



On behalf of the members of The Obesity Society's Council and Annual Meeting Program Committee, researchers, physicians and other healthcare professionals from around the world are invited to attend our 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting, to be held from October 3 to 7, 2008 at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, AZ. This annual event is the largest conference in North America focusing on obesity research, treatment, and management. Approximately 2,300 scientists, clinicians, industry leaders and policy shapers, including individuals from over 40 countries, will attend this conference to hear the most renowned leaders in the obesity field present cutting-edge research. The education sessions at this meeting (key lectures, debates, symposia, tutorials, and workshops) are organized into one of five tracks: (1) Cell and Molecular Biology; (2) Integrative Biology; (3) Clinical Studies; (4) Population Studies; (5) Clinical/Professional Practice. There will also be oral and poster abstract presentation sessions, during which investigators will present findings from their research studies.

Foreign nationals from some countries must obtain a temporary travel visa (B-1) in order to attend this meeting. This is normally done through the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in their host country. Meeting attendees should visit the US Department of State Business Visa Center, http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_2664.html for detailed instructions on visa application procedures. To assist foreign visitors in obtaining visas, The Obesity Society has registered this conference with the Department of State. A copy of this letter, along with copies of meeting registration and hotel reservation confirmations, will help to speed up the visa application and approval process.

Travel visa applicants are encouraged to apply for as early as possible. The Department of State recommends applying at least 3 months before the meeting. Some consulates may have backlogs in scheduling visa interviews so applicants should first contact the consulate to find out how long the wait is for an interview. Contact the appropriate Consular Section at the Embassy or Consulate at http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/embassies/embassies_1214.html for answers to questions about procedures for scheduling interview appointments, required fees, and more.

In addition to obtaining travel visas, all foreign attendees are fully responsible for the costs of meeting registration, travel, lodging, and related expenses associated with attending this meeting.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert J. Eckrich".

Robert J. Eckrich, MS, MT(ASCP)SBB
Director, Education Programs
The Obesity Society