



American Society for
Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery

2018 | Annual 2019 | Report

Connect
Fostering
Advocating
Participate

Unite
Gain
Serving

Retain
Improving
Recruit
Advancing

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From Our President



Dear ASMBBS Members,

It is hard to believe that my tenure as president of ASMBBS is at an end. It has been an exciting year with numerous important accomplishments, some of which I will highlight as we look back on 2019 in this Annual Report.

First, let me emphasize that the work of our society is so successful thanks to our many members who work tirelessly on behalf of our patients and our specialty. Our specialty is focused on promoting the evidence-based treatment of the disease of obesity. We conceptualize our efforts as not just a job, but a ‘calling’ while our mission itself is in fact a ‘cause’, which lends itself to the crusading approach our members demonstrate as we fight the good fight on behalf of our patients.

After a strategic planning process involving all members of our elected Executive Council, we determined a primary goal for the organization going forward, i.e. to increase the utilization of surgical treatment for obesity. This is not based upon self-serving promotion but rather on the well-established basis that surgery, the most effective treatment for the disease of obesity, is utilized only 1% of the time for patients who should be considered as candidates. The methods to be employed in accomplishing this primary objective were identified as working to raise the public’s awareness, increasing collaborations with our medical colleagues, and further engaging the ASMBBS membership.

The result of this strategic process was the decision to take our organization in a somewhat different direction to confront head-on the lack of public awareness of the strong benefits and high degree of safety that our interventions provide. As a result, ASMBBS is embarking on two new initiatives designed to appeal directly to the public to educate them about surgery and its benefits. These are ambitious projects with the potential for high costs, but I think it is fair to say that all of us hope this effort will help us reach the tipping point in which the performance of surgical procedures begin to increase dramatically and finally begin to have an impact on the growing epidemic of the disease of obesity.

The projects include the launch of our new patient-facing website on surgery for diabetes: www.EscapeDiabetes.org The concept of escaping diabetes is carefully-considered terminology as we felt that many patients feel trapped due to type 2 diabetes and likely have not been informed that diabetes surgery may offer them diabetes remission and a decrease in longterm diabetes complications. One key aspect of this new website is the Cleveland Clinic’s new patient-friendly Individualized Diabetes Complications risk calculator which will allow a patient to estimate his or her risk of serious diabetes-related complications over 10 years and how diabetes surgery would impact those risks. We plan to promote this website widely and direct interested patients to our membership to receive accurate evidence-based education about their treatment options, including surgery.

The second initiative involves a partnership between WebMD and ASMBBS to disseminate information about surgical treatment of obesity and diabetes. WebMD is arguably the most publicly trusted digital information resource in the United States today and many thousands of people seek health-related information from this website each day. ASMBBS is also a trusted resource for patients and we will place content on the WebMD site to educate potential patients about their treatment options and furthermore present surgical options with evidence to back up their value. Given the high degree of safety and efficacy we have today in the United States for surgical treatment options, it is critical that we message the public to change their outdated preconceptions about our surgical procedures. The best news of all is that, in light of the high level evidence and widely-adopted guidelines we now have supporting surgical treatment, we can simply present the evidence in a manner relatable to patients and allow them to draw their own conclusions!

All of our 27 committees have been working on projects, in every area of our professional, clinical, educational, training and advocacy interests. Their accomplishments are too numerous to recount in this letter, but you will find them in the following pages which detail each committee’s activities. This year, our Committee of the Year, as voted by the Executive Council, is our Access to Care Committee which has finally seen some success with removing arbitrary weight loss effort documentation barriers by several health insurance companies as well as a few companies allowing surgical treatment of type 2 diabetes for BMI 30-35 patients. Access to Care also notably stepped up to help our membership analyze the CMS opportunity to participate in bundled care options for bariatric surgery.

Coordinating all the activities and numerous projects as always was our hard-working ASMBBS staff, under the guidance of our extraordinary and beloved Executive Director, Georgeann Mallory, who is absolutely the “glue” that binds us together as she works tirelessly to keep our organization on track.

We have had overall successful meetings as a member of ObesityWeek (OW), yet many of our members and industry partners have struggled with attending our meetings. Early November is a time of the year when most surgeons are busy clinically and

cannot leave their practices or easily find surgical coverage. Participation in our meeting has also been impacted by family holidays like Halloween and the need for many of our members to attend the American College of Surgeons' Clinical Congress. Some surgeons have expressed dissatisfaction with the large size of the meeting which makes it difficult to find and network with colleagues.

More significantly, as part of OW, we were bound by a governance model that created financial issues and operational difficulties which effected our status as an independent organization. In order to alleviate these and other concerns of the ASMBS, and after detailed analysis including legal review and attempts to reconcile the issues, the Executive Council unanimously chose the only course of action within our purview under the OW operating agreement by voting to leave the OW, LLC effective in 2020. By withdrawing from OW, ASMBS will eventually be able schedule our meetings at a time which will align better with our membership's needs. I feel gratified that we have heard positive comments from so many members, and from industry partners, regarding the decision to re-launch the ASMBS Annual Meeting in Atlanta in 2020. We will continue to have co-located meetings with The Obesity Society for several years into the future due to contractual commitments, however ASMBS will once again have autonomy over its Annual Meeting.

Finally, and truly the most far-reaching accomplishment of the past year, albeit many years in the making, is the announcement that our surgical specialty was granted a Focused Practice Designation (FPD) by the American Board of Medical Specialties. Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of this designation is that it required strong and unprecedented support for bariatric metabolic surgery by our peers in the American Board of Surgery. Through-out the 36 year history of our organization, our members have struggled with a lack of recognition and acceptance for what we do. The approval of an FPD for bariatric metabolic surgery is a strong statement indicating both legitimacy and acceptance of our specialty, at long last!

I am grateful for the tremendous honor it has been to serve as President of this amazing organization over the past year. With that said, I urge all of us to re-dedicate ourselves to the incredibly important work that we have ahead. Yes, we have accomplished much, but we still have much to do! I look forward to many great accomplishments in the future from this strong and well-respected organization and its extraordinary membership committed to fighting on behalf of our patients for their right to evidence-based treatment for the disease of obesity. The future of our specialty is bright and I believe that, with all of us working together, we can finally reach a 'tipping point' in which we see dramatic and appropriate increases in the utilization of surgery to treat the epidemic of obesity, type 2 diabetes and its many other associated diseases.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric J. DeMaria, MD, FASMBS
ASMBS President

Executive Council



President
Eric DeMaria, MD,
FASMB



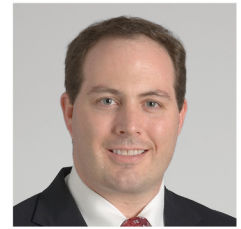
President-Elect
Matthew Hutter, MD,
FASMB



Secretary/Treasurer
Shanu Kothari, MD,
FASMB



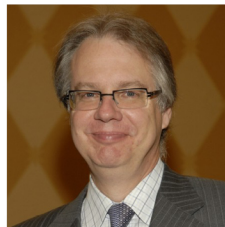
Past President
Samer Mattar, MD,
FASMB



Senior Past President
Stacy Brethauer, MD,
FASMB



Councilperson-At-Large
Wayne English, MD,
FASMB



Councilperson-At-Large
Michel Gagner, MD



Councilperson-At-Large
Marina Kurian, MD,
FASMB



Councilperson-At-Large
Teresa LaMasters, MD,
FASMB



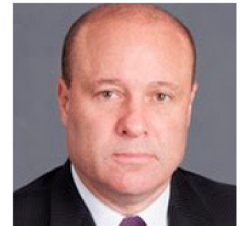
Councilperson-At-Large
Rami Lutfi, MD, FACS
FASMB



Councilperson-At-Large
Rachel Moore, MD,
FASMB



Councilperson-At-Large
Richard Peterson, MD,
FASMB



Councilperson-At-Large
Natan Zundel, MD,
FASMB



IH President
Karen Flanders, MSN,
ARNP, CBN



IH President-Elect
Lisa West-Smith, PhD,
LISW-S

Our ASMBS Staff

Georgeann Mallory

Executive Director

Kristie Kaufman

Director of Operations

Kim Carmichael

Financial Manager

Jennifer Wynn

Deputy Executive Director

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

Karen Loerzel, CMP

Meeting Manager

Meghan Johnson

CME Compliance & Grants Manager

Liaison to Bariatric Surgery Training, Video and IH Clinical Issues and Guidelines Committees

Amie Buehler

Program Manager

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

Leslie Vinson

State Chapters Manager

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

Danielle Marsh

Membership Manager

Liaison to Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Membership, and IH Membership Committee

Susan Haury

CBN Program Manager

Liaison to CBN Certification Committee

Jillian Tartt

Communications Coordinator

Liaison to Communications, Public Education, and IH Communications Committees

James Osterhout

Director of Information Technology

Max McMahon

Creative & Software Development Manager

Vanessa Govindan

Graphic & Web Designer

Jolie Nantz

Front Office Coordinator

Liaison to Research and IH Support Group Committees

About the Society



THE MISSION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR METABOLIC AND BARIATRIC SURGERY

Our Universal Goals:

- › Improve patient care
- › Advance the science and understanding of metabolic and bariatric surgery
- › Foster interdisciplinary communication on obesity and obesity related conditions
- › Improve access to metabolic and bariatric surgery
- › Provide high quality education and support for our members
- › Increase membership, retention, and value
- › Increase public understanding of obesity and metabolic and bariatric surgery



Access to Care

C. Joe Northup, MD FASMBS

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

Committee Members

Chair

C. Joe Northup, MD

Co-Chair

Michael Seger, MD FASMBS

Margaret Inman, MD ACS

Executive Council Liaison

Teresa LaMasters, MD FASMBS

ASMBS Staff Liaison

Leslie Vinson

Members

Amir Aryaie, MD

Nicholas Brown, MD FASMBS

David L. Chengelis, MD

Christopher Daigle, MD FRSC

Pamela Davis, BSN MBA RN CBN

Maher El Chaar, MD

Wayne English, MD FASMBS, Past Chair

Farah Husain, MD FASMBS

Linden Karas, MD

Walter Lindstrom, Esq

John Morton, MD FASMBS

Fady Moustarah, MD MPH FRCS

Blake Movitz, MD

Carl Pesta, DO FASMBS (State Chapter Committee Chair)

Joshua Pfeiffer, MD

Nancy Puzziferri, MD

John D. Scott, MD FASMBS,

Immediate Past Chair

Bridget Slusarek, RN

Lloyd Stegemann, MD FASMBS

Dana Telem, MD FASMBS

(Insurance Committee Co-Chair)

Super STARS & STARS (State Access Representatives):

Super STAR Northeast Region

Matthew Hutter, MD MPH FASMBS

CT - Darren Tishler, MD FASMBS

MA - Sheila Partridge, MD FASMBS

ME - Jamie Loggins, MD

NH - Robert Catania, MD FASMBS

NY - William O. Malley, MD

RI - Siva Vithiananthan, MD

FASMBS

VT - Patrick Forgione, MD

Super STAR Mid Atlantic Region

Guilherme Campos, MD FASMBS

DE - Rahul Singh, MD

MD - Open

NJ - Alexander Onopchenko, MD

NC/SC - Ranjan Sudan, MD

FASMBS

PA - Ann M. Rogers, MD FASMBS

VA/WV - Troy Glembot, MD

FASMBS

Super STAR Southeast Central Region

Brandon Williams, MD FASMBS

AL - Todd Foreman, MD FASMBS

FL - Joseph Chebli, MD FASMBS

GA - Renee Hilton, MD

KY - Joshua Steiner, MD

OH - C. Joe Northup, MD

TN - Jenny Weaver, MD

Super STAR Upper Midwest Region –

Luke Funk, MD FASMBS

IA - Matthew Christopherson, MD

IL - Juaquito Jorge, MD

IN - Brenda Cacucci, MD FASMBS

KS - Robert Aragon, MD

MI - Kathryn Ziegler, MD

MN - Geoffrey Fasen, MD MS

MO - Christopher Eagon, MD

FASMBS

NE - Gary Anthone, MD FASMBS

WI - Shanu Kothari, MD FASMBS &

Kevin Wasco, MD FASMBS

Super STAR Lower Midwest Region

Robert O. Carpenter, MD MPH FASMBS

AR - John Baker, MD FASMBS

CO - Matthew Metz, MD

LA - Peter Lundberg, MD

MS - Jennifer O'Flarity, RN BSN

NM - Karina McArthur, MD

OK - Laure DeMattia, DO

TX - Tanyaradzwa Kajese, MD

FASMBS

**Super STAR Northwest Region –
Valerie Halpin, MD FASMBS**

AK - Michael Todd, MD

ID - Open

MT - John Pender, MD

ND - Luis Garcia, MD FACS MBA

OR - Valerie Halpin, MD FASMBS

SD - Kristin Turek, CNP

WA - Anirban Gupta, MD

WY - Kevin Helling, MD

**Super STAR Southwest Region – Ajay
Upadhyay, MD FACS FRCS**

AZ — Christine Lovato, MD FASMBS

CA — Ajay Upadhyay, MD FACS

FRCS

HI — Steven Fowler, MD FASMBS

NV — Open

UT — Eric Volckmann, MD

INDUSTRY AD HOC APPOINTED

Stacey Cooper - Ethicon

Juthika Pal — Ethicon

Gary A. Richardson – Ethicon

Scott Wolven - Ethicon

Gina Baldo – Medtronic

Michael Morseon – Medtronic

Vincent Zeringue — Medtronic

Joe Nadglowski — Obesity Action Coalition

W. Scott Butsch, MD MSc – The Obesity Society

Jeanine Sherman, ProCare Health

Chris Gallagher — Potomac

Currents, Washington Lobbyist

Sharon Whalen - Reshape

Continue on following page ➔

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee Goals

Short-Term:

- › Utilize STAR and Super STAR Network more effectively, involving State Chapter Presidents
- › Support for “National Obesity Care Week” in conjunction with OAC/industry
- › Support the ASMBS Foundation’s Walk from Obesity

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- › STARs and Super STARs
- › Contribute regional reports during monthly meetings
- › OCC All STAR Program was established and is managed by Chris Gallagher
- › Disseminated news of updated insurance policies to state chapters
- › Members of the Access to Care Team travelled to D.C. on September 20, 2019 to advocate for patient rights as part of OCAN and the OAC’s NOCW Access to Care Week
- › Continued to support passage of the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act
- › Monthly reminders to members to host a Walk from Obesity
- › Creation of Project to Assess Commercial Insurance Coverage

Mid-Term:

- › CMS Bundled Payments
- › Help the OAC build their membership via OAC Patient Advocacy

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- › Alerted ASMBS members of the CMS Bundled Care application period, conducted a webinar on June 12th, and a “Bundled Payments: Preparing for What Could be our Future” course at ASMBS Weekend on June 22nd; committee will continue to monitor
- › Post cards were sent to all ASMBS surgeon members last year and are available on the ASMBS and OAC websites for download; members will continue to urge patients to join the OAC

Long-Term:

- › More legislative efforts
- › Continued tracking of commercial payors and their coverage of bariatric surgery
- › Plan for Project for Seminar Insurance Assessment
- › Maintain the ASMBS Access to Care Facebook Page
- › Assist the ObesityPAC with State Chapter Advocacy Day Grants
- › Continue efforts to improve State Health Exchange coverage
- › Convert 27 “No” states to “Yes” states
- › Continue state employee coverage in all 50 states: GA, ID, LA, MT, SC, UT, WV, MT; monitor any new pilot programs
- › Medicaid Coverage in all 50 States: Only Montana remains
- › Continue support of Treat and Reduce Obesity Act
- › Continue advocacy presence and response to healthcare changes
- › Continue monitoring and responding to regulatory changes affecting ACA patient protections
- › Advocacy Efforts Tracking

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives

- › Supported members in Connecticut, Ohio, Texas and Wisconsin with specific access to care issues this year
- › Reviewing a prior project’s data points and will ask for volunteer data sites for collection
- › We have 138 members on our Facebook page; will continue to use this page as a method to disseminate information to members

- › Monthly reminders of the ObesityPAC State Chapter Advocacy Day Grants at each meeting; support of members in obtaining these grants
- › Mid-month Access to Care conference calls with Chair, Co-Chairs, ASMBS Liaison, OAC President, and our Washington Lobbyist to discuss issues that arise in between monthly calls
- › Monthly Access to Care Committee calls
- › Continue monitoring and responding to regulatory changes affecting ACA patient protections
- › Advocacy Activity Summary - updated monthly per members’, STARs’, Super STARs’, Industry Ad Hoc Members’, OAC’s and our Washington Lobbyist’s reports of wins and losses in each state

Committee Objectives

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

Completed Projects

- › Bundled Payments webinar on June 12th, and “Bundled Payments: Preparing for What Could be our Future” course at ASMBS Weekend on June 22nd
- › September 20, 2019 OCAN Hill Day in D.C. in conjunction with OAC’s NOCW Access to Care Week - visited 35 senate offices highlighting NOCW and TROA
- › Supported Connecticut with their Bariatric Coverage Bill, Ohio in their increased coverage for low BMI criteria, Texas with their Medicare denial of payments, and Wisconsin with getting state employee coverage back
- › Supported Connecticut and Wisconsin in achieving their ObesityPAC State Chapter Lobby Day Grants



Bariatric Surgery Training

Keith Gersin, MD, FASMBS

The Bariatric Surgery Training Committee is responsible for designing guidelines and resources for metabolic and bariatric surgery training and fellowship programs. It also certifies that trainees have received adequate training through validation of their experience and the development and continuous updating of examinations. The mission of the committee is to raise and maintain the quality and safety standards of metabolic and bariatric surgery through provision of standard curricula, supportive resources, and evaluation of the training of bariatric surgeons, fellows and residents.

Committee Members

Chair

Keith Gersin, MD FASMBS

Co-Chair

Matthew Martin, MD FASMBS

Executive Council Liaison

Ranjan Sudan, MD ??

Fellowship Council

Daniel Jones, MD FASMBS

ASMBS Staff Liaison

Meghan Johnson

Members

Ambar Banerjee, MD

Gregory Dakin, MD

Laura Fischer, MD

William Gourash, MSN CRNP

Daniel Jones, MD

Emanuele Lo Menzo, MD

Carl Pesta, MD

Dana Portenier, MD

Raul Rosenthal, MD

Bruce Schirmer, MD

John Gabrielsen, MD

Shaina Eckhouse, MD

Kunoor Jain-Spangler, MD

Chandra Hassan, MD

Scott Shikora, MD

Maher El Chaar, MD

Matthew Fourman, MD

Adrain Dan MD

Yulia Zak MD

Committee Goals

Short-Term

- > ASMBBS Certificate of Satisfactory Training in Bariatric Surgery Fellowship (award annually)
 - » Application window is closed
 - » Applications are currently being reviewed- 79 total
 - » a.Pilot curriculum participants- 10
 - » b.Traditional tract applicants- 69

Mid-Term:

- > - Create a Competency Based Fellowship Curriculum for Broad Adoption
- > Year 2 Pilot completed
- > Survey fellows and PD regarding content and evaluation tools - completed
- > Modify curriculum and evaluation tools for year 2
- > Coordinate the EPA to meet the Fellowship Council work to standardize across all fellowship
- > Example: Adv GI fellowship Adv MIS/bari fellowship, Bari fellowship who have an EPA on an anastomotic bariatric operation should all use the same EPA

Committee Objectives

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

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives

- > Drs. McBride and Kothari are the ASMBS representative to the Fellowship Council Bariatric EPA writing work. Drs JB Bittner and Jacob Greenberg (who are ASMBS members) are the SAGES representatives to this work.

- > Current strategy is 7 EPA:
 - » Evaluate and Manage Clinically Severe Obesity
 - » Identify and manage patients with clinically severe or morbid obesity for medical supervised weight loss and/or psychosocial support
 - » Identify and manage patients with clinically severe or morbid obesity eligible for primary surgical weight loss procedures
 - » Identify and manage a patient with weight recidivism for revisional surgical weight loss procedure.
 - » Identify and manage patients with clinically severe or morbid obesity eligible for primary endoluminal therapy.
 - » Evaluate and manage patients with acute complications of surgical weight loss procedures
 - » Evaluate and manage patients with chronic complications of surgical weight loss procedures.
- > Currently there are place holders within the EPA for endoscopy, there is a separate working group on flexible endoscopy. They are creating EPA to cover diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopy that we can probably use however we want to see the content before we commit for content such as dilatations, stents, etc.

2019 Completed Projects:

- > ABS is working on EPA for general surgery residency. At this point there are no bariatric EPA however will continue to advocate for EPA at this stage of training as it is in the score curriculum.



Clinical Issues

Ann Rogers, MD FASMBS

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

Committee Members

Chair
Ann Rogers, MD FASMBS

Co-Chair
Dan Eisenberg, MD & Sayeed Ikramuddin, MD MHA

Executive Council Liaison
Shanu Kothari, MD, FASMBS

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

Ad Hoc Literature Review
Kara Kallies

ASMBS Staff Liaison

Leslie Vinson

Members

Cheguevara Afaneh, MD FASMBS
Essa Aleassa, MD MSc FRCS
Maria Altieri, MD MS
Ali Aminian, MD
Toms Augustin, MD MPH
Dan Azagury, MD
T. Javier Birriel, MD

Guilherme Campos, MD FASMBS
Jonathan Carter, MD FASMBS
Julietta Chang, MD
Maher El Chaar, MD
Sofiane El Djouzi, MD MS
Saber Ghiassi, MD MPH
Brandon Grover, DO FASMBS
Peter Hallowell, MD FASMBS
Marcelo Hinojosa, MD FASMBS
Anna Ibele, MD
Jason Michael Johnson, DO
Julie Kim, MD FASMBS

Zhamak Khorgami, MD
Guilherme Mazzini, MD PhD
Fady Moustarah, MD MPH
Abdelrahman Nimeri, MBCh
Sabrena Noria, MD PhD FASMBS
Pavlos Papasavas, MD FASMBS
Rana Pullatt, MD FASMBS
Almino Ramos, MD FASMBS
Bruce Schirmer, MD
Harvey Sugerman, MD
R. Wesley Vosburg, MD

Committee Goals

Short-Term

- > GERD/Barrett's Esophagus/Bariatric Endoscopy Guideline – draft
- > Update of SADI-S Statement

Mid-Term:

- > Update of Gastric Banding Guidelines – Collaboration with IH CIGC
- > Publish Bariatric Surgery and Cancer Statement
- > Publish Management of Patients after Pregnancy paper – Collaboration with IH CIGC
- > Sleep Apnea with AASM Statement
- > Endoscopic Sleeve Gastroplasty paper – collaboration with the Emerging Technology & Procedures Committee

Long-Term:

- > Ongoing identification of issues to develop statements & provide topics for EC Review
- > Provide ongoing clarity on issues related to bariatric & metabolic surgery
- > Ongoing review/revision of all existing and new statements
- > Update Reoperative Guidelines 2014
- > Update Metabolic Bone Disease 2014
- > Management of Prevention of Contraception

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives

- > GERD/Barrett's Esophagus/Bariatric Endoscopy Guideline writing group formed and literature review completed
- > Review of current SADI-S literature performed, draft sent to EC for review
- > Literature review of current gastric banding references completed
- > Bariatric Surgery and Cancer Statement draft reviewed by committee and in review with EC
- > Management of Patients after Pregnancy paper final draft complete; will be reviewed by the committees – Collaboration with IH CIGC
- > Sleep Apnea with AASM - Sleep Society Co-Endorsed Paper

- > Endoscopic Sleeve Gastroplasty paper writing team formed, draft written and with committee for review
- > Management of Patients after Pregnancy – Collaboration with IH CIGC
- > Reviewed existing ASMBS statements
- > Will continue call for Statements out to membership in January of each year
- > Barrett's Esophagus Paper
- > Update of Reoperative Guidelines 2014
- > Update of Metabolic Bone Disease 2014
- > Management of Prevention of Contraception

2019 Completed Projects

- > The following publications were published in *SOARD* in September 2019
 - >> American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Review of the Literature on One-Anastomosis Gastric Bypass
 - >> Updated Position Statement on Bariatric Surgery in Class I Obesity (BMI 30–35 kg/m²) (Low BMI)
- > The following publications are online “In Press” on *SOARD*, awaiting printed version assignment:
 - >> Hernia Consensus Guideline on Bariatric Surgery and Hernia Surgery in collaboration with the American Hernia Society
 - >> Publish Position Statement Medium- and Long-Term Durability of Weight Loss and Diabetic Outcomes After Conventional Stapled Bariatric Procedure



Communications

Neil Floch, MD

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

Committee Members

Chair

Neil Floch, MD

Co-Chair

Arghavan Salles, MD, PhD

Executive Council Liaison

Richard Peterson, MD

IH Communications Liaison

Nathaniel Sann, MSN CRNP
FNP-BC

ASMBS Staff Liaison

Jillian Tartt

Members

Jawad Ali, MD

Joshua B. Alley, MD

Aaron Bolduc, MD

Matthew Dong, MD, MPH

Elizabeth Dovec, MD FACS

Jonathan Finks, MD

Carlos Galvani, MD FACS

Valerie Halpin, MD

Daniel Herron, MD

L. Renee Hilton, MD

Marcelo Hinojosa, MD

Marina Kurian, MD

Matthew Martin, MD FASMBS

Abdelrahman Nimeri, MBBCh

Kevin Reavis, MD

Zaher Toumi, MD FRCS

Committee Objectives

- › Disseminate the Society's educational events, grant offers, and opportunities to members
- › Help provide the Society's information to consumers
- › Facilitate communication between members

Committee Goals

Short-Term

- › Continue to develop and deploy social media content to recruit prospective ASMBS members and serve as patient education/awareness tools
- › Supply social media and video coverage for the ASMBS Annual Meeting at ObesityWeek 2019
- › Establish a regular webinar series to address topics relevant to the concerns of members
- › Continue creating and sharing several SOARD Visual Abstracts on a monthly basis
- › Continue to grow our collaboration across all ASMBS committees to utilize the communications committee as the voice of the ASMBS

Mid-Term

- › Create video content for both patients and surgeons on YouTube
- › Continue to upload ASMBS videos onto YouTube to be housed as a central hub
- › Involve more patients and patient advocates in committee activities
- › Increase engagement with consistent posting of SOARD Visual Abstracts to Twitter and periodic journal clubs on Facebook

Long-Term

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

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives

- › Assign social media Champions to ASMBS accounts to oversee production of and guide direction of content
- › ASMBS Social Media Updates
 - › ASMBS Facebook Page – 7,608 followers
 - › ASMBS Twitter – 21,400 followers
 - › SOARD Twitter – 2,376 followers
 - › ASMBS LinkedIn Account – 673 followers
 - › ASMBS YouTube – 392 subscribers
 - › ASMBS Instagram – 772 followers
- › Continue to post articles and Visual Abstracts to SOARD Twitter Account
- › Collaborate with the Public Education Committee and IH Communications Committee on website redesign

2019 Completed Projects

- › Created and posted 18 Visual Abstracts on the SOARD Twitter account throughout the year
- › Posted SOARD journal articles, fostering discussion and engagement on the SOARD Twitter account
- › Created an ASMBS Instagram account, accumulating a following of over 700 members, patients, and constituents
- › Continue to grow presence and audience on LinkedIn
- › Founded a subcommittee dedicated to generating unique social media content
- › Developed templates to create social media content on a weekly schedule
- › Founded a new Website Subcommittee to redesign ASMBS.org to better serve members and patients and establish ASMBS as the leading authority on information about metabolic and bariatric surgery
- › Completed two collaborative webinars - "Building and Maintaining a Practice Despite Today's Market Share Focus" and "What You Missed at ASMBS Weekend 2019"



Community/Independent Practice

Marina Kurian, MD FASMBS

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

Committee Members

- Chair**
Marina Kurian, MD FASMBS
- Co-Chair**
Paul Kemmeter, MD
- Executive Council Liaison**
Marina Kurian, MD FASMBS
- ASMBS Staff Liaison**
Leslie Vinson

- Members**
Helmuth Billy, MD
Matthew Brengman, MD FASMBS
Paul Cirangle, MD
Daniel Cottam, MD
Paul Enochs, MD FASMBS
Karen Flanders, MSN ARNP CBN
Shawn Garber, MD

- Makram Gedeon, MD FASMBS
Charlotte Hodges, MD MBA
Margaret Inman, MD FASMBS
Charlotte Hodges, MD MBA
Margaret Inman, MD FASMBS
Robert Kenney, DO
Shanu Kothari, MD FASMBS
James Leithead, MD
Rami Lutfi, MD FASMBS,
- Immediate Past Chair
Blake Movitz, MD
Joshua Pfeiffer, MD
Jaime Ponce, MD FASMBS
Paige Quintero, MD FASMBS
Virginia Weaver, MD
Matthew Weiner, MD
Tom White, MD FASMBS

Committee Objectives

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

planning 2020 with the opportunity for all committee members to speak at the courses

Long-Term

- > Increase engagement of large groups
- > Increase private practice membership at national and State Chapter level
- > Increase private practice attendance at ASMBS Weekend and ObesityWeek
- > Continue Educational videos by experts in field of business for all members, academic, private and community for practice building/ optimization
- > Private Practice Tool Kit
- > Preceptorships through ASMBS
- > New members added to the committee
- > Private Practice Tool Kit in progress

Committee Goals

Short-Term

- > Publish one educational Private Practice Solutions Video per month
- > Practice Building Webinars
- > Insurance Denials, Letters of Necessity, Tips & Tricks on ASMBS Website as part of Private Practice Tool Kit
- > Private Practice Solutions “Tips & Tricks” Video Series completed:
- > Adding Medical Weight Management to Your Practice; Ways to Optimize, Outcome, Volume and Revenue – published April 2019
- > Ancillary Revenue Streams for Your Bariatric Practice – published May 2019
- > Cosmetic Surgery – published June 2019
- > Coding Rules for Bariatric Surgery – published August 2019
- > Adding new topics
- > “Building and Maintaining a Practice Despite Today’s Market Share Forces” Webinar on October 2, 2019

2019 Completed Projects

- > Hosted “Building and Maintaining a Practice Despite Today’s Market Share Forces” Webinar on October 2nd
- > Four Private Practice Solutions Videos published: <https://asmbs.org/resource-categories/practice-tips-and-tricks>
- > Directed ASMBS Weekend 2019 Practice Management Course, June 2019
- > Directed ObesityWeek 2019 Practice Building Course, November 2019
- > Hosted ObesityWeek 2019 Practice Building Reception, November 2019

Mid-Term

- > ASMBS Weekend and ObesityWeek 2019 Practice Building Courses; planning 2020 with the opportunity for all committee members to speak at the courses
- > ObesityWeek 2019 Cocktail Reception on November 6, 2019; planning 2020
- > ASMBS Weekend and ObesityWeek 2019 Practice Building Courses;



Diversity and Inclusion

Farah Husain, MD FASMBS

To study and support the educational and professional needs of under-represented members, promote the acquisition of members from all ages, genders, and ethnicities, and increase access to care for our diverse patient population.

Committee Members

Chair

Farah Husain, MD FASMBS

Co-Chair

Monique Hassan, MD

Executive Council Liaison

Teresa LaMasters, MD FASMBS

ASMBS Staff Liaison

Danielle Marsh

Members

Eric Ahnfeldt, MD

Folahan Ayoola, MD

Clinton Bolton, PhD

Diego Camacho, MD

Sylvia Herbozo, PhD

January Hill, MD

Crystal Johnson-Mann, MD

Neil King, MD

Rebecca Lopez, MD

Janet Ng, PhD

Abdelrahman Nimeri, MD

Arghavan Salles, MD PhD

Joon Shim, MD

Jessica Smith, MD

Donn Spight, MD

Nova Szoka, MD

Samuel Szomstein, MD

Andre Teixeira, MD

Eric Velazquez, MD

Committee Goals

- › Create a session on diversity and inclusion for ObesityWeek 2020
- › Build relationships with community partners to outreach patient populations who traditionally under-utilize bariatric surgery
- › Liaise with Access to Care Committee to work on ensuring all patients have access to bariatric surgery
- › Liaise with Membership Committee on increasing the current 9% female membership
- › Work on initiatives (incorporating social media) to recruit young members for mentorship and support

Committee Objectives

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



Emerging Technologies & Procedures

Dean Mikami, MD

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

Committee Members

Chair

Dean Mikami, MD

Co-Chair

Alan Saber, MD MS FASMBS

Executive Council Liaison

Natan Zundel, MD FASMBS

ASMBS Staff Liaison

Leslie Vinson

Members

Mohamed Ali, MD

Jawad Ali, MD

Allen Browne, MD

Gregory F. Dakin, MD

George M. Eid, MD,

Senior Past Chair

Paul E. Enochs, MD FASMBS

Keith S. Gersin, MD FASMBS

Barry Greene, MD

Donald T. Hess, MD

Matthew M. Hutter MD MPH
FASMBS

Leon V. Katz, MD

Shanu N. Kothari, MD FASMBS

Matthew D. Kroh, MD FASMBS

Matthew Y. Lin, MD

Emanuele Lo Menzo, MD PhD
FASMBS

Cynthia Long, MD (Ad Hoc FDA)

Kamal Mahawar, MD FRCSEd

Dmitry Oleynikov, MD

Jaime Ponce, MD FASMBS

David A. Provost, MD FASMBS

Prashanth Ramachandra, MD

Michael A. Russo, MD FASMBS

Kuldeep Singh, MD MBA FASMBS

MD Timothy Snow, DO

Konstantinos Spaniolas, MD

Erik Wilson, MD FASMBS,

Immediate Past Chair

ASMBS Missions Met by the Committee

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

Committee Goals

Short-Term

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

Mid-Term

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

Long-Term

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

Committee Objectives

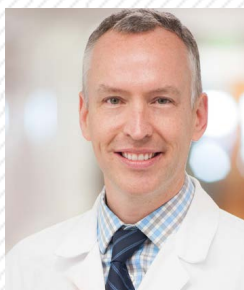
- > Engage all stakeholders in the field of emerging bariatric and metabolic procedures, in the form of educational sessions or by inviting them to contribute data and new information to our web-based educational tools

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives

- > Chair of Emerging Technology & Procedures Committee also sits on the Pathway for Endorsement of New Devices and Procedures Committee
- > Endoscopic Sleeve Gastroplasty paper – collaboration with Clinical Issues Committee – writing group formed, draft written, review by committee in process
- > Endoscopic Sleeve Gastroplasty paper – collaboration with Clinical Issues Committee – writing group formed, draft written, review by committee in process
- > Collaboration with the Clinical Issues Committee in evaluating emerging technology and procedures

2019 Completed Projects

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



Flexible Endoscopy

Matthew Kroh, MD

The mission of the Flexible Endoscopy Committee of ASMBS is to examine methods of training, clinical applications, and research for existing and evolving endoscopic therapies in the treatment of obesity. Ideal training focuses on understanding the anatomy and patients with obesity, past and current surgical procedures, and the role of endoluminal therapies. Currently, the practice of endoscopy has important roles in the pre-operative evaluation and the diagnosis and management of post-operative complaints and complications. Additionally, new endoluminal procedures are being introduced to care for patients with obesity and metabolic diseases, both in the primary and revisional setting. There is a growing need for leadership within ASMBS to ensure that these techniques are used responsibly and safely, and that the membership of the ASMBS is kept abreast of the current state of endoscopic therapies to best care for our patients.

Committee Members

Chair

Matthew Kroh, MD

Co-Chairs

Dean Mikami, MD

Immediate Past Chair

Bipan Chand, MD

Executive Council Liaison

Stacy Brethauer, MD

ASMBS Staff Liaison

Meghan Johnson

Members

Aaron Carr, MD

Afaneh Cheguevara, MD

Brooke Henson, RN, BSN, CBN

Leena Khaitan, MD FASMBS

Shanu Kothari, MD FASMBS

Eric Marcotte, MD

Corrigan McBride, MD FASMBS

Erin Moran-Atkin, MD

John Morton, MD FASMBS

Ninh Nguyen, MD FASMBS

Sabrina Noria, MD

Jaime Ponce, MD FASMBS

Aurora Pryor, MD FASMBS

Kevin Reavis, MD

John Rodriguez, MD

Nabil Tariq, MD FASMBS

Kevin Wasco, MD FASMBS

Erik Wilson, MD FASMBS

Natan Zundel, MD FASMBS

ASMBS Missions Met by the Committee

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

Committee Goals

Short-Term

- > Ensure consistent delivery of BE-SAFE program at ObesityWeek, ASMBS Weekend
- > Promote increased visibility of program, offerings at institution-specific programs and SAGES meeting
- > Expanded educational and training offerings to members through hands-on and didactics
- > Identify broader group of ASMBS members, particularly at the more junior level, to be active in the Committee and Committee-supported activities at the meetings

Mid-Term

- > Continue to evaluate low stakes exam, following video curriculum outline
- > Enhance hands-on curriculum for the lab from feedback received from participants
- > Tailor post-graduate hands-on labs to be consistent with current bariatric endoscopy needs of the society

Long-Term

- > Identify “training centers” for the hands-on and train the trainer
- > Dissemination of endoscopy educational curriculum among trainees, vetted and approved by ASMBS
- > Solidify the importance of bariatric endoscopy for complications and therapy as a core component of the Society

Committee Objectives

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

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives

- > Electronic video Database established to house content (completed)
- > Updated question bank for online exam
- > BE-SAFE course at ObesityWeek 2019 and SAGES (in process)
- > Train the trainers expansion to allow for more widespread BE-SAFE programs
- > Work with Clinical Issues Committee on GERD after bariatric surgery, specifically Barrett’s after sleeve gastrectomy
- > Expansion of BE-SAFE website
- > More content of website to support BE-SAFE and endoscopy education
- > BE-SAFE hands-on labs during ObesityWeek, SAGES, and individual centers
- > Train the trainers sessions for BE-SAFE

2019 Completed Projects

- > Continuation of BE-SAFE program
- > Expansion to SAGES meeting
- > Developed BE-SAFE Oversight Committee
- > Increased visibility of endoscopy in educational programs
- > Developed working group on reflux to liaise with Clinical Issues Committee



General and Foregut Surgery

Ranjan Sudan, MD FASMBS

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

Committee Members

Chair

Ranjan Sudan, MD FASMBS

Co-Chairs

Maher El Chaar, MD

Executive Council Liaison

Richard Peterson, MD FASMBS

ASMBS Staff Liaison

Amie Buehler

Members

Sergio Bardaro, MD FASMBS

Arunkumar Baskara, MD FASMBS

Adam Beall, MD

Miguel Burch, MD FASMBS

Diego Camacho, MD

Shaun Daly, MD

Daniel Davis, DO

Patrick Domkowski, MD FASMBS

Sofiane El Djouzi, MD

Neil Floch, MD

Karen Gibbs, MD FASMBS

Anthony Gonzalez, MD

Matthew Hubbard, MD

Colleen Kennedy, MD FASMBS

Keith King, MD

Kathleen Lak, MD

Devan Lenhart, DO

Adolfo Leyva-Alvizo, MD

Emanuele Lo Menzo, MD FASMBS

Alexander Onopchenko, MD

John Romanelli, MD

William Rupp, MD

Hazem Shamseddeen, MD FASMBS

Ian Soriano, MD FASMBS

Vasanth Stalin, MD FASMBS

Andre Teixeira, MD FASMBS

Michael Tyner, MD FASMBS

James Wooldridge, MD FASMBS

ASMBS Mission(s) Met by the Committee

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

Committee Objectives

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

2019 Accomplishments

- > Completion of the practicing bariatric surgeon's survey
- > ObesityWeek 2019 foregut course
- > Evidence review of management of cholelithiasis in bariatric patients

Objectives & Goals 2020

- > Evidence review on the optimal workup of bariatric patients presenting with GERD
- > Analysis and publication of the 2019 surgeon's survey
- > Evidence review on the management of GERD in bariatric patients
- > Working with clinical issues committee on developing EGD screening guidelines for sleeve patients



Insurance

Ashutosh Kaul, MD FASMBS

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

Committee Members

Chair
Ashutosh Kaul, MD, FASMBS

Co-Chair
Dana Telem, MD FASMBS

Immediate Past Chair
Helmuth Billy, MD

Past Chair
Matthew Brengman, MD
FASMBS,

Access to Care Committee Co-Chair
Margaret Inman, MD ACS
Michael Seger, MD FASMBS

Members
Alexander Onopchenko, MD
Ann Couch, RN CBN CPC
Jaime Ponce, MD FASMBS
Todd Foreman, MD FASMBS
Don Jay Selzer, MD
Ben Kocaj, MBA
Matthew Drake Spann, MD

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

Industry AD HOC Appointed
Nicole Gier, Ethicon
Natalie Heidrich, Ethicon
Chris Gallagher, Potomac
Currents

ASMBS Mission(s) Met by the Committee

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

Committee Objectives

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

Establish and disseminate guidelines and protocols for the management of general surgical and foregut problems before and after metabolic and bariatric surgery

Committee Goals

Short-Term

- > Develop probationary program for centers who are terminated by Blue Cross based on SAR data; a compromise, period of reassessment
- > Communicate with State Chapters and Access to Care Committees to identify local & national insurance concerns with respect to insurance issues that affect access to care with policy plan changes and other restrictions affecting bariatric surgery; current and ongoing issues include:
 - >> Medicaid and private insurance bundled payment proposals
 - >> Blue Cross, United Healthcare, and other insurances nationwide 3, 6, 9 and 12-month medically supervised preoperative weight management
 - >> Aetna’s requirement for medically supervised preoperative weight

- management program during which there can be no net weight gain as a condition of approval for bariatric surgery
- >> Regional discrepancies regarding access to care and Medicare guidelines secondary to apparent “crosswalk” issues as they arise
- >> Insurance policy changes - maintain communication between insurance carriers’ Medical Directors and ASMBS State Chapter Presidents
- > “How to Survive a RAC Audit” checklist - developed a resource to educate members regarding RAC (Recovery Audit Programs)
- > Work with EC on necessity and timing of any new code generation proposal for intragastric balloon placement; currently in the early forms of implementing this project

Mid-Term

- > Webinar/videos/YouTube Channel
- > Staged procedures position statement
- > Survey – how to deal with revisions: make it simple, what market they are in, what their biggest insurance companies are
- > Monitor AMA CPT or RUC issues that would involve bariatric surgery: continue to develop and pursue need for CPT Codes for bariatric issues as they arise and approach AMA CPT panel as required

Long-Term

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

Continue on following page ➔

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Access on local and national Insurance issues

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

Specific Projects in Progress to Achieve Goals and Objectives

- › Access to Care Co-Chairs added to committee; Insurance Co-Chair added to Access to Care Committee each year
- › Frequent and timely responses to insurance inquiries via the coding hotline – committee discusses and responds to approximately



International Development

Samuel Szomstein, MD

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

Committee Members

Chair

Samuel Szomstein, MD

Co-Chair

Homero Rivas, MD

EC Liaison

Natan Zundel, MD, FASMBS

ASMBS Staff Liaison

Danielle Marsh

Ad Hoc Member – IFSO ED

Manuela Mazzarella

Stefanie D'Arco

Members

Sanjay Agrawal, MD

John B. Dixon, MD PhD

Mousa Khoursheed, MD

Estuardo Behrens, MD Moataz Bashah, MD

Ahmed R. Ahmed, MD

Dan Azagury, MD

Diego Camacho, MD

Guilherme Campos, MD

Michel Gagner, MD

Peng Zhang, MD

Minyoung Cho, MD

Pablo Omelanzuck, MD

Ramzi Alami, MD FACS

Estuardo J. Behrens, MD

Yitka Graham, Researcher

Abdelrahman Nimeri, MD

Alan Saber, MD

Evelyn Dorado, MD

Ian Soriano, MD

ASMBS Mission Met by the Committee

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

Committee Goals

Short-Term

- › Increase international membership - coordinate with the Membership Committee.
- › Develop the criteria for US sites that will host visiting international surgeons and create a listing of these programs on our website

Mid-Term Goals:

- › Diversifying the committee with new committee members from other Countries
- › Increase attendance at OW20 with more attendance from other countries
- › Conduct co-sponsored international courses
- › Go to the Latin America Meeting or other international meetings for membership boost

Long-Term Goals:

- › Offering applications in other languages to facilitate the process to future International members. Languages suggested were Chinese, French, Spanish, Arabic, and Portuguese. Volunteers from the International Committee will assist in the translation process.
- › Create Standardized Training Guidelines for Global Bariatric Surgery.
- › Changing the membership prices depending on the country/currency
- › Increasing membership-IFASMBS by 20% (40 people)

- › Increase, constantly evaluate and maintain relationships with other societies
- › Closer contact with our International members
- › Possibly have our meeting before the international reception
- › Diversification of the International members of the Committee
- › Co-sponsored courses

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:



Military

Gordon Wisbach, MD MBA FACS FASMBS

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

Committee Members

<p>Chair Gordon Wisbach, MD MBA FACS FASMBS</p> <p>Co-Chair Joel Brockmeyer, MD FACS FASMBS (Military) and Vivian Sanchez, MD (VA)</p> <p>Executive Council Liaison Stacy Brethauer, MD FACS FASMBS</p>	<p>Immediate Past Chair Eric Ahnfeldt, DO FACS FASMBS,</p> <p>ASMBS Staff Liaison Leslie Vinson</p> <p>Members Matthew Martin, MD FASMBS Jamie Carr, BSN RN CBN Mike Mulcahy, MD Yong Choi, MD FASMBS Robert O'Rourke, MD (VA)</p>	<p>Susan Clark, MD Carl Pesta, DO FASMBS Daniel Eisenberg, MD (VA) Richard Peterson, MD MPH FASMBS Byron Faler, MD FACS Michael Logan Rawlins, MD Kyle Gadbois, MD Angel Reyes, MD FASMBS Marty Harnisch, MD John Paul Sanders, MD</p>	<p>Marcelo Hinojosa, MD FASMBS Robert Wilcox, MD Robert Lim, MD FASMBS Tamara Worlton, MD Kevan Mann, MD Christopher Yheulon, MD Anthony Mark, MD MBA</p>
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ASMBS Mission Met by the Committee

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

Committee Goals

Short-Term

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

Mid-Term

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

Long-Term

- > Assist ASMBS VA members with bariatric surgery access issues; assist VA members with patient care issues, patient throughput
- > DHA centralized funding and support for Bariatric Centers of Excellence distinction in the Military
- > MBSAQIP accreditation for all major MTFs utilizing a Clinical Reviewer as data collection administrator for multiple centers
- > Determine avenues for earning CME for deployed surgeons including ObesityWeek OnDemand at no cost for ASMBS active duty members
- > Military members to become ASMBS Fellows and MBSAQIP Verified surgeons
- > Maintain the directory of military and VA bariatric surgeons
- > Utilize private Military Facebook page/repository for shared military documents

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives

- > Discussed adding military members to the Diversity Committee with Dr. Peterson, Co-Chair of committee, at ObesityWeek 2018
- > Implementation of ASMBS Sleeve Care Pathway at military facilities
- > Continue to obtain updates from committee members assigned to other committees in order to "cross-talk" to participate/achieve goals/prepare MTFs to participate in the ASMBS Quality Improvement Initiative when organized
- > Continue Military Research Task Force utilizing Bariatric Research Resident secured at Beaumont and Eisenhower Army Medical Center to be used at all centers
- > Drafting of IRB registry for innovative bariatric procedures in the Military
- > Annual face-to-face meeting at ObesityWeek where the committee will meet and evaluate common pathways
- > Naval Medical Center San Diego started a program for intragastric balloons and is reaching out to Madigan Army Medical Center and Brooke Army Medical Center to start similar programs; particular application for active duty members
- > With the 2 VA lead members VA Co-Chair on the committee, will continue to support VA members and centers in encouraging VA centers to participate in VASQIP, and maintaining the VA Bariatric Network document of who, what kind, and volume regarding bariatrics at their centers to
- > Continue to meet with DHA regarding centralized funding and letter of necessity, i.e. the "White Paper"
- > Using ASMBS, SOARD primarily online, and hard copies where internet is deficient, and webinars, when deployed to receive CME; possible use of ObesityWeek On Demand for free
- > DHA strongly supports funding of all MTF's to participate in MBSAQIP
- > Ongoing maintenance of the Military Bariatric Network and VA Bariatric Network documents; quarterly queries to committee members regarding information on their centers
- > Continued use of private Facebook page – adding members, documents, and discussions

Completed Projects

- > DHA approved funding for bariatrics surgeons to attend ACS meeting
- > Defense Health Board determined that Military Treatment Facilities must support participation in national risk-adjusted registries such as MBSAQIP
- > Evans Army Community Hospital gained MBSAQIP accreditation
- > Clinical reviewers secured at Madigan, William Beaumont and Evans Army Hospitals
- > Utilize private Military Facebook page/repository for shared military documents
- > Updated Military Bariatric Network this year via quarterly queries to members



Pediatric Surgery

Janey Pratt, MD FASMBS

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

Committee Members

Chair

Janey Pratt, MD, FASMBS

Co-Chair

Bradley Linden, MD, FASMBS

Executive Council Liaison

Teresa LaMasters, MD, FASMBS

ASMBS Staff Liaison

Leslie Vinson

Members

Jeremy Aidlen, MD FAAP

Karen Bailey, MD

Kathryn Bass, MD

Mary Brandt, MD

Allen Browne, MD

Nancy Browne, MS PPCNP-BC

FAANP CBN

Matias Bruzoni, MD

Judy Chen, MD FASMBS

Joy Collins, MD

Anita Courcoulas, MD MPH

Robert Cywes, MD PhD

Ashish P. Desai, MBBS MS FRCS
FEBPS

Daniel DeUgarte, MD

Thomas Inge, MD PhD

Lori Lynch, MSN APRN CPNP CBN

Marc Michalsky, MD FASMBS

Ann O'Connor, MD

David Podkameni, MD FASMBS

Niti Shahi, MD

Kimberly Steele, MD PhD
FASMBS

Nancy Thompson, MS RN CPNP
CBN

Mark Wulkan, MD

Meg Zeller, PhD

Jeffrey Zitsman, MD

Ad Hoc Member

Jessica Savage Williams, PhD,
TOS

Committee Goals

Short-Term

- > Update the committee's position statement
- > Develop relationship with the TOS pediatric committee

Mid-Term

- > Create a Resource Toolkit to assist with developing a pediatric program
- > Complete MBSAQIP pediatric outcomes review paper as a committee

Long-Term

- > Prepare content for ObesityWeek 2020
- > Update ASMBS website on adolescent bariatric surgery

Committee Objectives

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

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives

- > The committee will vote on the position statement at their meeting at ObesityWeek 2019
- > Asked the TOS Pediatric Committee Chair to join our committee
- > Development of an easy to locate repository of bariatric handouts and resources for pediatric patients containing nutrition handbooks, consent/assent forms, templates, protocols for surgery, anesthesia, preop evaluation, etc.
- > Ongoing collaboration with MBSAQIP committee to refine pediatric standards
- > Will discuss in the beginning of 2020 as a committee

Completed Projects

- > Pediatric tag for searching sessions in 2019 ObesityWeek - includes joint and ASMBS sessions
- > Joint session with TOS at ObesityWeek: "Global Obesity Treatment in Children" – 3 CME hours
- > AAP Position Statement and Technical Report on Bariatric surgery in Pediatric obesity will be published October 27th, 2019
- > TOS pediatric committee chair invited to ASMBS committee meeting
- > Publications in pediatrician-oriented journals; ASMBS Pediatric Surgery Committee member publications in non-surgical journals this year:
 - » Colman RJ, Woo Baidal, JA, Zitsman JL, Mencin AA. Upper GI Endoscopy in Adolescents with Severe Obesity Prior to Vertical Sleeve Gastrectomy. *J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr*, 2019;69: 287-291.
 - » Chin VL, Censani, M, Conroy R, Lerner S, Oberfield S, McMahon D, Zitsman J, Fennoy I.
 - » Gonadal Dysfunction in Morbidly Obese Adolescent Boys. *J Pediatr Endocrinol Metab* 2018; 31: 1191-1197.

- > Michalsky MP, Inge TH, Jenkins TM, Xie C., Courcoulas A., Helmrath M, Brandt ML., Harmon CM.,Chen M., Dixon JB., UrbinaEM., for the Teen-LABS Consortium. Cardiovascular Risk Factors After Adolescent Bariatric Surgery. *Pediatrics*. 2018 Feb;141(2). pii: e20172485. doi: 10.1542/peds.2017-2485. Epub 2018 Jan 8.
- > Toh S, Rasmussen-Torvik LJ, Harmata EE, Pardee R, Saizan R, Malanga E, Sturtevant JL, Horgan CE, Anau J, Janning CD, Wellman RD, Coley RY, Cook AJ, Courcoulas AP, Coleman KJ, Williams NA, McTigue KM, Arterburn D, McClay J. The National Patient-Centered Clinical Research Network (PCORnet) Bariatric Study Cohort: Rationale, Methods, and Baseline Characteristics. *JMIR research protocols*. 2017; 6(12):e222.PMID:29208590
- > Heymsfield S., Aronne L., Eneli, I., Kumar R.B., Michalsky M.P., Walker E., Wolfe B.M., Woolford S.J., and Yanovski S. 2018. Clinical perspectives on obesity treatment: Challenges, gaps, and promising opportunities. *NAM Perspectives*. Discussion Paper, National Academy of Medicine, Washington, DC. doi: 10.31478/201809b
- > Arterburn D, Wellman R, Emiliano A, Smith S, Odegaard A, Murali S, Williams N, Coleman K, Courcoulas A, Coley R, Anau J, Pardee R, Toh S, Janning C, Cook A, Sturtevant S, Horgan C, McTigue K, PCORnet Bariatric Study Collaborative* Comparative Effectiveness of Bariatric Procedures for Weight Loss and Safety: A PCORnet Cohort Study. *Ann Intern Med*. 2018 Dec 4;169(11):741-750. [Epub ahead of print] doi:10.7326/M17-2786
- > Hakim M., Anderson BJ., Walia H., Tumin D., Michalsky M.P., Syed A., Tobias J.D., Acetaminophen Pharmacokinetics in Severely Obese Adolescents Undergoing Bariatric Surgery. *Paediatr Anaesth*. 2019 Jan;29(1):20-26. doi: 10.1111/pan.13525. Epub 2018 Nov 28.
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- > Michalsky, M.P. Intellectual Disability and Adolescent Bariatric Surgery; Support for Special Eligibility Criteria. *Pediatrics*. 2019 May;143(5). pii: e20184112. doi: 10. 1542/peds.2018-4112. Epub 2019 Apr 15.
- > Inge TH, Courcoulas AP, Jenkins TM, Michalsky MP, Brandt ML, Xanthakos SA, Dixon JB, Harmon CM, Chen MK, Xie C, Evans ME, Helmrath MA; Teen-LABS Consortium. Five-Year Outcomes of Gastric Bypass in Adolescents as Compared with Adults. *N Engl J Med*. 2019 May 16. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa1813909. [Epub ahead of print]
- > Toth AT, Gomez G, Shukla AP, Pratt JS, Cena H, Biino G, Aronne LJ, Stanford FC. *Children (Basel)*. Weight Loss Medications in Young Adults after Bariatric Surgery for Weight Regain or Inadequate Weight Loss: A Multi-Center Study. *Children (Basel)*. 2018 Aug 29;5(9). PMID: 3015848
- > Griggs CL, Perez NP Jr, Goldstone RN, Kelleher CM, Chang DC, Stanford FC, Pratt JS. National Trends in the Use of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Among Pediatric Patients With Severe Obesity. *JAMA Pediatr*. 2018 Dec 1;172(12):1191-1192. PMID: 30357351
- > Srivastava G, Fox CK, Kelly AS, Jastreboff AM, Browne AF, Browne NT, Pratt JSA, Bolling C, Michalsky MP, Cook S, Lenders CM, Apovian CM. Clinical Considerations Regarding the Use of Obesity Pharmacotherapy in Adolescents with Obesity. *Obesity (Silver Spring)*. 2019 Feb;27(2):190-204. Review.
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- > Reiter-Purtill, J., Hunsaker S.L. Kidwell, K.M., Mikhail, C. Austin, H., Chaves, E., Rofey, D., Jenkins, T.M., Inge, T.H., and Zeller, M.H. in cooperation with the TeenView Study Group and Teen-LABS Consortium. (2019) Change, predictors and correlates of weight- and health-related quality of life in adolescents 2-years following bariatric surgery. *Int J Obes*. 2019 Jun 17. doi: 10.1038/s41366-019-0394-0. [Epub ahead of print] PMID:31209270 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/31209270>



Program

Richard Peterson, MD, FASMBS

The Program Committee is responsible for developing and arranging all of the annual educational events for the ASMBS with ObesityWeek and ASMBS Weekend being the primary educational events. The committee identifies needs, professional gaps, and barriers; reviews and grades submitted abstracts; selects relevant topics and educational design; secures guest speakers; and contributes to the development of overall conference programming. The Program Committee, through the Professional Education Subcommittee, is responsible for the promotion and development of accredited post-graduate educational programs that advance the skills, clinical practices, and research endeavors of metabolic and bariatric surgery professionals to enhance the quality of patient care, optimize outcomes, and improve patients' quality of life.

Committee Members

Chair
Richard M. Peterson, MD,
FASMBS

Co-Chair
John Scott, MD FACS FASMBS

Immediate Past Chair
Shanu Kothari, MD

Executive Council Liaison
Eric DeMaria, MD FASMBS

ASMBS Staff Liaison
Amie Buehler

Poster Subcommittee
Monali Misra, MD
Jason Johnson, DO
Peter Hallowell, MD

Emerging Technology and Concepts Subcommittee
Chair: Ann Rogers, MD
Mehran Anvari, MD

Scientific Papers Subcommittee
Chair: Ranjan Sudan, MD
Wayne English, MD

David Podkameni, MD
Corrigan McBride, MD
Teresa LaMasters, MD
Eric Ahnfeldt, MD

Awards
Chair: Dana Telem, MD
Diego Camacho, MD

International Effort
Chair: Bruce Schirmer, MD
Laurent Biertho, MD

Video Education
Chair: Alan Saber, MD
Mohamed R. Ali, MD
Samuel Szomstein, MD
Sivamainthan Vithianathan, MD
Rana Pullatt, MD

Labs
Chair: Matthew Kroh, MD
Elias Chousleb, MD

ASMBS Missions Met by the Committee

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

Committee Goals

Short-Term

- > Suggest areas of focus for member submissions; identify subject area gaps and plan new sessions for ASMBS Weekend and ObesityWeek 2019.
- > Scientific Sessions
- > Presidential Grand Rounds
- > Single Anastomosis Duodeno-Ileal Bypass – With Sleeve (SADI-S) Course
- > Current Controversies
- > Revisional Surgery
- > Video based teaching
- > IH – MBSAQIP Clinical Reviewers Course
- > Balloon/Endolumenal therapy
- > Practice Management Building
- > 7 Collaborative Sessions with other Medical Societies
- > Evaluate educational course offerings.
- > Provide recommendations for future educational activities based on data collected from learner evaluations and post-tests which clearly identify professional practice gaps and needs assessments.
- > Define success for professional education offerings; number of offerings, attendance and revenue.

- > Utilize audience response system based on smart phone texting.
- > Utilize an electronic system for submission of questions.

Mid-Term

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

Long-Term

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

Committee 2019 Objectives:

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

2019 Activities Accomplished to Meet the Objectives

- > Great program for both ObesityWeek and ASMBS Weekend
- > Excellent reviews and attendance at ASMBS Weekend.

- > Selected dates and venues for ObesityWeek through 2020.

Activities Still in Progress

- > Finalizing plans for ObesityWeek 2019 and future meetings.

Meeting Overview:

- > ASMBS Weekend 2019
 - » Total Attendees – 368 including faculty (325 in 2018)
 - » Call for Abstracts - Submitted: 74; Accepted: 55
- > ObesityWeek 2019
- > Abstracts
 - » Total submitted - 590 [595 submitted in 2018]
 - » Total accepted – 474 (267 as Poster) [423 (242 as Poster) 2018]
- > Excellent reviews and attendance at ASMBS Weekend
- > Selected dates and venues for ObesityWeek through 2020

Completed Projects

- > ASMBS Weekend 2018 – New York, NY – Attendance: 325
- > ObesityWeek 2018 – Nashville, TN – Attendance: 5,888

Public Education

Vacant

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

Committee Members

Chair

Vacant

Co-Chair

Jason Kempenich, MD

Executive Council Liaison

Marina Kurian, MD, FASMBS

Immediate Past Chair

Walter Medlin, MD

ASMBS Staff Liaison

Jillian Tartt

Members

Joshua B. Alley, MD

Adam Beall, MD

Lauren Buck, MD

Joy Collins, MD

Adrian Dan, MD

Elizabeth A. Dovec, MD FACS
FASMBS

Franchell Richard-Hamilton, MD
FASMBS

Ryan Lehmann, DO FACS FASMBS

Christopher J. Northup, MD

Carl Pesta, DO FASMBS

Richard Peterson, MD FASMBS

David Provost, MD FASMBS

Flavia Soto, MD FACS FASMBS

Liaisons to Obesity Action Coalition

Joe Nadglowski

James Zervios

Ad Hoc

Roger Kissin

ASMBS Missions Met by the Committee

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

Committee Objectives

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

Committee Goals

Short-Term

- > Continue to revise all patient learning center articles to ensure content is up-to-date and at a sixth-grade reading level
- > Review and evaluate It Starts Now Contest Winners and This Time It Counts videos to determine if they are relevant and should remain resources in the Patient Learning Center

Mid-Term

- > Develop slide deck for patient seminar for general use by the ASMBS membership
- > Create new articles about topics including endoscopic treatment for obesity, SADI-S, surgery for the elderly, revisions, and robotics in bariatric surgery

Long-Term

- > Work with the Communications Committee to produce educational social media content for patients
- > Translate articles in the Patient Learning Center into Spanish
- > Continue collaboration with the ASMBS Website Subcommittee to develop a more patient-friendly interface for ASMBS.org
- >

Completed Projects

- > Created a Committee Trello board to organize materials and better facilitate communication among committee members
- > Developed a strategic plan for revisions and reorganization of Patient Learning Center articles
- > Contributed to the formation of the new Website Subcommittee to redesign ASMBS.org to better serve members, patients, and the public

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives

- > Utilize the two-phase approach to article revisions to introduce topics at a sixth-grade reading level while still giving readers the option to click through
- > “Learn More” button for more technical language and explanations
- > Group articles to combine and limit the amount of repetitive information in the patient learning center
- > Review feedback and comments submitted to the Society to determine additional areas of improvement on the website
- > Work on patient seminar slide deck draft with support by Gore grant for editing/graphic design
- > Review website analytics to better determine what articles in the patient learning center are the most trafficked and where to focus our efforts
- > Explore the Spanish-translation goal and prioritize relative to other current projects
- > Review and update at least 3 learning center articles annually
- > Develop 2 learning center articles annually.



Obesity Prevention

Saniea Majid, MD FASMBS

The Obesity Prevention Committee advocates for, educates, and empowers individuals and families, healthcare providers, public policy framers and society at large to work across generations to realize lifestyles, healthcare strategies and public policies that prevent obesity.

Committee Members

Chair

Saniea Majid, MD FASMBS

Executive Council Liaison

Rachel Moore, MD FASMBS

ASMBS Staff Liaison

Leslie Vinson

Members

Saad Ajmal, MD FASMBS

Naif Alenazi, MD MHM FASMBS

Stephen Archer, MD FASMBS,

Immediate Past Chair

Christine Bauer, RN MSN CBN

Anthony Gonzalez, MD

Brandon Grover, DO FASMBS

Farah Husain, MD

Colleen Kennedy, MD FASMBS

Neil King, MD

David Podkameni, MD

Ann Rogers, MD FASMBS

Christopher Still, DO

Ranjan Sudan, MD FASMBS

Tiffany Tanner, MD

David Voellinger, MD

Michael Wood, MD

Robert Woodbury, MD FASMBS

Ad Hoc Members

Michael Morrell, MD

Craig Wood, MS

ASMBS Mission Met by the Committee

- > To improve the care and treatment of people suffering from obesity

Committee Objectives

- > Prevention of Weight Regain or Recurrence of Obesity after Surgery - Goal is to successfully present the poster based on the data from the survey and publish the paper. We will complete the pathway for prevention of weight regain and submit the paper.
- > Obesity Prevention in MBSAQIP - We suggest that the committee with the MBSAQIP committee on formalizing prevention projects to be part of the accreditation process. If/when this becomes a part of accreditation we would help programs formulate projects with example programs and ideas.
- > Statements about unsafe foods - Publication of the position paper on sugar sweetened beverages.
- > Committee Structure - Members are quickly assigned to an objective and conference calls are smaller to accommodate work on an objective with either the chair or co-chair facilitating. Writing groups are focused and we have a strong link to the Executive Council (EC).

Committee Goals

Short-Term

- > Obesity prevention among patients who have had bariatric surgery - publish paper on the survey
- > Articles/news/press releases on prevention issues such as food supply, exercise, work conditions
- > Short statement on issues of interest to prevention
 - » Format for publication
 - » Need process for getting these statements to correct format

Mid-Term

- > Obesity prevention among patients who have had bariatric surgery - Consensus Conference at ObesityWeek 2020
- > Generate paper directly from conference participants

Long-Term

- > Obesity prevention among patients who have had bariatric surgery - care pathway publication on consensus conference about obesity prevention in post-op patients
- > Develop a study to exploit the halo effect of bariatric surgery: The HALO study, "Help Alleviate Longitudinal Obesity" - define elements to be studied, complete study, and write paper

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives

- > Obesity prevention among patients who have had bariatric surgery paper in review with EC
- > Need to know from EC if this will proceed to publication
- > Obtaining permission to have a column in Bariatric Times
- > John Morton supportive
- > Make schedule of columns
- > Social Media blog
- > Articles/column in newspapers
- > Involvement at Obesity Summit
- > Interest from EC in this?
- > Ongoing discussions with EC liaison and Program Committee regarding the Consensus Conference at ObesityWeek 2020 – need final EC permission to work on this project
- > After successfully conducting the Consensus Conference about obesity prevention in post-op patients at ObesityWeek 2020 will form a work group to write a pathway
- > Will discuss the HALO project with the committee to get more provide more direction at ObesityWeek 2019 meeting

Completed Projects

- > Dr. Majid became Chair in August 2019
- > Initial draft of Sugar Sweetened Beverages paper in review with CIC



Quality Improvement & Patient Safety

Jon Gould, MD

The Quality Improvement & Patient Safety Committee supports the mission and values of the American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgeons by promoting continuous improvement in patient safety and risk reduction. These goals are achieved by the integration and coordination of patient safety initiatives of member surgeons. Patient safety initiatives are processes designed to reduce medical errors through process analysis and participation in quality improvement reporting. The committee believes that the most effective manner to decrease surgeon exposure to liability is through improving patient safety. The committee is studying trends in malpractice suits, identifying gaps in risk management and developing education offerings. The committee also believes there is a role for teleproctoring, simulators, and team simulation to advance safer practices.

Committee Members

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p>Chair
Jon Gould, MD, FASMBS</p> <p>Co-Chair
Anthony Petrick, MD, FASMBS</p> <p>Executive Council Liaison
Wayne English, MD, FASMBS</p> <p>Immediate Past Chair
Eric DeMaria, MD, FASMBS</p> <p>ASMBS Staff Liaison
Leslie Vinson</p> | <p>Members
John W. Baker, MD FASMBS
Sue Bunnell, MHA BSHW RN CHC
CHSP CBN
Arthur M. Carlin, MD FASMBS
Michael Edwards, MD
Luke Funk, MD MPH FASMBS
Rama Rao Ganga, MBBS MS MRCS
Jacob Greenberg, MD EdM
Caitlin A. Halbert, DO MS
Daniel B. Jones, MD MS FASMBS,
Senior Past Chair
Tammy Kindel, MD PhD
Shauna Levy, MD MS
Henry Lin, MD</p> | <p>Saniea F. Majid, MD FASMBS
Sara Martin Del Campo, MD MS
Tracy Martinez, BSN RN CBN
Karina McArthur, MD
Katherine Meister, MD
C. Kenneth Mitchell Jr., MD
FASMBS
Bradley Needleman, MD FASMBS
Sabrena Noria, MD PhD FRCS
Nabeel Obied, MD
Philip A. Omotosho, MD
Carl Pesta, MD FASMBS
John Pilcher, Jr., MD
Kinga A. Powers, MD, PhD</p> | <p>April Smith, PharmD
Konstantinos Spaniolas, MD
Andrea Stroud, MD MS
William A. Sweet, MD
Andre F. Teixeira, MD FASMBS
Dana Telem, MD FASMBS,
Immediate Past Chair
Oliver Varban, MD
Eric Volckmann, MD
Clark Warden, MD FASMBS
Noel N. Williams, MD FASMBS</p> |
|--|---|---|---|

Committee Goals

Short-Term

- > ASMBS endorsed clinical pathway for Gastric Bypass

Mid-Term

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

Long-Term

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

Committee Objectives

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

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives

- > RYGB pre-op pathway complete – awaiting final approval
- > RYGB intra-op pathway sub-committee formed and work initiated
- > RYGB post-op pathway sub-committee formed and work initiated
- > Continual literature review to update sleeve pathway as necessary
- > We will develop these projects in the future; currently we are focusing on the three main projects detailed above in the Short-Term goals and mid-term goal #3

Completed Projects

- > Preoperative RYGB Pathway first draft complete and in review with EC



Research

Nancy Puzziferri, MD

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

Committee Members

Chair

Nancy Puzziferri, MD

Co-Chair

Michel Gagner, MD

Executive Council Liaison

Michel Gagner, MD

Immediate Past Chair

Mohamed Ali, MD, FASMBS

ASMBS Staff Liaison

Jolie Nantz

Members

Benjamin Clapp, MD

Byron Faler, MD

Jonathan Finks, MD

R. Armour Forse, MD

Luke Funk, MD, FASMBS

Luis Garcia, MD, FASMBS

William Gourash, RN, CRNP, PhD

Tammy Kindel, MD, PhD, FASMBS

Wendy King, PhD

Subhash. Kini, MD

Corrigan McBride, MD FASMBS

Michael Schweitzer, MD FASMBS

Kimberley E. Steele, MD, PhD,
FASMBS

Andrew Wheeler, MD

Committee Goals

Short-Term

- › Promote bariatric surgery research through grant awards
- › Promote education regarding the conduct of bariatric surgery research
- › Identify the research priorities of ASMBS members

Mid-Term

- › Maintain ability to fund ASMBS research grants
- › Identify and promote the research interests of the ASMBS membership
- › Promote relationships between ASMBS research efforts and MBSAQIP
- › Assist members to begin and maintain research protocols

Long-Term

- › Increase availability of research support funds for members
- › Set society research agenda for priority research topics
- › Pool member research efforts to answer the research questions of major importance

Committee Objectives

- › Promote the highest quality research in metabolic and bariatric surgery
- › Establish grant opportunities for academic and private practice research
- › Explore new research opportunities and funding streams

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives

- › 2019 Research Grant Process- In Progress
- › Promote new robotic surgery research funding opportunities
- › Completed DELPHI survey of member research priorities
- › Funding secured for grants in 2019 from ASMBS Foundation
- › Secure funding for grants in 2020 from ASMBS Foundation
- › Analyze DELPHI results to build ASMBS research priority topics
- › Develop IRB toolkit for member use
- › Work with ASMBS Foundation and others to increase available funding and work to identify other potential funding sources
- › Form research teams from research committee members and ASMBS members to address specific topics in the identified research priorities
- › Investigate the potential to create mechanisms for multi-institutional studies through collaboration by ASMBS members

2019 Completed Projects

- › Completed the 2018 Research Grant Review Process
- › Two grants were awarded
- › DELPHI survey completed with data analysis to follow
- › IRB toolkit close to completion

COMMITTEE REPORTS



Rural

Kevin Helling, MD

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

Committee Members

Chair

Kevin Helling, MD

Co-Chair

Tammy Fouse, DO

Executive Council Liaison

Wayne English, MD FASMBS

ASMBS Office Liaison

Leslie Vinson

Members

Franklin Bendewald, MD

Guillermo Bolanos Avila, MD

Bree Dewing, MD

Frank Felts, MD FASMBS

Luis Garcia, MD MBA FASMBS,

Immediate Past Chair

Magdy Giurgius, MD

Brandon Helbling, MD FASMBS

Linden Karas, MD

Howard McCollister, MD

Curtis Peery, MD FASMBS

John Pender, MD

Walter Pories, MD

Raza Shariff, MD

Jessica Smith, MD

Andrew Van Osdel, MD

Ellen Vogels, DO

Andrew Wheeler, MD FASMBS

Kashif Zuberi, MD

Committee Goals

Short-Term

- > Continue to grow committee membership
- > Define inclusion criteria, what constitutes a rural bariatric surgery practice (using ACS model)
- > Determine barriers for MBSAQIP accreditation

Mid-Term

- > Develop a Rural Collaborative, i.e., network of rural programs
- > Mentorship program for new rural program (Tool Kit, site visits)
- > Mentorship for quality improvement (proctoring opportunities, advice hotline)
- > Follow-up tool kit for non-surgeons in rural setting (IH task force already working on this)

Long-Term

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

Committee Objectives

- > To identify rural bariatric surgical practices
- > To represent the interests of metabolic and bariatric surgery in a rural setting
- > To identify the challenges unique to rural practitioners in the field of metabolic and bariatric surgery
- > To provide a template of collaboration to improve the care of the bariatric patient in the rural setting
- > To provide practice- or evidence-based solutions to these challenges
- > To define best practice guidelines and best standards of care in rural environments

- > To offer advice and support in recruitment, retention, mentoring, and post-residency/fellowship education to assure quality surgical care for rural bariatric patients
- > To address financial and business challenges of rural practitioners
- > To advocate for and support the accreditation of bariatric centers in rural America
- > To develop and maintain resources for existing rural accredited centers that provide care for bariatric patients
- > To improve access to care for the Bariatric patient in rural settings

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives

- > Five new members were added
- > Continued discussion of definition of inclusion criteria for potential members of the committee
- > Ongoing discussions to develop a “tool kit” for the use of Telemedicine for care of patients located in remote areas
- > Continue identification of potential Rural Programs across the nation to be included in the Rural Collaborative; will discuss at ObesityWeek 2019 meeting with an MBSAQIP representative
- > Continued participation of rural committee members in committees of broader reach; Dr. Helling is a member of the Access to Care Committee
- > Continued research of rural practices, ongoing committee meetings and discussions with members to determine rural practice/patient needs

Completed Projects

- > Five new members added
- > Conducted the Rural Symposium at ASMBS Weekend 2019



State and Local Chapters

Carl Pesta, DO FASMBS

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

Committee Members

<p>Chair Carl Pesta, DO FASMBS</p> <p>Co-Chair Jenny Weaver, MD</p> <p>Executive Council Liaison Immediate Past Chair Rachel Moore, MD FASMBS</p> <p>ASMBS Staff Liaison Leslie Vinson</p> <p>Chapter Presidents</p> <p>Alabama Kenneth Todd Foreman, MD FASMBS</p> <p>Arizona David Podkameni, MD</p> <p>California/Nevada Helmuth T. Billy, MD</p>	<p>Carolinas Rana Pullatt, MD</p> <p>Colorado Jonathan Schoen, MD</p> <p>Connecticut Pavlos Pappasavas, MD FASMBS</p> <p>Dakota Yellowstone John Pender, MD</p> <p>Delaware Michael Peters, MD FASMBS,</p> <p>Florida, Puerto Rico & Caribbean Samuel Szomstein, MD FASMBS</p> <p>Georgia Danny Vaughn, MD</p> <p>Hawaii Brian Wong, MD</p> <p>Iowa</p>	<p>Steven Cahalan, MD</p> <p>Illinois Frederick Tiesenga, MD</p> <p>Indiana Margaret Inman, MD FASMBS</p> <p>Kansas G. Brice Hamilton, MD FASMBS</p> <p>Louisiana William Richardson, MD FASMBS</p> <p>Maryland Alejandro Gandsas, MD MBA</p> <p>Michigan David Chengelis, MD</p> <p>Minnesota Bradley C. Linden, MD</p> <p>Missouri Norbert Richardson, MD FASMBS</p>	<p>Mississippi David Carroll, MD FASMBS</p> <p>Nebraska Thomas White, MD FASMBS</p> <p>New England Matthew Hutter, MD FASMBS</p> <p>New Jersey Alexander Onopchenko, MD</p> <p>New York William Graber, MD FASMBS</p> <p>Ohio/Kentucky Adrian Dan, MD FASMBS,</p> <p>Oklahoma/Arkansas Hamilton Le, MD FASMBS</p> <p>Oregon Mark Eaton, MD</p> <p>Pennsylvania</p>	<p>Fernando Bonanni, MD FASMBS</p> <p>Tennessee Christopher Sanborn, MD FASMBS</p> <p>Texas Robert Carpenter, MD MPH</p> <p>Virginias Guilherme Campos, MD FASMBS</p> <p>Washington Alana Chock, MD FASMBS</p> <p>Wisconsin Brandon Grover, DO FASMBS</p>
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Committee Goals

Short-Term

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

Mid-Term

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

Long-Term

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

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives

- > Work with the Texas chapter to create an ethics session that would meet state licensing requirements; offer to state chapter presidents to use it as a template for creating similar sessions at their own meetings as this would be a value add for members
- > Continued support of all chapters as needs arise/via communication of important national and state initiatives to chapter members
- > Administering individual/joint State Chapter meetings at ObesityWeek 2019
- > Update chapter webpages with new President, meetings, and news as per chapter communication with ASMBS Staff Liaison; encourage chapters to set up and use websites more often
- > Collect State Chapter Annual reports that are submitted by the State Chapter presidents prior to our annual meeting
- > STARs and Super STARs in all 50 states to coordinate with Access to Care Committee as needs arise
- > Collect state chapter dues (for all but HI, NJ, and New England) and distribute quarterly dues reports and member lists to chapter Presidents to assist with communication
- > Provide ASMBS-sponsored CME for state chapter meetings
- > Continue chapter presence and support in all 50 states

Completed Projects

- > Held quarterly committee conference calls
- > Ethics CME added as option for State Chapter meetings
- > There were 10 chapters who had CME State Chapter meetings
- > Updated new Chapter Presidents and their State Chapter ASMBS webpages accordingly
- > Collected quarterly dues for all participating chapters; began collecting dues for GA and TN
- > Several Chapters will have individual chapter meetings at ObesityWeek 2019



Video

Arthur Carlin, MD

The ASMBS video committee works to advance the surgical techniques for metabolic and bariatric surgery via video demonstration of surgical procedures. The committee's mission is to advance the science and understanding of metabolic and bariatric surgery with the intent of improving medical care and treatment of people with obesity and related diseases.

Committee Members

Chair

Arthur Carlin, MD

Co-Chair

Colleen Kennedy, MD

Executive Council Liaison

Michel Gagner, MD

ASMBS Staff Liaison

Meghan Johnson

Members

Mustafa Aman, MD

Adrian Dan, MD

Neil Floch, MD

Emanuel Lo Menzo, MD

Venkat Modukuru, MD

Keith Scharf, MD

Andre Teixeira, MD

Aley Tohami, MD

Stuart Verseman, MD

Committee Goals

Short-Term

- › Encourage ASMBS members to submit videos of unique cases. The cases will be reviewed by committee members and selected video cases will be highlighted quarterly in ASMBS email and on the website with inclusion into the video library.
- › Create a link on the website for video submission.
- › Increase awareness and visibility of the video library to the ASMBS membership

Mid-Term

- › Increase collaboration with the program committee; the video committee will be responsible for reviewing submitted videos for presentation at the upcoming annual meeting.
- › Work closely with the program committee to review the feedback from previous year's video sessions to identify opportunities for improvement.

Long-Term

- › Develop a rating system for the videos in the video library.
- › Increase and optimize the video sessions at our national meeting.

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives

- › Increase visibility of the video library with quarterly highlights with video link through current ASMBS email to the membership.
- › Review submitted videos for presentation at ObesityWeek.
- › Upload ASMBS webinars to the video library in a new educational category.

2019 Activities

- › Continuing to review, provide feedback, and revise content on the

ASMBS video library to ensure that the library is up-to-date and containing videos from both recent and previous meetings.

- › Increase collaboration with program committee to develop consistent process for video review for annual meetings.
- › Review submitted videos from ASMBS membership and determine if appropriate for uploading to video library.
- › Continue to use ASMBS guidelines for video template.

From Our Integrated Health President

As I complete my third and final year as Integrated Health President, I continue to be amazed at all the accomplishments the Integrated Health Science Section has achieved. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate all the committees for their achievements, and the committee members for all their hard work and dedication – it is because of you that we are making a difference in the prevention and treatment of obesity.

The results are in – many congratulations to the newly elected IH Executive Council members: Nina Crowley, PhD, RD, LD – IH Secretary; as well as member-at-large positions – Rachel Goldman, PhD and Lillian Craggs-Dino, DHA, RDN, LDN, CLT. And a huge thank you to the outgoing council members April Smith, PharmD, BCPS; Lynn Bolduc, MS, RD, LD, CDE and Karen Schulz, MSN, CNS, CBN. Your contributions have been numerous and much appreciated.

Congratulations to the IH award recipients this year – James Mitchell, MD for the Behavioral Health Provider awards; Reeger Cortell, MSN, FNP-C for the Advanced Practice Provider award; Laura Andromalos, RD, LDN for the Excellence in Nutrition award; and Cheryl Holsworth, RN for the Certified Bariatric Nurse award. Your colleagues commend you and congratulate you for commitment, dedication and hard work.

Here are just a few of the many the accomplishments of 2019 which are a result of the many hours of dedication and commitment from the committee members (please see the committee report for more detailed information):



- › **Advanced Healthcare Providers Taskforce** - A survey submitted to APPs last year indicated a strong interest in the development of some type of credentialing for advanced healthcare providers (NPs, PAs, and CNSs). Based on these results, the AHP task force has convened additional APPs to assist with the development of an assessment based certificate. Additionally, the ASMBS Annual Conference at ObesityWeek will include the 4th Annual PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT (PA), NURSE PRACTITIONER (NP), AND CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST (CNS) BARIATRIC SURGICAL SYMPOSIUM
- › **Awards Committee** - The Awards Committee is responsible for providing transparency for the nomination and selection of IH Award recipients, and resolving any conflict of interest with any nominees. This year the committee voted on the nominees for the third presentation of the Advanced Practice Provider and Behavioral Health awards.
- › **CBN Committee** - This past year the platform LearningBuilder began to be utilized for recertifying CBNs. It has made the renewal process more streamlined for both staff and RNs recertifying – and on a personal note, I recertified this year and found it to be a convenient and easy process!! Also the Certified Bariatric Nurse committee secured a consultant for the evaluation and advisement for attaining accreditation for the CBN Certification Program at the national level.
- › **Clinical Issues and Guidelines Committee** - The IH Tool Kit continues to add new documents to the “buckets” for membership use. Other updates include: Pregnancy after bariatric surgery pending approval for submission to SOARD; and a Telepsych task force has been created for follow up to the telepsych survey – results to be shared during the ASMBS Annual Conference at Obesity Week. Ongoing projects for the CIG include: Nutrition Guidelines for Macronutrients and revision of Adjustable Gastric Band Guidelines (a collaborative project with the surgeon’s CIG).
- › **Communication Committee** - The committee continues to help monitor the Facebook section for ASMBS IH members only – the IH group has grown to over 300 members and continues to grow. The group has had lots of discussion around various issues... if you’re not a member, consider joining. The Communication Committee has also developed a new poster for members to post in their waiting rooms, exam rooms or other areas to let patients know the providers of the program are proud ASMBS members, and help educate patients on the work ASMBS is doing.
- › **Multidisciplinary Care Committee** - The MDC committee worked with MBSAQIP to help develop a provider prescribing practices survey for the BSTOP quality initiative. Other projects include helping with the development of educational materials for the IH Clinical Issues and Guidelines Committee tool kit, as well as collaborating with the IH Communication Committee to offer a webinar focused on cognitive behavioral therapy.
- › **Membership Committee** - The Membership committee has been busy updating the current membership applications to help ASMBS better track our Integrated Health members and ensure compliance with any ASMBS policies. The

committee is also responsible for reviewing new applicants to the organization.

I would like to extend a special thank you to Adam Dungey, RN for stepping up to serve an additional year as chair of the IH Membership Committee. The dedication and commitment you have contributed to further the IH Science Section does not go unrecognized or unappreciated. Thank you.

- > **Professional Education and Program Committee** - The Professional Education and Program committee has been busy developing educational programs to appeal to the many disciplines of integrated health. In keeping with the President's theme of Diabetes for Obesity Week, Dr. Walter Pories, has been invited as the Integrated Health keynote speaker for Obesity Week, 2019. Dr. Pories is a well-known surgeon whose work has included improving the outcomes of bariatric surgery and explaining why type 2 diabetes clears within a matter of days following bariatric surgery. P
- > **Support Group Committee** - The Support Group committee will once again have educational offerings during the ASMBS Annual Conference at ObesityWeek. Other projects include update of the Support Group Manual and development of a support group survey.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome and re-introduce Lisa West-Smith, PhD, LISW-S as the incoming IH President. Dr. West-Smith has many years of experience in the field of metabolic and bariatric surgery. Her expertise will be a tremendous asset to the Integrated Health Science Section, and as your future IH President.

What a great 3 years we have had. We have accomplished a lot in that time, yet there is still much more work to be done. I cannot thank everyone enough for their support and friendship over these years. And I cannot end this presidency without a huge thank you to Jenny Wynn and all the ASMBS staff. I also have to thank my family who have tolerated my many conference calls and time away over the years! As I step down as the IH President, I will continue to fight for the prevention and treatment of obesity – and will be grateful for working with such a supportive and dedicated membership. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

suggestions.



Karen Flanders, MSN, CNP, CBN
President ASMBS Integrated Health

Integrated Health Executive Council



President
Karen Flanders, MSN, ARNP



President-Elect
Lisa West-Smith, PhD,
LISW-S



Secretary
Nathaniel Sann, MSN,
CRNP, FNP-BC



Past President
Christine Bauer, MSN,
RN, CBN



Senior Past President
Karen Schulz, MSN, CNS,
CBN



Executive Council Liason
Matthew Hutter, MD,
FASMBS



Member-At-Large
Heidi Bednarchuk, MSN,
ARNP, CNS, CBN



Member-At-Large
Lynn Bolduc, MS, RD,
LD, CDE



Member-At-Large
Nina Crowley, PhD, RD, LD



Member-At-Large
Paul Davidson, PhD



Member-At-Large
Abigail Schroeder, PA-C



Member-At-Large
Stephanie Sogg, PhD



Member-At-Large
April Smith, PharmD

Goals of the ASMBS Integrated Health Section

- ▶ Increase awareness of the importance of an integrated multidisciplinary approach to the treatment of obesity
- ▶ Optimize patient access to comprehensive and long-term bariatric and metabolic surgical health care
- ▶ Promote a better understanding of the role of integrated health professionals in bariatric and metabolic surgery
- ▶ Be the recognized authority in the integrated multidisciplinary approach to caring for the bariatric and metabolic surgical patient
- ▶ Increase integrated health professional membership value and retention
- ▶ Cultivate a knowledgeable, skilled and empowered membership inclusive of all integrated health specialties



IH CBN Certification

William Gourash, MSN, CRNP

This committee is responsible for maintaining the all of the aspects necessary for the maintenance, further development and growth of the CBN certification program. It is divided into nine subcommittees of three or more members which focus on areas vital to the certification program: Practice Analysis, Examination Development, Policy and Procedures, Marketing & Feasibility, Educational Preparation, Accreditation, Financial and Recertification. Additionally, it supports credentialing efforts in the other Integrated Health disciplines.

Committee Members

Chair

William Gourash, MSN, CRNP

Co-Chair

Jessie Moore, ARPN

IHEC Liaison

Christine Bauer

ASMBS Staff Liaison

Susan Haury

Accreditation

Vicky Blackard (leader)

James D. Meyer

Sharon Hillgartner

Payal Sharma

Practice Analysis

Susan Dugan (leader)

Teresa Fraker

Marketing

Narelle Story

Policy and Procedures

Ann Couch (leader)

Tara Reed

Marcela Montemayor

Examination Development

Ruth Davis (leader)

Cheryl Holsworth

Maureen Quigley

Mara Berman

Alice Jackson

Examination Preparation

Bobbie Lou Price (leader)

Christine Bauer

Barb Lawrence

Finance

William Gourash (leader)

Tracy Martinez

Bobbie Lou Price

Jessie Moore

Recertification

Carrie Norcutt (leader)

Wanda Szymanski

Ron Permenter

Nicole Forryan

Other Discipline Credentialing

William Gourash

Jessie Moore

ASMBS Integrated Health Missions Met by this Committee:

Primary

- » Cultivate and support a knowledgeable, skilled and empowered membership

Secondary

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

Mission Statement:

- » This committee is dedicated to enhancing and promoting the specialty of Bariatric Nursing Care by maintaining, further developing and growing the CBN certification program.

Committee Objectives

- » Continue to develop, maintain and grow an RN professional practice certification for the specialty of Bariatric Nursing Care.
- » Administer a fair, valid, reliable and legally defensible examination and examination process.
- » Continue to develop and administer an examination that certifies professional knowledge and skill in bariatric standards of care and expected patient outcomes.
- » Communicate the value of this credential to the public and other key constituencies.
- » Administer a fiscally responsible certification program while allocating appropriate resources for growth.
- » Extend the availability of the CBN examination/certification to international registered nurses.
- » Support the credentialing interest and efforts for all Integrated Health Professionals.

Major Accomplishments of 2018/2019 Year

- » Developed the 2019 FY CBN psychometrically sound examination which was administered in the summer of 2019 and will be administered in the winter of 2020.
- » The CBN secured a consultant (SeaCrest Inc.) for evaluation and advisement regarding attaining accreditation of the CBN Certification Program through the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) and/or American board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNS), submitted extensive background materials for SeaCrest to perform a "Gap Analysis" assessment, and currently are reviewing the report of the "Gap Analysis" to develop an action plan. (The "Gap Analysis" report identified the accreditation standards which we do not meet and identified recommendations and options to move toward complying with the standards.)
- » Completed first year of utilization of the LearningBuilder recertification platform and have continued to update and fine-tune the features to make it more convenient for certificants to recertify.
- » Administrated and implemented the presentation of the 4 CBN review courses over the 2019 year in addition to the "online" review course. Presentation venues included: the Texas (February) and Florida (October) State ASMBS Chapters, the SSM DePaul Hospital System (November), and ObesityWeek (November).
- » Updated the policy for recertification (criteria, process and format).
- » Hired a CBN administrative manager through the ASMBS to assist with administration of CBN activities.
- » Continued training and mentoring of Item-writers for the CBN examination.
- » Provided certification knowledge support for the Advanced Practice Credentialing Task Force (APCTF),
- » Participated with the APCTF in collaboration with the ABOM (American Board of Obesity Medicine) to develop and administer a credentialing survey that was sent out to 40,000 APPs, and published the results of the ASMBS Advanced Practice Providers Credentialing survey in the Bariatric Times.

IH COMMITTEE REPORTS

Overall CBN Committee

2019/2020 focus:

- » Further review of the accreditation “Gap Analysis” report so as to identify which accreditation agency to select, develop a comprehensive action plan to meet especially the accreditation standards where “gaps” have been identified, and implement the plan with the goal of submission for accreditation in the 2020/2021 year. Foster increased communication between all aspects of the CBN Certification program (within the committee and subcommittees and between the certificants, candidates and administration) with use of project managers (e.g. Trello), webinar teleconferences, LearningBuilder, newsletters, website, and other modalities.
- » Implement quarterly meetings of entire CBN Certification Committee in addition to the regular meetings of the individual subcommittee conference call/webinars.
- » Develop a 5-year strategic plan guided by our accreditation efforts.
- » Further develop and formalize QI (Quality Improvement) initiatives within all aspects of the CBN program as required by accreditation standards.
- » Encourage and support research and publications in all aspects of bariatric surgical nursing practice.
- » Develop a “grandfathering” policy for those who have worked at developing the examination for the last 10 plus years.
- » Further support the credentialing options exploration by all of the IH disciplines of the ASMBS.

Marketing Subcommittee

- » 2019/2020 focus:
- » Restructure this subcommittee under the plan for accreditation,
- » Continue and further develop the annual marketing activities: CBN Award process, Nursing Certification Day celebration, and ObesityWeek and ASMBS Weekend events.
- » Revive the publication of an annual/biannual CBN Newsletter
- » Review and update the CBN website
- » Explore, develop and implement strategies to increase the CBN presence in ASMBS state chapters.

Practice Analysis Subcommittee

- » 2019/2020 focus:
- » Completion of the Practice Analysis manuscript submission process (SOARD) (in progress)
- » Development of activities and timeline for the next practice analysis (2021)

Policy and Procedure Subcommittee

- » 2019/2020 focus:
- » Continue candidate eligibility and audit implementation and integrate into the CBN Certification QI policy.
- » Review and update CBN Handbook, (Sept)
- » Review and Integrate the consensus policy recommendations from the Accreditation “Gap Analysis” report and develop a standardized policy manual.

Examination Development Subcommittee

- » 2019/2020 focus:
- » Yearly completion of the following: Examination construction, post examination psychometric test result review, review of bi-yearly test candidates’ post-examination survey and Cut-score study when required.
- » Completion of the item writing campaign initiated in 2018 to update and fill in any thin areas in the examination item bank and to explore and recruit new candidates for examination development activities.
- » Review and implement consensus recommendations of the Accreditation “Gap Analysis” Report.

Examination Preparation

2019/2020 focus:

- » Review the Accreditation “Gap Analysis” Report and explore the development of a restructuring plan congruent to the accreditation standards.
- » Plan and implement 2020 ObesityWeek Review courses
- » Continue to develop implement the “state chapter” review course curriculum and process options
- » Utilization of “state chapter” review course presenters in the ObesityWeek Review courses.
- » Review the “on-line” course content and utilization, and develop a timeline for update(? ASMBS Weekend 2020)

Accreditation

- » 2019/2020 focus:
- » Manage the discussion of the review of the accreditation “Gap Analysis” report and coordinate the implementation of the plan within the scope of submission for accreditation in the 2020/2021 year.
- » Manage the digital platform(s) with which to house accreditation submission materials.
- » Plan the timeline of activities for submission for accreditation.
- » Complete the accreditation submission application.

Financial

- » 2019/2020 focus:
- » Finalization of the 2020 Budget
- » Annual Review of the financial standing of the CBN program with ASMBS leadership (e.g. IH President and President elect and EC leadership)
- » Development and discussion of 2021 budget.

Recertification

- » 2019/2020 focus:
- » Continue to Implement the LearningBuilder interactive, web-based recertification management platform.
- » Update the communications to certificants and reviewers.
- » Further education of re-certificants to the LearningBuilder process (CEU to points basis)
- » Development of the LearningBuilder data metrics to enhance the quality of the certification process for certificants and reviewers and to develop and implement strategies for certification retention.
- » Review the Accreditation “Gap Analysis” Report and explore the development of plan to integrate consensus recommendations congruent to the accreditation standards.
- » Integrate the eligibility and audit processes into the overall QI of the overall CBN Certification Program.
- » Continue the development of the Retired CBN proposal and the precepting option guidelines.

Other Disciplines Credentialing

2019/2020 focus:

- » Continue to participate as member of IH Credentialing Task Force by sharing certification, certificate and other credentialing strategies.
- » Continue to explore relevant professional organizations (e.g. AANP, OMA, AAPA) with committee members
- » Assist the APP Task Force in the development and implementation of an Assessment Based Certification course relative to accreditation guidelines.
- » Monitor and assist credentialing efforts in all bariatric disciplines within the ASMBS as needed.



IH Clinical Issues and Guidelines

Katie Chapmon, MS RD

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

Committee Members

Co-Chair

Katie Chapmon, MS, RD

Co-Chair & IHEC Liaison

Stephanie Sogg, PhD

Immediate Past Chair

Stephanie Sogg, PhD

ASMBS Staff Liaison

Leslie Vinson

Registered Dietitians:

Sue Benson-Davies, PhD DCN
MPH RD FAND LN, Tool Kit Lead
Julie Parrott, MS RD CPT
Carol Wolin-Riklin, MA RD LD

Registered Nurses:

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

Behavioral Health:

Jennifer Lauretti, PhD ABPP

Melissa Santos, PhD
Stephanie Sogg, PhD,
Immediate Past Chair

Nurse Practitioner/Physician's Assistant:

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

Pharmacists:

April Smith, PharmD BCPS

Clinical Issues Surgeon Representative:

Ann Rogers, MD FASMBS

ASMBS IH Mission(s) Met by the Committee

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

Committee Objectives

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

Committee Goals

Short-Term

- > Circulate final draft of Management of Patients after Pregnancy paper for review by committee
- > IH Tool Kit Development
- > TelePsych Survey (Task Force) presentation of data

Mid-Term

- > Nutrition Guidelines: Macronutrients
- > Sensitivity Guidelines/Statement/Resource
- > Collaboration with CIC - Update of Gastric Banding Guidelines
- > Adolescent & Pediatric Psych Guidelines

Long-Term

- > TelePsych Survey Papers

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives

- > Final draft of the Management of Patients after Pregnancy paper complete
- > Published several resources in the IH Tool Kit; will continue to develop, review and publish additional resources throughout 2020
- > The TelePsych Survey was sent to all ASMBS members in February 2019; 624 members responded. The task force will present the data at ObesityWeek 2019 at the Telemed Symposium
- > Ad-Hoc members who are not part of IH CIGC. This group has created a preliminary outline and completed their literature review, and each member of this work group has started writing their sections
- > Sensitivity Guidelines reviewed by IHEC late 2016; awaiting further review/revision; project stalled as not enough research to create a "statement/guideline" but possibly a resource regarding sensitivity training
- > Collaboration with CIC - Update of Gastric Banding Guidelines working group has been formed and a literature review of current gastric banding references completed
- > Adolescent & Pediatric Psych Guidelines – added a new Behavioral Health member who is a pediatric psychologist; forming a writing group

2019 Completed Projects

- > Several resources were added to the IH Toolkit throughout 2019
- > Completed the ASMBS Integrated Health Clinical Issues Guideline Committee Manual for Clinical Practice Guidelines (a standardized protocol for developing guidelines/position statements for internal use only)
- > Collaboration with CIC - ASMBS position statement on weight bias and stigma by: Dan Eisenberg, M.D., M.S., Sabrena Noria, M.D., Ph.D., Brandon Grover, D.O., Kasey Goodpaster, Ph.D., Ann M. Rogers, M.D., for the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Clinical Issues Committee – published in SOARD in June 2019
- > TelePsych Survey Task Force members will write papers on General Controversies, Qualitative and Quantitative Data



IH Communications

John Archibeque, MSN, MBA, CBSGL, RN, CBN

The aim of the Integrated Health Communications committee is to facilitate communication within AMSBS integrated health membership, between integrated health and surgeon members, and with potential members. This includes communicating in outside forums, moderating communication over official forums, and ensuring that relevant integrated health is available to all members.

Committee Members

Chair

John Archibeque, MSN, MBA, CBSGL, RN, CBN

Co-Chair

Abigail Schroeder, PA-C

IHEC Liaison

Nate Sann, FNP-BC, MSN

ASMBS Staff Liaison

Jillian Tartt

Members

Stephanie Cox, PhD

Teresa Fraker, MS, RN

Cindy Hipszer RN MSN CNML

Connie Miller, RN BSN

Sarah Muntel, RD

Elizabeth Paca, MS RD CSOWM

Marie Sundberg, RN

ASMBS Mission(s) Met by the Committee

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

Committee Objectives

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

Committee Goals

Short-Term

- › Expand and develop online resources
- › Promote IH initiatives and IH membership
- › Recruit IH leaders into ASMBS IH Committees to promote the organization
- › Continue to work with the Membership committee to develop a YouTube Video Series to highlight the value of Integrated Health Membership

Mid-Term

- › Continue the IH webinar series to promote education and professional development
- › Continue to promote Facebook group “Active IH Members” as a practical and sustainable solution as a communication tool for active IH members
- › Collaborate with additional committees within Integrated Health to develop quarterly Webinars to promote education and professional development

- › Continue document review of public education pages on ASMBS.org, based on current documented evidenced based research

Long-Term

- › Continue to build and improve online content for IH professionals, including a resource of online articles for professional development and to share with patients
- › Augment online resources with a comprehensive “Toolkit” to guide IH membership through the various aspects of developing or enhancing a bariatric practice
- › Continue collaboration with the ASMBS Website Subcommittee to develop a more provider and patient-friendly interface for ASMBS.org, potentially using location-based services or by surveying site visitors.

Completed Projects

- › Two successful educational IH webinars
- › Completed a poster for members to utilize in their practice to bring awareness to ASMBS and spread the word about the valuable work of the Society
- › Contributed to the formation of the new Website Subcommittee to redesign ASMBS.org to better serve members, patients, and the public
- › Created a Committee Facebook group to better facilitate communication among members
- › Continued to build and monitor the growing Active ASMBS IH Members Only Facebook professional networking group



IH Membership

Adam Dungey, BSN, RN

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

Committee Members

Chair

Adam Dungey, BSN, RN

Co-Chair

Collene Berg, FNP-C

Executive Council Liaison

Lynn Bolduc, MS, RD, LS, CDE

Immediate Past Chair

Lisa Luz, RN, MSN, CBN

ASMBS Staff Liaison

Danielle Marsh

1

Members

Karen Flanders, MSN CNP

Tammy Dodds, MPAS, PA-C

Kristin Kamprath, MPAS, PA-C

Megan Bennett, RD

Kathryn Cottell, RD CDN CDE

Marianna Dayre, CDN

Committee Objectives

- › Increase membership by 5%
 - › Retention goal
 - › Target resources or marketing campaigns to bariatric coordinators
- › Develop outreach tools to encourage surgeon members and administrators to promote IH membership
 - › Reach out to the surgeon membership via letter from IH and ASMBS President encouraging the promotion of IH membership among their staff and key institutional players
- › Create incentives and identify barriers to membership
 - › Collect both personal and work email, contact personal email periodically and list regular email types (Connect, letter from president, etc.) and ask if receiving
 - › Promote online IH continuing education offerings with option to forward to colleagues
 - › Use registration numbers to analyze popularity of IH courses and promote most popular courses accordingly
 - › SOARD discount
- › Provide recommendations and rationale for potential alliances with other organizations to expand membership base

- › Create a Mission Statement
- › Garner interest and membership around the LGBTQ community

2019 Activities Accomplished to Meet the Objectives:

- › Revising and streamlining the membership application
- › Aligning the paper and online versions of the application
- › Updating application review guide to align with current bylaws and industry policy

2019 Activities Still in Progress

- › Promote membership value through website and social media
- › YouTube Channel Project
- › Satisfaction survey for active members for the year 2020
- › Continue targeted recruitment efforts to increase overall membership



IH Multidisciplinary Care

Genna Hymowitz, PhD

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

Committee Members

Chair

Genna Hymowitz, PhD

Co-Chair:

Colleen Schreyer, PhD

Executive Council Liaison

April Smith, PharmD

ASMBS Staff Liaison

Leslie Vinson

Members

Guilherme Campos, MD FASMBS

Christy Davis, MSN FNP-C CSOWM CBN

Lynelle Diede, MS RN-BC CBN

Brooke Doucet, RN CBN

Nicole Franklin, PsyD

Lora Grabow, LCSW

Nicole Nguyen, PharmD BCPS

Amber Saucier, RD LDN MS

Cristine Seitz, MS RD LDN

Catherine Tuppo, PT MS CLT-LANA

Ad Hoc Member

Laura Campisi, MA

ASMBS Mission(s) Met by the Committee

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

Committee Objectives

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

Short-Term Goals:

- > Gain understanding of the multidisciplinary pain management strategies used in bariatric patient care
- > Increase committee membership

Mid-Term Goals:

- > Develop educational materials for providers and patients for “BSTOP” Project (Opioid Use/Pain Management) – Collaboration with MBSAQIP
- > Completed several documents for the IH Educational Tool Kit on the ASMBS Website; in review by IH CIGC; will submit more for review/publication

Long-Term Goals:

- > Develop Walk from Obesity Newsletter Content
- > Work with MBSAQIP as consultants for BSTOP project

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- > Developed measure to assess current pain management prescribing practice as part of BSTOP project – data collection is ongoing
- > Our committee is looking for nurse practitioners, PAs and exercise specialists to join
- > IH Educational Tool Kit on ASMBS Website – Collaboration with IH CIGC
- > Host annual webinars on emerging research for the IH community
- > Develop patient education materials reviewing pain management in the context of bariatric surgery
- > Develop educational materials focused on physical activity for IH Tool Kit
- > Work with the ASMBS Foundation to develop and publish newsletter content – published articles in the April, June, August, and October; will submit an article for November/December
- > Participate in BSTOP development meetings and provide feedback on materials developed for this project

2019 Completed Projects

- > Participated in the ASMBS IH Webinar: “Cognitive Behavioral Therapy – Integrating Behavioral Change Strategies into Your Practice” on March 6, 2019
- > Developed measure of prescribing practices that was distributed to BSTOP project participants
- > Developed educational materials for IH Tool Kit
- > Several members authored nutrition-related content for the Walk from Obesity newsletter for 2019
- > Recruited a Co-Chair, Dr. Colleen Schreyer, in July 2019



IH Program and Professional Education

Leslie Heinberg, PhD

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

Committee Members

<p>Chair Leslie Heinberg, PhD</p> <p>Chair & IHEC Liaison Karen Flanders, MSN ARNP CBN</p> <p>Co-Chair Hilary Blackwood, MSN RN ACNP</p> <p>Executive Council Liaison Karen Flanders, MSN CBN NP-C</p> <p>ASMBS Staff Liaison Amie Buehler</p> <p>Members Leslie Heinberg, PhD</p> <p>Core Committee: Leslie Heinberg, PhD Hilary Blackwood, MSN, RN ACNP Kelli Friedman, PhD</p>	<p>Connie Klein, NP Laura Andromalos, MS RD LDN Karen Flanders, MS NP-C William F. Gourash, MSN CRNP Dale Bond, PhD</p> <p>Nutrition Chair: Laura Andromalos, MA RD LDN Sue Cummings, RD LD Carol Wolin-Riklin, MA RD LD</p> <p>Post-graduate: Chair: Connie Klein, NP Paul Lorentz, MS RN RD BBA April Smith, PharmD</p> <p>Behavioral Health Abstract and Course: Chair: Janelle Coughlin, PhD Karen Grothe, PhD Dale Bond, PhD</p>	<p>Kelli Friedman, PhD Kristine Steffen, PharmD PhD Ryan Marek, PhD</p> <p>Multidisciplinary: Chair: Kristine Steffen, PharmD, PhD Dale Bond, PhD</p> <p>Abstract Committee: Chair: Wendy King, PhD Kelli Friedman, PhD Dory Ferraro, DNP Rachel Goldman, PhD Laura Andromalos, MS RD LDN Wendy King, PhD Kellie Armstrong, RN MS CBN Tammy Dodds, MPAS PA-C</p>
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ASMBS Mission(s) Met by the Committee:

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

Committee Objectives:

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

Short-Term Goals:

- » Suggest areas of focus for member submissions; identify subject area gaps and plan new sessions for ASMBS Weekend and ObesityWeek 2019.
 - » MBSAQIP Clinical Reviewers Course
 - » IH Practice Management: Building and Maintaining an Effective Bariatric Practice
 - » Diversity and Inclusion LGBTQ
 - » Tele-Health: The Good and the Bad
 - » Assessment, Treatment, and Implications of Chronic Pain in Bariatric Surgery Patients
 - » Managing Diabetes Pre and Post Op
- » Evaluate educational course offerings.

- » Provide recommendations for future educational activities based on data collected from learner evaluations and post-tests which clearly identify professional practice gaps and needs assessments.
- » Define success for professional education offerings; number of offerings, attendance and revenue.

Mid-Term Goals:

- » Establish educational activity targets for each year
- » Develop leaders and succession planning for future program chairs/co-chairs

Long-Term Goals:

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

Specific Projects that Achieve Goals and Objectives:

- » Great program for both ASMBS Annual Meeting and Weekend
- » Excellent reviews and attendance at ASMBS Weekend

2019 Completed Projects

- » ASMBS Weekend 2019 – Chicago, IL
 - » Attendance: 368
- » ObesityWeek 2019 – Las Vegas, NV
 - » Attendance: TBD

SOARD Annual Report

IMPACT FACTOR

Our 2018 Impact Factor (IF) fell slightly from 3.9 last year to 3.76, which was somewhat higher than Obesity Surgery, and places us #26 of 165 surgical journals. The IF is calculated by dividing the # of references two and three years ago by the number of publications in the current year.

SUBMISSIONS

In 2017 (the last complete year in the EES system so it is a useful benchmark), we received 396 new original articles. As of June 30 this year we have received 229, so we should end the year with around 450. In 2017, we received 44% of our manuscripts from North America, 28% from Europe, 11% from Asia, 10% from the Middle East, and 7% from South America, which is a similar distribution as we are seeing now. The number of revisions per original manuscript is still high at an average of 2 per article with several manuscripts requiring up to 5 revisions. In 2017 we published 218 original articles (surgery and integrated health), and through August this year we have published 143 of those article types, so we should end the year with a similar number published. In 2017 we published 63 Paired Editorials, and through August of this year we have published 47 of them.

ACCOUNTABILITY

In 2017, the rejection rate for original articles was 46%, and through June of this year that rate has risen to which has risen to 57%. The average time from submission to first decision is 22.7 days. The average time between receipt of a manuscript and assignment to an editor is less than 1 day. The average time until reviewers are assigned has decreased from to 9.2 days.

REVIEWERS

Our top reviewers so far this year have been Guilherme Campos, Michel Gagner, Patrick Noel, Edward Lin, and Matthew Martin.

CASE REPORTS

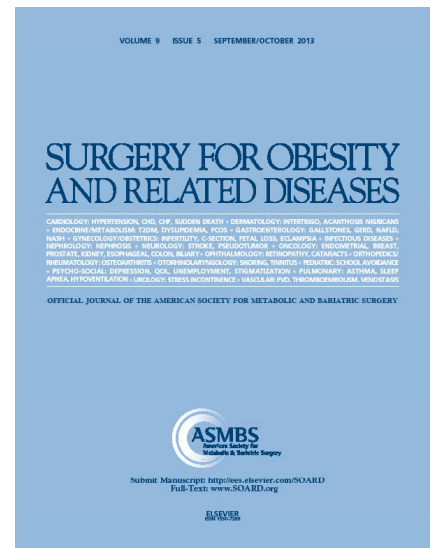
Since initiating a \$750 submission fee for open access case reports, there has been an appropriate decrease in the number of accepted case reports,

which is managed by Dr. Michel Murr. This has produced approximately \$10,000 in income for the journal, which is shared by the Society.

CME

The Continuing Medical Education program for both readers of the journal and reviewers of manuscripts has been quite successful, led by Dr. Samer Mattar. Through July of this year, there have been 2,575 hours of CME awarded to 255 readers and 520 hours of CME have been awarded to 185 reviewers.

I thank the ASMBS for letting me be co-editor-in-chief, as we enter our 14th year of publication.



Advocacy Update

SUMMARY OF ADVOCACY EFFORTS IN 2019

Prepared by ASMBS Washington Representative Chris Gallagher

ONGOING NATIONAL ADVOCACY PROJECTS

Treat and Reduce Obesity Act

ASMBS and the Obesity Care Advocacy Network (OCAN) continue to strongly support S. 595/HR 1530, the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act of 2019 (TROA), which was reintroduced in Congress in early 2019. On the Senate side, Senators Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and Tom Carper (D-DE) are renewing their lead roles and are joined by original cosponsors Senators Blackburn (R-TN), Capito (R-WV), Coons (D-DE), Heinrich (D-NM), Klobuchar (D-MN) and Murkowski (R-AK). House champions for TROA in the 116th Congress are Representatives Ron Kind (D-WI), Raul Ruiz, M.D. (D-CA), Tom Reed (R-NY) and Brett Guthrie (R-KY) — legislators who sit on either the House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee or Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee.

Specifically, TROA will provide the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) with the authority to expand the Medicare benefit for intensive behavioral counseling by allowing additional types of healthcare providers to offer these services. The legislation would also allow CMS to expand Medicare Part D to provide coverage of FDA-approved prescription drugs for chronic weight management. At the time of this report, S. 595 had 14 Senate cosponsors and HR 1530 had 134 House cosponsors. For up-to-date information on TROA cosponsors, please see the following links:

S. 595 Cosponsors: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/595/cosponsors>

HR 1530 Cosponsors: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1530/cosponsors>

Status & Prospects:

Given that we are still in the first year of the 116th Congress and we already have strong cosponsorship in both the House and Senate, hopes are high for TROA passage! Earlier in the year, OCAN held a very successful advocacy day on February 28th and a well-attended March 25th congressional briefing showcasing a new budget analysis from Avalere Health. OCAN's September 20th Fall Advocacy Day was held in conjunction with National Obesity Care Week (NOCW) and its focus on "advocating for access to affordable and comprehensive care."

Among the advocates on the Hill on September 20th were ASMBS Access to Care Committee Chair Dr. Joe Northup, Committee Vice-Chair Dr. Margaret Inman and ASMBS Super STAR for the Mid-Atlantic region Dr. Guilherme Campos. In addition to asking Senate offices to support TROA, ASMBS leaders highlighted the benefits of access to care to obesity treatment such as bariatric surgery utilizing an NOCW infographic on the issue. The day also included patient advocates who are addressing their obesity across the care continuum — encompassing counseling and

physical activity, medication and surgery. ObesityPAC provided \$1,000 grants for Drs. Northup, Inman and Campos to attend the OCAN Fall Advocacy Day

Congressional Budget Office Score:

One major milestone that came out of the OCAN Fall Advocacy Day was that Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA) notified OCAN leaders that he would be sending a formal request to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) requesting that CBO evaluate the budgetary impact of the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act. To assist both Senator Cassidy and the CBO in developing a fair cost estimate for the legislation, OCAN leaders provided the Senator with numerous studies and documents that will better inform CBO as the agency develops its cost estimate for the bill. While this is a major first step in securing cost numbers surrounding TROA, final estimates from CBO could still be several weeks away given the volume of scoring requests that the agency processes every Congress.

GAO Report on Obesity Drugs

In August, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released its report entitled, "Obesity Drugs: Few Adults Used Prescription Drugs for Weight Loss and Insurance Coverage Varied." The release of the report comes roughly 18 months after the agency was mandated to conduct the study by Congress. While the findings of the report confirm much of what the obesity community already knows about use and coverage of FDA-approved obesity drugs across the country, we are hopeful that the report can be used to further educate policymakers regarding the need for passage of TROA.

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 mandated GAO to review the prevalence of obesity and the use of obesity drugs, including spending for and insurance coverage of these drugs by examining: the prevalence of obesity among adults in the United States; what is known about the use of obesity drugs and the individuals who use them; what is known about health insurance coverage of obesity drugs; and what is known about spending on obesity drugs and about medical spending for adults who used obesity drugs compared to those who did not.

Specifically, GAO found: "Coverage of obesity drugs varied across different types of health insurance, including Medicare and Medicaid. Plans cited factors such as low consumer demand and strong evidence supporting other treatments in their coverage decisions. GAO's analysis of Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' data indicates that some Medicare prescription drug plans and state Medicaid programs reimbursed for some obesity drugs in 2016 and 2017. Coverage for private health insurance plans also varied, and plans may require the patient to obtain prior authorization for the drugs to be covered, according to officials from insurers and pharmacy benefit managers GAO interviewed."

Obesity Care Advocacy Network Efforts

ASMBS continues to actively participate in the Obesity Care Advocacy Network (OCAN) – taking part in the activities of the three OCAN workgroups, which are tasked with

ANNUAL ADVOCACY UPDATE

developing policy positions and identifying opportunities for promoting better patient access to and coverage of obesity treatment services. The Congressional Advocacy Priorities & Strategies (CAPS) Workgroup focuses primarily on legislative avenues for promoting obesity treatment. The Regulatory Affairs Workgroup is targeting federal agencies such as CMS and HHS to persuade them to implement the provisions of TROA through administrative means. Finally, the Military Readiness Workgroup is working to educate the military regarding the major impact that obesity is having on the physical and mental health of our armed forces – and subsequent fitness of these affected individuals to remain in the military.

National Regulatory Priorities

ASMBS joined with the American College of Surgeons and the American Medical Association and 50 other organizations in a joint letter expressing strong opposition to CMS's 2020 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule proposed rule – specifically over the agency's failure to incorporate into the global codes the adjusted values for the revised office/outpatient evaluation & management (E/M) codes. The letter highlighted that by failing to adopt all the AMA/Specialty Society Relative Value Scale Update Committee (RUC)-recommended work and time values for the revised office visit E/M codes for CY 2021, including the recommended adjustments to the 10- and 90-day global codes, CMS improperly proposes to implement these values in an arbitrary, piecemeal fashion.

STATE & REGIONAL ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

OCC State Advocacy Representative (STAR) Program

At the beginning of 2018, OMA and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND) joined with ASMBS in establishing a multi-disciplinary Obesity Care Continuum (OCC) State Advocacy Representative (STAR) Program – modeled after the successful STAR program that ASMBS established earlier in the decade. The goal of the OCC STAR Program is to support and communicate the mission and goals of the obesity community before state legislatures and regulatory agencies.

Status: During the first ten months of 2019, ASMBS STARs joined with their OCC colleagues in their respective states in reaching out to the Governor in their state. Each state was provided with sample language that could be used for contacting both their Governor and Insurance Commissioner to educate these key policymakers regarding recent data published by the STOP Obesity Alliance highlighting the status of obesity treatment coverage in state employee plans and Medicaid programs across the country. ASMBS STARs have joined with other OCC STARs in participating in a series of webinars throughout the year to discuss next steps surrounding advocacy priorities and how to coordinate an ongoing dialogue among their fellow STARs within their respective state. At the time of this report, The Obesity Society and the Obesity Action Coalition were developing guidelines for their respective STAR Programs.

Wisconsin State Employee Plan to Cover Bariatric Surgery &

Weight Loss Services

On May 15th, Wisconsin's Employee Trust Fund's (ETF) Group Insurance Board (GIB) approved state employee coverage for "bariatric surgery and weight loss services for members with body mass index (BMI) of 35 or greater" beginning in 2020. The victory came after nearly a decade of advocacy efforts by the WI ASMBS State Chapter in conjunction with other local OCC members (OMA, OAC, AND, TOS), the Wisconsin Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (WAND) and the state medical society.

It is also important to note that the ETF staff recommended the following in their memo outline benefit changes for 2020, which the Board considered in approving the coverage benefit: "ETF recommends adding coverage of bariatric surgery and required precursor weight management and nutrition services for members with BMI of 35 or greater. Adding the BMI limit increases the likelihood that benefits will be administered uniformly and adding the associated service coverage will help members who are preparing for bariatric surgeries to succeed post-surgery. The costs of a successful bariatric surgery are estimated to be recovered by the plan in 30 months, due in large part to improved comorbid conditions. The GHIP's relatively stable membership lends particularly well to being able to recoup these costs."

At the time of this report, the WI ASMBS State Chapter and the Access to Care Committee were reviewing final coverage language that state employee health plans released September 30th for open enrollment for the 2020 plan year.

Efforts to Secure CT State Health Exchange Coverage for Bariatric Surgery Gain Traction

At the beginning of 2019, Connecticut State Senator (and bariatric surgery patient) Eric Berthel introduced Senate Bill 317 "to require health insurance coverage for bariatric and metabolic surgery." On February 14th, the legislation was approved by the Joint Committee on Insurance and Real Estate. Committee passage of the bill came as a result of a massive collaborative advocacy effort led by the ASMBS CT Chapter in conjunction with the Connecticut State Medical Society, CT Chapter of the American College of Surgeons, and hundreds of obesity advocates who utilized the OAC's Action Center to urge their legislators to support SB-317! Unfortunately, the legislation hit a significant snag during May when state senators referred the legislation to the Joint Appropriations Committee — concerned over the \$4.4 million cost estimate from the state's independent accounting office. The referral of the legislation to the Appropriations Committee effectively killed the bill for the legislative session.

State Chapters

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Kenneth Todd Foreman, MD FASMBS

Vice President

Andrew DeWitt, MD FASMBS

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William J. Suggs, MD FASMBS

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Treasurer

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President

Todd Kellogg, MD

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Mississippi

President

David Carroll, MD

Vice President

Jonathan Adkins, MD

Secretary/Treasurer

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Corporate Council



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

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

Steering Committee Members:

Chair Brian Costello, Medtronic	Directors-at-Large Amy Articulo (Novo Nordisk) Hilary Dilsaver (Olympus) Laura Preston (Celebrate Vitamins) Alex Brecher, Bariatric Pal	ASMBS President Eric DeMaria, MD FASMBS	ASMBS Executive Director Georgeann Mallory, RD
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		ASMBS IH President Elect Lisa West-Smith	

Corporate Council Members:

Automated Medical	Olympus
Bariatric Advantage	Patient Tracking Systems
Bariatric Fusion, Inc.	ProCare Health
BariatricPal	Robard Corporation
Baxter Health	Seaport Insurance
Celebrate Vitamins	Sequence Health
Endo Pharmaceuticals	Shimadzu Medical
Ethicon Endo-Surgery	The Parthenon Co/Devrom
Matrix Medical Comm	Unjury
Medtronic	W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc.
Novo Nordisk	

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

The ASMBS Foundation

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

- › ASMBS Certified Bariatric Nurse (CBN) Program
- › Awarded 32 ASMBS Research Grants
- › ASMBS Nutrition Guidelines Project
- › ASMBS Online CME Program
- › ASMBS Integrated Health Abstract Session Awards at Obesity Week
- › Edward Mason Professorship at the University of Iowa
- › Educational and advocacy initiatives of the Obesity Action Coalition (OAC)
- › Nationwide Walk from Obesity awareness events (annual since 2003) The 2008 Walk from Obesity's Walk on the Capitol in Washington, DC Walk from Obesity Cookbook
- › Awarded Bryan G. Woodward Community Grants to support local initiatives to address the obesity epidemic
- › ASMBS Fall Educational Courses (2010 & 2011)
- › The Foundation supports the ASMBS' multi-pronged initiatives to increase patient access to safe and effective treatment for the disease of obesity
- › ASMBS International Committee Awards
- › ASMBS Patient Booklet (revised)
- › ASMBS jLog™ Program
- › ASMBS State Chapter Summit
- › ASMBS Educational Meetings at ObesityWeek
- › ASMBS Quality Improvement Project
- › 2/22 Pedometer Challenge (awareness campaign)
- › ASMBS Essentials of Bariatric & Metabolic Surgery App
- › ASMBS Report on Obesity National Survey
- › The ABS/ASMBS Fellowship Curriculum Pilot Program's Objective Performance Data App
- › Launched AWARE, the monthly giving campaign
- › Hosted 24 Walks from Obesity, 9% increase
- › Walk from Obesity Revenue increased by 20%
- › Launched ASBS Foundation Video
- › Introduced a Gala Evening to LEAD Awards



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

ASMBS Foundation's Board of Directors:

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The ASMBS Foundation's LEAD Awards

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

ASMBS Foundation's Mission:

- › The mission of the ASMBS Foundation is to raise funds for conducting research and education, increasing public and scientific awareness and understanding, and improving access to quality care and treatment of obesity and morbid obesity.
- › Raise Funds that directly support critical research and education on obesity, severe obesity, and metabolic and bariatric surgery.
- › Increase Scientific and Public Awareness and Understanding of obesity as a disease and that treatment of obesity and severe obesity can prevent, improve or resolve many metabolic diseases including type 2 diabetes and other diseases including cancer.
- › Improve Access to Quality Care and Treatment for Americans with obesity and severe obesity by eliminating policy, societal, economic

and medical barriers that deny people appropriate treatment and support.

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



ASMB
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SAVE THE DATE
SEE YOU IN
ATLANTA!

NOVEMBER 2-6, 2020



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