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EASO COLLABORATING CENTERS FOR OBESITY MANAGEMENT (COMS)

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Obesity is a global epidemic and the most prevalent metabolic disease in the world. Preventive and treatment measures taken are still not adequate and these services are still not equally widespread. In response to this situation, EASO has developed a network of “accredited specialised obesity centers”, where the quality and efficacy of the care offered to patients are of the highest standards. Under the EASO Collaborating Centers for Obesity Management (COM) scheme, these centers will be accredited in accordance with accepted European and academic guidelines.

Mission of EASO-COMs:

- Implement state-of-the art evidence-based care for obese patients
- Monitor all obesity- related medical conditions and risk factors
- Provide high quality patient and public information
- Improve access to care pathways by optimizing referral processes and developing close working between levels of care
- Develop comprehensive multidisciplinary local collaboration
- Facilitate, and empower patients to make healthy lifestyle changes: develop therapeutic education
- Educate staff about treating patients with obesity
- Encourage development of and support Patient Associations, by sharing experience and expertise
- Offer or collaborate with preventive care services

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- Promote obesity related knowledge and awareness among the public and health care providers
- Improve the collaboration interface between clinical researchers and scientists
- Integrate health care, teaching and research
- Facilitate clinical research projects
- Contribute to a network of EASO-COMs across Europe with close collaboration and communication

Accredited centers will have the opportunity to:

- Contribute to the development of EASO pan-European protocols for the evaluation of obese patients
- Contribute to the development of consensus statements/guidelines on specialised aspects of obesity management
- Contribute to obesity education across Europe
- Participate in an EASO led pan-European scientific/clinical exchange programme
- Participate in EASO facilitated Clinical Trials and Pilot Studies
- Participate in EASO coordinated research projects
- Participate in COM ‘Summit Meetings’ at each ECO (European Congress on Obesity)
- Access and contribute to an EASO pan-European system of data collection and analysis
- Access a web-based COM community where each center can post job vacancies and highlight the key capabilities and features of the center

Many centers across Europe should apply and when eligible should become a part of this high standard network in order to promote obesity prevention and management. Updating knowledge, improving skills, and contributing to research in the field of obesity will definitely strengthen European struggle against obesity and improve public health.

References

Tsigos C., Hainer V., Basdevant A et al., Criteria for EASO-collaborating Centres for obesity management, *Obesity Facts* 2011; 4:329-333.

<http://www.easo.org/coms>