

Message from the ASMBS President

Dear Colleagues,

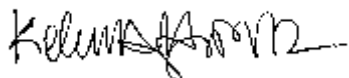


It is with great sincerity and awe that I address you now as the first president of the AMERICAN SOCIETY for METABOLIC and BARIATRIC SURGERY. This seemingly innocuous insertion of a single word: "**METABOLIC**" into our name came only after many hours of discussion by your Executive Committee and primarily by the outstanding response to our web survey. Many of us were concerned that this change would be disrespectful to those individuals who fought to make the name ASBS synonymous with quality, integrity and patient advocacy. Ironically, it was with the support and endorsement of those individuals, the giants of bariatric surgery, which resulted in an almost unanimous vote in favor of this change at the ASBS meeting in San Diego

"Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there." - Will Rogers

Since its inception, the ASBS has been unique in its mission and execution: embracing technology and progress while honoring the past. Recognition and incorporation of Allied Health, collaboration with industry, encouraging safer and less invasive routes of therapy, creation of the SRC while promoting research and quality initiatives. The insertion of "METABOLIC" is not so much a change in direction of our Society, but a description of that which has already occurred.

At his Presidential Address, Phil Schauer left us with a legacy and a challenge: to increase our sphere of influence, to communicate, to innovate, and to collaborate. It is with these ideals that we go forward. As your President of the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, it is my privilege and duty to represent your interests as well as lead our Society into the future. I will be calling on all of you for your ideas, your passion, and commitment going forward.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kelvin D. Higa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kelvin D. Higa, MD, FACS
President, ASMBS