



**IFSO EUROPEAN
CHAPTER
2023 - 2025
ACTIVITIES**



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear IFSO-EC Members,
Dear Friends,

We present to you the report on our Chapter for 2023- 2025, including everything from the Napoli IFSO World Conference to our annual meeting in Venezia.

A deep renovation has been planned and realized in this period, both in the structure and in the offices of IFSO-EC.

The composition of the Executive Council has been renovated by elections, a natural step, and additional changes have been actuated:

- incorporating the Integrated Health Committee Chairperson as a voting member.
- proposing that the President-elect will also be nominated as Member at Large to represent the Chapter in the IFSO board (together with the President);
- reducing the length of term of some officers, to accelerate turnover.

These decisions will be described in detail in the Bylaws Committee report in below.

Due to these renovations and innovations, gender equality has been increased.

We have modified the workflow: a monthly meeting calendar, online or in-person, has positively brought wider participation by the officers in the decision-making processes.

Two new National Societies in our area have joined the Federation: We are now 32, by far the largest IFSO Chapter! Welcome Georgia and Serbia!



COMMITTEES

In these years, most committees have been reshaped, especially the Integrated health one, and new chairpersons have taken the lead, bringing enthusiasm and new ideas.

You will find single reports by the Chairpersons below, highlighting the many activities, initiatives, networks, and opportunities that all the Committee members have created and successfully implemented with commitment and hard work.

They all deserve our thankful appreciation, as communication, scientificity, visibility and international role of the Chapter have really taken off and reached a high level.

Currently, we have 71 officers in all activities, total representing 21 of the 32 nations belonging to the Chapter – an excellent melting pot, but.... We can always do better!

Additionally, we would like to inform you that 2 new Committees have been created:

- The Corporate Committee, to increase a structured relationship with our commercial partners;
- The Bariatric Metabolic Endoscopy Committee to give visibility and space to endoscopic surgeons and gastroenterologists practicing this innovative approach.

ADMINISTRATION:

The PCO contract has been terminated close to its expiration and new policy has been installed for the annual conference – we thank Guarant for the valuable cooperation over the years, during which the Chapter was born and has grown thanks to their support.

The contract with EAC-BS will also end in December 2025 – this high-quality activity of evaluating, certifying and monitoring the Centers of Excellence began in 2011, and has been led by one of the most qualified bariatric pioneers, Prof. John Melissas, who deserves our deep gratitude for his commitment to maintaining the highest standards – a successful program, that will be resurrected in the near future !

The financial situation is rather solid, and we were able to afford to sponsor scholarships and observership grants for younger members, to help their professional growth by participating at conferences and visiting programs.

Relationships with other societies and Chapters have been maintained with joint sessions and webinars – our natural „sister“, EASO, is now closer to us thanks to the activism of our Rapporteur.

At a global level, in 2024, the Scopinaro Foundation was born, to help the nations where bariatric surgery is still young, to educate surgeons, and to structure new Societies.

It is important to remember that the original idea came from our Chapter, to honor the memory of the founder and Honorary President, the late Prof. Nicola Scopinaro.

We left space at the end, for a couple of outstanding achievements that must make all IFSO-EC members proud:

- The Young IFSO group has skyrocketed, and now includes many, many members from most European nations, and will have soon representatives in all nations – it is not superfluous to say that they are the bright future of IFSO-EC and IFSO !
- In May 2024, the EC appointed 4 brave and enthusiastic scientists to install the EBSQ (European Board of Surgical Qualification) examination.

This complex task was completed in record time and the first exam to certify Fellows of the European Board of Surgery (FEBS) in Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery will be held in Venezia – Congratulations Marco, Christine, Daniel, Edo!!

A final remark, by both of us: a deep thanks to all IFSO-EC people, Committee members, Executive Council members and, last but not least, Manuela and Stefanie from the super-efficient office, for their tireless and friendly support we received – thank you again!



Nicola Di Lorenzo,
President IFSO-EC

Moritz Felsenreich,
IFSO-EC Executive Director

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ELECT

The past two years for the IFSO European Chapter have been very productive and I am privileged to have the opportunity to work with such smart, dedicated and fun people. IFSO-EC has continued on its pathway of strongly supporting evidence-based surgery and metabolic bariatric surgery education paving the way to the new era of obesity treatment. Under the leadership of Nicola Di Lorenzo, we have been able to update some important pragmatic issues dating back to the establishment of the Chapter helping us move forward. I am looking forward to continue to serve the Chapter and IFSO with the important work we do.

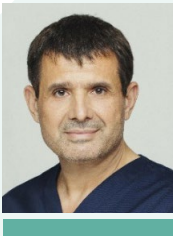


Paulina Salminen,
IFSO-EC President Elect

IFSO-EC TREASURER REPORT

During the last year, since the financial report has been presented to the General Council, IFSO-EC had a positive balance!

The main income of the last year resulted from the successful IFSO-EC Congress organized in May 2024. Besides the outstanding scientific program, the EC Event in Viena recorded the largest number of participants and the biggest budget of the history of our Chapter! We are grateful to all the contributors, especially to Professor Gerhard Prager, the Congress President, and his Austrian team for their significant effort to reach this outstanding level! IFSO-EC also received funds from generous sponsors and profit shares from the IFSO World Congress in Melbourne. Last year IFSO-EC supported financially all the educational initiatives of the Committees, has offered scholarships for young members of our Chapter to attend the Conference and successfully covered all the Association's duty and costs of the Office. The 2024 IFSO-EC financial activity registered a positive balance. As treasurer I have represented our members' interest to protect the Association's funds thus making possible to reach the scientific and educational objectives of our Chapter!



Catalin Copaescu,
IFSO-EC Treasurer

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

The IFSO-EC Scientific Committee had set several goals: over the past 2 years, significant progress has been made on multiple fronts, thanks to the active participation and collaboration of all committee members.

1. Monthly Article Initiative – Journal Club

One of the main initiatives was the launch of a Monthly Article program (IFSO-EC Journal Club). Each month, the Scientific Committee selected a peer-reviewed scientific article of relevance and high impact in the field of obesity. This article was then accompanied by a commentary, jointly prepared and endorsed by all members of the Scientific Committee. Both the selected article and the committee's commentary were published on the official IFSO-EC website, creating a consistent and valuable educational resource for the wider scientific community. This project was made possible through the commitment and contribution of every committee member.

2. Development of GRADE-Based Guidelines

Another key objective was the formulation of clinical guidelines using the GRADE methodology for the **multimodal treatment of obesity**. To achieve this, a dedicated Panel was established, comprising all members of the Scientific Committee. This initiative led to the development of two significant publications representing step forward in providing standardized, evidence-based recommendations for clinicians involved in the management of obesity.

3. Establishment of the IFSO-EC Academy on the Management of Obesity

The third project undertaken by the Scientific Committee was the foundation of the IFSO-EC Academy, an educational platform designed to provide high-level training in obesity management. This concept, which has already been successfully implemented in Italy over the past four years, is now being expanded at the European level.

The first international edition of the IFSO-EC Academy will take place during the IFSO-EC Congress in Venice (May 14–17, 2025), specifically on May 14th as a pre-congress course. This course has garnered exceptional interest and is currently the most highly subscribed pre-congress course, with registrations expected to exceed 150 participants (initially capped at 100). This success demonstrates the strong demand for structured and comprehensive education in obesity management.

In addition, representatives from leading pharmaceutical companies will be attending the course. Discussions are underway to evaluate the potential for continued collaboration and the possibility of organizing annual editions of the IFSO Academy, either during future IFSO-EC congresses or as independent events.



Maurizio De Luca,
IFSO-EC Chair of the Scientific Committee

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

During this period, we have transformed and modernized the communication policy of the European Chapter through several initiatives and projects that have strengthened our connections. The committee has included more than 10 members from various countries. Many thanks to all: Ana Marta Pereira, Edo Aarts, Tigran Poghosyan, Roxanna Zakeri, Lidia Castagneto, Tair Ben Porat, Shiri Sherf Dagan, Sjaak Pouwels, Chandra Chevuru, and José M. Balibrea. A special thanks to Juan Pujol Rafols, now our advisor, who launched the project with great motivation in 2022.

In **Napoli**, we presented our new **IFSO-EC website**, where we share the latest news from our Chapter. We also developed the Digital Campus, offering a variety of engaging content. An audiovisual portal was launched, featuring selected articles from our Scientific Committee through the **Journal Club**,

which includes more than 12 articles reviewed by European experts. Additionally, we categorized and organized videos from past IFSO-EC congresses to create a **picture gallery** with over 50 entries, including surgical videos and presentation highlights from key events (Zurich, Prague, Naples).



We also initiated a **podcast** series with three episodes: "Pregnancy Following Bariatric Surgery", "The Past, Present, and Future of Bariatric Surgery", and "Key Nutritional Rules in Bariatric Surgery". These allow members to engage with our content on the go-whether walking, at the gym, or commuting-thanks to our collaboration with Weight Works Clinics.

The **Vienna** Congress marked a milestone with the **The Newsletter**, now with five editions. It has significantly increased the visibility of our activities and has become a platform to promote European courses, congresses, and initiatives relevant to our network.

In 2025, we will continue with the release of three more podcast episodes, expand our video archive, and enhance our presence on social media through Instagram (#ifsoglobal), X (@IfsoSecretariat, @ifso_ec), and LinkedIn (IFSO - International Federation for Surgery of Obesity and Metabolic Disorders), in collaboration with the IFSO Secretariat and IFSO members.

We are proud of the progress we've made-but this is only the beginning.
The best is yet to come!



Anna Casajoana,
IFSO-EC Chair of the Development and Communication Committee

IFSO-EC WEBINARS 2023-25

1st EAES AND IFSO-EC WEBINAR



J. Pujol-Ràfols,
IFSO-EC Digital Communication Advisor

SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD

This is the first time the newly founded SAB should have realized some valuable achievements. I am afraid I didn't make much of it. To my defence, the current times are strange to say the least. Let us please remember the passing of our friend (friend in the true sense of the word) Alberic, who was the initiator but tragically passed away before he could materialise any outcome in line with his brilliant career. We all miss him deeply and I do promise I will work hard to honour his legacy, if my own health allows. I must say that IFSO-EC at this point encompasses a number of young "heavy weights" who can only generate success and lasting scientific achievements under leadership of Nicola, (this name proving once again that "nomen is omen").



Jaques Himpens,
IFSO-EC Chair of the Senior Advisory Board

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

In the last years, it became evident the need to update our bylaws, conforming them to the emerging needs of our members and the technical management of the Chapter.

Summarizing the most relevant changes:

- Creation of the Senior Advisory Board.
- Role of the President elect as Member-at-large representing the Chapter in IFSO Board.
- Shortening the terms of Executive Director and Treasurer to accelerate Council's turnover.
- Chairperson of the Integrated health Committee as voting member, giving evidence to the importance of these members' category.
- Chairpersons of the Committees as permanent members of the Council.

The final version has been approved by the Chapter General Council in the Meeting held in Vienna, in May 2024

The complete text can be retrieved at <https://www.ifso-ec.com/documents/>

The MOPP - Manual of Policies & Procedures has been updated as well, and even if this activity is responsibility of the Executive Council, this Committee has cooperated and approved innovations as well.

The complete text can be retrieved at <https://www.ifso-ec.com/documents/>



Jean-Marc Chevallier,
IFSO-EC Chair Bylaws Committee

CORPORATE COMMITTEE

Prof. Nicola di Lorenzo initiated the founding of the Corporate Committee. We try to build up a continuous relationship with our esteemed partners from industry, listen to their needs and create a win-win situation. Thanks Nicola, for your great leadership in the last years!



Gerhard Prager,
IFSO-EC Chair of the Corporate Committee

MULTINATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP (MNAG)

The Multinational Advisory Group (MNAG) currently consists of 8 members: Cynthia Borg, Chetan Parmar, Sylvia Weiner, Halit Eren Taskin, Ellen Andersson, Piotr Mysliwiec, Matthias Lannoo and David Goitein, supported by Ronald Liem (past chair)

Over the last 12 months we have worked to:

- Increase awareness of the advantages of IFSO membership along membership of the Bariatric National Societies. These advantages include not only discounted registration for IFSO congresses and endorsed meetings but also allow access to a wealth of learning resources and educational opportunities.
- Encourage more European national societies to be part of IFSO-EC – Serbia is the most recent member to join and discussions with other potential members are taking place.
- Improve the awareness of emergency complications of bariatric surgery by the medical community at large. The Bariatric Surgery Emergency poster will be translated into different European language. This poster has also been further disseminated by the publication of the paper ‘Emergency care of metabolic bariatric surgery patients’ in the British Journal of Surgery in 2024.
- Potentially improve the safety of bariatric tourism by disseminating a Bariatric Checklist that can be used by the team in the treating hospital for comprehensive transfer of care back to the patients’ home country.



Cynthia Borg,
IFSO-EC Chair Multinational Advisory Group (MNAG)

INTEGRATED HEALTH COMMITTEE

This report summarizes the key activities carried out by the Integrated Health (IH) Committee of IFSO-EC over the recent period, highlighting our strategic initiatives and growing impact within the IFSO community.

1. Participation in IFSO Global Congresses



Naples 2023

The IH IFSO-EC organized integrated pre-congress courses with the valuable participation of patients, reinforcing the importance of the multidisciplinary approach and patient engagement in the field of obesity and bariatric care.

With the participation of patient representation from ECPO (European Coalition for People Living with Obesity), the IH committee developed and delivered an integrated pre-congress course. This event further strengthened collaboration between healthcare professionals and patients, ensuring that lived experiences inform practice and education.

Melbourne 2024

IH EC participated in the Integrated Health Pre-Congress Course. Aligned with the congress theme, “An Integrated Future,” the course offered a clinically relevant and thought-provoking program tailored for integrated healthcare professionals. It addressed both common and unexpected clinical scenarios, fostering bi-directional knowledge sharing among participants.

Other IFSO Conferences:

IH EC was actively represented in other Chapter’s educational activities and conferences.

2. Educational Outreach

Participation in a webinar along with the IH global that addressed key topic in integrated care and the psychosocial aspects of metabolic and bariatric surgery.

Title:

Impact of behavioural health outcomes after Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery.

The session contributed to ongoing professional development and knowledge exchange within the IH community.

3. Establishment of a New Multidisciplinary Committee

A new committee has been formed through an open and transparent application process and participants selection. Our efforts are centred around advancing work in three strategic focus areas:

Stigma

Participation in a Global IFSO Task Force to Fight Stigma and also working independently contributing to the development of international strategies aimed at reducing weight stigma in healthcare professionals and society.

Improving Patient Experience

Collaboration with IH members and patients to explore and identify unmet needs, with the goal of enhancing the overall patient journey throughout the continuum of bariatric care.

Psychological Management

Reviewing current practices and contributing to improved strategies for the psychological support of individuals undergoing metabolic and bariatric surgery.

4. Community Development

The IH IFSO-EC has also focused on expanding and strengthening the Integrated Health community by:

- Encouraging active participation from a broader range of disciplines.
- Promoting inclusion and professional exchange within IFSO structures.
- Building bridges between regions to foster a truly global IH network.

The IH EC committee is aligned with IH global and supporting the Global IH initiatives like the IH IFSO Scholarship, the IH Observership and the IH recruitment and representation.

This report reflects our newly developed commitment is advancing integrated, patient-centred care through multidisciplinary collaboration, education, and advocacy.



Violeta Moize,

IFSO-EC Chair of the Integrated Health Committee

BARIATRIC AND METABOLIC ENDOSCOPY COMMITTEE

Endoluminal access is becoming increasingly important for many patients – for endoscopic sleeve gastropasty, efficacy and safety of an organ-sparing and repeatable procedure, have led to its inclusion in the obesity treatment algorithm. ESG, and thus the endoscopic therapeutic approach, is now included in several guidelines as an appropriate intervention for obesity classes I and II, and for obesity class III when the patient is inoperable or does not want surgery. An important future patient group is adolescents, who are currently undertreated. In a forward-looking move, the IFSO has already formulated a recommendation for adolescents with obesity class II in 2023 if conservative therapy is unsuccessful. This development shows the growing importance of endoscopy in the treatment of obesity. This was a major reason for the European Chapter of the IFSO to follow suit and set up a Bariatric Endoscopy Committee. The endoscopists involved are looking forward to contributing all their expertise to the further development of bariatric endoscopy as an important part of therapy, especially for patients with truly unmet needs.



Christine Stier,

IFSO-EC Chair of the Bariatric Metabolic Endoscopy Committee

YOUNG IFSO-EC

It has been a busy and impactful two years for Young IFSO with our membership across Europe growing even stronger. Our community now includes members from nearly all IFSO-EC countries actively contributing to educational, research, and leadership initiatives.

At the 2024 IFSO World Congress, the new Young IFSO executive board was elected with strong representation for our Chapter. Moritz Felsenreich (Austria) assumed the Presidency, with Sonja Chiapetta (Italy) chosen as President Elect, Elena Ruiz Úcar (Spain) as Secretary and re-elections for Roxanna Zakeri (UK) as European Chapter Representative and Daniel Gero (Switzerland) as chair of the Communication Committee.

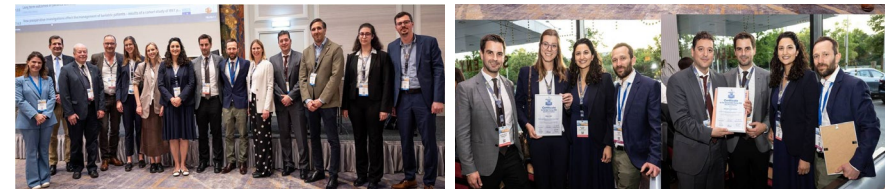
In response to the Young IFSO training survey, in 2023 we launched the **'Become a Bariatric and Metabolic Surgeon'** series of training courses, offering young surgeons with hands-on training opportunities that may otherwise be unavailable in their regions. The first course in Naples, Italy, was a huge success. This comprehensive course covered laparoscopic skills in an animal lab, endoscopy on animal models, robotic simulation, and didactic training for research skills and perioperative care. The feedback was so positive and industry enthusiasm high, that the course was repeated in 2025 with a global faculty and delegates from 11 countries. Also in the series, we held laparoscopic, endoscopy and robotic postgraduate courses in Vienna at the 2024 IFSO-EC congress, robotic live surgery with complex case discussions in Luxembourg in June 2024, and a laparoscopic skills lab in Istanbul, October 2024. Beyond practical tips and tricks, these courses provided excellent social and networking opportunities, including the creation of a dynamic Young IFSO running group.



To boost awareness of Young IFSO activities in Europe and better support our members, we established the **Young IFSO-EC taskforce** last year. National representatives were chosen, and continue to be added, to ensure representation

of every member state. We are developing new educational tools for residents and helping to boost opportunities for pan-European research and observerships. Primary to our aim is holding Young IFSO sessions at national congresses to celebrate the achievements of young surgeons, which we have successfully achieved in France, Greece, Italy, and Germany (Frankfurt) to date and more to come in 2025. We are still recruiting representatives so if your country is not represented and you would like to join then please do get in touch.

IFSO-EC continued to champion young surgeons at its annual congress, and we were fortunate in 2023 to have funding provided for a new **Young IFSO scientific prize**. Presenters of the highest scoring abstracts, from medical students to scientists to newly qualified surgeons, were challenged and scored by a jury of famous academic surgeons. Prizes and certificates were awarded at the hugely popular Young IFSO evening get-together. We are grateful to have had such great support from IFSO-EC to run this competition again in 2024 and this year in Venice.



In September 2023, we hosted the first joint **Young IFSO and IFSO-EC webinar** where Professor Jane Blazeby presented the results of the ByBandSleeve trial. We continue to support biannual Young IFSO webinars and journal clubs, and will host our next European Chapter webinar coming up this July, entitled "Modified primary MBS – is more really better?".

Beyond live meetings and webinars, Young IFSO is creating a collaborative virtual academy for surgical techniques. The freshly launched **'Young IFSO Surgical Dexterity Series'** allows members to compete by submitting educational videos on a new theme every 6 months. The best educational videos will be awarded a certificate, free registration to an upcoming IFSO meeting, and an invitation to submit their work to Obesity Surgery. We would love to have European members represented so please do submit your videos to gain a permanent place in the Young IFSO Virtual Academy!



For more information on our activities and updates, join our social media pages and website: <https://www.ifso.com/young-ifso/> <https://www.linkedin.com/company/youngifso/>

Roxanna Zakeri,
IFSO-EC Representative of Young IFSO

INTRODUCING THE EBSQ EXAMINATION IN METABOLIC-BARIATRIC SURGERY

An Initiative by the IFSO-EC Task Force

In May 2024, the International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity and Metabolic Disorders (IFSO) Executive Council appointed a dedicated Task Force to spearhead the development of an EBSQ (European Board of Surgical Qualification) examination in Metabolic-Bariatric Surgery. Task Force members Dr. Edo Aarts, Dr. Christine Stier, Dr. Daniel Gero, and Dr. Marco Bueter were entrusted with the mission to establish a formal Bariatric-Metabolic Surgery Division within the UEMS (European Union of Medical Specialists) Surgery Section, paving the way for standardized evaluation and recognition of expertise in the metabolic-bariatric field.

Following their initial mandate, the Task Force actively engaged with the UEMS Surgery Section. A significant milestone was reached in September 2024, when Dr. Aarts and Dr. Bueter presented the concept of the new division during the UEMS Surgery Section meeting in Malta. Their proposal received support from peers across various surgical disciplines, reflecting a shared commitment to harmonizing standards in surgical education across Europe.

Through regular monthly meetings and collaborative work, the Task Force successfully coordinated the launch of the first application cycle in February 2025. The application window closed on March 20, 2025, and the inaugural EBSQ examination in Metabolic-Bariatric Surgery is scheduled for May 14, 2025, during the IFSO European Chapter Congress in Venice.

The examination comprises multiple-choice questions and structured oral components, including case-based and literature discussions. Successful candidates will be awarded the prestigious title of **Fellow of the European Board of Surgery (FEBS)** in Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, signifying validated expertise and professional excellence in the field.

This initiative marks a major step forward in ensuring high standards, consistency, and quality in training and certification for metabolic-bariatric surgeons across Europe. Full details on eligibility, application processes, and assessment criteria are available on the UEMS website:

<https://uemssurg.org/surgicalspecialties/metabolic-bariatric-surgery/ebsq-examinations/>



Marco Bueter,
Chair UEMS Exam Task Force



OBESITY SURGERY JOURNAL

Obesity Surgery Journal has extended the list of editorial board members and provided their contacts, which significantly facilitates the editors' work in finding referees. Besides, new, recently promoted Associate editors joined giving new dimension of peer review.

Associate editors have also received the necessary links from the Editor-in-Chief of the journal, Prof. Shikora, to attract new reviewers from journals focused on the treatment and management of obesity, which adds significant value to the quality of the reviews (SOARD; SAGES, IFSO).

Obesity Surgery Journal Social Media team is doing an outstanding job providing and sharing different and important materials via social media (Linkedin, Instagram, X, Bluesky) and video interviews interviewing monthly top 10 published *Obesity Surgery Journal* authors in 3-5 min video interviews covering different hot topics in obesity management and treatment.

Any promotion, sharing and presenting via social media platforms is important. *Obesity Surgery Journal* has developed an important list of terminological terms of great importance for the unification of professional communication.

Obesity Surgery Journal will issue in the near future two special topics with invited guest editors and will continue with special editions of the magazine in the future, combining Obesity Management Medications (OMMs) and surgical topics.

The SNAPP support contact is sneezy.rosane.1@springernature.com; some additions to the system are needed, at the suggestion of SNAPP editors and users, to facilitate editorial work, which otherwise runs smoothly. Each editor has been provided with a work statistic covering all indicators of the quality of the editorial work.



Tadeja Pintar,
IFSO-EC representative at Obesity Surgery Journal

IFSO SCOPINARO FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

It is a pleasure and honour to introduce to you the IFSO Scopinaro Foundation Committee. The idea of the Foundation started in the IFSO European Chapter, end of 2023, to honour the founder. It was then thought that the idea could be brought at IFSO global level. The final steps were materialized and approved at the 2024 IFSO World Congress in Melbourne.

The main goal of the Foundation Committee is to help development of Metabolic/Bariatric Surgery (MBS) in countries where the discipline is not yet existing or it is in its beginning or where there is a need. The intention is to support and promote preferably, but not only, young surgeons and IH members and start-up national Societies.

The Foundation Committee is composed of:

Chair: Martin Fried

Vice-Chair: Luigi Angrisani

Members of the BOT: Jan W.Greve, Antonio Torres, Harry Frydenberg, Henry Buchwald

Members nominated by the Chapters: Nicola Di Lorenzo, Wendy Brown, Carl Pesta, Estuardo Behrens, Moritz Felsenreich, Manuela Mazzarella, Silvia Leite.

The Foundation members actively meet every other month. Among the first activities of the Foundation Committee was the support given to Vietnamese colleagues to attend the 2025 IFSO APC Congress in Mumbai, India and to establish the Vietnamese Obesity Surgery Society.

OBESITY FACTS JOURNAL

It's my pleasure to introduce you to Obesity Facts Journal which became the affiliated Journal of IFSO-European Chapter immediately after the Chapter was founded in 2004.

Obesity Facts publishes articles covering all aspects of obesity, in particular epidemiology, etiology and pathogenesis, treatment, including metabolic and bariatric surgery and the prevention of adiposity.

Obesity Facts is since 2013 an open access Journal with current Impact Factor of 3.9 and CiteScore 6.8. The Journal receives more than 200 manuscripts yearly, over 50% of those accepted for publication come from European countries. More than 600.000 viewers and readers visit the Journal yearly, most of them coming from Europe, USA, China, India and Australia.

The Journal has illustrious Editorial Board and Reviewers. Bernhard Ludvig from Austria became Editor-in-Chief since 2025.

Obesity Facts is therefore a perfect match to IFSO-EC official Obesity Surgery Journal, as it provides additional platform for authors and IFSO-EC to present articles to a wider non-surgical readership



Martin Fried,

Chair of the IFSO Scopinaro Foundation – Representative of Obesity Facts

IFSO-EC / EASO

The first joint IFSO-EC and EASO congress in Gothenburg in 2016 brought the two European societies closer together. Nevertheless, it took six years until we had the second joint congress in Maastricht in 2022. Both congresses were a great success. In 2024, it was finally decided to hold a joint congress every five years. Consequently, the next congress will take place in 2027, fortunately from my point of view in Basel, Switzerland.

Another collaboration project between IFSO-EC and EASO is an initiative to raise awareness of the potential dangers of surgical tourism. We have used a Delphi consensus process to define minimum requirements for centers offering treatments to patients from abroad. In addition, we are trying to help potential patients select a metabolic bariatric surgery center that meets these minimum requirements for safe treatment abroad. This is an ongoing project that is carried out together with patient organizations.



Ralph Peterli,
IFSO-EC Rapporteur to EASO

IFSO-EC CONGRESS VIENNA 2024

Gerhard Prager (Congress President), Daniel Moritz Felsenreich (Congress Secretary), the local organising team, and the IFSO board organized a fantastic IFSO-EC congress in Vienna in May 2024.

A total of 780 congress participants plus more than 200 representatives from the industry resulted in nearly 1000 people at the congress. In a total of 37 sessions and more than 300 talks, novel topics in the field of metabolic / bariatric surgery were covered. Immediately before the IFSO-EC congress, the IFSO consensus conference attended by several experts in the field of OMM's also took place in Vienna.

Further highlights were the 4 practical pre-congress courses (robotic, endoscopic, and laparoscopic bariatric surgery and complications), a breakfast for the national IFSO-EC presidents, the championship session, the Young IFSO get-together, and the President dinner in the famous "Kunsthistorisches Museum" in Vienna.





IFSO-EC PRESIDENTS



† Nicola Scopinaro
2004 – 2006



Jerome Dargent
2006 – 2008



Luc Lemmens
2008 – 2010



Rudolf Weiner
2010 – 2012



Yuri Yashkov
2006 – 2008



† Alberic Fiennes
2014 – 2016



Michel Suter
2016 – 2018



Gerhard Prager
2018 – 2021
(Extended due to Covid-19)



Jean-Marc Chevallier
2021 – 2023
Immediate Past President



Nicola Di Lorenzo
2023 – 2025
Current President



Paulina Salminen
2025 – 2027
President Elect



Gerhard Prager,
IFSO-EC Vienna 2024
Congress President



Moritz Felsenreich,
IFSO-EC Vienna 2024
Congress Secretary



13th Congress of the International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity European Chapter (IFSO-EC)

14-17 May 2025 | Venice, Italy



ifso-ec2025.com

IFSO-EC EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT



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Manuela Mazzarella
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Stefanie D'Arco
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14th Congress of the International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity & Metabolic Disorders European Chapter (IFSO-EC)

6 - 9 May 2026 | Málaga, Spain

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