

## Change of Editor

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Three years ago at the IFSO-2010 Long Beach, Ca, USA meeting, a group of bariatric surgeons got together with the proposal to establish a new “*Portuñol*” journal on “Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery”.

English journals are becoming very competitive due to increase in the number of countries, manuscripts, and publications; the waiting list to publish will increase. Those who use *Portuñol* will have a reduce share *on this market* and the possibility to publish their Works. We have two languages so close (Portuguese and Spanish) that we can perfectly understand, without a dictionary, and read the original works. We should remember that *Spanish* is the *second mother tongue* spoken in the World after the mandarin and the *first in the West* by number of people, and *Portuguese* is the *third in the West* and the *fifth in the world* as mother tongue.

This journal should *easily* reach surgeons or Allied Health interested in Bariatrics. And only the digital press with an Open Access (OA) on the Internet can serve all of us at a low cost.

It has been a great pleasure for us to initiate this project. The first issue was published in March-April 2011, the idea is to be a bimonthly publication and we have been able to do it so far.

The chosen name was **BMI** (*Bariátrica & Metabólica Ibero-americana*), to honor the name and first efforts of Bariátrica & Metabólica, published by a Brazilian group in Sao Paulo during two years and also, to remember BMI (Body Mass Index) as the most important and common measure in the bariatric field.

We have made an effort to make it as scientific as possible. All manuscripts are evaluated by two reviewers to accept or not, ask improvements, etc.

The pair review system is central and essential to any scientific publication.

For example, vertical banded gastroplasty (VBG) described in 1982 by E. Mason of Iowa [1] was the most popular bariatric operation in the 80’s. In 1990 we published our first series of 100 cases with good results but when we re-evaluated the results at 5 years [2,3] the only English journal at that time refused the publication at first even if it was the first publication where VBG was recognized as a non-suitable or good operation because the long-term failure were unacceptable. The paper was accepted after all, but not without a serious fight. This operation is no longer performed after 1997.

The second aim was the dedication to the *scientific truth*. It is our duty as Scientists and as physicians and surgeons to strive for the truth as a responsibility to our patients. “The truth even if painful” is because many times the end results are not what was expected by the patients or ourselves.

Dr. Baltasar, founder and first editor of BMI has entered retirement and leave the post of editor in chief, but will continue to support their collaboration to new editors.

In his honor and as a souvenir of his CV I want to review and highlight his activities in the field of bariatric surgery.

In gratitude to summarize A. Baltasar MD Bariatric CV

1977. He starts in May and published in 1980 the 1st open gastric bypass work in Spain [5].

1986. 1<sup>st</sup> program on the surgery of obesity. In "Living every day" - "J. J. Soriano more moral than the Alcoyan". National TVE 1 hour TV prime time program.

1985. 2<sup>nd</sup> operation of VBG in Spain.

1989. 1<sup>st</sup> world publication of vertical separation in the VBG. Acta Chir. Scandinavian 112:107-112

1991. 1<sup>st</sup> Metabolic Surgery in Spain. Ileal bypass [7]

1995. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lapband in España.

1994. March 10<sup>th</sup>. 1<sup>st</sup> national Duodenal Switch (now 520 Open and 417 LDS) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> in the world [8]

1994. 2<sup>nd</sup> National Scopinaro operation, March 17<sup>th</sup>.

1977. 1<sup>st</sup> Lap Gastric bypass in Spain. 2<sup>nd</sup> published in the world [9-10].

1977. Alicante. Funding of SECO (Spanish Society for the Surgery of Obesity).

1977. Alicante. Organize the 1<sup>st</sup> National SECO Meeting.

1077. 1<sup>st</sup> Spanish full member of the ASMBS

1999. 1<sup>st</sup> live "Lap Gastric bypass" in South America. Florianopolis. SC. Brazil. September 9.

1999. 1<sup>st</sup> Open live Duodenal Switch in Brazil. Policlínica Portuguesa. Sao Pablo. May 9<sup>th</sup>

1999. Associate Editor of the journal "Obesity Surgery". 1<sup>st</sup> Spanish

2000. National Award winner by the Spanish Journal of digestive tract diseases in Spain on 1<sup>st</sup> laparoscopic bypass [11].

2000. Author of 1<sup>st</sup> book on Obesity Surgery in Spain. Re-edited in 2002 [12].

1999. 1<sup>st</sup> world publication on "post-laparoscopic gastric bypass internal hernia" [13].

2000. 1<sup>st</sup> Lap Duodenal Switch in Spain and Europe. [14] October. 5<sup>th</sup>.

2000. 1<sup>st</sup> LDS South America. Buenos Aires, Argentina. SACO Honorary Member. September 1<sup>st</sup>

2002. 1<sup>st</sup> National Laparoscopic Vertical Gastrectomy (LVG) = Gastric Sleeve. December 12<sup>th</sup> [15]

2002-3. President of IFSO (International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity).

2003. President of the Organizing Committee of 8<sup>th</sup> World Congress IFSO-Salamanca.

2004. Executive Committee Member IFSO.

2004. 1<sup>st</sup> "Diabetes surgery" in Spain. A Duodenal Switch without gastrectomy. October 2<sup>nd</sup>

2006. 2<sup>nd</sup> Re-Sleeve Gastrectomy in the world [16].

2006. Spanish National Surgical Society Award for the best article. *One thousand bariatric operations* [17]

2006. 1<sup>st</sup> Spanish author publication in SOARD [18].

2006. 1<sup>st</sup> Spanish author who publishes a video in SOARD [19].

2007. 1<sup>st</sup> world publication of correction LVG = GS fistulas by adding a RNY Bypass [20].

2009. New measurement of Bariatrics results of by using the "expected" BMI [21-22]

248 publications in Surgery, 78 in Obesity surgery, 43 in English

Author of 90 surgical films, 16 on obesity. 25 videos in youtube

3 web pages in Obesity [www.seco.org](http://www.seco.org),  
[www.draltasar.com](http://www.draltasar.com) & [www.bmilatina.com](http://www.bmilatina.com)

2008. IFSO Board of trustees.

2009. IFSO Life Member.

2010. 1<sup>st</sup> National Award for Poster at SECO. Valencia at measuring results in Bariatric weight [20-22]

2011. ASMBS Outstanding Achievement Award Finalist

2008. Founding member of the European Committee of "Centers of excellence" in Bariatric Surgery.

Member of 12 scientific societies

Honorary member of 4 National Societies bariatric (AR, BR, PT, Spain)

He has researched for years to know who were the pioneers of Bariatric Surgery in Spain to found out that Bariatric Surgery began in Seville in 1973 [6]

No doubt that he is a very prominent figure in the field of bariatric surgery, pioneer of this field in Spain and internationally renowned specialist, who has been an inspiration to new bariatric surgeons generations, and in his honor and gratitude I write these words.

Thanks Aniceto for your encouragement and ongoing support.

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