

UK ASO Adult Centres for Obesity Management (COM'S) Network

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The UK Association for the Study of Obesity (ASO)

- ▶ ASO is the UK's foremost organisation dedicated to the understanding, prevention and treatment of obesity.
- ▶ Founded in 1967, the first such organisation worldwide
- ▶ affiliated to the European (EASO) and The World Obesity Federation (WOF)
- ▶ Organised the 1st International Congress on Obesity in London in 1974 and the 2nd European Congress on Obesity in Oxford in 1989.
- ▶ Founding body of the International Journal of Obesity.



ASO Mission

The ASO aims to develop an understanding of obesity through the pursuit of excellence in research and education, the facilitation of contact between individuals and organisations, and the promotion of action to prevent and treat obesity.



Objectives of ASO

- **Promote the professional awareness of obesity and its impact on health**
- **Educate and disseminate recent research on the causes, consequences, treatment, and prevention of obesity**
- **Provide opinion leadership on obesity in the UK**
- **Enhance understanding of prevention and treatment of obesity throughout the UK**
- **Forge links between individuals and organisations concerned with the study of obesity throughout the UK**
- **Connect active researchers and practitioners from diverse disciplines who contribute to the development of an evidence-based UK perspective on obesity.**
- **Provide appropriate input on the UK perspective at a European and international level through EASO and the World Obesity Federation**

Membership

wide range of professions:

- ▶ Clinicians - surgeons, GP's
- ▶ scientists, researchers, early career researchers
- ▶ allied health professionals working in the field of obesity research and education,
- ▶ psychologists
- ▶ opinion leaders and advocacy groups,
- ▶ Commercial weight management companies
- ▶ Food industry
- ▶ Policy makers



Current ASO activities

- ▶ **Conferences:** national conferences to broaden awareness and disseminate current research on the causes, consequences, treatment and prevention of obesity.
- ▶ In 2014, the ASO established the UK Congress on Obesity (UKCO).
- ▶ **Regional groups:** network of 9 regional groups throughout the UK that successfully link researchers and practitioners in the field of obesity.
- ▶ **Consultations and media:** ASO Trustees and members provide expert input to policies, guidance e.g. NICE, DH, consultations and media responses
- ▶ **Awards:** The ASO operates a range of award schemes to celebrate the best in obesity research and practice.

ASO Adult COM's Network

- ▶ What is the role of UK ASO Adult COM's Network?
- ▶ Which activities would you like to see developed?
- ▶ Please identify your top 3 priorities

ASO Adult COM's Network

Those working in adult obesity - providing services, research

Opportunity to :

- ▶ network
- ▶ share good practice
- ▶ develop and deliver multidisciplinary training
- ▶ Research collaborations
- ▶ Start to mapping of services across the UK - first time!
- ▶ Data on obesity treatment sites; who accessed by, outcomes etc.
- ▶ Launch in London 2nd Dec 2015

Suggested Activities

- ▶ Centres to act as exemplars of good practice
- ▶ Centres for teaching both primary and secondary care doctors nurses and AHP
- ▶ Sharing examples of best practice and clinical protocols
- ▶ Developing local obesity networks for both clinical and research purposes
- ▶ Linking with regional ASO groups and academics
- ▶ Helping advise commissioners and Public health drawing up local obesity pathways ?