



The International Association for the Study of Obesity Newsletter

February 2014

Dear Natasha,

Welcome to IASO's February Newsletter. We are pleased to share our latest news with you and our recent projects, please see our highlights below:

- IASO rebrand to World Obesity
- ICO 2014 Update
- Scope Update
- WISH Policy Paper
- Informas update
- Clinical Obesity - Associate Editor Applications
- Editor-in-Chief required for new journal

World Obesity

World Obesity, and the strapline Knowledge Solutions Action are to be the new name and brand for IASO.

Why a new brand?

The obesity crisis is one of the biggest challenges of our time and it is more important than ever that there is strong and unified global action to tackle it. The name IASO - the International Association for the Study of Obesity - no longer reflects all that we do as an organisation. We are no longer simply focused on the study of obesity, but on bringing together and encouraging the very best thinking and practice in addressing the obesity crisis. We believe the clarity and directness of World Obesity, our new name and brand, strengthens our ability to achieve our goals.

Our rebranding is also an opportunity to clarify two critical strands of our work - World Obesity Policy & Prevention (formerly the International Obesity Task Force) and World Obesity Clinical Care (formerly the Education and Management Task Force). Both strands have new and more explicit names (Policy and Prevention, and Clinical Care) that more accurately reflect the scope of their work and emphasise their pivotal role in the World Obesity family.

The IASO rebrand will take place early in March 2014.

ICO 2014



12th International Congress on Obesity

17 - 20 MARCH 2014: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



International Congress on Obesity (ICO)

Late Breaking Abstract submissions have now closed.

Have you checked out our newly announced Industry Sponsored Symposia Sessions? For further information on the sessions including speakers, topics, dates and times visit the website [here](#)

Register now! Online registration for ICO will close on Monday 3rd March. After this date you only be able to register onsite at the higher rate.

To view the registration rates please visit our website [here](#)

Don't forget to book your accommodation in Kuala Lumpur. You can book online via the accommodation link [here](#)

Please note that the prices listed online will only be guaranteed until Monday 10th February. After this date the link will no longer be active and accommodation bookings will have to be made directly with Console Communications, our appointed accomodation organiser.

SCOPE Updates



SCOPE Certified professionals are now listed on the website. To see who is on the list go to: <http://www.iaso.org/scope/certification/scope-certified>.

We will be releasing a new module titled 'Challenging your Prejudices of Obesity' by Prof Nick Finer. This module addresses misperceptions, stereotypes and prejudices of the obese in the media, politics and most worryingly in health professions.

World Innovation Summit on Health (WISH) Policy Paper

Professor Shiriki Kumanyika (IOTF Co-chair) led the development of a policy paper for the World Innovation Summit on Health (WISH), held on December 10-11 in Doha, Qatar. The Summit was chaired by Professor The Lord Ara Darzi, Director of the Institute of Global Health Innovation at the Imperial College, London, and sponsored by the Qatar Foundation. The obesity policy paper, "Strategic Action to Combat the Obesity Epidemic" includes specially prepared IASO maps of global trends of obesity prevalence and illustrates potential actions with case studies from around the world. It culminates with recommendations for ministers of health about key actions on an

agenda for population wide obesity prevention. Other IASO and IOTF leaders and advisors who contributed to the development of the paper include Philip James (IASO President), Boyd Swinburn (IOTF co-chair), and IOTF advisors David Sanders (South Africa), Diane Finegood (Canada), Corinna Hawkes (London), Narendra Arora (India) and Jixiang Ma (China).

Presentation of the paper at the WISH Summit generated a lively discussion by a diverse panel of experts that included His Excellency Dr. Ahmed Bin Mohammed Al Saidi, Minister of Health for Oman and Dr. Enis Baris, Sector Manager for Health, Nutrition and Population in the Middle East and North Africa Region of the World Bank. A pdf of the Obesity policy paper, a video of the 90 minute obesity panel discussion and other information from the WISH Summit, which also addressed 8 other critical health and health care issues, are available at no cost from the WISH website [here](#).

In case you missed it..... IASO publishes new briefing paper

The prevention of obesity and NCDs: challenges and opportunities for governments

With governments committed to tackling NCDs and obesity at the UN General Assembly, a new Policy Briefing published by IASO and its policy group the International Obesity Task Force explores the challenges and opportunities that governments face when creating health promoting policies. It makes a series of recommendations to governments, starting with measures to strengthen the case for action, develop cross-departmental action plans, set standards for protecting nutrition security, use central purchasing power to help shape markets, develop market controls and pricing interventions, and strengthen public health legislation to allow greater regulatory action. The content of the briefing is based on a symposium Obesity and Non-Communicable Diseases: Learning from international experiences, which was held in New York in September 2013. IASO received support for this meeting from the Aetna Foundation, a national foundation based in Hartford, Connecticut, USA, that supports projects to promote wellness, health and access to high quality care for everyone. The briefing paper is available [here](#)

INFORMAS Update

Last month we reported the development a Government Healthy Food Environment Policy Index (Food-EPI) as part of the work of INFORMAS (www.informas.org). The index comprises a 'policy' component with 7 domains (food composition, labelling, promotion, provision, retail, affordability, trade) to create healthy food environments, and an 'infrastructure support' component with 7 domains (governance, leadership, workforce, monitoring, funding and resources, interaction platforms, health-in-all-policies) to strengthen prevention systems.

We are now looking for international best practice exemplars in each of those 14 domains. These benchmarks are important as the Food-EPI aims to assess the extent of government policy implementation against best practice. Non-exhaustive examples of the benchmarks sought include:

- Government spending on population nutrition promotion (FUNDING domain)
- Government funding for research targeted at obesity and NCD prevention (FUNDING domain)
- Government public health nutrition workforce (WORKFORCE domain)
- Monitoring systems for food composition, food provision, food promotion, food consumption, overweight/obesity/NCDs (MONITORING domain)
- Evidence-informed food-based dietary guidelines (LEADERSHIP DOMAIN)

- Population targets to reduce intake of unhealthy nutrients of concern (sodium, trans fatty acids, saturated fatty acids) (LEADERSHIP DOMAIN)
- Strong visible political support for improving population nutrition (LEADERSHIP domain)
- Proactive measures to manage investment and protect regulatory capacity with respect to public health nutrition (TRADE domain)
- Subsidies on foods (e.g. research and development, infrastructure support) are for healthy rather than unhealthy foods (PRICES domain)

If you wish or think you can contribute to this, please contact Stefanie Vandevijvere s.vandevijvere@auckland.ac.nz for more details on the specific benchmarks sought. The full list will be added on the INFORMAS website in due course www.informas.org

Coming Up

- IASO's policy team is planning to develop recommendations/guidance on obesity and weight gain during pregnancy. If you are interested in being on the advisory committee for this please let us know by emailing Tim Lobstein at tlobstein@iaso.org
- IASO's Education Manager will present SCOPE to the EU Platform in Brussels on 6 February. The Platform (full name 'European Platform on Diet, Physical Activity and Health') is a forum for European-level organisations, ranging from the food and fitness industries to professional societies and health and consumer NGOs, willing to commit to tackling current trends in diet and physical activity and serves as a showcase for national, regional or local initiatives across Europe.

Tackling Obesity: Creating a Healthier Nation policy briefing

The International Association for the Study of Obesity (IASO) and Government Knowledge invite all colleagues in the field of obesity to participate in the Tackling Obesity: Creating a Healthier Nation policy briefing to be held on the 6th March, 2014 in Central London.

Delegates will examine and explore current policy priorities and hear about recent case studies in the field of tackling obesity. The policy briefing will also provide the opportunity to network with peers and key stakeholders working within and alongside the public health community to address this very serious and vital issue.

Register using Promotional Code PKLOYAL for exclusive £100 discount.

Visit the website [here](#)

Clinical Obesity - Associate Editor Applications Invited

Clinical Obesity is one of the IASO publications that is rapidly attracting an increasing number of submissions. We invite applications from enthusiastic clinicians who would like to join the Editorial Board as Associate Editors. If your application is successful you will be responsible for overseeing the refereeing process of submitted papers that will be allocated to you by one of the Editors-in-Chief. You will need to learn how to use Scholar One to invite and assign referees, evaluate their reports and advise on

acceptance, revision or rejection of papers. You will also be expected to encourage and attract submissions to the journal. This is a wonderful opportunity to experience the thrill of nurturing and guiding scientific publication. You all need to have sufficient time to commit to the process so that submissions move rapidly and smoothly through the referring process - perhaps 1 hour/day 3-4 days each week. We would particularly like to invite those with an obstetric/gynaecology, psychiatry/ psychology, paediatric/adolescent background to apply. Please send a 1 page CV and personal statement to ctrimmer@iaso.org.

Editor-in-Chief for new journal

IASO and TOS are recruiting the inaugural Editor-in-Chief for their new joint open access obesity journal, published by Wiley. This new journal will publish original research, reviews and perspectives on all disciplines related to obesity. Applications are welcomed from those working in the field of obesity and the deadline for submitting your CV with a covering letter is 17th February 2014. For full details please read the [Job Description](#). Please send your application to ctrimmer@iaso.org.

Journals

Clinical Obesity...

A message from Professor Nick Finan, Editor-in-Chief...



Call for papers!

Clinical Obesity is the journal of choice for clinical researchers and practitioners. It is an international peer-reviewed journal publishing high quality translational and clinical research papers and reviews focusing on obesity and its co-morbidities. In the February 2014 issue, a systematic review from the University of Kansas Physical Activity and Weight Management Center finds no evidence to support the contentions that a reduction of non-exercise energy expenditure might compensate for prescribed exercise training so resulting in no change in total daily energy expenditure and thus no or minimal exercise-induced weight loss. All 4 cross-sectional studies, 90% of short-term studies, 50% of non-randomized trials and 100% of randomised trials reported no reductions in non-exercise physical activity/energy expenditure in response to prescribed physical activity/exercise training. More uncertainty exists amongst professionals (in the UK) making decisions about bariatric surgery in adolescents. A qualitative research paper found that there was a pervasive 'uncertainty' relating to (i) the lack of research in this area, (ii) the perception of bariatric surgery as a treatment option unlike others, (iii) the view that adolescence is a complex developmental period and (iv) the perception that bariatric in adolescents is controversial to the public. The authors, from a London centre, conclude that shedding light on the process of professional decision-making has implications for policy and practice and for the counselling of patients.

Participate today! Submit your paper via our online peer-review system [here](#).

View the latest Clinical Obesity issue [here](#).

[Submit your paper to Clinical Obesity today...](#)

Obesity Reviews...

A message from Professor David York, Editor-in-Chief...



The February edition of Obesity Reviews contains the following 6 papers.

Size at birth and abdominal adiposity in adults: a systematic review and meta-analysis.

Brown Adipose Tissue as Anti-Obesity Tissue in Humans. (This is a report of the recent IASO Stock Conference).

Effect of antioxidant vitamin supplementation on endothelial function in type 2 diabetes mellitus: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials.

Family-based interventions for reducing sedentary time in youth: a systematic review of randomised controlled trials.

Leptin levels and risk of type 2 diabetes: gender-specific meta-analysis.

Does obesity affect knee cartilage? A systematic review of MRI data.

Stephan's Corner on Edward E. Mason

To see manuscripts in early view that will appear in the next few months or to read articles online visit *Obesity Reviews* on Wiley Online Library [here](#).

[Submit your paper to Obesity Reviews today...](#)

Pediatric Obesity...

A message from Professor Michael Goran, Editor-in-Chief...



View the latest issue of Pediatric Obesity [here](#).

Submit your best work to the leading journal in the field, via our online peer-review system here.

Follow Pediatric Obesity's Editor (@michaelgoran) on Twitter!

[Submit your paper to Pediatric Obesity today...](#)

International Journal of Obesity...



This year we are celebrating 10 years of publishing our quarterly Pediatric Highlights issues! During this time *IJO* has established itself as a leading outlet for the publication of pediatric obesity research. Read the following articles from our January issue:

[Physical activity assessment tools for use in overweight and obese children](#)

[Central sleep apnea in obese children with sleep-disordered breathing](#)

[Vitamin D deficiency in childhood obesity is associated with high levels of circulating inflammatory mediators, and low insulin sensitivity](#)

[Musculoskeletal pain in overweight and obese children](#)

[Birth weight and growth from infancy to late adolescence in relation to fat and lean mass in early old age: findings from the MRC National Survey of Health and Development](#)

Look out for our special anniversary issue later in the year

Submit your best pediatric research today - www.nature.com/ijo

[Submit your paper to IJO today...](#)

Obesity in the News

[Junk food tax under consideration in Navajo](#)

The Tribal Council of Navajo has approved legislation proposals to impose an additional 2 percent sales tax on sweetened drinks, and snacks high in salt and fat and to eliminate sales tax on fresh fruit and vegetables. The legislation will now go to the tribal president for final approval.

[UK: Industry funding for government sugar advisors](#)

The UK investigative television programme *Dispatches* has claimed that five members of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) panel on carbohydrates, currently undertaking a review of carbohydrates and obesity, have received some form of funding from companies that manufacturer sugary products such as Mars, Coca-cola, Unilever and the industry group Sugar Nutrition.

Other Events

Cardiometabolic Health Congress Online Educational Activities

Earn up to 28 hours of ACCME, ANCC, or CDR credit. Click [here](#) for complimentary online CME activities featuring multimedia presentations that provide the most effective, current strategies for the prevention, diagnosis, and management of type 2 diabetes, atherosclerosis, hypertension, dyslipidemia, obesity, thrombosis, chronic kidney disease, insulin resistance, hypertriglyceridemia and related comorbidities.

Other News

What do you think? What do you do? We need your help!

IASO members around the world are being invited to participate in a survey of attitudes and practices in the management of people who are overweight or obese. Over the next few weeks, you will be contacted by email and asked to complete a short questionnaire. By participating in this exciting initiative from IASO, which is supported by an unrestricted educational grant from Novo Nordisk A/S, you will be helping to build a better understanding of current practice and the challenges of helping people achieve their weight management goals.



The information you provide will help the Education and Management Taskforce to prioritise educational activities as well as inform a wider audience as to current needs in obesity management. So, please complete the questionnaire when it arrives in your inbox. Tell us what you think, what you do and what would help you to do even more for your patients. If you would like to participate but think we may not have your email, please send it to enquiries@iaso.org.

If you have any comments or information you would like us to include in the next IASO newsletter please contact:

Rachel Jackson Leach
Research and Information Manager
rleach@iaso.org

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