



IDF-Europe

Newsletter IDF-Europe no.5

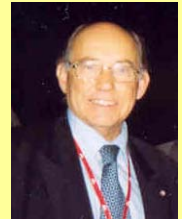
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Letter from the President of IDF Europe

It is with great joy that I can tell you that the last Newsletter was translated (for the first time) into Russian, with special thanks to Marina Akhmedova. The past few months we have been busy with the preparations for:

- Our yearly General Assembly and Together We Are Stronger (TWAS) Meeting, this time on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th of October 2004 in Otočec in Slovenia
- A meeting of the EEC countries Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Ukraine on the 16th, 17th and 18th of April 2004 in Baku (Azerbaijan)
- A first meeting of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia on the 21st, 22nd and 23rd of May 2004 in Brussels. These countries will enter the European Union in 2004. It is our intention that meetings of these Central European countries will take place twice a year.



In February we welcomed LifeScan as a new Corporate Partner of IDF Europe, and we trust that we will be able to establish a good and positive relationship with LifeScan on behalf of people with diabetes.

In the second quarter of 2004 we will begin a series of education workshops in different countries throughout Europe. The overall objective will be to push the development and implementation of National Diabetes Programmes (NDP's).

Special attention has been and will be given to possibilities for IDF Europe in the programmes of the European Union in the field of discrimination and public health. We will involve our member associations and help each other to pursue our goals. Quality of life for people with diabetes should be much higher on the agenda of the European Union. Let us work together and focus on these issues.

Dr Wim Wientjens
President IDF Europe

EU Affairs

➤ EC Proposal on Services Published

The European Commission has published a proposal for directives to liberalize services across the EU. DG Internal Market's proposal would require Member States to remove restrictions on service provision unless the specific requirements can be justified to the EU and the European Court of Justice. The proposal covers the removal of barriers to the provision of healthcare services and also affects healthcare professionals. The proposal now moves to the European Parliament and to the European Council for the co-decision process. For more information visit: <http://www.epha.org/a/996>

IDF-Europe Regional News

➤ EURADIA

A meeting was held between IDF-Europe and The European Research Area in Diabetes (EURADIA) in January. EURADIA have launched a new website www.euradia.org plus have a new logo. A Diabetes Research Day complementing the Diabetes Week organized by IDF-Europe will be held in November 2004, under the auspices of the European Commission, EASD and EURADIA.



➤ **IDF-Europe and EASD meeting**

A meeting was held on 20 January in Düsseldorf, Germany to discuss the collaboration of IDF-Europe and the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD). To strengthen the ties between the two organizations, the President of IDF-Europe will also be a member of the Council of EASD. The possibility of holding a European Diabetes Association Exhibition at the next EASD meeting in September was also discussed. (The photo shows participants of the meeting pointing at the portraits of two past Presidents of EASD, Professor Pierre Lefèbvre and Professor Sir George Alberti).

IDF-Europe Association News

◆ **The Association Française des Diabétiques (AFD)** has celebrated the 5th year of its telephone hotline, 'allo diabète', a service for people wanting information about diabetes serviced by diabetes professionals. The hotline receives about 1000 calls a month, and is open from Monday to Friday 9.00-18.00 on 00 33 1 40 096 809. For more information, visit www.afd.asso.fr



◆ **The Associazione Italiana Diabetici (FAND)** is building a Primary School, place Porò, in the diocese of Maralal in Kenya (Africa). Three classrooms are ready and the other ones will be finished as soon as possible. The project foresees eight classrooms, several offices, a meeting room, a kitchen, a dining-hall and a surgery. The school will be dedicated to Dr. Roberto Lombardi, founder of FAND.

◆ **The Association of Diabetic Patients of Slovakia** along with assistance from people with diabetes in Martin, Slovakia has released the new issue of 'DIAMART', the bulletin of the association. The magazine contains health and legal problems faced by people with diabetes, tips for parents of children with diabetes and information on diabetic complications, as well as recipes, quizzes and interviews with celebrities who have diabetes. For more information contact aopp@aopp.sk

◆ **The Diabetes Association of Serbia and Montenegro** has made a series of 24 TV programmes on diabetes which will be broadcast on all television stations in Serbia, Montenegro and Republica Srpska (part of Bosnia) twice a month throughout the year. It is estimated that half a million people will be viewing these programmes. For more information contact beljic@bitsyu.net



◆ **The Dutch Diabetes Association (DVN)**, represented by its President Dr Wim Wientjens attended the launch of the Dutch National Diabetes Programme in February. The programme, which is scheduled to last until 2008, will focus on diabetes as one of the three prime targets of the prevention policy of Minister Hans Hoogervorst from the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport who took part in the blood glucose screening events held to celebrate the event. For more information contact dvn@diabeteshuis.nl

◆ **The Georgian Diabetes Centre**, represented by Prof Ramaz Kurashvili, took part in the Presidential Inauguration of Georgia on 25 January. Prof. Kurashvili gave a talk about the fight for a better life for people with diabetes. Mr. Michael Saakashvili, the President of Georgia, (shown with Prof Kurashvili in the photo) emphasized the message, showing his support for all people with diabetes in the world. For more information contact diabet@access.sanet.ge





◆ **The Hellenic Diabetes Federation (HDF)** will hold its 5th Panhellenic Conference on 16-17 October 2004 in Eretria, Evia Greece. For more information, contact mlioulia@rae.gr

◆ **The Israel Diabetes Association**, together with the National Ministry of Health, have set up a National Diabetes Council in Israel. The Council will consolidate a comprehensive plan equipped to address the growing problem of diabetes in Israel, and will promote diabetes research. The Council is funded by the Ministry of Health and some of the activities will be carried out with assistance from a team from the Health Ministry. For more information, contact diabetes@netvision.net.il

◆ **The Lithuanian Diabetes Association (LDA)** celebrated World Diabetes Day by publishing information in national newspapers about diabetes and holding blood glucose tests. Around 12.5% of people tested had abnormal blood glucose levels and were advised to see their doctors. At the end of February 2004, the LDA will hold the 'Strategy of Prevention of Diabetes and its Complications' conference, in which representatives from the Ministry of Health will take part. For more information please visit www.is.lt/diabetas



◆ **The Norwegian Diabetes Association** have released a new website designed for children with diabetes. The site contains information about diabetes as well as educational games and quizzes. The website is available at www.dialek.no

◆ **The Portuguese Diabetes Association** held the 3rd Congress of Educators in Diabetes last November in Lisbon. The programme contained workshops and plenary sessions coordinated by specialists on the subject, and was attended by over 300 participants.



In addition, a group of research physicians led by Prof. Paula Macedo with the participation of the Endocrinology Service from



the Portuguese Institute of Oncology and the Portuguese Diabetes Association were distinguished with the Ernesto Roma–Roche Diagnostics Award for identifying a hormone (HISS) released by the liver which is responsible for around 50% of insulin action at peripheral level. The photo shows from left to right: Dr Pedro Gonçalves (Roche Diagnostics) and the three winners of the Ernesto Roma Award, Prof Dra Paula Macedo, Dr Ricardo Afonso and Dra Rita Patarrão. For more information, contact diabetes@apdp.pt

◆ **The Latvian Diabetes Federation**, an umbrella organization of 16 regional diabetes associations in Latvia, is applying to become a member association of IDF. The Federation is a non-governmental organization which organizes training programmes for association members, publishes diabetes awareness material and gives practical support and diabetes equipment to people with diabetes. They have been active members in the Baltic Diabetes network since 1998 and have created a partnership with the Lithuania Diabetes Association. For more information, visit www.diabetes.lv

◆ **The Società Italiana di Diabetologia (SID)** regrets to announce that its President, Prof. Umberto Di Mario died recently. Despite the disease, Prof. Di Mario committed his time admirably to teaching at the University of Rome and giving support to SID.

➤ **Next IDF- Europe Annual Meeting 2004**

The next General Assembly Meeting (GAM) and the Together We Are Stronger conference (TWAS) will take place on 22-24 October 2004 in Otočec, Slovenia. For more information, visit www.diabetes-zveza.si

If you have any diabetes related news that you would like to share with the rest of IDF-Europe, please send us the information either by e-mail to info@idf-europe.org or fax + 32 2 537 1981 and we shall be pleased to include it in our next newsletters.