

2026 ANNUAL OBESITY CONFERENCE CA/NV-ASMBS



OCTOBER 2-4 #26CANVOC

OMNI RANCHO LAS PALMAS RESORT & SPA

FINAL PROGRAM

HOSTED BY



2026 PROGRAM CHAIR
Pearl Ma, MD, FASMBS, ABOM



PRESIDENT
Kamran Samakar, MD, FASMBS

SATURDAY • OCTOBER 3, 2026

7:00am-4:15pm
Registration
Fiesta Ballroom Foyer

8:00am-4:15pm
Obesity Conference
Fiesta Ballroom Salon IV

12:00pm-1:00pm
Lunch Symposium
Fiesta Ballroom Salon IV

5:30pm-7:00pm
Happy Hour
Sunrise Terrace

Visit the Exhibitors All Day in the Fiesta Ballroom Foyer
Lunch, Breaks, and Coffee are served here



VISIT 15 OR MORE OF THE EXHIBITORS AND YOU WILL BE ENTERED FOR A CHANCE TO WIN EITHER APPLE AIRPODS PRO OR A THERAGUN MINI

How to Enter & Play

- Pick up your bingo card at the registration desk.
- Visit the Exhibitors.
- Get 15 or more signatures on your card.
- Write your name and email address on the back of the card.
- Drop of your completed card to the registration desk by 4:00pm.



The Infinite Game: Shaping the Future of Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery and Obesity Care

FRIDAY • OCTOBER 2, 2026

WELCOME EVENING

6:00pm-8:00pm

Industry-Sponsored Welcome Dinner Symposium

Morton's Steakhouse

74-880 Country Club Drive
Palm Desert, California 92260
Sponsored by J&J MedTech

9:00am-9:45am

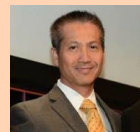
KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Evolution of Duodenal Switch in the Modern Era

MODERATOR

Ninh Nguyen, MD

GI surgery, UCI



Michel Gagner, MD, FASMBS, FRCSC

Chief of Surgery
Westmount Square Surgical Center



SATURDAY • OCTOBER 3, 2026

7:15am-8:00am

Registration & Exhibits

8:00am-8:15am

State of the Chapter

MODERATOR

Pearl Ma, MD, FASMBS, ABOM

Associate Clinical Professor of Surgery
ALSA/CHP, UCSF Fresno



Kamran Samakar, MD, FASMBS

Professor of Clinical Surgery
USC Keck



SESSION I

The Infinite Game: Learning from the Pioneers

8:15-9:00 AM

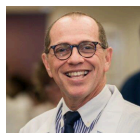
Alan Wittgrove Honorary Address

**The Evolution of Revisional Bariatric Surgery:
Lessons from the Past, Direction for the Future**

MODERATOR

Raul J. Rosenthal, MD, FASMBS

Chief, Division of General Surgery
Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center



Kelvin Higa, MD, FASMBS, FIFSO

Clinical Professor of Surgery, UCSF
Fresno Medical Education Program
VP Chief Medical and Quality Officer:
Fresno Heart and Surgical Hospital



9:45am-10:15am

Break with Exhibitors

SESSION II

Global Perspectives & the Future of Care

10:15am-10:37am

**Global Perspectives: Adapting to Changing
Bariatric Surgery Volumes**

MODERATOR

Brian R Smith, MD, FASMBS, FACS, FAFS

Professor of Surgery
UCI Health/Foregut & Bariatric



Ariel A Ortiz Lagardere, MD, FASMBS

Chief Medical Officer, Obesity Control
Center/Hospital Cyntar
Obesity Control Center



10:37am-10:59am

**The Role of Bariatric Psychology in Surgical
Success: Do We Need Mandatory Preoperative
Screening?**

MODERATOR

Katie Chapmon, MS, RD

Registered Dietitian/Owner
Katie Chapmon Nutrition



Kati Duncan, Psy.D., FASMBS-IH

Clinical Psychologist
ATA Bariatrics



10:59am–11:45am

Keynote Address

The Future of Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery

MODERATOR

Alan Wittgrove, MD

Medical Director/Private Practice
Wittgrove Bariatric Center



C. Joseph Northup, MD, FACS, FASMBS

Director, Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery
Vanderbilt University Medical Center



11:45am–12:00pm

Morning Wrap-Up & Audience Discussion

- Key takeaways from the morning sessions
- Additional audience questions
- Faculty discussion
- Transition to lunch

12:00pm–1:00pm

Lunch Symposium

1:00pm–1:32pm

SESSION III- Shaping the Future of Comprehensive Obesity Care

DEBATE ONE

Who Leads/Owns the Bariatric Patient Long-Term?

MODERATOR

David Suh, MD

Bariatric Director
Southwest Healthcare Systems



Obesity Medicine/Primary Care

Perspective

Alaina Vidmar, MD

Associate Professor of Pediatrics and
Director of Obesity Medicine and
Bariatric Surgery
Children's Hospital Los Angeles



Bariatric Surgeon Perspective

Victoria Lyo, MD, MTM, FACS

Associate Professor of Surgery
University of California Davis



EXPERT PANEL & AUDIENCE DISCUSSION

Sherif Aly, MD, FACS, DABOM

Assistant Professor of Surgery
Loma Linda University Health



Shushmita Ahmed, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery
University of California, Davis



1:32pm–2:04pm

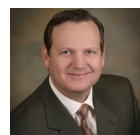
DEBATE TWO

Is Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery Dying?

MODERATOR

Douglas Krahn, MD

Bariatric Surgeon
Western Bariatric, AMC



Position: "Yes"

Sergey Lyass, MD

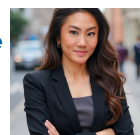
Private Practice
Core Surgical



Position: "No" — Opportunities and Growth in Comprehensive Obesity Care

Amy K Yetasook, MD, FACS

Associate Professor
Harbor-UCLA Medical Center



EXPERT PANEL & AUDIENCE DISCUSSION

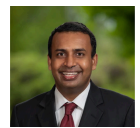
Thomas Hirai, MD

Surgeon
El Camino Health



Subhash R Patil, MD, FACS, FASMBS

Surgeon
Sutter Medical Group



Punam Patel, MD, FASMBS

Surgeon
Dignity Health



2:04pm–2:10pm

Session III Wrap-Up & Audience Discussion

2:10pm–2:40pm

BREAK WITH EXHIBITORS

**DOWNLOAD
THE CA/NV-ASMBS
MEETING APP**



2:40pm- 3:40pm

**SESSION IV - What Would I Do Differently?
Lessons Learned from Complex Clinical Videos**

MODERATOR

Monali Misra, MD, FASMBS, FACS, FRCSC, DABS-FPMBS

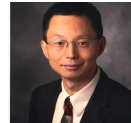
Bariatric and Metabolic Surgeon
Cedars Sinai Medical Center



EXPERT PANEL

Yijun Chen, MD

Clinical Professor – Bariatric
David Geffen School of Medicine at
UCLA



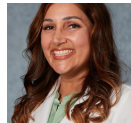
Stanley Rogers, MD, FASMBS

Chief of Minimally Invasive Surgery
UCSF



Kulmeet Sandhu, MD

Associate Director | MIS/Bariatric Surgery
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center



2:40pm-2:55pm

CASE ONE

Unexpected Intraoperative Challenge

Christian Perez, MD

Division Chief General and
Bariatric Surgery
Harbor-UCLA Medical Center



2:55pm-3:05pm

CASE TWO : FELLOW CASE

Challenging Case & Lessons Learned

Luis Felipe Okida, MD

ALSA/Fresno Heart



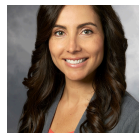
3:05pm-3:20pm

CASE THREE

Complication Management & Salvage Strategy

Micaela M Esquivel, MD

Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery
Stanford/MIS Bariatric



3:20pm-3:55pm

CASE FOUR

Revision Gone Wrong: What Would I Do Differently?

Helmuth T Billy, MD

Medical Director Bariatric Surgery
Community Memorial Hospital
Ventura Advanced Surgical Associates



SESSION V

Advocacy, Access & Relevance

3:35pm-4:10pm

**Advocacy Challenges in Bariatric Surgery:
Protecting Access to Comprehensive Obesity Care**

MODERATOR

Lauren E Hawley, MD, Dipl. of ABOM

Minimally Invasive and Bariatric Surgeon
Los Angeles General Medical Center



CALIFORNIA ADVOCACY UPDATE

**Ajay K Upadhyay, MD, FASMBS
FACS, FRCS Edinburgh**

Program director, Adv GI MIS & Bariatric
Surgery Fellowship; Medical Director,
Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery
Sutter Health, Alta Bates Summit Medical
Center



NEVADA ADVOCACY UPDATE

Morgan M Pomeranz, MD, FASMBS, FACS

Medical Director - Metabolic and Bariatric
Surgery Program
Dignity Health Bariatrics



ADVOCACY PANEL DISCUSSION

Gregg H Jossart, MD, FASMBS

Director, Minimally Invasive Surgery
CPMC Van Ness



Cyrus Moon, MD, FASMBS

Surgeon
Adventist Health Physicians Network



Christopher R Taglia, MD, FASMBS

Director of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery
Director of Robotic Surgery
Lompoc Health, Santa Barbara County



4:10pm-4:15pm

Closing Remarks

Kamran Samakar, MD

- Recognition of Faculty & Sponsors
- Announcement of Bingo Card Winner
- Adjourn

5:00pm-6:30pm

Social Hour

(sponsored by Medtronic)

Sunrise Terrace

Platinum

J&J MedTech
Medtronic

Gold

GT Metabolic Solutions

Silver

Vertex Pharmaceuticals

Bronze

Amylyx Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Boston Scientific
Intuitive

Exhibitors

AbridgeRX
Ambu
Amylyx Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Aroa Biosurgery
ATA Bariatrics
BD
Boehringer Laboratories
Boston Scientific
Endolumik
everyBody Behavioral Health
GT Metabolic Solutions
Intra-Sana Laboratories
Intuitive
J&J MedTech
Medtronic
Novo Nordisk, Inc
PsyMed Health
Standard Bariatrics/Teleflex
Vertex Pharmaceuticals

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