



Dr. Barry Fisher

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In 1973, following a stint in the US Air Force, Dr. Barry Fisher embarked on a career in general and trauma surgery in Las Vegas, Nevada. He rose to the rank of Clinical Professor in the University of Nevada School of Medicine, and was voted best instructor by the students in 1986. In 1989 he added bariatric surgery to his practice. He introduced gastric bypass in Nevada, and in 1992, accepted the position of associate professor of surgery at the Nevada School of Medicine. Subsequently, he performed the first laparoscopic gastric bypass, and the first Lap Band in the state. He became a Lap Band Proctor, successfully teaching Lap Band surgery. Over time, he developed a technique for performing Lap Gastric Bypass that was safe and easier to teach to residents using a transgastric approach to anvil placement. In Las Vegas, he established Surgical Review Corporation (SRC) certified Bariatric programs at two hospitals. Dr. Fisher and his partners became teachers of Lap gastric bypass to many other surgeons. He was admired and loved by his bariatric patients and when he retired, his patients threw his retirement party. After retirement from active practice, Dr. Fisher served as the Bariatric Program Director at Iasis Healthcare. In addition to

his work in surgery, he served for over 10 years on the board of UPRO, a quality improvement organization.

When Dr. Fisher joined the American Society for Bariatric Surgery (ASBS), a cadre of surgeons were experimenting to find the “best operation” and he, along with others, led the drive to understanding that obesity was a disease that required more than an operation to effect a long term treatment. While at the Nevada School of Medicine, Dr. Fisher was one of the first to pioneer randomized controlled studies in our field. Working with his associates, he added several randomized studies to the bariatric literature and was integral in promoting the importance of a multidisciplinary, cohesive approach to care of the bariatric surgery patient. Additional publications addressed the psychological impact of massive weight loss, the impact of obesity as a causation of esophageal reflux, and the potential role of bariatric surgery in treating reflux. Dr. Fisher served on the editorial review panel of *Obesity Surgery*, and was a critical voice at national meetings, keeping presenters honest. He served on and chaired several committees of American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS). Presently, he is a Metabolic Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program (MBSAQIP) Surveyor, and is called upon to review articles for publication for both Bariatric Surgery journals. A pioneer, Dr. Barry Fisher made bariatric surgery acceptable in Nevada.

Dr. Fisher is married to a certified sex therapist and lives in Las Cruces, New Mexico. His hobbies include flying radio controlled airplanes and enjoying retirement. He also helps his wife run her business which has become very successful.

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