

## SMOB NEWSLETTER 01 - 2026

Swiss Society of Multidisciplinary Obesity – Newsletter of April 2026

Dear Members

We are happy to share with you the first newsletter of 2026, with important updates and announcements from across our society. Here's a quick look at what's new:

### Board and Administrative Updates & New Member News

- **SMOB Specialized Working Groups – Another milestone in the evolution of SMOB**

To strengthen the important and fundamental multiprofessional work in obesity care, SMOB has established several specialized working groups with the aim not only of increasing the visibility of all the key disciplines involved, but above all enhancing the sharing of professional expertise and making it transparently accessible.

This initiative aims to improve the quality of care, foster more coordinated approaches, and ensure access to up-to-date expertise for both professionals and patients.

The working groups are presented below. Comprehensive information on their objectives, scope of activities, and organizational structure will soon be available on our website, which is currently being updated. We encourage you to visit the SMOB website regularly and stay actively engaged with the group(s) that interest you.

- Surgery and Endoscopy (Responsible: Marco Bueter, Pouya Iranmanesh & Patrick Aepli)
  - Medical Obesity Treatment (Responsible: Bernd Schultes)
  - Nutrition and Physical Activity (Responsible: Laura Vaccarino)
  - Mental Health (Responsible: Patrick Pasi)
  - Education and Early Career Group (Responsible: Stilyini Mantziari)
  - Senior Advisory Board (Responsible: Ralph Peterli)
- **Applications for recognition as a Medical Obesity Centers by SMOB/SSED-ASEMO**
- The FOPH has defined criteria for the recognition of medical obesity centers, which are now applied within the framework of “Spezialitätenliste/Liste des spécialités” for the reimbursement of pharmacological treatments. SSED/ASEMO and SMOB have expressed reservations regarding these criteria.

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**In this context and with a view to contributing constructively, the SMOB and SSED/ASEMO have established a definition of medical obesity centers**, based on clinical expertise, current scientific standards and the realities of care delivery in daily practice.

This initiative aims to:

- ensure high-quality, structured, and evidence-based care
- promote effective multidisciplinary collaboration
- recognize the expertise of centers and physicians already involved in obesity care
- ensure equitable access to care across the country

**On this basis, a recognition process for medical obesity centers has been established by SMOB and SGED-ASEMO.** It allows public and private outpatient structures to apply for the corresponding label. Note that bariatric surgery centers, both primary and reference, are not concerned by this process, as it only refers to non-surgical structures.

Please find the documents detailing the proposed criteria and the application process by following the buttons below:

[Framework](#)

[Application](#)

Interested centers are invited to submit their application according to the provided instructions to [obesitycenter@smob-sged.ch](mailto:obesitycenter@smob-sged.ch).

• **Welcome to 31 New Members!**

Since the last newsletter, we gained another 31 new members to SMOB – coming from all Swiss regions and different professional fields! Welcome to our new colleagues, we are thrilled to have you! We look forward to their contributions and the opportunity to further strengthen our multidisciplinary approach.

Dr. Magali Flot	Stephanie Turin	Dr. Ali Reza Salili
Dr. Frédéric Tâche	Dr. Chantal Hasler	Dr. Christina Staudenmann
Adrian Dudli	Dr. Ionela Luchian	Dr. Sara Santini
Dr. Mirjam Faulenbach	Dr. Lolita Odermatt	Dr. Lara Rinaldi
Dr. Claudia Tenzi Marbach	Dr. Karin Schwegler	Dr. Friedrich Aigner
Dr. Serge Kadouche	Dr. Devran Topyürek	Dr. Ricarda Brunetto
Dr. Nicolaus Mussmächer	Dr. Doris de Marco Stalder	Marisa Bürki
Dr. Katja Veraguth	Clare Baragiola	Dr. Christine Bouton
Dr. Martin Kwiatecki	Dr. Yahia Aissa Amel	Dr. Sandra Friedli
Dr. Daina Sapovalova	Christiane Michaela Wogrin	Dr. Martin Hilpert
Dr. Massimo Quarenghi		



- **Know Someone Who Should Be Part of SMOB?**

We also encourage you to help grow our community by inviting colleagues who might benefit from being part of this dynamic network. If you know someone who could be interested in joining SMOB, please share the word! Welcoming new members is key to keeping our society strong and growing – your support makes a real difference. Invite them to join us

### Education Corner

- **2026 SMOB Annual Meeting – Save the dates**

Preparations for our annual meeting are progressing at full pace, both in terms of content and format, with the aim of expanding the program and strengthening collaboration with SSED.

#### Highlights include:

- a **joint SSED-SMOB Obesity Session** on Thursday afternoon
- a **joint social dinner** on Thursday evening – a valuable opportunity for exchange and networking in a relaxed setting. We would be pleased to welcome many SMOB members
- on Friday, the **SMOB Annual Meeting and General Assembly** will take place. **Sessions will be organized by the newly established specialized working groups**, further strengthening multiprofessional collaboration and highlighting the diversity of expertise

We warmly encourage you to contribute to the program – please do not hesitate to contact us with your ideas or proposals.

Further information on the final program and the opening of registrations will be announced as soon as available. In the meantime, **please save the date: 12-13 November 2026.**

- **Swiss Obesity Academy - Webinar Series Update**

Our first two webinars of 2026 address a highly relevant topic in the field of obesity. We were honored to welcome outstanding national and international speakers who generously shared their valuable expertise and experience with us.

#### 15<sup>th</sup> January Obesity prevention and treatment in the community

- **PD Dr. med. David Fäh – Structural preventive strategies for obesity** - Berner Fachhochschule, School of Health Professions, Fachbereich Ernährung und Diätetik
- **Dr. med. David Katzenfuss – The key role of the General Practitioner** - Medical Center Oetwil am See

#### 26<sup>th</sup> March Long-Term (>10 year) outcomes of MBS

- **Prof. Dr. med. Ralph Peterli – Which is the current long-term evidence after RYGB and SG?** - Bariatric Metabolic Surgeon. University of Basel and Spital Männedorf, Zurich.
- **Dr. Liisa Tolvanen – Nutritional management of long-term deficiencies and weight regain** - PhD Registered Dietitian, obesity specialist, CBT-therapist. Center for Obesity, Academic Specialist Center, Stockholm Health Care Services & Karolinska Institute Department of Medicine Stockholm.



LinkedIn

**Save the date for the upcoming webinars in 2026!**

Date	Topic
28.05.2026	Sarcopenia and obesity
27.08.2026	Eating disorders and obesity treatment
29.10.2026	Metabolic Associated Liver disease

Click [this link](#) for the free registration.

- **Change of Venue for Joint Congress EASO and IFSO-EC 2027 - new in Munich**

EASO and IFSO-EC decided to not hold the joint congress of 2027 in Basel. Over the last 2 years, the ECO congress has grown significantly beyond expectations. As a result, the EASO Board of Trustees decided that the 2027 congress should be held in a venue that is purpose-built and can provide sufficiently large, permanent auditoria and meeting rooms, without relying on temporary structures. Although the Basel Congress Center offered to build additional temporary infrastructure, this solution did not meet EASO's requirements for permanently structured spaces and larger capacity.

Of course, **IFSO-EC and EASO stick to the plan of having a joint Congress in 2027**. Thus, **instead of Basel, Munich has been selected** and confirmed as the host city for the joint congress from May 18th-21st 2027.

**Katharina Timper and Ralph Peterli will remain the serving presidents of the joint conference 2027**. As originally planned, they will work closely with ASEMO and SMOB, as well as with the boards of the German societies in organizing the meeting. We are grateful to the team at Messe Munich for making this possible.

- **Sponsorship & Partnerships**

We are pleased to welcome **Boston Scientific as a new Gold Sponsor**, joining our esteemed partners Johnson & Johnson and Lilly. This addition further strengthens our network of support and collaboration.

We are truly grateful for this partnership, which reflects the growing recognition of our work and reinforces our mission to advance multidisciplinary care in obesity.



We extend our sincere thanks to all our valued Gold Sponsors for their continued commitment and support.

Warm regards

Bernd Schultes

President

Laura Vaccarino

Responsible for internal communication

