

MAY 18, 2023

HYBRID MEETING (ECO IN DUBLIN, IRELAND AND ZOOM)

COUNCIL MEETING # 25

**ASIA OCEANIA ASSOCIATION FOR
THE STUDY OF OBESITY (AOASO)
2023**

1 **Attendance**

2 **PRESENT**

3 IRELAND

- 4 1. LEONARD KYOUNG-KON KIM (PRESIDENT OF AOASO; KSSO)
5 2. JASPER WEN-YUAN LIN (VICE PRESIDENT OF AOASO; TMASO)
6 3. MOHD ISMAIL NOOR (PAST PRESIDENT OF AOASO; MASO)
7 4. BRETT KUO-CHIN HUANG (PAST PRESIDENT OF AOASO; TMASO)
8 5. CHEOL-YOUNG PARK (PRESIDENT, KSSO, KOREA)
9 6. CHIA WEN-LU (SECRETARY GENERAL, TMASO, TAIWAN)
10 7. BRIJ MAKKAR (REPRESENTATIVE, AIAARO, INDIA)
11 8. DICKY LEVENUS TAHAPARY (REPRESENTATIVE, ISSO, INDONESIA)

12 **OBSERVERS**

- 13 1. JEE KYUN KANG (KSSO)
14 2. SIDARTAWA GEGADO (ISSO)
15 3. YOO BIN SEO (KSSO)
16 4. CHANG CHIN YEN (TMASO)
17 5. TUN JEN HSIAO (TMASO)
18 6. YI-CHING YANG (TMASO)
19 7. CHANG HEE JUNG (KSSO)
20 8. TIMOTHY GILL (EDUCATION CHAIR OF AOASO, ANZOS)

21 ONLINE

- 22 1. BRIAN OLDFIELD (IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT OF AOASO, ANZOS)
23 2. MIA FOJAS (SECRETARY GENERAL OF AOASO, PASOO)
24 3. KOUTARO YOKOTE (PRESIDENT, JASSO, JAPAN)
25 4. MASAMITSU NAKAZATO (REPRESENTATIVE, JASSO, JAPAN)
26 5. NEMENCIO NICODEMUS, JR. (PRESIDENT, PASOO, PHILIPPINES)
27 6. LEONIE HEILBRONN (PRESIDENT, ANZOS, AUSTRALIA)
28 7. GEETA APPANNAH (PRESIDENT, MASO, MALAYSIA)
29 8. MHOD RAZIF SHAHRIL (SECRETARY GENERAL, MASO, MALAYSIA)
30 9. DO THI NGOC DIEP (VICE PRESIDENT, VINUTAS, VIETNAM)
31 10. MICHELE YUEN (REPRESENTATIVE, HKOS, HONGKONG)
32 11. PIYAMART SITIPREDANANT (SECRETARIAT, BARSO, THAILAND)

33 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 34 1. KWANG-WEI THAM (TREASURER OF AOASO, SASO, SINGAPORE)
35 2. ELAINE RUSH (REPRESENTATIVE, ANZOS, NEW ZEALAND)

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38 **AGENDA:**

- 39 1. Approval of the Minutes of the Council Meeting #24 08 April 2023
40 2. President's Update
41 3. Cooperation with KSSO
42 4. Membership
43 5. Funding Plans
44 6. Establishment of Committees
45 7. AOCO 2023 Updates
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- 53 I. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held last 08 April 2023
54 Approved – Noor
55 Seconded – Lin
56
- 57 II. President's Update
58 A. New Website
59 Please visit the website and inform us if there are corrections
60
61 B. Updates on council members
62 Inform AOASO of the designated council members and vote on behalf of each
63 member society at the AOASO council meeting
64 Email AOASO Secretariat/ Secretary general re representatives beginning of
65 each year
66 If without representatives, please nominate a proxy
67
68 C. Hosting the next AOCO 2025
69 1. Will be decided upon at the AOASO Council meeting in HK (Aug 4, 2023)
70 2. Indian Society expressed its interest in hosting AOCO 2025 in New Delhi, will
71 present plans in HK
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- 73 III. Cooperation with KSSO (presented by Prof. Chang Hee Jung, Director of International
74 Affairs)
75 KSSO expressed its intention to have a MOU with AOASO for its partnership.
76 Activities suggested:
77 Joint sessions (similar to KSSO and EASO, Obesity Society of America)
78 Inviting people from other countries from the region for KSSO's
79 international congresses
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81 Comments:
82 • *Oldfield/ Fojas/ Nicodemus, Jr.: What is the advantage of AOASO*
83 *forming an MOU with KSSO when the latter is already part of AOASO?*
84 • *Noor: KSSO is already part of AOASO, a formal MOU may not be needed*
85 • *Makkar: Submit a detailed proposal to AOASO*
86 • *Kim: Members of AOASO can be invited to cooperate with KSSO even*
87 *without an MOU.*
88
- 89 IV. Membership
90 A. New Membership Possibilities
91 1. Iranian Nutrition Society
92 - World Obesity Federation (WOF) will be setting up a Regional
93 Obesity Association in the Middle East
94 • Iranian Nutrition Society will be still be invited to AOASO.
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96 Comment:
97 • *Noor: We should be open with regard to new membership. As far as*
98 *Nutrition Societies are concerned, Iran is part of the Federation of Asian*
99 *Nutrition Societies (FANS) and not the Middle East. Therefore, they may*
100 *still be invited to be part of AOASO.*
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102 • *Update (June 2023): WOF said that Iranian Nutrition Society should not*
103 *join AOASO, since they are part of MENA.*
104
105 2. Mongolian Association for the Study of Obesity
106 - No response yet as of 18 May 2023
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108 Comment:

- 109 • *Oldfield: Leonard Kim is part of the membership committee of the WOF.*
- 110 *Members of AOASO are automatically part of the WOF. Inviting members*
- 111 *into the AOASO directly is the best way moving forward.*

112 B. Expiration of Membership

113 1. Difficulty contacting member society:

114 Examples:

- 115 a. North Korea (e-mail bouncing back, probably due to firewall)
- 116 b. Thailand Society for the Study of Obesity (TSSO) not present and not
- 117 responding to emails

118 Comment:

- 119 • *Noor: TSSO has been missing in action for several years*

120 2. Absence from meetings for two consecutive years without apologies.

121 Comment

- 122 • *Lin: Suggest is to suspend the membership*

- 123 • **Still for decision at AOCO Council Meeting in HongKong**

124 3. Membership Fees

- 125 • There is still a need in terms of the interest and contribution of member
- 126 societies to the AOASO
- 127 • We may also consider expiring membership of societies that have not paid for
- 128 more than 2 years
- 129 • Deciding on fees
 - 130 - Same amount for all societies?
 - 131 - If the imposed amount will be disproportionately high, some
 - 132 societies may have to think about the cost-effectiveness of
 - 133 participating in AOASO

- 134 • **Still for decision at the AOCO Council Meeting in HongKong**

135 Comments/ Suggestions:

- 136 • Note that we also pay for the WOF membership fee per member
- 137 • Sliding scale, bigger number membership, higher fee.
- 138 • One-time membership fee (Life-membership), 100 euros per country.
- 139 • Post-covid, societies have been having trouble signing in for
- 140 memberships. More difficult now to keep membership numbers high, and
- 141 what members would actually get from these.
- 142 • Give as "token".

143 V. Funding Plans

144 A. Advertisement

- 145 • Aim is to expand and disseminate pharmaceutical knowledge and maximize
- 146 patient benefits by widely promoting the Company's knowledge and
- 147 experience to HCP's
- 148 • Advertising channels eligible for receiving support are as follows:
 - 149 1. Printed materials/electronic documents created for the purpose of
 - 150 treating, preventing and educating about diseases, distributed to
 - 151 HCP's
 - 152 2. AOASO website – up to USD 10,000.00/ year OR limit of USD
 - 153 1,000.00/ month
 - 154 3. Educational materials distributed to HCP's

155 B. Support academic conference hosting

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C. AOASO Partners

- A commercial enterprise that produces products used in research for the diagnosis and management of obesity and its complications
- A government agency that formulates/implements policies regarding obesity and its complications
- Conflicts of interest – products linked to obesity and its co-morbidities, for example sweetened beverages (CocaCola) will not be allowed

Comments:

Oldfield: sources of income are very important. General advertisement from a company - Each member society should decide on the appropriateness of this move. Patient-advocate groups may not be amenable to an alignment with pharmaceutical companies for financial gain. Pharmaceutical support may be allowed for dedicated events, such as for a scientific meeting, or in writing a consensus document. Blanket advertisement can be interpreted as an endorsement by AOASO if placed in the website.

Heilbronn: Societies have been questioned by the press with regard to support in activities from companies like Novo Nordisk. There will be concerns about this if a blanket advertisement form big companies like Novo Nordisk, Lilly or Merck Sharpe and Dohme.

Makkar: create a separate section for ads in the website. Minimum limit suggested more than putting an upper limit. Educational grant/CME through the website. Ads from products without evidence for weight loss must not be placed. This should be evaluated first by a committee.

Tahapary: idea is to increase revenue for AOASO. Aside from conferences, which happens every 2 years, we need to raise our finances through other means. I agree with India regarding CME/Educational grant. Blanket advertisement should have guidelines.

Nakazato: I agree with the suggestions. We would like to have partnerships with pharmaceutical companies in Japan.

Nicodemus: We partner with pharmaceuticals for specific activities. We do not encourage blanket partnerships.

Diep: In Vietnam, we have a group which looks into partnerships with pharmaceuticals. I agree to partnering with pharmaceutical companies.

VI. Establishment of Committees

A. Education Committee

- Develop educational materials for healthcare professionals and the general population

B. General Affairs Committee

- Under the secretary general, implement general affairs

C. Scientific Committee

- Develop scientific programs, to coordinate with host countries for AOCO.

D. Clinical Care Committee

- Review existing regional guidelines and create obesity management guidelines for AOASO, not just South and SEA

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- E. Prevention Committee
 - Analyse epidemiological data and establish nutrition and physical activity guidelines
- F. Policy Committee
 - Develop AOASO projects and device strategies for the prevention and management of obesity in the region
- G. Membership Committee
 - Responsible for inviting new members
 - Oversee current membership status of countries.

Comments/Suggestions:

- *Quarterly meetings with the committee directors with the executive committee for updates*
- *Makkar: All committees with 1 or 2 coordinators, not called directors, with 5 members. The society president and secretary will be de facto members of all the committees. Specific roles for immediate past president (res com), president elect (for sci com), vice president and treasurer will head other committees.*

VII. AOCO 2023 Updates (Michele Yuen)

August 4-6, 2023, "Many Faces of Obesity"

Venue: Hong Kong Exhibition and Convention Center

- Expenses for the Venue (Total): USD 23,157.05
- Types of lectures and number:

Plenary (45 + 15min) –	5
Symposia (25 + 5 min each x 3 = 1.5h) –	48
Sponsored lectures (30min) -	4
Oral presentations (1.5h)	
6 x 10min + 5 min -	6

All member countries are represented in the panel of speakers

- Faculty
 - 35 overseas so far including RSS and Presidents' updates
- Projected expenses (Honorarium, Accommodation, Transportation, Scholarship grants/ awards) : USD 72,304

Total Expenditure so far: USD 230,674.00

Financial Support:

- Industry support from the HK offices + 1 Singapore-based office
- MEHK (under HK Tourism Board)
- HKOS central fund (to cover for any loss)

Plans that need to be forfeited

- SCOPE school (need to pay £ 16,000)

Important dates

- Deadline of Abstract: 15 May 2023
- Deadline for late-breaking abstract: 30 June 2023
- Notification of acceptance: June 2023
- Registration deadline for presenting author: July 2023

Awards:

- Best Oral Presentation

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- Best Poster
- Best Young Investigator for Oral Presentations
- Best Young Investigator for Poster Presentations

VIII. Rising Star Symposium

A. Nominated

1. Australia – Dr. Tara Boelsen
2. Japan – Dr. Masaomi Miura (Tokyo)
3. Indonesia – Dr. Fathimah Sulistryowati Sigit
4. Malaysia – Yi Ting Chong
5. Vietnam – Thi Ngoc Trinh Nguyen

B. Deadlines

Submission of nominees: 31 May 2023

Submission of nominees abstracts: 14 June 2023

- If final number of nominees is over 6, evaluation of abstracts and selection of final presenters will be done.

IX. Presidents' Updates (10 min each from 7 presidents)

- A. Diagnostic criteria
- B. Guidelines on obesity management
- C. Status of reimbursement for pharmacotherapy
- D. Difficulties related to the management of obesity
- E. National representative obesity or nutrition survey.

Prepared by:

Mia Fojas, MD
Secretary general, AOASO

Approved by:

Kyoung-Kon Kim
President, AOASO