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IFSO

Dear Presidents of IFSO-EC Societies,

I am writing to you today to ask if you would be willing to participate in a Horizon 2020 project proposal, in which IFSO-EC is involved as a partner. We feel that it could be an interesting opportunity for all of us.

The proposal has been submitted under the call 'PHC 18 – 2015: Establishing effectiveness of health care interventions in the paediatric population'. If successful, the project would be titled 'BASiC: BAriatric Surgery In Adolescents' and coordinated by the Bambino Gesù Hospital in Rome. PHC 18 is a two phase process and the proposal passed the first stage of evaluation (not an easy task), and the final deadline is now approaching (April 21st).

Current knowledge about the overall benefit of surgery in this population is seriously limited and may result in inappropriate interventions with acute or potentially lifelong impact on health and wellbeing.
The research programme combines large-real-world data (enclosing data from existing European registry and retrospective databases) and smaller clinical studies that might be informative about metabolic mechanisms of action. The registry is essential to draw a picture of the actual available treatments for extreme adolescent obesity in Europe. With particular regard to the bariatric surgery, it can be useful to identify centres of excellence and to standardise levels of care among different centres.

The objective of the BASIC project is to provide robust data that will allow evaluating with a multilevel and comprehensive health technology assessment the effectiveness of bariatric surgery for the treatment of extreme and complicated obesity in adolescents. Real-world data will be collected from a longitudinal clinical observational study of extreme obese adolescents either treated by lifestyle intervention or any kind of bariatric surgery. Findings will contribute to define an effective evidence-based healthcare strategy specific to this age group, while significantly decreasing treatment-related risks.

The project is seeking clinical centres across Europe (the IFSO-EC being the obvious network) that have a solid experience in the treatment (lifestyle intervention and/or bariatric surgery) of extreme obesity in adolescents (age 16 to 21 years). They will be asked to provide retrospective data whenever available, longitudinal data on patients 3 y-follow-up and biological samples at certain time points. Centres would join the project network as subcontractors, and would be assigned a budget based on their capability to provide patients.

If you would be willing to join, please let us know at your earliest convenience, and if possible estimate the number of patients that you might be able to provide. If you need any further information, please let me know and I shall ask the project coordinator to contact you directly. I have attached a letter from Melania Manco, who will coordinate the project.

With kind regards

Alberic Fiennes

President of IFSO European Chapter