The Obesity and Comorbidities Research Center's (OCRC) main objective is to coordinate efforts to find solutions for obesity, which is highly associated with a number of diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, atherosclerosis and certain types of cancer. Because of the absolute lack of appropriate preventive and therapeutic approaches to deal with obesity, the overall mortality directly and indirectly associated with this disease is rapidly increasing across the world.

Obesity affects more than 400 million people worldwide, and projections for the next 15 years predict an overall prevalence of up to 20%. In developing countries such as Brazil, the rapid nutritional transition provided by recent economic growth has led to a unique condition in which the malnourished persist in parallel with an increasing number of obese subjects. It is expected that by the year 2020, up to 20% of Brazilians will be obese and approximately 50% overweight.

Obesity results from an imbalance between caloric intake and energy expenditure. Although great advances were recently obtained in the characterization of the mechanisms that control feeding and thermogenesis, the complexity of the neural circuits that guide these functions and the difficulties imposed by anatomical constrains to study the human hypothalamus have hampered the rapid advance of treatments for obesity. The OCRC has put together some of the most productive Brazilian scientists in these fields to advance the understanding of the mechanisms leading to obesity and its associated diseases. In addition, the search for new pharmacological, nutritional and physical activity approaches to deal with these conditions will be pursued.

The OCRC will invest in the education of high-school students and senior citizens regarding preventive and screening methods for early detection of obesity associated diseases. In addition, the RIDC will foster programs for improving the education of undergraduate students in the field of nutrition and increasing interest for research in these fields.

OCRC staff will be in contact with industry and other potential users of the knowledge and products obtained to speed up the transfer of knowledge to society.
Host Institution
State University of Campinas (UNICAMP)

Associated Institutions
Heart Institute, University of São Paulo (INCOR-USP)
São Paulo State University (UNESP)

Principal Investigator
Licio Augusto Velloso, UNICAMP

Education and Knowledge Diffusion Coordinator
Ronaldo Aloise Pilli, UNICAMP

Technology Transfer Coordinator
João Eduardo de Morais Pinto Furtado, USP

Co-Principal Investigators
Aníbal Eugênio Vercesi, UNICAMP
Antonio Carlos Boschero, UNICAMP
Carlos Eduardo Negrão, INCOR-USP
Everardo Magalhães Carneiro, UNICAMP
Heitor Moreno Junior, UNICAMP
Helena Coutinho Franco de Oliveira, UNICAMP
Heraldo Possolo de Souza, USP
José Antonio Rocha Gontijo, UNICAMP
José Barreto Campello Carvalheira, UNICAMP
Mario José Abdalla Saad, UNICAMP
Ronaldo Aloise Pilli, UNICAMP
Silvana Auxiliadora Bordin da Silva, USP
Wilson Nadruz Junior, UNICAMP

Associated Researchers
Adriana Souza Torsoni, UNICAMP
Dennys Esper Corrêa Cintra, UNICAMP
Eduardo Rochete Ropelle, UNICAMP
Eliana Pereira de Araujo, UNICAMP
Fernando Cendes, UNICAMP
Gabriel Forato Anhê, UNICAMP
Ivani Credidio Trombetta, INCOR-USP
Lígia de Moraes Antunes Corrêa
Marciane Milanski, UNICAMP
Marcio Alberto Torsoni, UNICAMP
Patrícia Aline Boer, UNESP
Patrícia de Oliveira Prada, UNICAMP