



ASMBS Connecticut State Chapter Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 17, 2025 @ 5:30 p.m.

ASMBS Annual Meeting – National Harbor 7, Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, 201 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, MD

Attendees in Person & Via Zoom: Dr. Saber Ghiassi, Dr. Darren Tishler, Dr. Pavlos Papasavas, Dr. Neil Floch, Dr. Jennifer Schwartz, Dr. Randal Zhou, Dr. Karen Gibbs, Dr. Craig Floch, Dr. Nick Dugan, Dr. Danielle Friedman, Dr. Andrew Duffy, Dr. Nik Sekhar, Dr. Aziz Benbrahim, Dr. Dale Bond, Dr. Jim Healy, Dr. Mia Shapiro, Dr. Ed Hannoush, Dr. Devika Umashanker, Dr. Alph Emmanuel, Dr. Josh Hrabosky, Bethany Mulone, Vicky DiNardo, Aimee Fucci, Tammy Piel, Connie Santana-Landry, Jake Clark, Katy Dunay

Meeting Notes

1. Call to order & Welcome: Dr. Saber Ghiassi
2. Treasurer's Report: Dr. Jennifer Schwartz
3. Walk from Obesity 2025: Jane Sweeney, Aimee Fucci & Tammy Piel
 - Save The Date: Sunday, September 28, 2025, start time to be confirmed
 - Location: Hubbard Park, 999 W. Main Street, Meriden
 - The Connecticut Walk was the Top Fundraiser in the Nation – Again!!
4. Obesity Summit 2026 – Save the Date!
 - Location: Foxwoods Resort, Premier Ballroom, 350 Trolley Line Blvd., Mashantucket, CT
 - Date: January 22-23, 2026
 - Recruiting for the Planning Committee: We will begin biweekly meetings of the committee beginning mid-summer/early fall – please reach out to Dr. Papasavas, Dr. Ghiassi, Dr. Tishler, or Katy Dunay with any questions or interest
5. Website & Social Media Updates & Development
 - Updated Information for the Walk from Obesity and the Obesity Summit have been added
 - Social media accounts have been launched and updated with events
6. Election Results: Dr. Saber Ghiassi (induction of the 2025 CT Chapter ASMBS Board) – Congratulations & Welcome to our new officers!
 - President: Dr. Darren Tishler ****Newly Elected**
 - Vice President: Dr. Karen Gibbs ****Newly Elected**
 - Secretary/Treasurer: Dr. Jennifer Schwartz
 - Integrated Health Chair: Dana Cantiello, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, CBN
 - STAR Access to Care Rep: Dr. Aziz Benbrahim ****Newly Elected**
 - STAR Access to Care IH Rep (non-voting appointed): Gabreille Berthiaume, DNP-C
 - Member at Large: Dr. Mia Shapiro ****Newly Elected**
 - Member at Large: Dr. Randal Zhou
 - Member at Large: Dr. Neil Floch
 - Obesity Medicine Liaison (non-voting): Dr. Devika Umashanker
 - Past President: Dr. Saber Ghiassi ****Transition**
7. New Business
 - Dr. Neil Floch shares that he has been in touch with Dr. Aurora Pryor and encourages involvement of the RI Chapter with OS 2026
 - Discussion around potential collaboration with other local chapters to increase membership and attendance at the meeting

- Dr. Papasavas notes that we have discussed this in the past with the possible involvement of the NE Chapter and notes we have had great success with our meeting given the format, venue and planning – would not move meeting location or change other than possibly starting earlier on Thursday (2-day conference)
 - We all agree to start the Planning Committee work early with Save the Date shared with bordering state chapters and sponsors for the event – open invitation for participation from members to join the Committee
 - Agreement on expansion of invitations to NE, NY & NJ
 - Potential to dedicate a section of the meeting to Obesity Medicine, outreach to NEOS & TRIOS
 - We need to offer novel ways to support the meeting, meals are the highest cost, OS 2025 better budget with minimal changes and limits with tickets for the bar – can we open sponsorships to hospitals and health systems? Flexibility and openness to product theaters and demonstrations discussed
 - Suggestion to tape the conference and potentially offer zoom or on demand option – this may capture more interest from primary care and other specialties that would benefit from the material
 - Create a draft prospectus for exhibitors, feedback from industry, there is a need for requests for support up to 6 months in advance
8. Goals for the Upcoming Year – Dr. Darren Tishler
- Identify the next generation of leaders for the chapter
 - Increase membership
 - Advocacy – continued support for Obesity PAC, IFSO guideline adoption and addition of obesity coverage as a core benefit
 - Follow the Louisiana model, the first state in the country to secure coverage for bariatric surgery through the ACA plan
 - Continued work on the local level, members of the board meeting with members of the State government
9. **Conclusion & Thank You to the Chapter Board for your service and advocacy work!**