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## **First Indian Hospital and Surgeons Awarded International Center of Excellence for Bariatric Surgery Designation**

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*First Indian Designees Join SRC's Global Network of Providers Dedicated to High-Quality Patient Care*

Mumbai, India, March 22, 2011

The Surgical Review Corporation (SRC), an independent, nonprofit organization that advances the safety, efficacy and efficiency of bariatric and metabolic surgery, announced the first International Center of Excellence for Bariatric Surgery™ (ICE) designee in India. The ICE designation is awarded simultaneously to individual surgeons and the facility in which they perform bariatric procedures.

On 12<sup>th</sup> March 2011 this status was jointly awarded to the Department of Minimal Access and [Bariatric Surgery](#) at Saifee Hospital in Mumbai, Center for Obesity and Diabetes Surgery and the surgeons [Dr. Muffazal Lakdawala](#) and [Dr. Aparna Bhasker](#). The designees successfully met the program's comprehensive requirements, and completed the rigorous review and site inspection process required for ICE designation.

Saifee Hospital is reputed for its commitment to providing safe, quality and affordable healthcare for the Indian as well as overseas patients. In his capacity as the Head of Department of Minimal Access and Bariatric Surgery Dr. Lakdawala has provided world class bariatric care to more than 1000 patients. He serves as the Chairman of the IFSO Position Statement Committee, is a Board member of the Asian Endosurgery Task Force and is the Vice President of Obesity Surgery Society of India. One of Asia's leading laparoscopic and bariatric surgeons, Dr. Lakdawala enjoys the distinction of having conducted live [bariatric surgical workshops](#) in almost every country in Asia and Middle East. He is also credited with the creation and publication of new guidelines for [bariatric/metabolic surgery](#) that are specific to the Asian genotype.

Dr. Aparna Bhasker is the [youngest female bariatric surgeon](#) from Asia credited with heading an all women clinic in India and having performed the largest series of single incision bariatric procedures in Asia.

"Receiving this important distinction is a remarkable achievement and a testimony to the hard work and dedication of our bariatric team and hospital," said Dr. Lakdawala. "Achieving ICE designation strengthens our department's acceptability across the globe and the BOLD database will be instrumental in showcasing the good work being done in India and Asia in the field of bariatric and metabolic surgery."

To support center of excellence program compliance and quality improvement in patient care, SRC has developed BOLD, a longitudinal outcomes database. BOLD is now the world's largest repository of clinical patient data for the bariatric surgery specialty. As participants in the program, the designees will contribute valuable clinical data on various patient populations, interventions and care options which help to advance industry best practices.

"We are proud to acknowledge our first ICE designees in India," said Dr. Raul Rosenthal, Chairman of the IBSRC and a bariatric surgeon at Cleveland Clinic in Weston, Florida. "In receiving designation, these providers join an elite group of more than 600 facilities and 1,100 surgeons world- wide committed to patient safety, quality care and the long-term health benefits of bariatric surgery. We value their dedication to excellence and welcome their important contributions to the specialty."



## PRESS RELEASE

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### About CODS India

The [Centre for Obesity and Diabetes Surgery](http://www.codsindia.com) (CODS) is an organization that is dedicated to treating obesity and spreading awareness about its causes and ill effects. Spearheaded by Dr. Muffazal Lakdawala and Ms Priyanka Kaul, CODS has the distinction of having performed one of the largest series of [laparoscopic](#) and single incision metabolic and [bariatric](#) (weight-loss) surgeries across the country. CODS comprises a panel of medical and management professionals as well as super specialized surgeons whose sole aim is to deliver comprehensive and holistic solutions for non-surgical as well as surgical weight loss and weight management. CODS is the proud recipient of the first Bariatric Center of Excellence (COE) designation in India; this validates our commitment to providing the safest and highest quality of care to our patient population.

For more information, please visit [www.codsindia.com](http://www.codsindia.com)

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