

Carl Pesta BIOSKETCH

It is an exciting, interesting, and critical time in the field of bariatric surgery. We have before us an opportunity to continue to shape the care of Obesity treatment for those affected around the world. As the leading society for the surgical treatment of Obesity, the ASMBS must continue to focus on several key areas. These include, innovation in surgical techniques, enhancing patient care, expanding research, and advocating for policies that address the obesity epidemic.

One of the most significant changes in the field of bariatric surgery is the evolution of surgical techniques. Advances in minimally invasive procedures, including laparoscopic and robotic surgery, have made bariatric procedures safer and more accessible. The future of the ASMBS will include continued investigation on advancements in surgical technology. Additionally, the development of new techniques that minimize the risks and improve outcomes will remain a top priority. The ASMBS will continue to advocate for the integration of these new techniques, ensuring that their benefits are realized in clinical practice.

Bariatric surgery, once seen as the only viable solution for severe obesity, is now complemented by the growing role of weight loss medications, allowing for a more nuanced and comprehensive treatment model beyond surgical innovation. The future of bariatric surgery must focus on improving patient care. This includes better preoperative preparation, postoperative support, and long-term follow-up care. The ASMBS has already established guidelines to support bariatric patients in achieving lasting success. However, as the understanding of obesity as a complex, chronic disease evolves, the society will need to further expand its patient care initiatives. A focus on personalized care, tailored to individual patient needs and risk profiles, will be crucial for achieving optimal outcomes. Furthermore, enhancing patient education, continuing to foster support networks, and addressing mental health concerns associated with obesity and weight loss will be integral to fostering long-term success.

The ASMBS has long been a leader in supporting bariatric surgery research, and this role will only grow in importance as the field expands. A future-focused ASMBS will continue to fund and promote research into the long-term impacts of bariatric surgery through committee projects, as well as sponsored research from the TREO foundation.

Obesity is not only a medical issue but also a societal one. The ASMBS has a critical role to play in advocating for policies that promote access to bariatric surgery, reduce stigma, and address the social determinants of obesity. Advocacy for insurance coverage and reimbursement for bariatric procedures will remain a central focus. Expanding access to care, especially for underserved populations, will be essential in addressing the growing obesity crisis.

By continuing to lead the way in surgical innovation, patient care, research, and advocacy, the society will play an instrumental role in shaping the future of bariatric surgery, and I am excited to be a part of it.

Thank you for the consideration.

Carl Pesta, DO FACOS FASMBS