

2026 ANNUAL OBESITY CONFERENCE CA/NV-ASMBS

OCTOBER 2-3 #26CNVOC

OMNI RANCHO LAS PALMAS RESORT & SPA



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

October 2–3, 2026

Omni Rancho Las Palmas Resort & Spa
Palm Springs, California

Hosted By

Chapter President: Kamran Samakar, MD

Program Director: Pearl Ma, MD

FRIDAY • OCTOBER 2, 2026 Welcome Evening

5:30pm–7:00pm

Industry-Sponsored Welcome Dinner Symposium

- Welcome Remarks
- Sponsor Presentation
- Networking Reception

SATURDAY • OCTOBER 3, 2026

7:00am–8:00am

Registration, Breakfast & Exhibits

8:00am–8:15am

State of the Chapter

Speaker: Kamran Samakar, MD

Moderator: Pearl Ma, MD

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**

Speaker: Kelvin Higa, MD

Moderator: Stanley Rogers, MD (invited)

9:00am–9:45am

Keynote Address

Evolution of Duodenal Switch in the Modern Era

Speaker: Michel Gagner, MD

Moderator: Ninh Nguyen, MD

9:45am–10:15am

Exhibitor Break

SESSION II

Global Perspectives & the Future of Care

10:15am–10:34am

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

Speaker: Ariel Ortiz, MD

Moderator: Brian Smith, MD

10:34am–10:53am

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

Speaker: Kati Duncan, PsyD

Moderator: Katie Chapmon MS, RD

10:53am–11:40am

Keynote Address

The Future of Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery

Speaker: Joe Northup, MD

Moderator: Alan Wittgrove, MD (invited)

11:40am–12:30pm

Lunch with Exhibitors

SESSION III

Shaping the Future of Comprehensive Obesity Care

12:30pm–1:05pm

Debate

Who Leads/Owns the Bariatric Patient Long-Term?

Moderator: David Suh, MD

Obesity Medicine/Primary Care Perspective

Alaina Vidmar, MD

Bariatric Surgeon Perspective

Robert Woodbury, MD

2026 ANNUAL OBESITY CONFERENCE CA/NV-ASMBS

OCTOBER 2-3 #26CNVOC

OMNI RANCHO LAS PALMAS RESORT & SPA



Expert Panel & Audience Discussion (15 minutes)

Dan Swartz, MD (*invited*)
Sherif Aly, MD
Shushmita Ahmed, MD
Aileen Murphy, MD

1:05pm –1:50pm

Debate

Is Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery Dying?

Moderator: Douglas Krahn, MD

Position: "Yes"

Sergey Lyass, MD (15 minutes)

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

Amy Yetasook, MD (15 minutes)

Expert Panel & Audience Discussion (15 minutes)

Subhash Patil, MD
Sunil Bhoyrul, MD
Juan Alvarez, MD (*invited*)
Tom Hirai, MD
Punam Patel, MD

1:50pm–2:20pm

Exhibitor Break

SESSION IV

What Would I Do Differently?

Lessons Learned from Complex Clinical Videos

Moderator: Mona Misra, MD

Expert Panel

Yijun Chen, MD
Ian Soriano, MD
Kulmeet Sandhu, MD

2:20pm–2:40pm

Case 1

Unexpected Intraoperative Challenge

Presenter: Christian Perez, MD

2:40pm–3:00pm

Case 2

Complication Management & Salvage Strategy

Presenter: Michaela Esquivel, MD

3:00pm–3:20pm

Case 3

Revision Gone Wrong: What Would I Do Differently?

Presenter: Helmuth Billy, MD

SESSION V

Advocacy, Access & Relevance

3:20pm–3:55pm

Advocacy Challenges in Bariatric Surgery:

Protecting Access to Comprehensive Obesity Care

Moderator: Laura Machado, MD (invited)

California Advocacy Update

Speaker: Ajay Upadhyay, MD

Nevada Advocacy Update

Speaker: Morgan Pomeranz, MD

Advocacy Panel Discussion

Panelists

Gregg Jossart, MD
Cyrus Moon, MD
Chris Taglia, MD

3:55pm–4:00pm

Closing Remarks

Speaker: Kamran Samakar, MD

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