

---

# ASMBS Advocacy Report

**December 2015**

Prepared by Chris Gallagher

---

## **ASMBS Participates in Organizational Meeting for OCAN**

On December 1, 2015, ASMBS Executive Director Georgeann Mallory traveled to Washington, DC to participate in the first organizational meeting of the Obesity Care Advocacy Network (OCAN), which Founding members include the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND), the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE), the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS), the Endocrine Society, Novo Nordisk, the Obesity Action Coalition (OAC), the Obesity Medicine Association (OMA), and The Obesity Society. The major mission of OCAN is to partner with other medical societies and organizations to change how the nation perceives and approaches the U.S. obesity epidemic by educating and advocating for public policies and increased funding for obesity education, research, treatment and care.

During the December 1st meeting, Ms. Mallory and health policy staff from other OCAN founding member groups discussed key message points and policy priorities that will shape the core of OCAN's advocacy agenda. Among the many advocacy efforts that will be led and coordinated by OCAN will be a series of congressional briefings on Capitol Hill to educate policymakers regarding the impact that obesity has on numerous other chronic disease states such as diabetes, heart disease and cancer.

## **OCC Leaders Participate in Campaign to End Obesity Advocacy day**

On November 18, 2015, leaders from the Obesity Care Continuum (OCC) participated in an Advocacy Day and congressional workshop organized by the Campaign to End Obesity (CEO) Action Fund to discuss the value of incremental weight loss — in both health and economic terms. The CEO Action Fund workshop was moderated by Matt Gallivan, Legislative Assistant to Representative Erik Paulsen (R-MN) and included speakers from the American Council on Exercise, Ethicon Endosurgery, the Trust for America's Health, and the OCC's own Jeanne Blankenship from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.