

OBESITY SUMMIT 2025

**CONNECTICUT STATE CHAPTER
AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR METABOLIC AND
BARIATRIC SURGERY**



January 16th & 17th

**Foxwoods Resort, Fox Tower, Premier Ballroom
Mashantucket, CT**

WELCOME

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Planning Committee of the Connecticut Chapter of the ASMBS, we are excited to welcome you to Obesity Summit 2025!

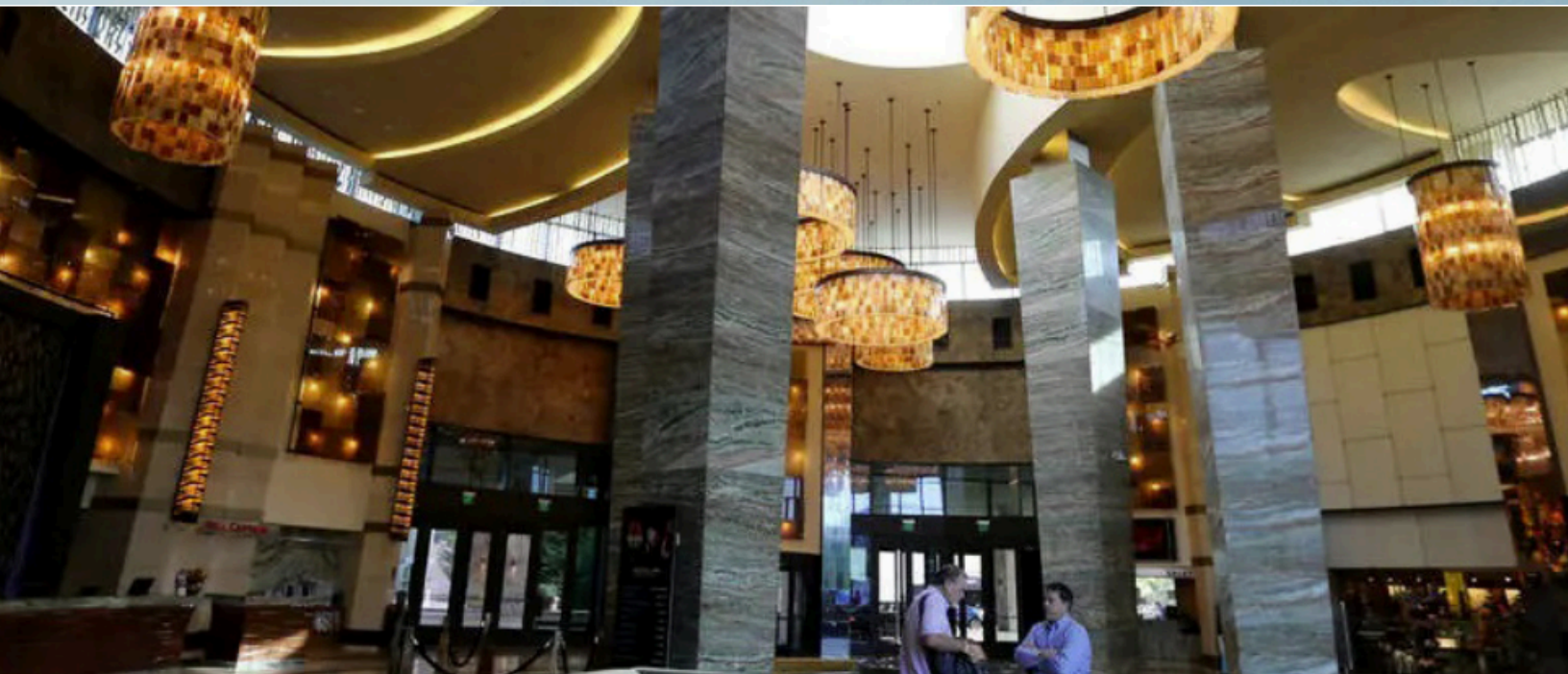
The meeting is being held in the Premier Ballroom of the Fox Tower at Foxwoods Resort, located in Mashantucket, Connecticut.

The conference focuses on the comprehensive care of patients and their families with the complex disease of obesity. Presentations will be delivered by healthcare professionals involved in all aspects of care, including prominent bariatric surgeons, specialists in obesity medicine, psychologists, dietitians, and colleagues involved in advocacy and support work to improve access to care.

Our audience includes physicians, surgeons, advanced practice providers, nurses, bariatric coordinators, integrated health professionals and support staff for comprehensive programs.

Growth and innovation continue in treatment and care options available for the complex disease of obesity. The content of this program is valuable for all involved in this care.

We look forward to two days of robust presentations, learning, and engagement!



OBESITY SUMMIT 2025

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - DAY 1

Thursday	January 16, 2025 - Day 1	Speaker
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Check-In - Registration	
4:00 p.m. - 4:05 p.m.	Welcome & Opening Remarks	Dr. Saber Ghiassi, CT Chapter ASMBS President
4:05 p.m. - 4:35 p.m.	Overview of Key Initiatives for Nutrition, Physical Activity and the Obesity Program for the State of Connecticut	Jennifer Vinci, MS, RDN, IBCLC
4:35 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Use & Outcomes of Weight Loss Medications in Real World vs. Clinical Trials	Dr. Bubu Banini
5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Improving Access to Metabolic Bariatric Surgery in Marginalized Communities: A Surgeon's Experience and Lessons Learned	Dr. Darren Tishler
5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Session Break - Exhibitor Hall	
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Dinner - Exhibitor Hall	
6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.	Presentation: Rezdifra (resmitiron): A Treatment Option for your Patients (sponsored by Madrigal Pharmaceuticals)	Dr. Liz Richardson
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Keynote Address Progress in Obesity Research: Advancing Through Rigor, Clarity and Open-Mindedness	Dr. David Allison
8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Session Break - Social Hour - Exhibitor Hall	

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - DAY 2

Friday	January 17, 2025 - Day 2	Speaker
7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast - Exhibitor Hall	
8:00 a.m. - 8:05 a.m.	Welcome & Opening Remarks	Dr. Saber Ghiassi, CT Chapter ASMBS President
8:05 a.m. - 8:35 a.m.	Social Media & How it Can Impact a Patient's Weight Loss Success	Dr. Rachel Goldman
8:35 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	ASMBS Updates from the President	Dr. Ann Rogers
9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Landscape for Comprehensive Obesity Care Coverage in 2025 OAC: Education & Advocacy	Chris Gallagher Joe Nadglowski
9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Dietitian Panel: Advice After Surgery: Hair Loss/Supplement Use/Activity-Weight Training	Lynn Guibbory, RD Mary Burbank, RD Kittie Spedding, RD
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Session Break - Exhibitor Hall	
10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Panel Discussion: Medication Therapy for Obesity - Moderator Dr. Devika Umashanker	Dr. Beverly Tchang Dr. Priya Jaisinghani Dr. Neil Floch
11:00 a.m. - 11:25 a.m.	Cost Effectiveness Medication vs. Surgery	Dr. John Morton
11:25 a.m. - 11:55 a.m.	Leveraging Technology to Promote Healthy Behaviors in Patients with Obesity	Graham Thomas, PhD
11:55 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	President's Message	Dr. Saber Ghiassi
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch - Exhibitor Hall	
1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.	How to Perform the Perfect Sleeve and Bypass	Dr. Abdelrahman Nimeri
1:30 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.	Pediatric to Adult Bariatric Patient Transitions of Care	Dr. James Healy Dr. Matthew Hornick Dr. Jessica Williams
2:15 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.	Debate: Should Mental Health Screening be a Preoperative Requirement Prior to Bariatric Surgery?	Dr. Devika Umashanker Dr. Jennifer Schwartz
2:50 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Closing Remarks & Program Conclusion	Dr. Saber Ghiassi

SPEAKERS & PANELISTS

Attendees and presenters include prominent bariatric surgeons, as well as specialists in obesity medicine, psychology/psychiatry, nutrition, and numerous other specialties that care for patients with obesity. This conference is also geared toward bariatric surgeons, obesity medicine physicians, bariatric coordinators, nurses, advanced practice providers, primary care providers, medical students, and resident physicians. We'll enjoy two days of groundbreaking and thought-provoking presentations.

David Allison, PhD

Bubu Banini, MD, PhD

Mary Burbank, RD, CDN

Neil Floch, MD

Chris Gallagher, President, Potomac Currents, LLC

Saber Ghiassi, MD, MPH, FACS, FASMBS

Rachel Goldman, Ph.D., FTOS, FASMBS-IH

Lynn Guibbory, RD

James Healy, MD

Matthew Hornick, MD

Priya Jaisinghani, MD

John Morton, MD, MPH, MHA, BS, FACS, FASMBS

Joe Nadglowski, Pres. & CEO Obesity Action Coalition

Abdelrahman Nimeri, MD, FACS, FASMBS

Ann Rogers, MD

Jennifer Schwartz, MD

Kittie Spedding, RD

Beverly Tchang, MD, DABOM

J. Graham Thomas, PhD

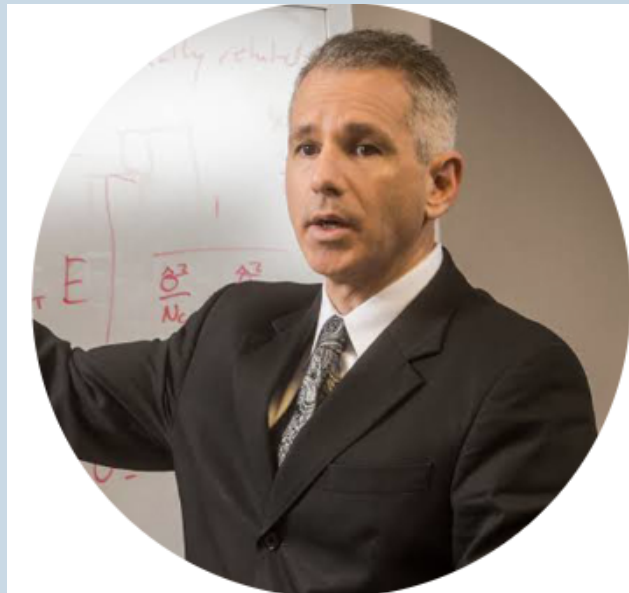
Darren Tishler, MD, FACS, FASMBS

Devika Umashanker, MD

Jennifer Vinci, MS, RDN, IBCLC

Jessica Williams, MD

PHOTO GALLERY



David Allison, PhD

Keynote Speaker

SPEAKERS & PANELISTS

PHOTO GALLERY



Dr. Bubu Banini, MD, PhD

Use & Outcomes Of Weight Loss Medications In
Real World Vs. Clinical Trials



Mary Burbank, RD CDN

Dietitian Panel: Advice After Surgery: Hair
Loss/Supplement Use/Activity-Weight Training



Dr. Neil Floch, MD

Panel Discussion: Medication Therapy



**Chris Gallagher, Pres., Potomac
Currents, LLC**

Landscape For Comprehensive Obesity Care
Coverage In 2025; OAC: Education & Advocacy



Dr. Saber Ghiassi, MD

Summit Welcome, President's Message, Closing
Remarks



**Dr. Rachel Goldman, Ph.D., FTOS,
FASMBS-IH**

Social Media & How It Can Impact A Patient's
Weight Loss Success

SPEAKERS & PANELISTS

PHOTO GALLERY



Lynn Guibbory, RD

Dietitian Panel: Advice After Surgery: Hair Loss/Supplement Use/Activity-Weight Training



Dr. James Healey, MD, MHS

Pediatric To Adult Transitions Of Care



Dr. Matthew Hornick, MD

Pediatric To Adult Transitions Of Care



Dr. Priya Jaisinghani, MD

Panel Discussion: Medication Therapy



Dr. Jonathan Morton, MD

Cost Effectiveness Medication V Surgery



**Joe Nadglowski, Pres. & CEO
Obesity Action Coalition**

Landscape For Comprehensive Obesity Care Coverage In 2025; OAC: Education & Advocacy

SPEAKERS & PANELISTS

PHOTO GALLERY



**Dr. Abdelrahman Nimeri, MD,
FACS, FASMBS**

How To Perform The Perfect Sleeve And Bypass



Dr. Ann Rogers, MD

ASMBS Update From The President



Dr. Jennifer Schwartz, MD

Debate: Should Mental Health Screening Be A
Preoperative Requirement Prior To Bariatric
Surgery?



Kittie Spedding, RD



Dr. Beverly Tchang, MD, DABOM

Panel Discussion: Medication Therapy



J. Graham Thomas, PhD

Leveraging Technology To Promote Healthy
Behaviors In Patients With Obesity

SPEAKERS & PANELISTS

PHOTO GALLERY



**Dr. Darren Tishler, MD, FACS,
FASMBS**

Improving Access To Metabolic Bariatric Surgery
In Marginalized Communities. A Surgeon
Experience And Lessons Learned.



Dr. Devika Umashanker, MD

Debate: Should Mental Health Screening Be A
Preoperative Requirement Prior To Bariatric
Surgery?



Dr. Jessica Williams, MD

Pediatric To Adult Transitions Of Care

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