

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**TALLGRASS SURGICAL CENTER, LLC RECOGNIZED FOR HIGH-QUALITY
CARE
IN BARIATRIC SURGERY**

The ASMBS Designates Tallgrass Surgical Center as a Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence

TOPEKA, KANSAS – Tallgrass Surgical Center, LLC announced today it has been named an American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence®. The ASMBS BSCOE designation recognizes surgical programs with a demonstrated track record of favorable outcomes in bariatric surgery.

According to a report released in 2007 by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the number of bariatric surgeries has grown from 16,000 procedures performed in 1992 to 170,000 performed in 2005. Faced with clinical evidence that the most experienced and best-run bariatric surgery programs have by far the lowest rates of complications, the ASMBS Bariatric Surgery Centers of Excellence program was created to recognize bariatric surgery centers that perform well and to help surgeons, hospitals and centers continue to improve the quality and safety of care provided.

To earn a Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence designation, Tallgrass Surgical Center underwent a series of site inspections during which all aspects of the program's surgical processes were closely examined and data on health outcomes was collected. Tallgrass Surgical Center and other centers receiving a Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence designation agree to continue to share information on clinical pathways, protocols and outcomes data.

“Due to the ever increasing prevalence of morbid obesity and the risks associated with it, we recognize the need to become involved in a systematic approach to improving the health of this patient population,” said Nancy Henry, Administrator. “At Tallgrass Surgical Center, we believe the ASMBS Bariatric Surgery Centers of Excellence program will help us and others achieve this goal.”

Surgical Review Corporation (SRC), an organization dedicated to pursuing surgical excellence, formulates and establishes the rigorous standards with which Tallgrass Surgical Center and other Bariatric Surgery Centers of Excellence must comply, thoroughly inspects and evaluates each candidate for designation, and upon review recommends approval of designation for those physicians and facilities whose practices and outcomes meet the stringent demands set forth by SRC and ASMBS.

Obesity has become a significant national health issue, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reporting 66 percent of all US adults are overweight or obese. Morbid obesity is closely correlated with a number of serious conditions that severely undermine the health of overweight patients, including heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes.

Bariatric surgery, when performed correctly, can help obese patients manage these conditions. By definition, surgeons with ASMBS Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence designation practice only top-quality care, ensuring efficacy of the procedure with each patient to the best of their abilities. At Tallgrass Surgical Center, bariatric surgeons demonstrate this willingness to take the extra step by providing patients with comprehensive pre and post operative education, and personalized attention in a professional, yet warm and friendly environment.

As a pioneering organization, designating Bariatric Surgery Centers of Excellence based on top quality care and efficacious outcomes, the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, with the help of SRC,

is working to align common interests of patients, surgeons, hospitals and insurers, all of whom suffer when complications develop after surgical care.

About American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery

The American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) is the largest society for this specialty in the world. Founded in 1983, foremost American surgeons have formed the society's leadership and have established an excellent organization with educational and support programs for surgeons and allied health professionals. The purpose of the society is to advance the art and science of bariatric surgery by continued encouragement of its members to: pursue investigations in both the clinic and the laboratory; interchange ideas, information and experience pertaining to bariatric surgery; promote guidelines for ethical patient selection and care; develop educational programs for physicians, paramedical persons, and lay people; and promote outcome studies and quality assurance. For more information about ASMBS, go to ASMBS.org.

About Surgical Review Corporation

Surgical Review Corporation (SRC) is an independent, non-profit organization governed by industry stakeholders and dedicated to advancing the safety, efficacy and efficiency of bariatric and metabolic surgical care worldwide. To accelerate best practices development for the treatment of morbid obesity and its associated conditions, SRC launched center of excellence programs for bariatric surgery and developed the Bariatric Outcomes Longitudinal Database (BOLD). SRC has already designated nearly 650 surgeons as well as more than 350 hospitals and freestanding outpatient facilities, and BOLD is now the world's largest repository of clinical bariatric surgery patient data. For more information, visit surgicalreview.org.