

ALBERIC FIENNES

† 29 MARCH 2023



The entire IFSO community, and especially IFSO European Chapter, is very sad to announce that Dr. Alberic Fiennes passed away on March 29th 2023, at the age of 76 after a long and courageous battle of illness. Last January he regretfully had to give up his chair of the Senior Advisory Board of the European Chapter of IFSO. He was optimistic about his future ability to remain an active participant, a vision that unfortunately could not be fulfilled.

Alberic trained at St Bart's Hospital London and qualified in 1976. After broad training in all aspects of Surgery, he became Senior Lecturer in Surgery, then Consultant Surgeon at St George's Hospital and Medical School from 1990 to 2007, where he founded the current bariatric service. He was Director of Bariatric Surgery at University College London Hospital from 2007-2009. He was Secretary and President of the British Obesity & Metabolic Surgery Society (BOMSS).

Alberic undertook laparoscopic gallbladder surgery as of 1991 and contributed internationally to the development of laparoscopic 'TEPP' hernia repair from 1992. He was the first UK surgeon to offer these operations as day surgery. He has been active in bariatric/metabolic surgery both open and laparoscopic since 1995, when he took over the aftercare of patients who had undergone "weight-loss" surgery in the 1980s.

Over the years, he worked with leading colleagues in this field, especially within IFSO. He created a team of professionals who shared a passion: to support patients in their recovery from the 21st century disease of severe obesity. He also trained many fellow bariatric surgeons.

His humanity and empathy taught him not only to be a committed advocate to the patients, but also to emphasize their needs, fears and hopes in seeking bariatric surgery.

He was the first British President of the IFSO-EC from 2014 to 2016 and as such actively participated in the development of the first European joint medical and surgical Obesity Summit in Gothenburg. He then chaired IFSO-EC's Senior Advisory Board. Both these roles were fulfilled with much enthusiasm and efficiency. His deep knowledge of the European Chapter bylaws and history was a determinant factor of helpfulness when faced with difficult or unusual situations. Alberic was known for his sharp focus and determined support of the IFSO European Chapter.

Alberic was also a great person to spend time with. He was a very sensitive person to other people's needs, quick to help and provide suggestions if necessary. He was extremely trustworthy and it was honour to work shoulder to shoulder with him especially in difficult situations.

The simplest moments with him brought great pleasure and fun. His so "British" sense of humor made a friendly dinner with him such an entertainment, something that we will forever miss.

IFSO-EC sends its sincere condolences to his wife, children and family. IFSO, The Bariatric family, his numerous fellows and thankful patients, will miss this True Gentleman.