



IDF-Europe

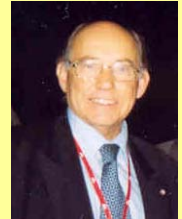
Newsletter IDF-Europe no.7

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Letter from the President of IDF-Europe:

Since the last Newsletter, two important sporting events have been held in Europe - the Euro 2004 football championships in Portugal and the Olympic Games in Greece. These events are not only tremendous entertainment, but they also reflect the brilliance and skill of individual and team achievement. Watching the team events in particular, one thing seemed significant. Each match always started with 0-0 - everybody started from an equal position. And from that starting point everybody had to take their chances, everybody had to defend themselves against attack. This is the case in living with diabetes. Every morning you start at 0-0, at zero. Every day you must assess the risks and monitor your behaviour accordingly. Every day you must protect yourself against possible problems.



More importantly, you will never win the match on your own. You can bring in your techniques, your tactics, and your discipline, but you need support as well – from the other team players, from your coach, from the public. As is the case with diabetes – you can do well coping on your own but you also need assistance from healthcare professionals, from your family, and of course, from all the volunteers within our member associations of IDF Europe.

There have also recently been major developments within the European Union. Ten new countries entered the European Union at the first of May 2004: Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. IDF Europe organized a 'Diabetes Experts Panel' from these 'Accessing Countries' in Brussels at the end of May (the first DEPAC-meeting). The diabetes associations of DEPAC will try to meet each other twice a year.

In June, the 25 countries of the enlarged European Union elected a new European Parliament. We are checking now which Members of the European Parliament are especially interested in diabetes. And last but not least, the new European Commission was selected in August. The new Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection is Mr. Markos Kyprianou from Cyprus.

Hope to see you all in Slovenia at our General Assembly and the 'Together We Are Stronger' meetings at the end of October 2004.

Dr. Wim Wientjens
Chair IDF-Europe

IDF-Europe Association News



◆ **The Association of Diabetic Patients of Slovakia** held several 'diabetic day' awareness events in May. The events were attended by 700 people and involved symposiums, lectures and exhibitions, and were widely publicised by the media. The Association also recently held a meeting of insulin pump manufacturers and insulin pump users, which followed a successful bike tour. For more information, contact bukovska@mfn.sk



◆ **The Association Française des Diabétiques (AFD)** recently announced that since 1998, they have raised 1,682,256 euros, becoming the principal private organization to finance research into diabetes in France. For more information contact afd@afd.asso.fr

◆ **The Croatian Diabetes Association (CDA)** is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Different events are taking place to mark the occasion throughout the whole of 2004. As part of these events, the Association recently organized a 'healthy food week', which was attended by President Stjepan Mesić. The CDA has also made a 'diabetes flag', which will travel with the Association around the country, to be signed by people with diabetes. It will be displayed at the final celebration in Varaždin this December. For more information, contact diabetes@diabetes.hr



◆ **The Diabetes Association of Serbia and Montenegro** held a summer camp for elderly people with diabetes in July. The camp took place in the Tara Mountains, and was a very successful event. For more information, contact Dr Teodora Beljic on beljic@bitsyu.net

◆ **Diabetes UK** held 'Diabetes Week', the main annual awareness campaign of Diabetes UK this June. It was their most successful event ever, with over 250,000 people taking part. Many of the 430 diabetes-related voluntary groups around the UK took part in the events.

Activities included sponsored walks, 't for d' tea parties, and many schools raised funds by holding 'wear denim for diabetes' sponsored days.

During Diabetes Week, Diabetes UK published a news story about one of only two people in the UK who has had an islet cell transplantation operation. Mary Jenkins, who has had type 1 diabetes for 38 years had the operation at Kings College Hospital in London. As a result, her diabetes is now controlled with just four units of insulin a day. For more information, contact info@diabetes.org.uk



◆ **The European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD)** will take place in Munich, Germany from 5-9 September 2004. IDF will have a stand, giving out publications and promoting the 19th World Diabetes Congress, so do come and visit us. The EASD 5km Run/Walk for Life for a Child, in memory of Leonard Thompson, is taking place on 7 September. For more information, contact Thomas Hickmann at trihicki@aol.com

◆ **The Georgian Diabetes Centre** has held several symposia and workshops during the last few months. The workshops were focused on different aspects of diabetes: diabetes and cardiovascular disease, diabetes and depression, diabetes and irritable bowel syndrome and the place of insulin analogues in combination therapy. It is hoped that through increasing the knowledge of physicians about diabetes, the quality of diabetes care in Georgia will improve. The Centre has also just launched the sixth issue of its magazine, focussing on women, diabetes and post-menopause. For more information, contact Elena Shelestova on diabet@accesss.sanet.ge



◆ **The Maltese Diabetes Association**, led by its President Ms. Anna Zammit McKeon recently paid a visit to His Excellency Dr Edward Fenech Adami at the Presidential Palace in Valletta, Malta. (See photo). Ms McKeon congratulated the President on his recent



election as Head of State, and updated him on the Association's activities and events. She also emphasised that any expenditure on preventing diabetes was a wise investment, since diabetes will pose an increased financial burden for the government in the future. For more information contact info@diabetesmalta.org

◆ **The Norwegian Diabetes Association** is calling for action from politicians to make a bigger effort in directing money for investment in diabetes research and providing better health care, on the revelation by the journal of the Norwegian Medical Association that there are far more people with diabetes in Norway than was previously thought. It is now estimated that over 200,000 people have diabetes in Norway. The vast majority of these have type 2 diabetes. For more information contact norges.diabetesforbund@diabetes.no

◆ **The Portuguese Diabetes Association** organized the fifth workshop on therapeutic education in chronic disease at the end of May. The theme of the workshop was 'feeling the patient's perspective'. Over sixty people participated in the workshop, which followed the routines of patients with a chronic disease for twenty-four hours and discussed their experiences. The Association is also expanding its offices, due to an increased demand for their clinical services and other activities. The new offices should be ready by 2005. For more information, contact diabetes@apdp.pt

◆ **The Ukrainian Diabetic Federation** has recently established a regional branch in the Cherkassy area of Ukraine. It is run by Lyudmila Makarenko, (see photo, holding two of her six grandchildren), a 62 years old woman who has had diabetes for a remarkable 53 years. The branch has been involved in the 'Diamarathon' diabetes awareness campaign in Ukraine, where people have been invited to have their blood glucose tested. Lectures on the important of a healthy diet and the distribution of diabetes information leaflets have also been given in the region. For more information, contact ocheret04@online.com.ua



Other News

◆ **D Cure-Diabetes Care in Israel (R.A)**, is a recently established non-profit organization that aims to advance basic and clinical research into diabetes in Israel. It has currently raised \$14,000,000 and plans to raise up to \$28,000,000 to promote research into type 1 and type 2 diabetes, and to establish centres of excellence for diabetes care and stem cell research throughout Israel. The formal inauguration of this organization was made at the President of Israel's residence and caused a lot of media interest throughout Israel. The organization has already started collaborating with investigators in Europe and the United States. D Cure is a breakthrough in the state of diabetes care and research in Israel and will instigate the national council policy for diabetes that has been recommended by IDF-Europe. For more information, contact Itamar Raz on ntv502@netvision.net.il

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

Following the invitation from the Slovenian Diabetes Association, IDF-Europe will hold its General Assembly (GA) and the 'Together We Are Stronger' conference (TWAS) on 22-24 October 2004 in Slovenia. More information will follow.

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 newsletter@idf.org or fax + 32 2 537 1981 and we shall be pleased to include it in our next newsletters.

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