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HELP RAISE AWARENESS OF OBESITY – ANNUAL “WALK FROM OBESITY” INVITES PARTICIPANTS TO JOIN A WALK IN THEIR LOCAL AREA

Gainesville, Fla. – On Saturday, September 29, 2007, the American Society for Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) Foundation and Obesity Action Coalition (OAC) are set to host the 2007 “Walk *from* Obesity” in more than 70 cities across the United States.

This weekend, those affected by the disease of obesity will join forces and walk to raise money for education, research, advocacy, prevention and treatment of obesity. This year’s Walk invites friends, family members, colleagues and supporters of those who are affected to join together in taking steps toward a healthier life.

“The ‘Walk *from* Obesity’ will greatly demonstrate the proactive voice of the obesity community. Many Walk participants are seeking access to safe and effective obesity treatment options. Unfortunately, these treatments are difficult to access and often lead to patient frustration. Proceeds from the Walk benefit research, education and advocacy efforts to improve access to care and raise awareness of this disease,” said Joseph Nadglowski, Jr., ASMBS Foundation Executive Director.

The cost to participate and show your support of the Walk is \$25. The funds raised through this event support the ASMBS Foundation and OAC’s independent educational missions and fund programs focused on research, education and advocacy for all those affected by obesity. To register for a “Walk *from* Obesity” in your area, please visit www.walkfromobesity.com.

In 2006, the “Walk *from* Obesity” raised more than \$600,000 and more than 5,000 individuals attended the event across the United States. To date, the “Walk *from* Obesity” has raised more than \$2.2 million nationwide.

The ASMBS Foundation and OAC are proud to recognize the 2007 national “Walk *from* Obesity” sponsors: Platinum Sponsors: Covidien; and Ethicon Endo-Surgery; Gold Sponsor: Allergan; Bronze Sponsors: Bariatric Advantage; ON-Q PainBuster; and JourneyLite.

The ASMBS Foundation and Obesity Action Coalition’s “Walk from Obesity” was established in 2003 to give hope to those needing it most. Walkers raise money by asking friends, family, and co-workers to sponsor them. In addition to walker income, funds are raised through sponsorship, matching gifts, corporate contributions and other fundraising activities.

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