

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chattanooga Physician Dr. Jaime Ponce Elected President-Elect of IFSO, the World's Leading Organization for Obesity and Metabolic Disease Surgical Care *Historic election puts Chattanooga on the global stage in the fight against obesity*

Santiago, Chile – September 15, 2025 – The International Federation for Surgery and other therapies for Obesity (IFSO) has elected **Dr. Jaime Ponce of Chattanooga, Tennessee** as its new **President-Elect**. IFSO, representing 77 countries worldwide, is the largest global organization dedicated to surgical and related therapies for obesity and metabolic disease.

Dr. Ponce was unanimously elected by IFSO's Board and General Council during the organization's World Congress in Santiago, Chile. His presidential term will run from 2026 to 2027, where he will lead efforts to advance international standards, education, and access to obesity care.

A recognized global leader, Dr. Ponce has previously served as President of both the **American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS)** and the **IFSO North America Chapter**. In 2023, he received the **Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award** in Bariatric Surgery from the TREO Foundation, the highest honor in the U.S. for contributions to the field.

Locally, Dr. Ponce is the **Medical Director of The Weight Loss Center of Chattanooga, PLLC** (www.weightlosschatt.com), the region's only independent comprehensive center offering both medical and surgical therapies for obesity. His team integrates bariatric medicine, surgery, nutrition, psychology, and exercise support to deliver long-term, multidisciplinary care.

"I am deeply honored to serve as President-Elect of IFSO and to continue the mission of improving access, quality, and outcomes in obesity treatment worldwide," said Dr. Ponce. "This election reflects not only my commitment, but also the extraordinary work being done in Chattanooga and across the globe to recognize obesity as the chronic disease it is and to expand effective therapies for patients."

In his role as President-Elect, Dr. Ponce will collaborate with immediate IFSO Past-President **Ricardo Cohen of São Paulo, Brazil** and incoming President **Khaled Gawdat of Cairo, Egypt** to expand international collaboration and improve access to high-quality obesity and metabolic disease care.

About IFSO

The International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity and Metabolic Disorders (IFSO) is the largest global organization dedicated to the treatment of obesity and metabolic diseases. Founded in 1995, IFSO includes five regional chapters and represents 77 countries worldwide. The federation brings together bariatric and metabolic surgeons, bariatric endoscopists, obesity medicine specialists, and integrated health professionals to advance education, research, and

international standards of care. IFSO organizes the annual World Congress, publishes global guidelines and consensus statements, and works to improve access, safety, and long-term outcomes for patients living with obesity.

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