4th Obesity International Interdisciplinary Conference

in Collaboration with

The 5th Dr. Raffy

Hovanissian International Conference

Sundukyan State Academic Theatre
6-7 November 2026
YEREVAN, ARMENIA

DAY 1

6-7 November 2026 | Sundukyan National Academic Theatre

TIME	SPEAKER	PRESENTATION
08:30-09:20 | PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION AND MORNING COFFEE		
09:20-09:45	**Levon Grigoryan, Tatevik Khachatryan** **Prof. Ara Babloyan** **Prof. Yuri Yashkov** **Haris Khwaja**	Welcome Remarks and Conference Opening
SESSION 1	**Moderators**	**Prof. Ara Babloyan** **Harutyun Minasian** **Prof. Suren Stepanyan**
09:45-10:00	**Armen Darbinyan Professor**; Doctor of Science in Economics Yerevan, Armenia	The Economic Burden of Obesity: State and National Perspectives
10:00-10:15	T**hais Sarian, RD** Nutritionist, Center for Obesity and Diabetes, Oswaldo Cruz German Hospital Lead Nutritionist and Clinical Research Co-Investigator, Dr. Ricardo Cohen's Multidisciplinary Team Member of Brazilian Society of Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery (SBCBM) Member of International Federation for the Surgery and Other Therapies for Obesity (IFSO) São Paulo, Brazil	The Multidisciplinary Team Approach to Obesity Treatment: Preoperative Patient Preparation
10:15-10:30	**Aghavni Kolyan, PhD** Clinical psychologist specializing in weight management and eating behavior; certified Gestalt therapist, supervisor, group facilitator, and lecturer at Moscow State University of Psychology and Education (MSUPE) Moscow, Russia	Bariatric Psychology: The Essential Role of Psychological Care in Comprehensive Obesity Management
10:30-10:45	**Ricardo Cohen, PhD, MD** Bariatric surgeon; Director, Center for Obesity and Diabetes, Oswaldo Cruz German Hospital; IFSO President-Elect; President, Brazilian Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (SBCBM), 2011-2012; President, IFSO Latin American Chapter, 2018-2019 São Paulo, Brazil	The Role of Bariatric Surgery in the GLP-1 Era: Is This the End?
10:45-11:00	**Tatevik Khachatryan** PharmD, MP Director of MedProgress HealthCare Foundation Yerevan, Armenia	Obesity Stigma: Medical, Social, Psychological, and Public Health Consequences

11:00-11:15	**Narek Varzhabedyan** Clinical Pharmacist, ClinChoice, Yerevan, Armenia	Pharmacokinetics After Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery: Rethinking Oral Drug Absorption and Dosing
11:15-11:40 | PANEL DISCUSSION		
11:40 - 12:00 | COFFEE BREAK		
SESSION 2	**Moderators**	**Prof. Yuri Yashkov** **Manana Gogol** **Haris Khwaja**
12:00-12:15	**Nour El Hage Chehade, MD** Professor of Anesthesiology, Department of Anesthesiology, Cleveland Clinic, USA	Anesthetic Management of Patients Undergoing Bariatric Surgery
12:15-12:35	**Yuri Yashkov, MD, PhD, DSc, Professor;** Surgeon, IFSO Executive Board Member; Founder and Honorary President Society of Bariatric Surgeons of Russia (SBSR); Moscow, Russia	SADI-S Surgery and Its Modifications: A 12-Year Experience
12:35-12:50	**Omar Ghanem, MD** Chair, Division of Metabolic and Abdominal Wall Reconstructive Surgery, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, USA	Why Choose a Hypoabsorptive Procedure?
12:50-13:05	**Koba Sakhechidze, MD, PhD** Chief, Division of Bariatric Surgery, American Hospital Tbilisi, Tbilisi, Georgia	Benefits of Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery for Patients with Type 2 Diabetes
13:05-13:20	A**leksandr Neymark, MD, DSc, Professor** Almazov National Medical Research Centre, Saint Petersburg, Russia	Managing Acute and Delayed Sleeve Gastrectomy Complications: From Staple-Line Failure to Gastric Torsion
13:20-13:40	**Davit Sargsyan, MD, PhD** FEBS, FACS, FASMBS Senior Consultant in Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery, Qatar Metabolic Institute; Clinical Instructor in Surgery, Weill Cornell Medical College-Qatar; Expert in Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery, Qatar Ministry of Public Health Doha, Qatar.	GERD After LSG: Magnitude of the Problem and Potential Solutions

13:40-14:00	**Haris Khwaja, DPhil (Oxon), FRCS** Co-founder, International Bariatric Club Consultant Upper GI/ Bariatric Surgeon & Honorary Senior Lecturer Chelsea and Westminster Hospital & Imperial College London, United Kingdom	Bypass-Specific Complications: Marginal Ulcers.
14:00-14:15	**Samvel Zakaryan, MD, PhD** Surgeon, PhD; Head, Department of General and Endoscopic Surgery No. 2 Yerevan, Armenia.	The Role of Stapling Technology in Bariatric Outcomes: Is Surgery Device-Dependent?
14:15-14:30	**Suren Stepanyan, MD, PhD, Professor,** Head of Department of Abdominal Surgery of YSMU Head of Clinic of Surgery of Mikaelyan University Hospital Yerevan, Armenia	Implementing the Nissen Sleeve: Patient Selection and Outcomes at Our Center
14:30-15:00 | PANEL DISCUSSION		
15:00-16:00 | LUNCH BREAK		
SESSION 3	**Case Presentations**	**Moderators** **Samvel Zakaryan** **Hayk Hovhannisyan** **Koba Sakhechidze**
16:00-16:20	**Davit Sargsyan, MD, PhD** FEBS, FACS, FASMBS Senior Consultant in Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery, Qatar Metabolic Institute; Clinical Instructor in Surgery, Weill Cornell Medical College-Qatar; Expert in Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery, Qatar Ministry of Public Health Doha, Qatar.	Revisional Bariatric Surgery: Laparoscopic Conversion of ROGB to RYGB
16:20-16:40	**Gayane Hovhannisyan, MD,** Intensivist, Izmirlian Medical Center Yerevan, Armenia	Intensive Care Management of a Critical Complication Following Bariatric Surgery: A Case Presentation
16:40-17:00	**Aleksandr Neymark , MD, DSc, Professor** Almazov National Medical Research Centre, Saint Petersburg, Russia	Guess the Surgery
17:00-17:20	**Grigor Papoyan, MD** Head of the Department of General and Laparoscopic Surgery and Deputy Chief Doctor for Surgery in Surb Grigor Lusavorich Medical Center, Yerevan, Armenia	Postoperative Management of a Staple-Line Leak After Sleeve Gastrectomy

17:20-17:40	**Levon Grigoryan, MD** President, Society of Armenian Minimally Invasive Surgeons, Head of Robotic Surgery & Endoscopy "Slavmed Medical Center", General, Laparoscopic, and Robotic Surgeon Yerevan, Armenia	The Nightmare Scenario: Managing Bowel Injuries in a Frozen Abdomen During Bariatric Surgery.
17:40-18:00 | DISCUSSION AND DAY 1 WRAP-UP		
18:00 | CLOSING REMARKS		

DAY 2 / THERAPY

6-7 November 2026 | Sundukyan National Academic Theatre

TIME	SPEAKER	PRESENTATION
08:30-09:30 | PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION AND MORNING COFFEE		
	Tatevik Khachatryan / Levon Grigoryan **Thais Sarian, MD, PhD**	Welcome Remarks and Conference Opening
SESSION 1	**Moderators**	**Vahe Ter Minasyan** **Thais Sarian** **Hovhannes Kzhdryan**
09:30-09:45	**Haykanush Hambardzumyan, MD,** Endocrinologist , Founder and President of the AOP Wigmore Hospital, Yerevan, Armenia	Strategies for Obesity Prevention in the 21st Century.
09:45-10:00	**Lidia Ayvazyan** Physician-Nutritionist; President, Armenian Association of Dietitians and Nutritionists Yerevan, Armenia	Eating Disorders
10:00-10:15	**Marat Zakaryan, PhD, Associate Professor** Sexologist and Psychotherapist Yerevan, Armenia	Obesity and Sexual Dysfunction

10:15-10:30	**Aram M. Terteryan, MD, PhD** Cardiologist; Lecturer, Department of Cardiology, Yerevan State Medical University; Head, Emergency Cardiology Service, Yerevan University Hospital No. 1 Yerevan, Armenia	From Adiposity to Heart Disease: Managing Obesity-Associated Cardiovascular Risk.
10:30-10:45	**Vahe Ter-Minasyan, PhD** Gynecologic Oncologist; Head, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, National Institute of Health, Ministry of Health of Armenia; Head, Surgical Gynecology Service, Armenian-American Wellness Center Yerevan, Armenia	Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS): Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome (PMOS).
10:45-11:00	**Norayr Ghukasyan, PhD** Obstetrician-Gynecologist; Deputy Director Maternity Hospital, Erebuni Medical Center Yerevan, Armenia	Obesity in Pregnancy and Childbirth: Clinical Challenges and Obstetric Outcomes.
11:00-11:15	**Lyudmila Niazyan, MD** **Public Health Professional, Science4Policy International Expert** Yerevan, Armenia	Overweight and Obesity in Women as Risk Factors for Cervical Cancer and Precancer Detection Among Screened Women.
11:15-11:45 | PANEL DISCUSSION		
11:45-12:15 | COFFEE BREAK		

DAY 2 / THERAPY - CONTINUED

6-7 November 2026 | Sundukyan National Academic Theatre

TIME	SPEAKER	PRESENTATION
SESSION 2	**Moderators**	**Prof. Elena Aghajanova** **Haris Khwaja** **Prof. Aleksandr Neymark**
12:15-12:35	**Caroline Apovian, MD, FACP, FTOS, DABOM** Co-Director, Center for Weight Management and Wellness (CWMW), Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Hypertension, Brigham and Women's Hospital; Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, USA	The Pathogenesis of Obesity and GLP-1-Based Treatment

12:35-12:55	**Turki Faris Al-Ahbabi, MD** Head, Department of Obesity and Bariatric Medicine, Qatar Metabolic Institute, Hamad Medical Corporation, Doha, Qatar	The Evolution of Bariatric Medicine and the Multidisciplinary Model of Obesity Care in Qatar: Implications for Armenia
12:55-13:15	**Raffi Karagozian, MD, AGAF** Associate Professor of Medicine, Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Tufts University School of Medicine Boston, USA	The Role of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery and GLP-1 Receptor Agonists in the Management of Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatohepatitis (MASH)
13:15-13:30	**Ihab El Tayeb, MD** Endocrinologist, PRIME Hospital, Dubai, UAE	The Therapeutic Role of Metabolic Surgery in Obesity and Type 2 Diabetes: An Endocrinologist's Perspective
13:30-13:45	**Hasmik Ghazinyan, MD, PhD** Hepatologist, Yerevan Medical Center Yerevan, Armenia	Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery in Patients with MASLD or Cirrhosis; Acute Liver Failure After MBS: A Case Report
13:45-14:00	**Gayane Melikyan, MD, PhD** Senior Consultant in Neurology, Hamad Medical Corporation; Assistant Professor of Neurology, Weill Cornell Medical College-Qatar	Post-Bariatric Neuropathies: Diagnosis and Management
	Haris Khwaja, DPhil (Oxon), FRCS Co-founder, International Bariatric Club Consultant Upper GI/ Bariatric Surgeon & Honorary Senior Lecturer Chelsea and Westminster Hospital & Imperial College London, United Kingdom	Optimizing Outcomes: The Role of GLP-1 Receptor Agonists Before and After Bariatric Surgery
14:00-14:20 | PANEL DISCUSSION		
14:20-15:20 | LUNCH BREAK		

DAY 2 / THERAPY - CONTINUED

6-7 November 2026 | Sundukyan Academic Theatre

TIME	SPEAKER	PRESENTATION
SESSION 3	**Moderators**	**Prof. Sergey Sargsyan** **Prof. Gayane Amaryan** **Prof. Karine Mirzabekyan**

15:20-15:35	**Susma Vaidya, MD, MPH** Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics, George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences; Medical Director, IDEAL Clinic, Children's National Medical Center USA	Beyond Lifestyle: Pharmacotherapy for Pediatric and Adolescent Obesity
15:35-15:50	**Mark Kovler, MD** Division of General and Thoracic Surgery; Director, Pediatric and Adolescent Bariatric Surgery Program, Children's National Hospital, Washington, DC; Assistant Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics, George Washington University USA	Surgical Management of Pediatric Obesity
15:50-16:05	**Garik Arakelyan, MD** General and Pediatric Surgeon, Arabkir Medical Center, Armenia	Measure Seven Times, Cut Once: Adolescence, Obesity, and the Armenian Experience.
16:05-16:30 | PANEL DISCUSSION		
16:30-17:00 | COFFEE BREAK		
SESSION 4	**Moderators**	**Tatevik Khachatryan** **Zaqar Khojabaghyan** **Haykanush Hambardzumyan**
17:00-17:15	**Haris Khwaja, DPhil (Oxon), FRCS** Co-founder, International Bariatric Club Consultant Upper GI/ Bariatric Surgeon & Honorary Senior Lecturer Chelsea and Westminster Hospital & Imperial College London, United Kingdom	Optimizing Outcomes: The Role of GLP-1 Receptor Agonists Before and After Bariatric Surgery
17:15-17:30	**Thais Sarian, RD** Nutritionist, Center for Obesity and Diabetes, Oswaldo Cruz German Hospital Lead Nutritionist and Clinical Research Co-Investigator, Dr. Ricardo Cohen's Multidisciplinary Team Member of Brazilian Society of Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery (SBCBM) Member of International Federation for the Surgery and Other Therapies for Obesity (IFSO) São Paulo, Brazil	Post-Bariatric Follow-Up and Nutritional Support
17:30-17:45	**Lilit Gevorgyan, MD** Dermatologist and Cosmetologist, Head of Clinical Development & Training Avanta MC Global clinical trainer and KOL (Inmode, Alma Lasers) Yerevan, Armenia	Beyond the Scale: Structural Adaptation After Weight Loss - The Dermatologist's Role in Tissue Rehabilitation

17:45-18:00	**Raffi Gurunian, MD** Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi's Integrated Surgical Institute, Section Head of Plastic Surgery. Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery department at Cleveland Clinic, Ohio, USA	Plastic Surgery and Body Contouring After Bariatric Surgery and for Patients Receiving GLP-1 Therapies
17:45-18:15 | PANEL DISCUSSION		
18:15 | CLOSING REMARKS		