

# About IFSO

The International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity and Metabolic Disorders (IFSO) is a Federation composed of national associations of bariatric surgeons and Integrated Health professionals. Currently, there are 73 official member societies of IFSO. There are also individual members from countries that thus far have not formed a national association.

IFSO is a scientific organization that brings together surgeons and integrated health professionals, such as nurses, practitioners, dieticians, nutritionists, psychologists, internists, and anesthesiologists, involved in the treatment of morbidly obese patients.

One of IFSO's main goals is to support its members in aspects directly related to their profession. One of IFSO's main activities is the organization of the yearly World Congress, which provides a forum to exchange knowledge on surgical treatment of severely obese patients, to present new techniques, research, and concepts, and to meet the experts in the field.

An international obesity surgery meeting was held annually in various countries throughout the world, under the leadership of Nicola Scopinaro. At the Stockholm meeting in 1995, the International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity (IFSO) was formed. The first International Congress of IFSO was held in Prague in 1996, followed by Cancun in 1997, Bruges in 1998, Salzburg in 1999, and Genoa in 2000. The first President was Nicola Scopinaro (Italy), followed by George Cowan (U.S.A) and Emanuel Hell (Austria).

To learn more about IFSO's History please [click here](#).

IFSO has also produced a number of guidelines, such as "Selection criteria for patients", "Minimal requirements for

bariatric surgeons”, and statements on morbid obesity and its treatment, and is committed to the creation of a system for accreditation of individual surgeons and bariatric centers around the globe. The main goal of IFSO is the optimisation of the treatment of severely obese patients.



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