

American Foregut Society Hires Ewald Consulting



The American Foregut Society (AFS) is excited to announce its partnership with Ewald Consulting, a leading association management firm with over 40 years of experience. This collaboration signals an exciting new chapter for AFS as we work to enhance member value, build on our strengths, and advance our mission of promoting excellence in foregut disease care and research.

As part of this transition, we are pleased to share that our current Executive Director Kate Freeman will continue to be a vital part of the AFS leadership team, moving into an advisory role as the Chief Professional Officer. This new role will allow for a continued focus on advancing key professional initiatives and supporting the growth of our Society.

Ewald Consulting brings a wealth of expertise in strategic planning, membership engagement, and program management. Through this partnership, AFS will continue to grow and evolve, offering members enhanced opportunities to connect, learn, and lead within the foregut disease care community.

We look forward to working together to support the AFS community and elevate the Society's impact.

AFS Quality Improvement Project



AFS's Quality Improvement Project is a complimentary benefit to all AFS members. Currently the QIP's focus is to improve outcomes of AntiReflux Procedures by providing members with access to dashboards providing real-time quality of life results. Individual surgeon, collaborative groups, and aggregate results are displayed based on user-selectable parameters (such as size of hernia, indication, baseline QOL metrics, type of antireflux procedure).

The dashboard displaying aggregate results is available regardless of your involvement in contributing to the database, but you must sign up to have access.

That said, there are a few reasons why you (especially surgeons) should contribute to your patients to the database:

1. Ongoing Board Certification requires participation in a quality project or registry. The AFS QIP qualifies.
2. We know how our patients do by following their outcomes long-term. The feedback can be incredibly rewarding(or sometimes a personal growth opportunity.)
 - Baseline and follow-up Quality of Life metrics (the GERD-HRQL, RSI, and other metrics) are emailed/texted to patients at baseline and regular intervals postoperatively.
 - It does take a bit of time to enter some data – really not much once you get the system down.
3. As a Quality Initiative, you can contribute data (including PHI needed for follow-up) without need for an IRB or patient consent.
4. Patients love to know that you participate in a quality improvement project!
5. It's really cool to do this. Yep. It is. Be cool.

To participate, go to afsqip.org and click to request access!

[Request Access to Participate](#)

Hands-on Endobariatric Course!

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

FEBRUARY 28 – MARCH 1, 2025



**REGISTER
HERE**

Over 12 hours of hands on
experience with the leading
experts in the country

PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Dr Mike Ujiki *and*
Dr Barham Abu Dayeesh

Did you hear that Endoscopic Sleeve Gastrectomy has been granted a Cat 1 code?

Join us for an unforgettable Endobariatric hands-on course and get ready for over 12 hours of practical experience with top experts in the field.

Course Directors: Dr. Mike Ujiki & Dr. Barham Abu Dayeesh

Dates: February 28 – March 1, 2025

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your skills and learn from the best!

**2025 Annual Meeting Call for Abstracts
and Registration Opening March 1**



September 11-13, 2025

Better Together
AFS and UGIRA
Gaylord Texan
Dallas, Texas



September 13-14, 2025



Save the Dates for the 2025 Annual Meeting:
September 10-14, 2025
Gaylord Texan in Grapevine, Texas

For 2025, along with an incredible agenda and faculty, UGIRA will join us on Saturday and continue their meeting on Sunday. Collaborating across disciplines and societies to further improve foregut care.

Interested in partnering with the fastest growing foregut society?

[Check out the Prospectus](#)

[Fill out Request Form](#)



WEBINAR

Join Us for the Upcoming AFS Webinar!

Clinical Controversies in GLP-1RA Management: Tips for the Foregut Specialist

Membership Renewal Time

with a case-based review of ITRA clinical controversies that affect the foregut specialist featuring a multi-disciplinary panel of expert clinicians. This will include a discussion of medication management for the post-bariatric surgery and foregut surgery patient with weight gain and

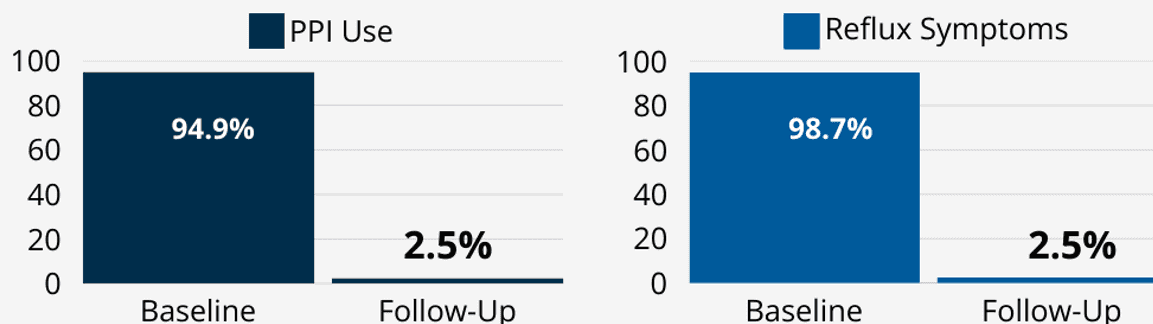


Don't forget to renew your membership!

Don't miss out on everything AFS has to offer in 2025. Renew your membership today if you have not already to continue accessing exclusive educational content, discounted event registrations, and the support of a thriving professional community.

[RENEW TODAY](#)

Industry Spotlight



Lehmann T, Šimkus M, Oehler C. A retrospective study assessing RefluxStop surgery for gastroesophageal reflux disease: Clinical outcomes in 79 patients from Germany. *Surg Open Sci.* 2024 Dec 18;23:9-15. doi: 10.1016/j.sopen.2024.12.003. PMID: 39816697; PMCID: PMC11733044.

RefluxStop® has been used to treat over 1,000 GERD patients in Europe with more to come in 2025. You can see real-world RefluxStop® clinical data in this German study of 79 patients published in the journal, *Surgery Open Science*: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2589845024001398>

RefluxStop® is not available for sale in the US and Canada. Contact Implantica for availability in your region: customer.support@implantica.com

Johnson & Johnson
MedTech

LINX™
Reflux Management System



“Effective January 3, 2025, Humana Medicare Advantage covers LINX™ Reflux Management System, in all states except for Connecticut, Illinois, Maine, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin; for an estimated 4.6 million covered lives.”

This win comes on the heels of Palmetto GBA (Local Medicare Carrier for Fee for Service Medicare Beneficiaries) covering LINX in Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia; for an estimated 4.2 million covered lives. Palmetto GBA’s policy became effective July 14, 2024. BCBS of North Carolina also gave access to LINX for 2.8 million lives in 2024.

Shop the Official Merch Store

Show your AFS pride with professional apparel and gear from our Merchology store. Whether you're in the office, attending a conference, or keeping it casual, you'll find options that let you represent AFS in style. Explore the collection today!

[LET'S GO SHOPPING](#)

TRAINEES APPLY FOR
FREE
AFS MEMBERSHIP

Get a FREE Membership with the AFS Membership Grant!

The AFS Foundation will give a limited number of grants each year to cover AFS membership fee for trainees.

[APPLY HERE](#)

