



Partnership working for the health of our nation

The focus of the ASO UK Congress on Obesity 2016 (UKCO 2016) is to consider opportunities to improve for joined-up thinking and action on the prevention and management of people who are overweight or obese. Given the modest impact of the past 5 decades of research, policy and practice on the management of overweight and obesity on the prevalence in the UK, how do we improve our approach?

UKCO 2016 will consider research, policy and practice through a critical but constructive lens, and challenge researchers, practitioners and policy-makers to determine how to move forward in productive, respectful partnerships. The programme will include discussion between leading figures from primary care, clinical practice and research, basic and behavioural research, industry, policy, voluntary and community organisations, and advocates. Key questions to be addressed by the programme include:

- How can researchers, practitioners and policy-makers influence and best work with industry?
- How can national guidelines and policy be translated into local policy and action?
- What are the most promising areas for future basic and behavioural research?
- How can the views and experience of people who are overweight or obese influence research, policy and practice?
- Should we be adopting a less weight-centred and more health-centred approach?
- How can researchers and practitioners work effectively with the media and other key influencers to improve the communication of weight related issues?

In addition to international external speakers, UKCO 2016 will also showcase the latest research from delegates via two streams: basic science, and clinical and behavioural science. Early career researchers will find a supportive environment to present their work and develop their dissemination and networking skills.

Further information on speakers and sessions will be available in the New Year, but please save the 19th and 20th of September 2016 in your diary. We look forward to seeing you at Nottingham University – Sutton Bonington Campus for what promises to be an exciting, thought-provoking and constructive event.

With best wishes on behalf of the ASO from the ASO Chair, Professor Pinki Sahota and the local organising committee Dr Judy Anne Swift, Professor Simon Langley-Evans, Dr Moira Taylor, Professor Ian Macdonald and Professor Helen Budge.