassan, Colleen Kennedy, and Rana Pullatt to join the Executive Council for a 3-year term as members at large. These new members bring great depth and will continue to strengthen the leadership of the society.

I want to thank the Executive Council for the hard work and steady judgment as stewards for the society looking to support the mission with education, research, and advocacy. I especially want to thank the ECEC members Drs. Shanu Kothari, Marina Kurian, and Ann Rogers who met with me weekly working as a cohesive leadership team to continue to help ASMBS innovate and make forward progress.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve the ASMBS as President. It has been a tremendous honor and privilege to work with so many talented people in this amazing society. I feel like we have made strides in the awareness and acceptance of obesity as a disease and metabolic bariatric surgery as the most effective treatment for the disease. Our work is not done, but I think we are on the verge of seeing a significant expansion in the utilization of metabolic bariatric surgery. I encourage each of you to continue to contribute to this great society and the bright future ahead.

Respectfully submitted



Teresa LaMasters MD, FASMBS, FACS, DABOM, DABS-FPMBS
President ASMBS



From Our Integrated Health President

FROM OUR IH PRESIDENT

Nathaniel Sann, MSN FNP-BC FASMBS-IH

It has been my honor and privilege to serve you as your IH President for the past 2 years. During my tenure, I was extremely grateful for the trust and unfailing support of both our leadership team and our members. Throughout this journey we have together faced both adversities and achievements that will continue to make positive impacts on the future growth of our Society. I am immensely proud of what our team has accomplished, and it is a testament to each one of you for your dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment.

I would like to especially thank our leaders who have paved the way for us. Thank you to my mentors and your past IH Presidents. Karen Flanders, NP-C, CBN and Lisa West-Smith, PhD, LISW-S who have provided guidance to our organization and have forged a path for IH roles within the Society.

In addition, a heartfelt thank you to our IH leadership for all the remarkable accomplishments they have produced. The IH Executive Council and our committee leaders have shown a steadfast dedication to our members and focused their efforts toward enhancing the value of IH membership. This would not have been possible without the remarkable support of our ASMBS staff colleagues, who facilitated all our projects and provided guidance to get these projects from the initial proposals to completed projects. I also want to thank our Surgeon Executive Council for all their leadership and collaboration. They have been proven to be invaluable partners.

As my term ends, I am excited and optimistic about the trajectory of Society under the future IH leadership team. Your incoming IH President is Stephanie Sogg, PhD. Dr. Sogg has impressive academic contributions and extensive clinical experience. Her leadership at all levels of our organization gives her a deep understanding of our members' needs and her expertise and analytical approach will be instrumental in propelling us to new heights. Heidi Bednarchuk MSN, ARNP, CNS has been elected to the IH President elect position. She is a true servant leader and is an incredible asset to the Society. She has a wealth of experience serving on multiple committees and has the necessary understanding of the inner workings of our organization that is necessary to facilitate projects that meet our membership's needs. Our new Secretary/Treasurer is Kellie Armstrong MSN, RN, CBN. Kellie is a well-known and a respected clinician and leader, whose passion and dedication empowers our team to thrive.

Our committee members have made numerous remarkable achievements over the past 2 years and I appreciate each of one you and your commitment to our Society. These accomplishments could not be possible without each of you. I would like to elaborate on some of these with our committee reports:

IH Advanced Practice Provider, is chaired by Michael Dougherty, PA-C, completed the 2nd annual Assessment-Based Certificate (ABC) course at the 2023 annual meeting and launched a quarterly webinar APP Lecture Series that offers CME/CEU.

Behavioral Health Committee, is chaired by Stephanie Sogg, PhD. This task force has become an official IH committee, with two general missions: 1) Collaborating with other committees on BH-related educational offerings; 2) Developing a system of credentialing for bariatric BH providers, to help standardize bariatric BH care and allow patients and other bariatric practices/providers to identify BH providers who have both appropriate training and experience.

IH CBN Certification, is chaired by William Gourash, PhD. CRNP, RN, CBN. This committee completed a final report of their practice analysis to update the exam specifications. They are in the process of revising the exam, with a recategorized and expanded item bank for 2024. In addition, they updated an online examination review course set to launch in fall 2023. In response to an announcement that the ANCC Magnet Recognition program will no longer be recognizing certifications that are not accredited, we are working with our consulting firm Seacrest for guidance toward accreditation. We have the support of the ABN and ABSNC in requesting the Magnet Program to recognize programs that are working towards certification.

IH Clinical Issues, is chaired by Kasey Goodpaster, PhD. The ASMBS consensus statement on laparoscopic adjustable band management paper was published in SOARD on July 2, 2022. The Cannabis paper is now in writing stage with only 2 sections remaining. The Adolescent Behavioral Health scoping review is also in the writing stage. The Contraception Counseling draft has been written and is now in the editing phase. They are collaborating with surgeon colleagues on ESG, Medicare & Exercise papers and a future project is updating the Micronutrient paper.

IH Communications, is chaired by Cynthia Hipszer, RN, MSN. They developed a webinar proposal form and guidance documents. They have been assisting with the ASMBS website re-development project. In addition, they continued their work on increasing IH member engagement with the DocMatters platform. Future committee goals are to develop a member-facing calendar of events, media training and expert list repository. IH Membership, is chaired by Laura Boyer, FNP-C, CBN. Engaged in joint projects with the IH Communications Committee: 1) Ongoing offering of multiple online IH networking sessions for various disciplines; 2) Developing a member spotlight program. Additionally, they have completed and successfully launched the IH compensation survey as of June 14, 2023 and the results will be published later this year. To quantify the impact of the 2022 IH membership discount on member enrollment, they are tracking renewal data.

IH Multidisciplinary Care, is chaired by Colleen Schreyer, PhD. The newly-created IH mentorship program will launch during AM 2023. They conducted a webinar in Feb 2023 on addressing patient barriers to post-surgical engagement through a multidisciplinary lens. Their future projects include: Paper/panel discussions on reducing barriers to patient engagement and the development of protocols to increase cultural sensitivity.

IH Program and Professional Education, is chaired by Melissa Majumdar, MS, RD, CSOWMN, LDN. The leadership team reorganized the structure and internal policies for this committee in an effort to increase efficiency and productivity. They developed & implemented course director and speaker guidance sheets for faculty presenters, as well as language and image guide for course directors. They developed a strategy to incorporate the state chapters in the planning for weekend/annual conferences. They expanded IH offerings during preconference sessions and rebranded the nutrition course to offer both a fundamentals and a masters' course. They are including patient voice in multiple sessions at AM 2023. Leadership continues to collaborate with our surgeon colleagues to develop and implement successful multidisciplinary course tracks.

IH Support Group, is chaired by Lauren Carey, RDN. Developed a professionally-produced, Web-based Support Group Facilitator Training Program, consisting of 11 training modules (3.5 hr. of content); this launched in June, 2023. This project was supported by industry/Corporate Council funding, allowing us to offer free access to this course for ASMBS members. Also launched was an online forum for Support Group Facilitators using an ASMBS Facebook Meeting Room. In the development stage is a new virtual support group chapter for the Support Group Manual.

It is imperative that I also spotlight our ASMBS organizational leadership. We are all eternally thankful for you, and your steadfast commitment to our Society. My heartfelt gratitude goes to Kristie Kaufman, our Interim Executive Director, our Deputy Executive Director, Jennifer Wynn and to Nicola Field. They all devote a significant amount of time away from their families to support our mission. You are the backbone of our organization and with all my heart, thank you.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow ASMBS Presidents whom I have had the privilege to serve beside Immediate Past President Shanu Kothari, MD, FASMBS and Teresa LaMasters, MD, DABOM, DABS-FMBS, FASMBS. Your guidance and advocacy for IH was instrumental in helping IH represent and support our disciplines and roles in the multimodal treatment of obesity.

I look forward to lifting up the next generation of leaders in our Society and supporting you in the future endeavors. As John C. Maxwell stated "Leadership is not about title, positions or flowcharts. It is about one life influencing another." I only hope that in my tenure as President I have, in some small measure inspired some of you to go on and do great things for our Society and our patients.



Nathaniel Sann, MSN FNP-BC FASMBS-IH
IH President

ASMBS Staff

Kristie Kaufman

Interim Executive Director

Jennifer Wynn

Deputy Executive Director

Kim Carmichael

Financial & Membership Manager

James Osterhout

Director of Information Technology

Karen Loerzel, CMP

Meetings Manager

Leslie Vinson

State Chapters & ObesityPAC Manager

Morgan Matlock

Grants, Sponsorships & Exhibits Manager

Cindy Chambers

Program & Compliance Manager

Nicola Field

IHEC/CBN Executive Assistant

Andranique Boone

Marketing & Communications Coordinator

Rosalina Betances

Education & Speaker Coordinator

Kayla McCray

Administrative Support Assistant

Cody LaFlamme

Software Developer

Joanne Jarufe

Graphic Designer



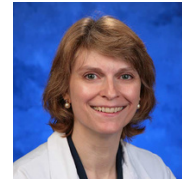
Executive Council



**Teresa LaMasters, MD FACS
FASMBS DABOM DABS-FPMBS**
President



**Marina Kurian, MD FACS FASMBS
DABOM DABS-FPMBS**
President-Elect



**Ann Rogers MD FACS DABS-
FPMBS FASMBS**
Secretary



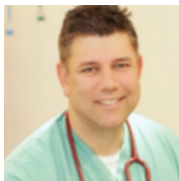
Shanu Kothari MD FASMBS
Past President



**Matthew Hutter, MD MBA MPH
FASMBS**
Senior Past President



Farah Husain, MD FACS FASMBS
Member-at-Large



Helmut Billy, MD FACS FASMBS
Member-at-Large



**Mona Misra, MD FACS FRCSC
FASMBS**
Member-at-Large



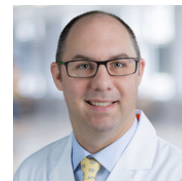
Ali Aminian, MD FACS FASMBS
Member-at-Large



**Corrigan McBride, MD MBA FACS
DABOM DABS FASMBS**
Member-at-Large



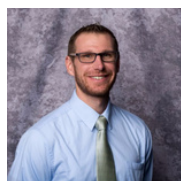
**John Scott, MD FACS DABOM
FASMBS**
Member-at-Large



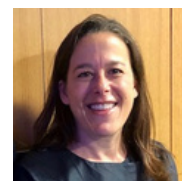
**Richard Peterson, MD MPH FACS
FASMBS**
Member-at-Large



**Joseph Northup, MD FACS
FASMBS**
Member-at-Large



**Nathaniel Sann, MSN FNP-BC
FASMBS-IH**
IH President

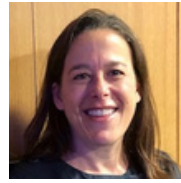


Stephanie Sogg, PhD FASMBS-IH
IH President-Elect

Integrated Health Executive Council



Nate Sann, MSN FNP-BC FASMBS-IH
IH President



Stephanie Sogg, PhD FASMBS-IH
IH President-Elect



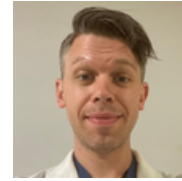
**Heidi Bednarchuk, MSN APRN
CNS CBN FASMBS-IH**
IH Secretary



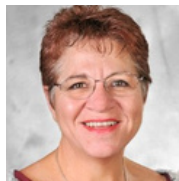
**Lisa West-Smith, PhD LISW-S
FASMBS-IH**
IH Past President



**Karen Flanders, MSN ARNP CBN
FASMBS-IH**
IH Senior Past President



Michael Dougherty, II, PA-C
IH Member-at-Large



**Kellie Armstrong, MSN RN CBN
FASMBS-IH**
IH Member-at-Large



**Lillian Craggs-Dino, DHA
RDN LDN CLT FASMBS-IH**
IH Member-at-Large



**Ninoska Peterson, PhD
FASMBS-IH**
IH Member-at-Large



Sarah Muntel, RD FASMBS-IH
IH Member-at-Large



**Rachel Goldman, PhD FTOS
FASMBS-IH**
IH Member-at-Large



Janelle Coughlin, PhD
IH Member-at-Large



2022-2023

Committee Reports



ACCESS TO CARE COMMITTEE

Chair: Michael Seger, MD

Co Chair: Margaret Inman, MD, Renee Hilton, MD, Darren Tishler, MD

EC Liaison: Joseph Northup, MD

Charge:

In alignment with the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) mission to elevate global health and quality of life by significantly reducing the impact of obesity and its related illnesses, the Access to Care Committee is charged with advancing legislative and policy efforts to ensure equitable access to high-quality treatment options for individuals with obesity. This encompasses continuously evaluating, advocating for, and influencing policies and legislation that remove barriers to obesity treatment, ensuring that effective treatments are universally accessible through equitable policy frameworks. The committee's work focuses on shaping healthcare policies to support comprehensive coverage, improve insurance processes, and encourage the adoption of standards that facilitate access to obesity treatments. Through these efforts, the committee aims to create a healthcare environment where access to care is defined by the necessity of treatment rather than the variability of coverage, aligning with the ASMBS vision of elevating global health and quality of life by significantly reducing the impact of obesity and its related illnesses worldwide.

Description:

The Access to Care Committee ensures that the general membership and the Board of Directors are well-informed and educated about the latest developments and impending legislative actions in the healthcare domain. By maintaining an awareness of current and pending legislative initiatives, the committee plays a role in closely monitoring the ever-evolving landscape of healthcare policies and regulations. This commitment to information dissemination empowers the membership and Board of Directors to make informed decisions and actively participate in discussions around legislative changes that impact healthcare access in the field.

Objectives:

- Enhance public and member awareness by developing and implementing targeted campaigns that inform the public and ASMBS members about current access issues and ongoing progress in healthcare policy and legislation.
- Establish clear progress targets by identifying and defining measurable short-term, mid-term, and long-term benchmarks for evaluating progress in addressing healthcare access issues.
- To promote advocacy for access issues by engaging in efforts that raise awareness and support for addressing these challenges, both internally within the organization and externally across broader communities.
- To monitor and evaluate progress by implementing a robust framework that systematically tracks advancements toward established targets, facilitating timely adjustments and ensuring accountability in addressing access issues.

Goals:

- To increase public and ASMBS member awareness of current access issues and healthcare policy and legislation advancements by developing and executing focused informational campaigns
- Proactively monitor and respond to CMS by preparing formal comments and mobilizing support when needed.
- Continuously monitor, respond to, and advocate for insurance companies' metabolic and bariatric surgery and treatment of obesity policy changes impacting patient access to care in collaboration with industry partners, State Chapters, and members.
- Promote and advocate for the inclusion of ASMBS-endorsed procedures in insurance policies and work towards removing barriers as per ASMBS/IFSO 2022 Guidelines through direct engagement and awareness campaigns.
- Increase utilization of covered procedures by implementing targeted educational and outreach programs to encourage patients with coverage to utilize their benefits.
- Legislative advocacy efforts to support patient access to necessary procedures and treatments, promoting key initiatives like TROA and EHBP through collaboration with other advocacy groups.



BOARD CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Chair: Eric DeMaria, MD

Co Chair: Jaime Ponce, MD

EC Liaison: Eric DeMaria, MD

Charge:

The Board Certification Committee of the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) is charged with establishing and maintaining the highest standards of recognition for professionals in the field of metabolic and bariatric surgery in collaboration with the American Board of Surgery. The committee will ensure that the recognition process reflects the latest advancements in surgical techniques, patient care, and medical interventions, thereby enhancing the quality of care for individuals affected by obesity and its associated illnesses.

Description:

The Board Certification Committee is dedicated to the development, implementation, and continuous improvement of a rigorous Focus Practice Designation program for metabolic and bariatric surgery professionals. This program is designed to verify and recognize the expertise, skill, and commitment of surgeons to the highest standards of practice in treating obesity. The committee will align its activities with the ASMBS mission to enhance well-being and vision to elevate global health and quality of life by reducing the impact of obesity.

Objectives:

- Elevate the specialty recognition and status of bariatric surgeons as a specialized field within the surgical profession.
- Provide educational opportunities and review courses for metabolic and bariatric surgeons to review knowledge within the specialty field.
- Provide the FPD credential to surgeons in recognition of their expertise and dedication to bariatric patient care.

Goals:

- Conduct thorough analyses and update the blueprint knowledge in metabolic and bariatric surgery to improve FPD examination content as needed.
- Facilitate, streamline and improve the process for surgeons to pursue, obtain and maintain the FPD credential.
- Expand outreach efforts and collaboration via partnerships with medical societies, healthcare institutions, and industry stakeholders to facilitate collaboration in advancing bariatric care.



CLINICAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

Chair: Jonathan Carter, MD

Co Chair: Wesley Vosburg, MD

EC Liaison: Shanu Kothari, MD

Charge:

In alignment with the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) mission to elevate global health and quality of life by significantly reducing the impact of obesity and its related illnesses, the Clinical Issues Committee is tasked with the creation of evidence-based guidelines, systematic reviews, and position statements aimed at improving the quality of care for patients with obesity and obesity-related diseases. The committee is entrusted as the foremost authority on metabolic and bariatric surgery and serves as the primary publication engine of the society.

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- Expand outreach efforts and collaboration via partnerships with medical societies, healthcare institutions, and industry stakeholders to facilitate collaboration in advancing bariatric care.



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair: Omar Ghanem, MD

Co Chair: Christine Lovato, MD

EC Liaison: John Scott, MD

Charge:

In alignment with the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) mission to elevate global health and quality of life by significantly reducing the impact of obesity and its related illnesses, the Communications Committee is tasked with facilitating communication between the ASMBS and its members, and potential members on the disease of obesity. This involves recommending new opportunities and technologies to enhance communications, identifying pertinent information for promotion, and maintaining active communication channels with ASMBS leadership.

Description:

The Communications Committee plays a vital role in disseminating information about the Society's educational events, grant offers, and opportunities to members, as well as providing Society information to consumers. Additionally, it facilitates communication between members and acts as a communication conduit for ASMBS committees and the SOARD Journal.

Objectives:

- Disseminate information about the Society's educational events, grant offers, and opportunities to members.
- Provide the Society's information to consumers.
- Facilitate communication between ASMBS members.
- Serve as a communication conduit for ASMBS committees and the Surgery for Obesity and Related Diseases (SOARD) Journal, the official Journal of the ASMBS.

Goals:

- Develop and deploy social media content to recruit prospective ASMBS members and serve as patient education/awareness tools, engaging both prospective members and the general public.
- Facilitate robust communication channels among ASMBS members by facilitating seamless communication channels.



COMMUNITY INDEPENDENT PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Chair: Paul Kemmeter, MD

Co Chair: Carl Pesta, MD, Blake Movitz, MD

EC Liaison: Helmuth Billy, MD

Charge:

In alignment with the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) mission to elevate global health and quality of life by significantly reducing the impact of obesity and its related illnesses, the Community Independent Practice Committee is entrusted with representing the interests of independent practitioners within the field. Their mandate includes identifying unique challenges faced by independent practitioners and providing practice-based solutions, addressing best practice guidelines within diverse practice models, monitoring trends in bariatric surgery and endoscopy, and offering educational courses to maximize practices' success.

Description:

The Community Independent Practice Committee includes surgeon and Integrated Health Section members and focuses primarily on the clinical aspects of bariatric surgery. Members of the committee hail from various practice settings, including private practices, community hospitals, and nonacademic healthcare systems. Their collective expertise and dedication aim to serve the community and enhance the quality of care in metabolic and bariatric surgery.

Objectives:

- Represent the interests of independent surgeons and integrated health section ASMBS members and in general.
- Identify and address unique challenges of independent surgeons and integrated health section professionals in the metabolic and bariatric field.
- Develop educational courses, webinars and videos to address best practice guidelines in diverse practice models, promoting consistency and quality in patient care and resource utilization.
- Monitor trends in bariatric surgery and endoscopy, communicate results, opportunities and solutions with ASMBS membership.

Goals:

- Enhance advocacy for independent surgeons and integrated health section professionals in the metabolic and bariatric field.
- Develop practical solutions tailored to the unique challenges faced by independent practices to facilitate sustainability and success.
- Promote consistency and quality in patient care through adherence to best practice guidelines and empower independent practice members through education and training.
- Ensure a proactive response to emerging trends.



DIVERSITY & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

Chair: Monique Hassan, MD

Co Chair: Michael Edwards, MD

EC Liaison: Marina Kurian, MD

Charge:

In alignment with the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery's (ASMBS) mission to elevate global health and quality of life by significantly reducing the impact of obesity and its related illnesses, the Diversity & Inclusion Committee is charged with continuously evaluating and refining the ASMBS's diversity and inclusion initiatives, ensuring they are effective, and data informed. This commitment supports the committee's broader goal of enhancing well-being through medical interventions for obesity, in alignment with the ASMBS vision of elevating global health and quality of life by significantly reducing the impact of obesity and its related illnesses worldwide.

Description:

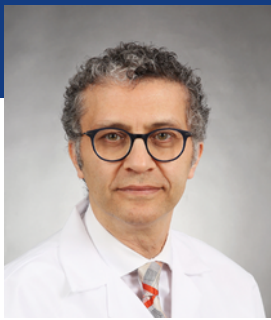
The Diversity and Inclusion Committee is dedicated to the research, advocacy, and implementation of strategies that cater to the educational and professional needs of the diverse membership within the organization. The committee is dedicated to diversifying the organization's membership, from fellows to seasoned healthcare professionals, to expand the breadth of perspectives and expertise. The committee is devoted to enhancing healthcare access for diverse patients and examining and addressing the underlying causes of disparities in obesity-related conditions. This effort aims to improve the frequency, treatment, and outcomes for those affected by obesity.

Objectives:

- To proactively engage in and foster a culture of diversity and inclusion by recruiting and supporting a broad spectrum of qualified professionals in the field of metabolic and bariatric surgery, with a particular focus on representation from minority groups.
- To elevate and strengthen the cultural proficiency of healthcare professionals specializing in obesity and related conditions, ensuring their ability to provide effective care and communication across a diverse range of patient demographics.
- To recognize and address any barriers that may affect the professional advancement and development of members from underrepresented groups within the ASMBS community by fostering an inclusive environment.

Goals:

- Advocate for and advance policies within ASMBS that reinforce diversity and inclusion principles, aligning with the organization's mission to create equitable opportunities and treatment for all members and patients.
- Develop and distribute educational materials that specifically address the varied challenges encountered by diverse populations affected by obesity.
- Identify and address barriers preventing minority patients from accessing bariatric surgery.
- Propose and Initiate programs aimed at reducing disparities and creating opportunities for increased representation and leadership among diverse members within ASMBS.
- Diligently identify and remove obstacles that impede the career advancement of minority group members within ASMBS.



EMERGING TECHNOLOGY AND PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

Chair: Alan Saber, MD

Co Chair: Kamal Mahawar, MD

EC Liaison: Shanu Kothari, MD

Charge:

In alignment with the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) mission to elevate global health and quality of life by significantly reducing the impact of obesity and its related illnesses, the Emerging Technology and Procedures Committee is tasked with advising the Board of Directors, other committees, and the general membership on new technologies and procedures in the field of metabolic and bariatric surgery. This includes evaluating the impact of emerging technologies and procedures on patient care and educating members on their incorporation into practice.

Description:

The Emerging Technology and Procedures Committee plays a pivotal role in advancing the mission of ASMBS by evaluating and disseminating information on emerging technologies and procedures. By engaging stakeholders and providing educational resources, the committee aims to improve patient care, advance scientific understanding, and establish ASMBS as a recognized authority in the field.

Objectives:

- Engage all stakeholders in the field of emerging bariatric and metabolic procedures through educational sessions and web-based tools.

Goals:

- Facilitate early access to new technologies while ensuring their safety, efficacy, and compliance with regulatory approvals.
- Streamline and standardize emerging technology and procedural clinical research processes.
- Committee involvement in Pathway for Endorsement of New Devices and Procedures Committee process.
- Establish ASMBS as one of the main societies for reference and authority for new surgical and endoscopic procedures to treat metabolic disease.



FLEXIBLE ENDOSCOPY COMMITTEE

Chair: Dean Mikami, MD

Co Chair: Leena Khaitan, MD

EC Liaison: Mona Misra, MD

Charge:

The Flexible Endoscopy Committee of ASMBS is dedicated to enhancing the well-being of individuals affected by obesity through the progression of endoscopic therapies. The committee focuses on examining training methods, clinical applications, and research for both existing and emerging endoscopic treatments. By promoting the responsible and safe use of endoluminal therapies, ensuring member education, and providing leadership in bariatric endoscopy, the committee supports the ASMBS mission of advancing metabolic and bariatric surgical techniques and other medical interventions.

Description:

The Flexible Endoscopy Committee focuses on training, clinical applications, and research related to endoscopic therapies for patients with obesity. It emphasizes understanding the anatomy and physiology of obese patients, past and current surgical procedures, and the role of endoluminal therapies. Additionally, the committee addresses the need for leadership within ASMBS to ensure responsible and safe use of endoscopic techniques and to keep members informed about the latest developments in the field.

Objectives:

- Promote bariatric endoscopy through the BE-SAFE program as a formal curriculum for ASMBS and SAGES members.
- 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.
- Collaborate to develop guidelines with other ASMBS committees when using endoscopy in the management of obesity.

Goals:

- Promote the BE-SAFE program as a standardized formal curriculum and skills verification for ASMBS and SAGES members and provide high-quality educational courses in flexible endoscopy for bariatric patients at ASMBS events and with SAGES to promote BE-SAFE.
- Continuous review and updating of the BESAFE curriculum and skills verification content to ensure alignment with evolving best practices and evidence-based guidelines in bariatric care.
- Develop evidence-based guidelines for the safe and effective endoscopy use in obesity management in collaboration with other ASMBS committees, especially Emerging Technologies and Procedures.



GENERAL & FOREGUT SURGERY COMMITTEE

Chair: Maher el Chaar, MD

Co Chair: Sergio Bardaro, MD

EC Liaison: Ali Aminian, MD

Charge:

In alignment with the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) mission to elevate global health and quality of life by significantly reducing the impact of obesity and its related illnesses, the General and Foregut Surgery Committee is charged with developing evidence-based guidelines and identifying unique diagnostic and treatment strategies required for the management of general surgical and foregut disease in patients undergoing metabolic and bariatric surgical procedures.

Description:

The General and Foregut Surgery Committee aims to improve the care and treatment of people suffering from obesity by advancing the science and understanding of metabolic and bariatric surgery, serving the educational and professional needs of the Society's diverse membership.

Objectives:

- Increase awareness and understanding of the incidence, prevalence and types of common general surgical and foregut conditions 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.

Goals:

- Conduct a comprehensive review of literature and data to determine the prevalence and types of general surgical and foregut problems in patients undergoing metabolic and bariatric surgery.
- Develop evidence-based guidelines and protocols for the diagnosis, management, and follow-up of general surgical and foregut problems in patients undergoing metabolic and bariatric surgery.



INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Chair: Christopher Crawford, MD

Co Chair: Michael Cook, MD

EC Liaison: John Scott, MD

Charge:

In alignment with the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) mission to elevate global health and quality of life by significantly reducing the impact of obesity and its related illnesses, the Insurance Committee is tasked with bridging the gap between the details of insurance coverage and coding and the practicing surgeons and integrated health ASMBS members. The committee focuses on educating ASMBS members in insurance coverage, coding, and access, and serves as a liaison between the ASMBS, insurers, and CMS on coverage specifics for bariatric procedures. Lastly, the committee collaborates with the ASMBS Access to Care Committees on acute and chronic insurance-related access to care issues.

Description:

The Insurance Committee plays a vital role in ensuring access to high-quality prevention and treatment of obesity by advocating for healthcare policies that enhance patient access. Through education, advocacy, and collaboration, the committee strives to empower healthcare providers with the knowledge and resources necessary to navigate insurance complexities and optimize reimbursement for metabolic and bariatric surgery.

Objectives:

- Advocate for appropriate reimbursement for metabolic bariatric surgery to incentivize healthcare providers to offer metabolic bariatric surgery, thereby expanding patient access to life-saving treatments.
- Ensure appropriate CPT coding for securing appropriate reimbursement and minimizing claim denials or delays.
- Provide clarity on insurance issues to members through clear communication and guidance on insurance issues.
- Be a resource to ASMBS State Chapters, Access to Care Committee, Membership, and their staff.

Goals:

- Develop and advocate for policy changes that result in appropriate reimbursement rates for metabolic bariatric surgery procedures.



INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chair: Rana Pullat, MD

Co Chair: Rami Luffi, MD

EC Liaison: Ali Aminian, MD

Charge: :

The International Development Committee is dedicated to enhancing the well-being of individuals affected by obesity globally by integrating international members into the ASMBS. The committee fosters relationships with organizations and institutions in foreign countries, facilitates collaboration, and maintains an active relationship with the International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity and Metabolic Diseases (IFSO). Through these efforts, the committee supports the progression of metabolic and bariatric surgical techniques and other medical interventions on an international scale, in line with the ASMBS mission.

Description:

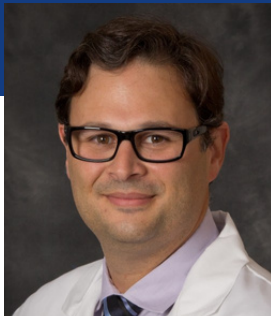
The International Development Committee's efforts focus on developing relationships between ASMBS and international entities, fostering collaboration in advancing obesity treatment through education, research, and policy initiatives. By enhancing the international membership experience and coordinating international activities, the committee aims to promote global cooperation in the field of metabolic and bariatric surgery.

Objectives:

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

Goals:

- Coordinate with the Membership Committee to:
 - Implement targeted strategies for recruiting international members to increase membership from diverse geographic regions.
 - Offer applications in other languages to facilitate the membership process for international
- Increase attendance at ASMBS Annual Meetings from other countries.
- Manage Awards for Best International Presenters: Oversee all aspects of the awards process, including budgeting, logistics, and selection criteria.
- Develop criteria for US sites hosting visiting international surgeons and create a listing on the ASMBS website facilitating exchanges between US and international surgeons.
- Collaborate with international organizations to conduct co-sponsored international courses
- Create standardized training guidelines for global bariatric surgery.



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Chair: Andre Teixeira, MD

Co Chair: Chris Ducoin, MD

EC Liaison: Farah Husain, MD

Charge:

The International Development Committee is dedicated to enhancing the well-being of individuals affected by obesity globally by integrating international members into the ASMBS. The committee fosters relationships with organizations and institutions in foreign countries, facilitates collaboration, and maintains an active relationship with the International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity and Metabolic Diseases (IFSO). Through these efforts, the committee supports the progression of metabolic and bariatric surgical techniques and other medical interventions on an international scale, in line with the ASMBS mission.

Description:

The International Development Committee's efforts focus on developing relationships between ASMBS and international entities, fostering collaboration in advancing obesity treatment through education, research, and policy initiatives. By enhancing the international membership experience and coordinating international activities, the committee aims to promote global cooperation in the field of metabolic and bariatric surgery.

Objectives:

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

Goals:

- Coordinate with the Membership Committee to:
 - Implement targeted strategies for recruiting international members to increase membership from diverse geographic regions.
 - Offer applications in other languages to facilitate the membership process for international
- Increase attendance at ASMBS Annual Meetings from other countries.
- Manage Awards for Best International Presenters: Oversee all aspects of the awards process, including budgeting, logistics, and selection criteria.
- Develop criteria for US sites hosting visiting international surgeons and create a listing on the ASMBS website facilitating exchanges between US and international surgeons.
- Collaborate with international organizations to conduct co-sponsored international courses
- Create standardized training guidelines for global bariatric surgery.



MILITARY COMMITTEE

Chair: Joel Brockmeyer, MD

Co Chair: Ann Smith, MD

EC Liaison: Richard Peterson, MD

Charge:

In alignment with the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) mission to elevate global health and quality of life by significantly reducing the impact of obesity and its related illnesses, the Military Committee is charged with supporting the uniformed services and their members through ASMBS, aiming to improve the care of bariatric patients within the military/Tricare/VA Healthcare Systems. The committee focuses on advancing the science of metabolic and bariatric surgery through a robust research consortium. Additionally, it aims to establish a collective within Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs) and VA Hospitals, creating uniform pathways among centers, and promoting MBSAQIP participation.

Description:

The Military Committee serves as a collaborative forum dedicated to enhancing the care of bariatric patients within military and VA healthcare systems. Through accreditation, advocacy, collaboration, quality improvement, research, and collaboration, the committee aims to establish standardized care pathways, and foster communication among healthcare professionals across military and VA facilities, improving patient outcomes for military and VA beneficiaries.

Objectives:

- Aid all major MTFs and VA Programs in becoming MBSAQIP accredited.
- Quality improvement initiatives within and shared amongst MTFs and VA hospitals and with other ASMBS committees.
- Be a consortium to enhance care by sharing information.
- Improve communication between military and VA members and ASMBS.

Goals:

- Facilitate comprehensive collaboration among Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs), Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities, and ASMBS members to achieve MBSAQIP accreditation, drive research initiatives, and enhance communication and coordination, thereby ensuring standardized, high-quality care for bariatric patients within military and VA healthcare systems, improving patient outcomes, and advancing the field of metabolic and bariatric surgery.
- Enhance collaboration and representation across committees by recommending Military Committee members to participate on other ASMBS committees & panels and the DHA Advisory Committee on bariatric surgery in the DOD.
- Standardize care pathways and improve bariatric care across Military and VA facilities utilizing the ASMBS Sleeve Gastrectomy Care Pathway to create centralized, standardized best practices for all military and VA bariatric surgery institutions' bariatric programs.
- Foster continued growth of Military and VA Research Collaborations and establish a VA/DOD Integrated Health Section Journal Club.
- Improve access to care for endorsed weight loss procedures for active-duty members and determine avenues for earning CME for deployed surgeons, including ASMBS Annual Meeting on Demand at no cost for ASMBS active-duty members.



PEDIATRIC COMMITTEE

Chair: Jeffrey Zitsman, MD

Co Chair: Jeremy Aidlen, MD

EC Liaison: Ann Rogers, MD

Charge:

In alignment with the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) mission to elevate global health and quality of life by significantly reducing the impact of obesity and its related illnesses, the Pediatric Committee is tasked with developing, fostering, and promoting best care practices and resources for pediatric bariatric patients. In response to the increasing prevalence of severe obesity within the pediatric population and the rise in weight loss surgeries, the committee continues to carry out its strategic mission to address this public health crisis

Description:

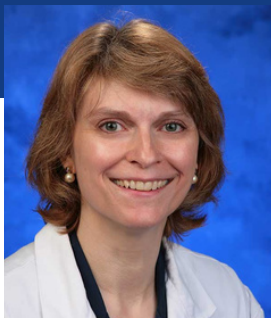
The Pediatric Committee is dedicated to improving the care and treatment of pediatric patients suffering from obesity. With a focus on advocacy, communication, research, and education, the committee strives to enhance understanding, resources, and access to care for pediatric bariatric surgery.

Objectives:

- Provide leadership on pediatric bariatric surgery to ensure the development and implementation of evidence-based practices, guidelines, and standards tailored to pediatric patients.
- Expand membership to adult surgeons, nursing, behavior sciences, and other relevant disciplines to address access to care and the multifaceted aspects of pediatric bariatric care.
- Develop and maintain resources for existing and developing centers that provide care for pediatric patients, promoting standardization, consistency, and excellence in pediatric bariatric care delivery across healthcare settings.
- Develop and maintain web content for bariatric pediatric professionals to facilitate knowledge dissemination

Goals:

- Establish leadership in pediatric bariatric surgery as the trusted authority in pediatric bariatric surgery.
- Increase diverse membership representation, fostering innovation and comprehensive care delivery.
- Provide standardized comprehensive resources for pediatric bariatric care centers.
- Enhance professional education through web content development tailored for professionals.



PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Chair: Ann Rogers, MD

Co Chair: Rachel Moore, MD

EC Liaison: Ann Rogers, MD

Charge:

In alignment with the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) mission to elevate global health and quality of life by significantly reducing the impact of obesity and its related illnesses, the Program Committee is tasked with developing and organizing all annual educational events for the ASMBS, including the ASMBS Annual Meeting and ASMBS Weekend. The committee identifies professional education needs, reviews abstract submissions, selects topics and speakers, and contributes to the overall conference programming to enhance the educational experience for ASMBS members

Description:

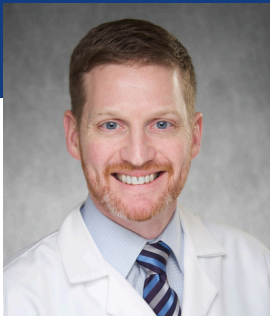
The Program Committee plays a pivotal role in ensuring the delivery of high-quality educational content that addresses the evolving needs of ASMBS members. By identifying gaps in knowledge, securing expert speakers, and implementing innovative educational formats, the committee aims to enhance member satisfaction and promote professional development in metabolic and bariatric surgery.

Objectives:

- Enhance the value and quality of educational programming for ASMBS members.
- Increase member satisfaction by addressing the educational needs and preferences of members.
- Identify professional education needs, i.e., specific topics, teaching models, and venues, tailored to the needs of ASMBS members.
- Increase member attendance by 5% at educational events.

Goals:

- Enhance the quality and relevance of educational content by curating content that addresses emerging topics and best practices in metabolic and bariatric surgery.
- Implement innovative educational formats and delivery methods by incorporating diverse teaching modalities and utilizing online platforms.
- Increase strategic promotional efforts of educational events to boost member attendance.



PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chair: Ryan Lehmann, MD

Co Chair: Rickesha Wilson, MD

EC Liaison: Farah Husain, MD

Charge:

In alignment with the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) mission to elevate global health and quality of life by significantly reducing the impact of obesity and its related illnesses, the Public Education Committee is entrusted with the vital task of disseminating accurate and accessible information about bariatric surgery to the public through various channels, including printed materials, online resources, and media outlets. By promoting understanding and awareness of metabolic and bariatric surgery, the committee aims to contribute to improved medical care and treatment for individuals with obesity and related diseases.

Description:

The Public Education Committee plays a crucial role in raising awareness and disseminating information about bariatric surgery to the public through diverse communication channels. By developing educational materials and engaging with media platforms, the committee endeavors to provide accurate and comprehensive information to individuals considering or undergoing bariatric surgery, as well as to the general public.

Objectives:

- Identify gaps in patient education where there is a lack of information or misunderstanding about bariatric surgery.
- Identify and develop effective patient education resources to assist ASMBS members.

Goals:

- Launch National Obesity Awareness Forum, a dedicated platform for discussing obesity-related issues and bariatric surgery.
- Develop and distribute informative resources that outline key information about bariatric surgery in a clear and accessible manner for the public.



QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND PATIENT SAFETY COMMITTEE

Chair: Anthony Petrick, MD

Co Chair: Tammy Kindel, MD

EC Liaison: Matthew Hutter, MD

Charge:

In alignment with the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) mission to elevate global health and quality of life by significantly reducing the impact of obesity and its related illnesses, the Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Committee is entrusted with promoting continuous improvement in patient safety and risk reduction. The committee integrates and coordinates patient safety initiatives among member surgeons, aiming to reduce medical errors through process analysis and quality improvement reporting.

Description:

The Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Committee is committed to improving patient safety and reducing risk for member surgeons. By studying trends in malpractice suits and risk management gaps, the committee aims to enhance patient safety initiatives, improve patient outcomes, and decrease surgeon exposure to liability.

Objectives:

- Identify gaps and members' needs in patient safety, risk management, and professional liability to develop optimal resources that equip surgeons with the necessary tools and knowledge to enhance patient safety, mitigate risks, and manage liability effectively.
- Provide recommendations for the promotion and dissemination of patient safety and risk management information.
- Identify and employ process measures to identify and disseminate quality improvement initiatives.

Goals:

- Promote education on risk management and liability and develop expert witness guidelines to provide clarity and guidance for surgeons involved in legal proceedings.
- Enhance patient safety initiatives through data analysis and identification of trends and areas for improvement in patient safety.
- Establish a platform for knowledge sharing and learning among members.
- 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.



RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Chair: Dimitrios Stefanidis, MD

Co Chair: Benjamin Clapp, MD

EC Liaison: Matthew Hutter, MD

Charge:

In alignment with the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) mission to elevate global health and quality of life by significantly reducing the impact of obesity and its related illnesses, the Research Committee is tasked with advancing the scientific understanding of metabolic and bariatric surgery through the promotion of high-quality research initiatives. By advocating for both clinical and basic science research, the committee aims to contribute to the improvement of care and treatment for individuals affected by obesity and related diseases.

Description:

The Research Committee operates with the primary objective of driving progress in the field of metabolic and bariatric surgery through research advocacy. By facilitating and supporting research endeavors, both in academic and private practice settings, the committee endeavors to enhance the scientific knowledge base and promote evidence-based practices within the field.

Objectives:

- Promote the highest quality research standards and methodologies in metabolic and bariatric surgery.
- Establish grant opportunities for academic and private practice research to pursue innovative research projects that address key clinical questions and advance the field.
- Proactively identify new and emerging research and areas of scientific interest opportunities.

Goals:

- Advance the science and understanding of metabolic and bariatric surgery by promoting high-quality research initiatives and supporting grant opportunities.
- Improve the care and treatment of people with obesity through the facilitation of research endeavors that address key clinical challenges and contribute to evidence-based practice.



RURAL COMMITTEE

Chair: Tammy Fouse, MD

Co Chair: Curtis Peery, MD

EC Liaison: Corrigan McBride, MD

Charge:

In alignment with the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) mission to elevate global health and quality of life by significantly reducing the impact of obesity and its related illnesses, the Rural Committee is charged with representing rural bariatric surgical practices, fostering best care practices, identifying unique challenges faced in rural settings, and facilitating potential solutions. Composed of surgeons and Integrated Health Section professionals serving bariatric patients in rural or isolated areas, the committee advises and supports ASMBS membership concerning practice trends and issues specific to rural bariatric surgery.

Description:

The Rural Committee serves as a vital resource for rural surgical practices, aiming to ensure high quality comprehensive programs in rural settings. By identifying challenges, providing solutions, and advocating for accreditation, the committee supports the delivery of optimal care to bariatric patients in rural communities.

Objectives:

- The Rural Committee serves as a vital resource for rural surgical practices, aiming to ensure high quality comprehensive programs in rural settings. By identifying challenges, providing solutions, and advocating for accreditation, the committee supports the delivery of optimal care to bariatric patients in rural communities.

Goals:

- Conduct Rural Outcomes IRB research project and publish data.
- Ensure participation of all rural practices in MBSAQIP and assist in accreditation.
- Create a collaborative network of rural bariatric surgery practitioners by creating a platform for collaboration.



STATE AND LOCAL CHAPTERS COMMITTEE

Chair: Christopher Daigle, MD

Co Chair: Judy Chen, MD

EC Liaison: Joseph Northrup, MD

Charge:

In alignment with the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) mission to elevate global health and quality of life by significantly reducing the impact of obesity and its related illnesses, the State & Local Chapters Committee is entrusted with fostering communication between health professionals on obesity and related conditions at the grassroots level, extending to state legislatures and the U.S. Capitol. This entails promoting collegiality among colleagues and programs, advancing the work of chapters through collaboration, and facilitating timely communication and networking.

Description:

The State & Local Chapters Committee plays a pivotal role in supporting the mission of ASMBS chapters by assisting in chapter formation and primarily monitoring ongoing activities. By promoting collaboration and communication, the committee aims to enhance the impact and effectiveness of chapters in serving the educational and professional needs of members.

Objectives:

- Enhanced communication between individual members and ASMBS leadership.
- Encourage participation of practicing metabolic and bariatric surgeons and integrated health professionals in ASMBS and the Chapters.
- Offer Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits during Chapter meetings.
- Assist in implementing projects and communications from other committees and ASMBS leadership through the Chapters as they roll out to the general ASMBS membership.

Goals:

- Increase participation of metabolic and bariatric surgeons and integrated health professionals in ASMBS and chapter activities.
- Expand educational offerings and CME opportunities during chapter meetings.
- Facilitate seamless integration of projects from other committees into chapter activities.



VIDEO COMMITTEE

Chair: Colleen Kennedy, MD

Co Chair: Matthew Brengman, MD

EC Liaison: Mona Misra, MD

Charge:

The Video Committee is dedicated to enhancing the well-being of individuals affected by obesity by advancing surgical techniques in metabolic and bariatric surgery. This involves curating and updating the ASMBS Video Library, organizing video presentations for ASMBS educational webinars, and ensuring the quality and safety of bariatric and metabolic surgery procedures. Through these efforts, the committee supports the ASMBS mission of progressing surgical techniques and medical interventions to improve patient care.

Description:

The Video Committee plays a pivotal role in fostering innovation and excellence in metabolic & bariatric surgery. By continuously updating the ASMBS Video Library and organizing video presentations for educational meetings, the committee aims to improve patient outcomes and advance the field of metabolic & bariatric surgery.

Objectives:

- To advance the surgical techniques for metabolic and bariatric surgery by focusing on innovation and refinement.
- To improve the care and treatment outcomes of people with obesity and related diseases by disseminating educational resources and promoting best practices through the Video Library.
- To raise the quality and safety of bariatric and metabolic surgery by establishing standardized formats for video presentations and promoting adherence to best practices.
- To create and continuously update the ASMBS video library providing access to educational content and procedural demonstrations.

Goals:

- Create an audiovisual resource for metabolic and bariatric surgery procedures.
- Increase awareness and visibility of the Video Library facilitating broader access to valuable educational content.
- Expand Video Library content by continuously updating and expanding the library, the committee enhances its value as a comprehensive educational resource.
- Increase exposure of the library to members and the public
- Optimize video sessions for the ASMBS Annual Meetings by working closely with the Program Committee and reviewing feedback.



IHS ADVANCED PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Chair: Michael Dougherty, PA-C

Co Chair: Connie Klein, NP

IHEC Liaison: Michael Dougherty, PA-C

Charge:

In alignment with the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) mission to elevate global health and quality of life by significantly reducing the impact of obesity and its related illnesses, the Integrated Health Section Advanced Practice Provider Committee is tasked with exploring, developing, and maintaining credentialing and educational offerings for nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and clinical nurse specialists in the field of metabolic and bariatric surgery.

Description:

The IHS Advanced Practice Provider Committee is composed of representatives from nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and clinical nurse specialists engaged in metabolic and bariatric surgery. These representatives, appointed by the IHSEC President, collaborate to address the educational and credentialing needs of advanced practice providers in the field.

Objectives:

- Research various credentialing and certification options available for advanced practice providers in metabolic and bariatric surgery.
- Assess the practicality and suitability of identified credentialing options for implementation within the field of metabolic and bariatric surgery.
- Develop and maintain a specialized credential or certificate program tailored to the specific needs and competencies of advanced practice providers in metabolic and bariatric surgery.
- Collaborate with established professional organizations such as AANP, AAPA, OMA, and others to provide educational opportunities for advanced practice providers.

Goals:

- Expand participation to involve more advanced practice providers and diverse input in the development of the Assessment-Based Certificate (ABC) credentialing program.
- Create accessible and relevant comprehensive educational curriculum, including webinars, symposiums, and other opportunities, offering CME and CEU credits for advanced practice providers.
- Maintain and develop an assessment-based certificate program to validate the competency and proficiency of advanced practice providers in metabolic and bariatric surgery.
- Develop educational content for advanced practice provider-focused sessions at the Annual Meeting, addressing the educational needs and interests of APPs.
- Investigate options for accrediting educational programs and offerings for advanced practice providers.
- Assess interest levels among advanced practice providers regarding certification programs tailored to the field of metabolic and bariatric surgery.



IHS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chair: Stephanie Sogg, PhD FASMBS-IH

Co Chair: Karen Grothe, PhD ABPP LP

IHEC Liaison: Stephanie Sogg, PhD FASMBS-IH

Charge:

The Integrated Health Section Behavioral Health (BH) Committee of the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) is charged with integrating and promoting comprehensive and high-quality BH practices within the field of metabolic and bariatric surgery (MBS). This committee's main aim is to ensure that individuals seeking and undergoing MBS have access to, and receive, high-quality, evidence-based, and ethical BH care that is tailored to their needs throughout the MBS process.

Description:

The ASMBS Integrated Health Section Behavioral Health Committee is dedicated to the development, refinement, and dissemination of BH practices within the field of MBS, with a particular focus on establishing a standard for high-quality BH care and promoting BH-related education to healthcare professionals both within and outside the field of BH. This aligns with the ASMBS mission to elevate global health and well-being by reducing the impact of obesity. Comprised of members representing diverse disciplines within the field of MBS BH, this committee works collaboratively with other ASMBS committees on projects related to BH.

Objectives:

- Create and implement an ASMBS credential for BH clinicians with demonstrated competency in applying the relevant knowledge, skills, and expertise in MBS clinical practice.
- Continue to offer the Fundamentals in Bariatric Behavioral Health course biennially during the pre-conference portion of ASMBS annual meetings.
- Continue to partner with the Master's Course in Behavioral Health (MCBH) workgroup for the annual pre-conference MCBH
- Support and collaborate with other ASMBS committees and working groups in developing educational offerings, practice guidelines, and clinical recommendations that are relevant to MBS BH.

Goals:

- Provide the field of bariatric BH with a model of training that will help clinicians new to the specialty of bariatric BH to acquire evidence-based knowledge and skills relevant to working with patients undergoing MBS.
- Promote education on the psychosocial aspects of obesity and treatments for obesity for healthcare providers both within and outside of the fields of obesity/MBS and those both within and outside of the discipline of BH
- Provide bariatric BH clinicians with a clinical framework and practical tools to use in practice with their patients.



IHS CERTIFIED BARIATRIC NURSE COMMITTEE

Chair: William Gourash, PhD, CBN

Co Chair: Jessie Moore, FNP-BC, MSN, CBN

IHEC Liaison: Karen Flanders, NP-C, CBN

Charge:

The charge of the Integrated Health Section Certified Bariatric Nurse (IHS CBN) Committee is to enhance and promote the specialty of bariatric nursing care, assess the professional competence of practitioners, and provide the premier credential to professional nurses caring for patients with obesity and bariatric surgical patients. This aligns with the ASMBS mission to enhance the well-being of individuals affected by obesity and associated illnesses through the advancement of metabolic and bariatric surgical techniques and other medical interventions.

Description:

The IHS CBN Committee aims to recognize and certify nurses who possess specialized skills and knowledge required for the delivery of quality patient care for patients with obesity and bariatric surgery patients.

Objectives:

- Evaluate the professional competence of nurses in the field of bariatric nursing by evaluating their knowledge, skills, and abilities to ensure the delivery of high-quality patient care.
- Promote continuous professional development, encouraging lifelong learning among nurses caring for bariatric surgery patients.
- Elevate the specialty recognition and status of bariatric nursing as a specialized field within the nursing profession.
- Provide the certification and credential to professional nurses in recognition of their expertise and dedication to bariatric patient care.

Goals:

- Continuous review and update of certification standards and examination content to ensure alignment with evolving best practices and evidence-based guidelines in metabolic and bariatric surgery nursing care.
- Prepare for and pursue accreditation for the CBN credential for certified bariatric nurses.
- Facilitate, streamline and improve the process for nurses to pursue and obtain the Certified Bariatric Nurse (CBN) credential.
- Promote awareness of the benefits and value of the CBN credential among nurses, their employers, and healthcare organizations through targeted educational initiatives and promotional campaigns.
- Expand outreach efforts and collaboration via partnerships with nursing associations, healthcare institutions, and industry stakeholders to facilitate collaboration in advancing metabolic and bariatric surgery nursing care.
- Revise and update CBN exam preparation educational materials and explore other opportunities for education.



IHS CLINICAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

Chair: Kasey Goodpaster, PhD

Co Chair: Lillian Craggs-Dino, DHA, RDN, LDN, CLT

IHEC Liaison: Lillian Craggs-Dino, DHA, RDN, LDN, CLT

Charge:

In alignment with the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) mission to elevate global health and quality of life by significantly reducing the impact of obesity and its related illnesses, the Integrated Health Section Clinical Issues Committee (IHSCIC) is charged with creating evidence-based position statements focusing on clinical issues pertinent to the integrated interdisciplinary team. The committee aims to address individual integrated health disciplines' challenges, with the overarching goal of enhancing the safety, quality, and outcomes of bariatric and metabolic surgical patient care.

Description:

The Integrated Health Section Clinical Issues Committee comprises diverse bariatric integrated health professionals, representing disciplines such as nursing, behavioral health, nurse practitioner and physician assistant, registered dietitian, and pharmacist. Committee members are appointed by the Integrated Health Section Executive Council (IHSEC) President, ensuring a broad, equal representation of perspectives and expertise.

Objectives:

- Prioritize and develop evidence-based projects and publications, offering clinical and practice recommendations through a multi-specialty integrated health lens.
- Identify, develop, and revise best practice recommendations, clinical guidelines, position statements, and protocols for different integrated health disciplines, reassessing every five years to ensure relevance and accuracy.
- Collaborate with surgeons' Clinical Issues Committee to provide an integrated health perspective in their projects, fostering a cohesive approach to patient care.
- Provide support to committee members in developing best practices, clinical guidelines, position statements, and recommendations, fostering a collaborative environment conducive to knowledge exchange and innovation.
- Develop protocols for initiating and implementing projects, establishing direct communication channels with the IHEC to streamline processes and ensure effective project management.

Goals:

- Prioritize and develop evidence-based projects and publications
- Identify, develop, and revise best practice recommendations.
- Foster collaboration with surgeons' CIC
- Provide support for committee members by fostering a collaborative environment in developing best practices, guidelines, and recommendations.
- Develop protocols for project management



IHS COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair: Cynthia Hipszer, RN, MSN

Co Chair: Sarah Muntel, RD

IHEC Liaison: Rachel Goldman, PhD, FTOS

Charge:

In alignment with the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery's (ASMBS) mission to elevate global health and quality of life by significantly reducing the impact of obesity and its related illnesses, the Integrated Health Section Communications Committee is tasked with facilitating effective communication within the ASMBS integrated health membership, promoting dialogue between integrated health and surgeon members, and engaging with potential members. This includes managing communication platforms, moderating discussions, and ensuring that relevant information is accessible to all members.

Description:

The Integrated Health Section Communications Committee fosters communication and collaboration among ASMBS members, focusing on integrated health professionals. Through various channels and platforms, the committee facilitates dialogue, shares information, and promotes the value of integrated health membership within the society.

Objectives:

- Improve communication within ASMBS membership by identifying mechanisms for communication and collaboration.
- Increase awareness of Integrated Health Section activities and initiatives to external audiences.
- Facilitate communication between committees.

Goals:

- Monitor the ASMBS Integrated Health Section Members Only Facebook Group, serving as a professional networking platform for Integrated Health Section members, and review public, patient, and member pages.
- Integrated Health Section Webinar Series for education and professional development and quarterly webinar collaborations with other Integrated Health Section Committees.
- Develop materials and promote highlighting the value of Integrated Health Section membership.
- Build and improve online content for Integrated Health Section professionals.
- Collaborate on website interface development.



IHS MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Chair: Laura Boyer, FNP-C, CBN

Co Chair:

IHEC Liaison: Heidi Bednarchuk, MSN, APRN, CNS, CBN

Charge:

In alignment with the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) mission to elevate global health and quality of life by significantly reducing the impact of obesity and its related illnesses, the Integrated Health Section Membership Committee serves as a vital liaison between members and the society, ensuring that member needs are met, addressing concerns, facilitating the membership application process, and promoting membership engagement.

Description:

The IHS Membership Committee plays a crucial role in supporting and engaging ASMBS members, acting as a bridge between the society and its members, advocating for their interests, providing assistance with membership-related matters, and fostering a sense of community among integrated health professionals.

Objectives:

- Increase Membership by actively promoting membership and highlighting the benefits of joining ASMBS.
- Decrease attrition rates by proactively addressing member concerns and challenges, providing support, and enhancing the overall membership experience.
- Assist applicants in the membership application process.

Goals:

- Conduct and update the Compensation Survey.
- Create a Member Highlight Form to highlight individual successes and share inspiring stories.
- Collaborate with the IHS Communications Committee to organize and assist with Zoom networking sessions.
- Track and monitor renewal numbers and conduct follow-up surveys.



IHS MULTIDISCIPLINARY CARE COMMITTEE

Chair: Colleen Schreyer, PhD

Co Chair: Brooke Doucet, RN, CBN

IHEC Liaison: Adam Dungey, MBA, BSN

Charge:

In alignment with the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) mission to elevate global health and quality of life by significantly reducing the impact of obesity and its related illnesses, the Integrated Health Section Multidisciplinary Care Committee (IHS MDC) Committee is tasked with providing evidence-based support for the role of team members in the long-term success of bariatric surgical patients. It consists of representatives from various specialties within the integrated team, including exercise, behavioral health, nursing, nutrition, surgery, and obesity medicine.

Description:

Composed of experts from different disciplines within the integrated healthcare team, the committee aims to explore and evaluate existing published literature on the role of team members in the care and long-term success of bariatric surgical patients, seeking to define optimal approaches to patient care and identify areas for further investigation.

Objectives:

- Define optimal multidisciplinary approach to surgical care.
- Evaluate current evidence and identify knowledge gaps through a comprehensive review of existing literature to assess the impact of multidisciplinary approaches on patient outcomes

Goals:

- Establish a Mentorship Program for professional development, offering valuable guidance and support to integrated health section professionals.
- Host educational webinars for continuous learning, providing opportunities for knowledge dissemination, sharing of best practices, and fostering discussions among IH professionals.
- Collaborate on publications to promote public health awareness with organizations like the Obesity Action Coalition (OAC) to publish articles and raise awareness about obesity-related issues and encourage healthy lifestyle choices.
- Enhance committee membership diversity to include representatives from all integrated health specialties in order to leverage expertise.



IHS PROGRAM AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chair: Melissa Majumdar, MS RD CSOWM LDN

Co Chair: Pamela Davis, RN, BSN, MBA

IHEC Liaison: Nathaniel Sann, MSN, FNP-BC

Charge:

In alignment with the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) mission to elevate global health and quality of life by significantly reducing the impact of obesity and its related illnesses, the Integrated Health Section Program and Professional Education Committee is tasked with promoting and supporting the development of educational programs to enhance the care and treatment of individuals with obesity and related diseases, advance the understanding of metabolic and bariatric surgery, and address the educational and professional needs of a diverse membership

Description:

The IH Section Program and Professional Education Committee collaborates closely with the Program Committee to develop educational events, particularly for the ASMBS Annual Meeting. It identifies areas of need, assesses professional gaps, and contributes to the overall design and execution of educational programming. Additionally, the committee promotes and develops educational initiatives aimed at improving the skills, clinical practices, and research endeavors of metabolic and bariatric surgery professionals.

Objectives:

- Conduct ongoing reviews of current and new programs and advise, advocate, and support ASMBS educational programs to promote educational collaboration with related disciplines, organizations, and subject matter experts.
- Utilize available, affordable programming technologies to provide quality program delivery.
- Develop and maintain offerings for continuing education requirements.
- Offer support for course directors and presenters.
- Contribute to the development of guidelines.

Goals:

- Conduct quarterly reviews of IH professional education programs.
- Establish clear criteria for program approval/rejection and streamline the review process and provide timely and actionable feedback to program proposers.
- Foster collaborative relationships with related disciplines, organizations and subject matter experts to develop relevant content.
- Explore and implement innovative educational technologies and regularly update and refine educational guidelines.
- Offer discounted rates for ASMBS members.
- Monitor compliance with continuing education requirements.
- Provide comprehensive training and resources for course directors and presenters.



IHS SUPPORT GROUP COMMITTEE

Chair: Lauren Carey, RDN

Co Chair: Nini Peterson, PhD, FTOS

IHEC Liaison: Nini Peterson, PhD, FTOS

Charge:

In alignment with the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) mission to elevate global health and quality of life by significantly reducing the impact of obesity and its related illnesses, the Integrated Health Section Support Group Committee is entrusted with advancing the concept of support groups in the care of bariatric surgical patients, identifying the needs of support group leaders, developing strategies to meet these needs, and fostering networking and idea exchange among support group leaders.

Description:

The IH Section Support Group Committee is dedicated to promoting the establishment and enhancement of support groups for bariatric surgery patients. It focuses on providing resources, education, and networking opportunities for support group leaders to ensure the delivery of effective support services.

Objectives:

- Maintain the support group leader manual and provide resources for the education and advancement of support group leaders.
- Support group leader/participant survey to gather feedback, informing future initiatives and improvements.
- Maintain accurate and relevant ASMBS support group listing and program information about support groups, enhancing patient access to these valuable resources.
- Raise awareness among patients of the benefits/necessity for support groups and improve patient access to them.
- Further development, implementation, and advancement of support groups for bariatric surgery patients by the facilitation of the exchange of ideas and networking among support group leaders.

Goals:

- Complete and maintain the training material presentations for the support group facilitator training program and continue to provide resources for support group facilitators.
- Maintain the Support Group Manual, update it with virtual resources, and continue to market it to ASMBS members to remain current.
- Present bariatric patient support group information at the ASMBS Annual Meetings.
- Establish and publish best practices for running virtual support groups.



CORPORATE COUNCIL

Chair: Nick Giaconia Celebrate Vitamins

Chair Elect: Shelly Russell ReShape Lifesciences

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.

Steering Committee Members

Chair

Nick Giaconia
Celebrate Vitamins

Chair Elect

Shelly Russell
Reshape Lifesciences

Immediate Past Chair

Bob Dougherty
Bariatric Times

Senior Past Chair

Conor McCrea W.L
Gore

Secretary/Treasurer

Frank Bisceglie
Medtronic

Director-At-Large

Brian Costello
Medtronic

Director-At-Large

Gill Stevens
Novo Nordisk

Director-At-Large

Joyce Sheffield
Health Economic Advisors

ASMBS President

Teresa LaMasters, MD

ASMBS President-Elect

Marina Kurian, MD, FASMBS

ASMBS IH Section President

Nathaniel Sann MSN, CRNP, FNP-BC

ASMBS IH Section President-Elect

Stephanie Sogg, PhD FASMBS-IH

ASMBS Executive Director

Kristie Kaufman

ASMBS Corporate Council Liaison

Morgan Matlock

Corporate Council Committee Report

ASMBS 2022-2023 Corporate Council Members

Platinum

Ethicon
Intuitive
Medtronic
Novo Nordisk Inc.
Olympus
Standard Bariatrics | Teleflex

Gold

Bariatric Advantage, Inc.
Eli Lilly
Endo Pharmaceuticals
Gore & Associates
R-Kane Nutritionals
ReShape Lifesciences, Inc.
Shimadzu Medical Systems

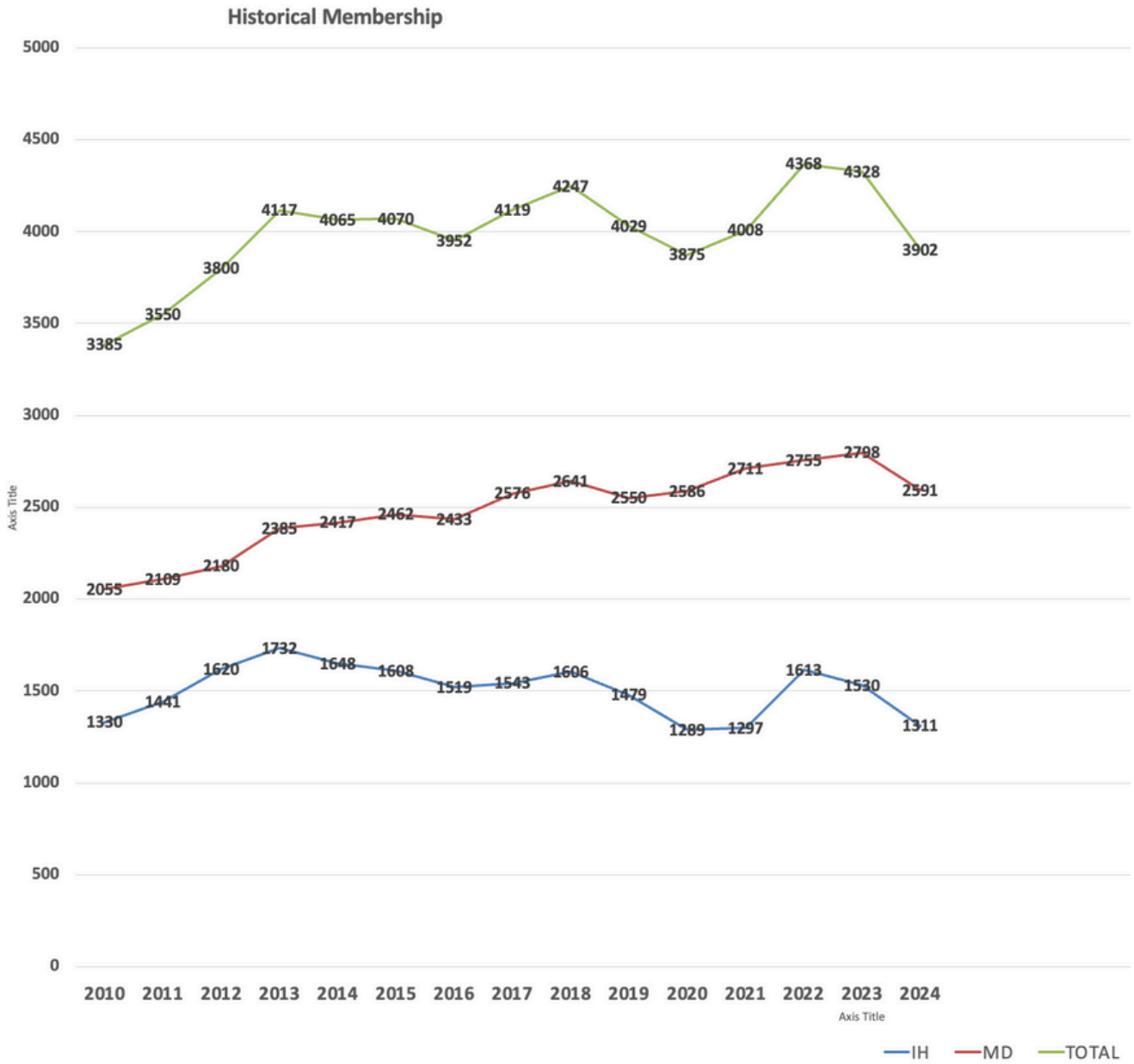
Silver

Apollo Endosurgery, Inc
Bariatric Fusion
Bariatric Times
BariatricPal
Baritrax360
BLISCare
BN Healthy
Boehringer Laboratories
Celebrate Vitamins
Cook Medical, Endoscopy, MedSurg
Division
FORTRIS
Health Economic Advisors, Inc
MD Integrated Marketing
Merck
NewTri Health
Northgate Technologies, Inc
Pacira
ProCare Health
Psy-Med, Inc.
seca
The Parthenon Group /Devrom
UNJURY
Wellbe, Inc.

Bronze

Advantage Point Behavioral
Allotro Labs
Bariatric Centers of America
Baritastic
Be Slim Bariatrics LLC
Boost Bariatrics
Ilant Health
OWYN
Seaport Insurance Services
Twenty30 Health, Inc

ASMBS Historical Membership





The ASMBS Foundation is Now TREO Foundation

TREO is Treatment, Research, and Education to end Obesity. Our purpose is to combat obesity by increasing the scientific and public understanding of metabolic and bariatric surgery — one of the most underutilized treatments in medicine.

ASMBS Foundation's Board of Directors:

President

Carl Pesta, DO, FASMBS

Secretary/Treasurer

Sania Majid, MD

Members

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Shaina Eckhouse, MD
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Samar Matar, MD
John Morton, MD
Shelly Russell
Charles E. Thompson III, MD

Staff:

Executive Director

Michael Votta

Program and Events Director

Randy Slade

ASMBS Foundation's Mission:

The mission of TREO 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.