



The Obesity Society Fact Sheet

- The Obesity Society (formerly the North American Society for the Study of Obesity) was founded in 1982 and is a non-profit educational and scientific organization under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. See www.obesity.org for more information.
- The Society has approximately 2,000 members. Approximately 50% are PhDs, 32 % MDs and 14% RDs.
- The Society publishes the preeminent peer-reviewed journal, *Obesity*. The latest impact factor for the journal is 3.41. In 2007, the Society entered into an agreement with the Nature Publishing Group for production and marketing of the journal. Richard Bergman is Editor-in-Chief.
- The Society conducts the most comprehensive annual scientific meeting on obesity in North America, attracting about 2,000 registrants each year. Five tracks cover Cell and Molecular Biology, Integrative Biology, Clinical Studies, Population Studies and Clinical Professional Practice. Members participate in several sections or interest groups, including clinical management, pediatrics, surgery, Prader-Willi Syndrome, New Faculty, Epidemiology and Diversity Promotion.
- The Society conducts several educational programs for general use as well as CME credit. Some 800,000 slides have been downloaded from 19 slide decks on the Society's Obesity OnLine site www.obesityonline.org.
- The Society also engages in advocacy efforts in support of promoting greater research on obesity, against discrimination of persons with obesity and reimbursement for treatment of obesity. In 2007, the Society conducted the conference, "*The Obesity Challenge: What Should the Next President Do?*" Nine presidential candidates sent their health policy advisors to discuss public policy options for the next administration.
- The Society has successfully launched a New Investigator Research Grant program, providing 6 recipients, in a competitive process, with grants of twenty-five thousand dollars each.
- For further information, call (301) 563-6526, fax (301) 563-6595, or visit www.obesity.org.