

International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity and metabolic disorders
European Chapter

IFSO-EC General Council meeting
Venezia, Friday May 16th 2025 18.30-19.30
Room: Sala Perla – Palazzo del Casino (level 1)

MINUTES

Invited Voting members: Executive Council members (N. Di Lorenzo, J.M. Chevallier, P. Salminen, C. Copaescu, M. Felsenreich, C. Parmar, V. Moize, M. De Luca) + one delegate from each Society

Non-voting: L. Ocana, T. Pintar, A. Casajoana, J. Pujol, J. Himpens, R. Zakeri, M. Fried, R. Peterli, C. Borg, G. Prager + one delegate from each Society

1. Minutes from last GC meeting in Vienna – The minutes are approved

2. Election of the President elect, Executive Council renewal

Noted – Catalin Copaescu has been elected President for the period 2026-2027.

Chetan Parmar is the new Treasurer.

All in favour

3. IFSO EC Activities report 2024-2025

Reported – N. Di Lorenzo: New committees: Endoscopic MBS committee chaired by Christine Stier and Corporate committee chaired by Gerhard Prager.

Changes to the MOPP have been approved in January this year.

All other activities of the Chapter are reported in the Booklet available online on IFSO EC website.

4. Report of the first UEMS Exam + Certificates

Reported – M. Bueter: We have successfully performed the first IFSO-EC/UEMS examination and certified 9 bariatric surgeons. The next examination will be performed next year in Malaga.

5. Financial report 2023-2024

Reported – C. Copaescu: A Financial audit for the last 5 years (2019 – 2024) has been performed with the assistance of Verwest.

- Final reports will be ready to be signed May 31st 2025
- Financial duties are to be paid to IFSO & to Local societies (congresses profits)
- Audit of the EAC-BS activity
- Available balance: 112,973 EUR (14/05/2025)

8. Committees' Activities Reported –

1) Communication Committee: Anna Casajoana

-IFSO EC Website: Ana Marta Pereira, Portugal

Most viewers find our website through Google and look for information about the European Congress.

Website active users are "registered website members":

Information and activities restricted to registered members: DIGITAL CAMPUS

Journal Club, Webinars, Podcasts.

It was decided to stop the advertisement of meetings not to interfere with IFSO endorsement policy.

-Podcast project: Sjakk Pouwels, Shiri Sherf, Tair Ben-Prat

- All of them Recorded by Sjakk in Vienna
- Mean Time 80%: 14:00, at night (9PM)
- How viewers find the podcasts: via Whatsapp and LinkedIn

-Social media project – Jose Balibrea

- We submitted two budgets to develop LinkedIn, X, and Instagram channels
Unsuccessful so far; pending to present a new proposal

-Transversal activities with other committees

- Scientific Committee: pending to designate new delegate
- IH Committee: "IH Educational Section (webiste and Newsletter) Laura Vaccarino and pharmacoterapy whatsapp group lead by Carmil
- IFSO EC activities: Create a new group focused on promoting IFSO-EC activities, especially around key awareness dates. WOD day, Bariatric Times report, and support the promotion of upcoming congresses
– Chandra Chevuru

-Newsletters: 5 editions, second Monday of each quarter. Next issues: June, September, December 2025.

2842 newsletters were succesfully delivered and 1319 (46%) out of them were opened

Structure: President's message

Promoting congresses: World IFSO congress and the European one.

Education news: courses, BOARD, scholarship information

Young IFSO news

Digital campus news: webinars, podcast, most viewed video, journal club

Integrated Health news

IFSO member voice (picture or quick comment)

2) Integrated Health Committee: Violeta Moize:

Melbourne 2024: IH EC participated in the Integrated Health Pre-Congress Course. "An Integrated Future," the course offered a clinically relevant and thought-provoking program tailored for integrated healthcare professionals

FSO Conferences: APC. IH EC was actively represented in other chapter's educational activities and conferences.

Establishment of a New Multidisciplinary Committee:

Application process. Our efforts are centered around advancing work in three strategic focus areas:

Stigma: Participation in a Global IFSO Task Force

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.

Ongoing activities:

Monitoring of Chronic Diseases and Medications in Bariatric Surgery – Carmil Azran

Management of recurrent weight gain with obesity management medications – Lisa Tolvanen, Violeta Moize

Qualitative Study

3) Multi National Advisory Group: Cynthia Borg:

8 members: Cynthia-Michelle Borg, Chetan Parmar, Sylvia Weiner, Halit Eren Taskin, Ellen Andersson, Piotr Mysliwiec, Matthias Lannoo and David Gotein, 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*¹ 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 country².

4) Scientific Committee: Maurizio De Luca

Members:

1. Marco Bueter
2. Sonja Chiappetta
3. Christine Stier
4. Jacques Himpens
5. Antonio Iannelli
6. Marloes Emous
7. Simon Nienhuijs
8. Rui Ribeiro
9. Nasser Sakran
10. Eren Taskin
11. Elena Ruiz Ucar
12. Erik Stenberg
13. Ramon Vilallonga
14. Francesco Maria Carrano

-Monthly Article Initiative

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.

-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:

The first article focused on the formulation of PICO questions and the methodological framework used to conduct the guideline development process.

-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.

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.

9. IFSO-EC Meeting 2025, Venezia

Reported – M. De Luca: Total pax: 1345 Workshop Module 1: 75, Workshop Module 2: 29, Workshop Module 3: 20, Workshop Module 4: 19; Fun Run: 150; Culinary session: 50. ePoster- 62, Oral presentations – 303, Videos – 104. Total : 469. Total sponsorship income: 552,920 Euro, Exhibitors: 24, Sponsors: 8 (6 gold, 1 bronze, 1 general). Total costs: 857K, provisional incomes: 872K. Provisional profit: 15K euros.

10. IFSO-EC Meeting 2026, Malaga

Noted – L. Ocana: The meeting will be held from 6-8 May 2026 at the NH Hotel in the city center. We look forward to meeting you there next year.

11. IFSO-EC Meeting 2028

Noted – The location of the meeting in 2028 will be Bucharest under the presidency of Catalin Copaescu.

12. Passing of the Presidency

Noted – Nicola Di Lorenzo passes the virtual gavel to Paulina Salminen who will be the President of IFSO until May 2027 in Basel.

13. AOB – No other business