

**Second Annual Obesity Symposium Friday, October 3, 2025  
REGISTRATION**

	Early Registration By Wednesday October 1, 2025	Walk-in Registration Friday, October 3, 2025 <small>*Only checks and exact cash accepted</small>
<b>Physician</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>	<b>\$175.00</b>
<b>Nurses / Allied Health Professionals</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>\$125.00</b>
<b>Residents/Students</b> <small>(Non-credit) Must include valid student ID</small>	<b>\$25.00</b>	<b>\$35.00</b>

**THOP EMPLOYEES**

Registered Nurse, Allied Health Professionals-  
please scan the QR code to register

**\*\*EXCLUDES Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, CRNAs, PAs**



**ALL OTHER PARTICIPANTS**

**Pay Online**

**Physicians** <https://www.thehospitalsofprovidence.com/events#4902>

**Nurse/Allied Health Professionals** <https://www.thehospitalsofprovidence.com/events#4903>

**Residents/Students** <https://www.thehospitalsofprovidence.com/events#4904>

**Pay in Person-complete registration form below**

- Credit Cards, Cash, Checks will be accepted
  - o The Hospitals of Providence, Sierra Campus 1625 Medical Center Dr. 79902
  - o Cashier's Office, located by the main entrance registration area, first floor
  - o Open Monday-Friday from 8:30am to 5:00pm
  - o Checks payable to The Hospitals of Providence
  - o Submit Registration Form with your payment

**Walk-In Registration Friday, October 3, 2025**

- Extra fee applied, please only exact cash or personal checks

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Medical Specialty \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Policy**

To receive the discounted price, THOP must receive registration and payment by Wednesday, October 1, 2025.

Registrations after October 1 will be taken at the door only [exact cash or check please]. NO refunds will be provided. **THOP employees must register by October 1, 2025.**

Questions? Please call THOP Sierra Education office at (915) 747-2776 or email [christina.loweree@tenethealth.com](mailto:christina.loweree@tenethealth.com)



A COMMUNITY BUILT ON CARE

2001 N. Oregon St. | El Paso, TX 79902



# SECOND ANNUAL OBESITY SYMPOSIUM



**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2025**

RADISSON HOTEL EL PASO AIRPORT  
1770 AIRWAY BLVD.  
EL PASO, TX 79925



A COMMUNITY BUILT ON CARE

## SECOND ANNUAL OBESITY SYMPOSIUM FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2025

### Agenda

**7:00 am – 7:50 am** Registration / Breakfast / Visit Exhibits  
Opening Remarks / Conference Guidelines

**8:00 am – 9:00 am**  
**Optimizing Nutrition for Obesity and Bariatric Surgery**  
Chelsea Johnson, MS, RD, CSOWM, LD, BCBC

**9:00 am – 9:30 am**  
**Why we sleep: Exploring the Essential Functions of Sleep and its Connection to Obesity**  
Jose Carlos Garcia Blanco, MD

**9:30 am – 10:00 am**  
**Fueling the Fire: How Obesity Drives Cancer Risk**  
Evangelia Valilis, MD, MPH

**10:00 am – 10:15 am** Break / Visit Exhibits

**10:15 am – 10:45 am**  
**Impact of Obesity on Cardiovascular Health: Present and Future**  
Chalam Mulukutla, MD

**10:45 am – 11:15 am**  
**The role of Plastic Surgery following Massive Weight Loss: Body Contouring and Beyond**  
Shawn Diamond, MD, FACS

**11:15 am – 11:45 am**  
**Molecular basis of obesity and related infertility**  
Luis Noble, MD

**11:45 am – 12:15 pm**  
**Understanding and addressing childhood obesity: from screening to comprehensive care**  
Vanessa Ruiz, MD, IBCLC, ABOM

**12:15 pm – 1:00 pm** Lunch

**1:00 pm – 1:30 pm**  
**Obesity and Orthopedic Health**  
Erick Torres, MD

**1:30 pm – 2:00 pm**  
**Obesity and Liver Disease**  
Paul Estrada, MD

**2:00 pm – 2:30 pm**  
**A Patient's Journey and Path to Surgery**  
Patient Testimonial

**2:30 pm – 2:45 pm** Break / Visit Exhibits

**2:45 pm – 3:15 pm**  
**An Overview of Bariatric Surgery and the role of GLP-1's in weight management**  
Benjamin Clapp, MD

**3:15 pm – 4:15 pm**  
**Food as a Drug? Navigating the Ethical Landscape of Obesity and Addiction** \*CME Ethics  
Kati Duncan, Psy.D

**4:15 pm – 4:30 pm** Evaluation and Adjournment

## October 3, 2025

**Target Audience:** Primary care physicians, internal medicine, surgeons, registered nurses, pharmacists, and other healthcare providers who treat patients with obesity and related conditions and diseases.

### Faculty

**Benjamin Clapp, MD, FACS, FASMBS**  
General Surgery, Bariatric  
Associate Clinical Professor of Surgery  
TTUHSC, El Paso, TX

**Shawn Diamond, MD, FACS**  
Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery  
Dept. of Surgery, TTUHSC El Paso

**Kati Duncan, Psy.D**  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist  
Assessment & Therapy Associates  
Chesapeake, VA

**Paul Estrada, MD**  
Assistant Professor, Gastroenterology and Advanced  
Endoscopy, TTUHSC, El Paso

**Jose Carlos Garcia Blanco, MD**  
Board Certified in Internal Medicine,  
Pulmonology, Sleep Medicine, Critical Care &  
Neuro-Critical Care  
River Valley Pulmonary Consultants

**Chelsea Johnson MS, RD, CSOWM, LD, BCBC**  
Bariatric Coordinator, Clinical Dietician  
Memorial Hermann Cypress Hospital, Cypress, TX

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this activity, participants should be able to:

- Optimize nutritional plans for patients with obesity and those undergoing bariatric surgery to support effective weight management and recovery
- Explain the essential functions of sleep and analyze its connection to obesity
- Describe how obesity contributes to increased cancer risk and identify the underlying mechanisms involved
- Assess the current and future impact of obesity on cardiovascular health
- Explain the role of plastic surgery in body contouring and related procedures following massive weight loss
- Describe the molecular mechanisms underlying obesity and its impact on infertility
- Outline strategies for screening, preventing, and providing comprehensive care for childhood obesity
- Explain the relationship between obesity and orthopedic health, including common musculoskeletal complications
- Learn how weight loss medications can impact overall health in the obese patient
- Discuss the ethical considerations surrounding the use of food as a drug and its implications for obesity and addiction
- Understand the link between obesity and liver disease, including how excess weight contributes to conditions like fatty liver and NASH
- Gain a basic understanding of bariatric surgery options and how GLP-1 medications support weight management

**Chalam Mulukutla, MD**  
Pediatric/Adult Interventional Cardiology  
El Paso Cardiology Associates, P.A.  
El Paso, TX

**Luis Salomon Noble, MD**  
Reproductive and Infertility Endocrinology  
Southwest Center for Reproductive Health  
El Paso, TX

**Vanessa Ruiz, MD, IBCLC, ABOM**  
Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine  
El Paso, TX

**Erick Torres, MD**  
Orthopedic Surgeons Associates  
El Paso, TX

**Evangelia Valilis, MD, MPH**  
Board Certified-Internal Medicine  
Hematology/Oncology  
Texas Oncology, El Paso, TX

## ACCREDITATION AND DESIGNATION

### Physicians:

The Hospitals of Providence is accredited by the Texas Medical Association to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The Hospitals of Providence designates this live activity for a maximum of 7.0 **AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™**. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

The Hospitals of Providence have designated the presentation, “Food as a Drug? Navigating the Ethical Landscape of Obesity and Addiction”, for one credit of education in medical ethics and/or professional responsibility.

### Nursing:

The Hospitals of Providence are approved as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by New Mexico Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

This activity provides up to 7.25 contact hours for the entire conference.

### Other Healthcare Professionals

A certificate of attendance will be provided to other healthcare professionals for requesting credits in accordance with specialty societies or other professional associations.

Attendance will be verified through sign-in rosters at the beginning of the conference day. Participants must attend a minimum of one presentation in its entirety and complete the evaluation. Contact hours will be verified when the evaluation is received.

### LOCATION AND GUIDELINES

The conference will be held at the **Radisson Hotel El Paso Airport, 1770 Airway Blvd. El Paso, TX 79925**. Dress is business casual. We recommend you bring a light jacket or sweater, as the conference room temperature is difficult to regulate. Please, no children allowed.

*The conference planning committee reserves the right to cancel this activity or substitute faculty in the event of unforeseen or extenuating circumstances.*

The Hospitals of Providence wants to provide individuals who have disabilities the appropriate services necessary to participate in this conference. If there is a need for any auxiliary aids/services or dietary needs, please make your request to the Education office at least 48 hours prior to the conference by calling 915-747-2776.

### PLANNING COMMITTEE

**Benjamin Clapp, MD**, Bariatric Surgery  
**Christina Bloodworth, BSN, RN, CBN**, Bariatrics Nursing Manager  
**Christina Castañeda, MSN, RN**, CME/CNE Nurse Planner, Prof. Dev. Educator  
**Kurt Gross**, Group Marketing Director, The Hospitals of Providence  
**Sonia Lopez, DNP, RN**, Director Staff Development  
**Katherine Stoner, BBA**, Marketing Manager