



International Diabetes Federation

IDF Europe Newsletter

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Message from the President

Mr Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations once said: "In many cases, governments only find the courage and resources to do the right thing when business takes the lead." This also applies to the activities of the European Region of the International Diabetes Federation. We have and maintain good relations with our industry partners. As from this year we are holding meetings with all our corporate partners twice a year. In addition, we take the opportunities that arise for individual meetings with our partners. It is very encouraging that we can introduce Nutrition & Santé as our latest corporate partner. They joined us just before this newsletter was sent to you.



In every country, the diabetes healthcare system is under great pressure. Some countries are working on a complete re-engineering of their system, with tasks re-allocated or divided between healthcare professionals. It is a pity that we must conclude that people with diabetes themselves are often organized insufficiently into only one or two strong and country-wide associations. Sometimes it is even worse, and we see that two or more existing organizations compete or conflict with each other within one country. For this reason, the Board has taken the decision that diabetes representative organizations who are not yet members of IDF will be invited to join our meetings as observers.

On June 1-2, an excellent international symposium on the diabetic foot was held in Moscow, involving top specialists from all over the world. On the first day, a press conference was held within the framework of IDF's World Diabetes Day 2005 campaign "Diabetes and Foot Care: Time to Act". Stark facts such as 'somewhere in the world, a leg is lost to diabetes every 30 seconds' and 'it is estimated that up to 85% of amputations could be avoided' had quite an impact on the audience and participants.

It was a great honour for IDF Europe that we were able to present the ideas of IDF at the 15th AMD (Associazione Medici Diabetologi) Congress in Genoa, Italy and at the 3rd Diabetology Congress of the Croatian Diabetes Association in Zadar, Croatia.

Finally, I would like to mention that the IDF European Region is providing strong input into the programme for the 19th IDF World Diabetes Congress in Cape Town next year.

Dr Wim Wientjens
President IDF Europe

EU Affairs

- ◆ The continuing work of IDF Europe with both the EU Commission and with individual Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and member states has helped ensure that the level of awareness of diabetes issues remains high. Meetings have been held with Commission officials and IDF Europe has received a great deal of support for its work towards an EU Health Council Recommendation on Diabetes. There is still a long way to go but if all member associations of IDF Europe raised the importance to public health of the diabetes epidemic, then ultimately action would be seen by the EU authorities. In June there will be the first meeting of the new Parliament's Diabetes Working Group chaired by John Bowis MEP and IDF Europe intends to have diabetes on the agenda of the EU Health Conferences that will be organized during the UK and Austrian Presidencies.
- ◆ During the recent meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, a motion for a recommendation was presented regarding a European Framework for Diabetes. The motion calls for the Council of Europe to take immediate steps to develop a European Recommendation for Diabetes Prevention, Diagnosis and Control in cooperation with WHO, the EU and IDF Europe. The full motion can be accessed on the Council of Europe website at <http://assembly.coe.int>

IDF Europe Regional News



- ◆ **3rd EEC meeting, Minsk (Belarus)** - The third Eastern European Countries (EEC) meeting was held in Minsk (Belarus) on April 22-24. The event, very well organized by the Belarus Diabetes Association with the support of the East European Branch of Novo Nordisk A/S, was a big success. Topics discussed included: the outline of the new IDF strategy (Prof Martin Silink, IDF President-Elect); the prevention of type 2 diabetes (Dr Liisa Hiltunen, Finland); effective lobbying (Anja Strootker, IDF Europe consultant); the implementation of the IPA model law; diabetes care in rural areas – survey results and discussions (Dr Tony O'Sullivan); an update of pediatric diabetes care (Prof Martin Silink and Dr Valentina Peterkova); and the Dawn Programme (Oksana Bereznyak, Novo Nordisk). Participants (pictured right, outside the Charity House in Minsk) came from Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Ukraine, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. The fourth EEC meeting will be held in Tbilisi, Georgia, on April 29-30 2006.
- ◆ **3rd DEPAC meeting, Crakow (Poland)** - The 3rd Diabetes Experts' Panel from Accessing Countries (DEPAC) meeting was held on April 14-16 in Crakow (Poland). Some 23 representatives from IDF Europe member associations in Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine participated in the conference. Presentations from the various organizations for people with diabetes were made, and the preliminary results of the survey on diabetes control in Central and Eastern Europe and the

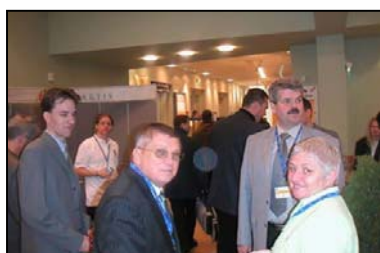
development of Action Plans were discussed. The next DEPAAC meeting will be held in early November 2005 in Prague (Czech Republic).

IDF Europe Association News

- ◆ In Cyprus, the **Cyprus Diabetes Association** held its General Assembly on March 27 during which the members of the Board were selected. Recent activities of the association have included public awareness campaigns through the media, lectures and blood glucose screenings in several villages, sports events for adolescents (pictured right), and collaboration with the Ministry of Health in the development of guidelines for diabetes clinics.



- ◆ In France, **AFD Diasport**, a member of the **French Diabetes Association (AFD)**, recently celebrated the end of a successful two-year project aimed at providing diabetes education for health and social workers in Russia. The project formed part of the French "Pyrenees Volga" network, which develops medical projects in Russia.



- ◆ In Hungary, the **Hungarian Diabetes Association** organized one of its two biannual Regional Meetings on March 4-6 in the city of Keszthely. The West-Hungary meeting attracted over 500 participants and consisted of symposiums covering the whole spectrum of diabetology.

- ◆ In Italy, the Diabetes Awareness and Prevention Campaign launched in November last year and carried out by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with **FAND – Associazione Italiana Diabetici** and other diabetes associations continues during the months of May and June. Awareness-raising posters have been displayed on public buses in major cities as well as in service stations along motor-ways around the country.

- ◆ In Lithuania, the **Lithuanian Diabetes Association (LDA)** presented the results of HbA1c tests that were carried out throughout the country in 2004-2005. Over 500 people were tested in twelve towns and cities. Future activities of the LDA include their VI Congress, that will take place in Vilnius on June 10, and a series of educational camps for children and adolescents with diabetes that will be organized in two cities throughout the summer.



- ◆ In the Netherlands, the **Dutch Diabetes Association (DVN)** celebrated its 60th anniversary with a one-day event in Amsterdam on May 28. Some 3.500 people attended the celebration which consisted of a variety of activities for members of the DVN and their families. These included a Diabetes Museum, line-dancing for senior members of the DVN, and a golf-simulator. Special guests included former Miss America and global diabetes advocate

Nicole Johnson Baker (pictured left), who, together with outgoing DVN President Dr Wim Wientjens, presented an award to people who have been living with diabetes for 60 years. The event was a great success and the DVN was praised for its activities in favour of people with diabetes. Former government minister Rogier van Boxtel acknowledged the important role that the DVN can play in the new Dutch health-care system.

- In Serbia and Montenegro, the Ministry of Health and the **Diabetes Association of Serbia and Montenegro** launched a 4-month campaign that will inform and educate medical personnel and organizations for people with diabetes about the introduction of U-100 insulin in the country. In addition, the seventh edition of DiaBeta – an annual exhibition of products for people with diabetes - was organized.



- In Turkey, the **Turkish Diabetes Foundation (TDF)** organized a blood glucose screening and a measurement of Body Mass Index (BMI) in the Turkish Parliament. Some 1073 people were tested, among them the Turkish Prime Minister (pictured left). Over 85% of Members of Parliament were found to be overweight and 9% had high blood glucose levels. The TDF and the President of the Parliament emphasized the importance of early diagnosis and prevention strategies.



- In the UK, **Diabetes UK** recently held their Annual Professional Conference in Glasgow, which attracted over 3,000 delegates. Research results on inhaled insulin and obesity and type 2 diabetes in the UK were showcased during the event. Diabetes UK also recently launched 'Action today, health tomorrow', a campaign aimed at addressing serious problems in diabetes care in the country. Press releases on the above topics can be viewed at www.diabetes.org.uk.

Other News

- In the UK, the inaugural national conference of the Primary Care Diabetes Society (PCDS) will be held at The Belfry in Warwickshire from 11-12 November 2005. The conference, organised in association with Diabetes & Primary Care Journal, is entitled 'Diabetes care delivery in a changing world: translating theory into day-to-day practice'. Through state-of-the-art lectures, clinical updates and master-classes, the programme will focus on the impact of clinical, political and educational developments on the future of primary diabetes care. The conference is aimed at all healthcare professionals who wish to improve primary diabetes care, including GPs, practice nurses, dieticians, pharmacists, podiatrists, and community nurses.

To apply for a booking form please contact Suzanne Sinclair at SB Communications Group, publishers of Diabetes & Primary Care journal, on +44 207 627 1510 or

suzanne@sbcommunicationsgroup.com. The conference programme and booking form are also available online at www.sbcommunicationsgroup.com/conferences/primarycare

- ✦ SAGE publications has recently published the first issue of 'The Diabetes Educator', the official journal of the American Association of Diabetes Educators (AADE). The bi-monthly journal is intended to serve as a reference source for the science and art of diabetes management. For more information, visit <http://tde.sagepub.com>



For over 30 years, Servier has been a leading partner in the field of diabetes research, with partnerships with leading diabetes associations such as:

IDF, IDF-Europe, EASD, The Diabetes Education Study Group, The Mediterranean Group for the Study of Diabetes, The European Union Geriatric Medicine Society and the International Group of Insulin Secretion.

In addition, Servier collaborates with the European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes (EFSD) in a Research Grant Programme, and with the University of Padova for the Morgagni Prize.

Servier also endows the Robert Turner Professorship in Diabetic Medicine at Oxford University.

If you have any diabetes related news that you would like to share with IDF Europe, please send us the information either by e-mail (newsletter@idf-europe.org) or Fax (+32 2 5371981) and we shall be pleased to include it in our next newsletters.

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