



International Diabetes Federation
European Region

IDF Europe Newsletter

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Message from the President

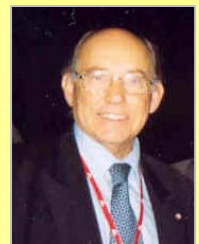
It is a very positive signal for the IDF European region that two Chairs in succession will be people living with diabetes. Even though I am also a doctor, I intend to play to my own strengths and that of an excellent and varied board in the coming years. Thanks to the kind support of Wim Wientjens, some of my key concerns are already being addressed. I wish to focus on association development in all parts of the region, and we have already started this by offering a development course in Warsaw for Eastern European associations, followed by a competition for modest development grants. This procedure will be replicated in 2007 and we intend to offer the course to Central European associations in Dublin this September. We will continue to develop our meetings to ensure they leave their mark on your activities and outcomes. In addition to this, we have now employed an Association Development Officer, Cristian Andricuc, who will bring all our member associations closer to IDF Europe and guide our future direction.



I am a general practitioner, and I believe there is a need to offer support to professionals working in primary care, where a majority of people with diabetes receive their care in most European countries. To achieve this we are already increasing our partnerships with all professional groups in Europe. An important requirement for future success is unity, between patient and professional associations at the national level, and of course it falls to IDF Europe to set the example at the European level. Lack of unity between different groups within a country is harmful to the cause of people with diabetes, so IDF Europe will do everything possible to encourage and support a more unified approach in all countries in the region. I look forward to the next three years, and to meeting you all in Dublin in September, and I want to take another opportunity to thank Wim Wientjens for his leadership and his example in defeating his diabetes, and wish him well in his new role as IDF Vice-President.

Tony O'Sullivan - President IDF Europe 2006-2009

After being President of the IDF European Region for the last three years, I would like to thank all of you for everything that you have done, with such belief and energy, for diabetes. So many activities have taken place, organized by people with diabetes, healthcare professionals, and our corporate partners. A strong feeling of togetherness has characterised this past triennium, and it has been very exciting for me to see how IDF Europe has become increasingly respected in many countries. I have made many good friends during my time as President, and so it is with a mixture of happiness and sadness that I wish Tony, Eberhard, the other Board members, the office, and our consultants all the very best for the years ahead. Stay positive!



Wim Wientjens - President IDF Europe 2003-2006

IDF Europe Regional News

- IDF Europe has appointed **Cristian Andriciuc** as its Association Development Officer, starting February 1st 2007. Cristian is from Romania and has spent 13 years working in an international organization, implementing cooperative development projects. At the same time, he has also been a volunteer with the Romanian Association for Children and Youth with Diabetes. We wish him a lot of success within IDF Europe!



IDF Europe Association News

- In Belgium, the **Flemish Diabetes Association (VDV)** marked World Diabetes Day 2006 by coordinating several walking and bicycle tours throughout the Flanders region of the country. Some 3250 people walked or cycled on November 12, 40% more participants than in 2005. The event was kicked-off by cycling legend Eddy Merckx, who is a patron of the VDV.



The VDV also celebrated the 10th anniversary of their Diabetes Hotline, a free telephone line that was set up to provide information on several diabetes-related topics. Over 50,000 queries have been answered over the ten years.

- In Cyprus, the **Cyprus Diabetic Association** has developed its own website. It can be viewed at www.diabetes.org.cy.
- In Finland, the Development Programme for the Prevention and Care of Diabetes in Finland (DEHKO) and FIN-T2D project – set up by the **Finnish Diabetes Association** – received the award for supporting the health sector in addressing obesity in high-risk groups at the WHO European Ministerial Conference on Counteracting Obesity that was held in Istanbul, Turkey in November 2006. The award recognises the only national diabetes programme that includes primary prevention of type 2 diabetes and which has been adopted as a model for similar programmes in Cyprus, Portugal and Slovenia.



- In Georgia, the **Georgian Union of Diabetes and Endocrine Associations (GUDEAS)** marked World Diabetes Day 2006 by holding an event for children and adults with type 1 diabetes from Abkhazia. The event was organized in collaboration with the Abkhazia Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Welfare and involved the participation of the First Lady of Georgia, the Minister of Public Health of Abkhazia, and the Chairman of the Health Committee of the Georgian Parliament. The event demonstrated that problems faced by people with diabetes in the country are being addressed by Government and society.

- ✦ In Italy, the **Association of Diabetologists (AMD)** joined with other national diabetes associations to mark World Diabetes Day 2006 throughout the country. Diabetes information points were set up in over 360 town and city squares and a press conference was held in Rome. Other activities of the association included the publication of the 2006 AMD Annals, a collection of quality indicators of diabetes care in Italy, and a meeting of the AMD Study and Research Committee, during which the scientific activities of the association were shared among its membership.

AMD is currently working with the **Italian Association of Diabetology (SID)** on the publication of evidence-based recommendations for diabetes care in Italy. These will be presented to diabetes stakeholders and health authorities in Spring 2007.

- ✦ In Poland, the **Polish Diabetes Association (PDA)** marked World Diabetes Day 2006 by organizing several activities throughout the country. The main celebration, consisting of lectures and workshops, was held in June to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the association. In September, the PDA also organized a joint meeting of diabetes health professionals and people with diabetes in the city of Torun.

The **Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity (GOCC)** collects money for special goals



each all over Poland. This year this event took place on 13 and 14 January. One of the goals is to supply insulin pumps to children with diabetes. Wim Wientjens could be present in Warsaw. What an excellent, exciting, heart warming event. Around 10 Million of USD has been collected. Hours and hours full with activities on the national Polish television: several press conferences, special interviews about diabetes on television, radio and magazines, experts meetings on children with diabetes

and on gestational diabetes, a run through the city centre. In the evening there was a rock concert in the open air with thousands of spectators in a rasping cold wind. The pivot of the whole event is Jerzy Owsiak, a tremendous energetic and stimulating TV personality, supported by a very small professional staff and volunteers headed by his daughter Ola. The Recognition Award 2006 from IDF Europe to the GOCCC is well deserved!

- ✦ In Portugal, the **Portuguese Diabetes Association (APDP)** celebrated its 80th anniversary in May 2006 with a ceremony during which special tribute was made to 14 people with diabetes who have lived with their condition for over 50 years. Those in attendance included the Portuguese Minister of Health and the Immediate Past-President of IDF, Prof Pierre Lefèbvre, who made a presentation on the diabetes epidemic.



- ✦ In Serbia, the **Serbian Association for the Study of Diabetes** organized the IDF Europe Central European Countries (CEC) Meeting in Belgrade on November 11 2006. The event was themed 'Obesity-Metabolic Syndrome, Early Disturbances of Glycoregulation and Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus. How to Diagnose, Treat, and Prevent it?' and involved participants from the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Serbia, and Slovakia. The next meeting of the group will take place in Kosice, Slovakia in November 2007.

Also in November, the association carried out a series of activities related to their Type 2 Diabetes Prevention Plan. These included participation in the Global Diabetes Walk and a programme broadcast on national radio.

The **Diabetes Association of Serbia** marked World Diabetes Day 2006 with activities throughout the country. In Belgrade, an event was held during which signatures in favour of the United Nations Resolution on Diabetes were collected, and lectures made on topics related to the World Diabetes Day campaign theme. On November 16, the association held its General Assembly where the new name and logo of the association were officially approved.



- ➔ In Slovenia, the **Slovenian Diabetes Association (SLODA)** celebrated their 50th anniversary in Ljubljana on November 14 2006 with a ceremony that included the participation of the President of Slovenia, Dr Janez Drnovšek, and the outgoing President of IDF Europe, Wim Wientjens. Since its creation in 1956, SLODA has developed into an association that currently comprises of 39 local affiliates and some 17,000 members.

The association also held the 8th edition of their 'My Knowledge about Diabetes' competition, aimed at elementary and high school students, on November 25. Schools in two cities participated and over 750 young people took part in the competition, making it the most successful ever and confirming that it is a good way of informing and educating young people about a healthy lifestyle and diabetes.

- ➔ In Sweden, several local affiliates of the **Swedish Diabetes Association** organized diabetes days in October 2006. In particular, an event held in the city of Eslöv attracted 300 people, who came to listen to lectures, sample healthy local food, and meet other people with diabetes. World Diabetes Day itself attracted attention in the national print and broadcast media, with particular focus on the promotion of healthy lifestyles in the young so as to prevent the future onset of type 2 diabetes.

- ➔ In Turkey, the **Turkish Diabetes Foundation** organized a panel discussion entitled 'National Health Policies and Improvement of Strategies for Fighting Diabetes' in Istanbul on November 14. Participants included members of the Turkish Parliament, and representatives of several health professional and patient organizations, and industry. IDF-Europe Board member Marjatta Stenius-Kaukonen also attended and gave a presentation.



- ➔ In the United Kingdom, **Diabetes UK** launched a report on World Diabetes Day, highlighting health inequalities in the country and calling for urgent action to improve access to healthcare for people with diabetes living in deprived areas. The report – entitled 'Diabetes in the disadvantaged – reducing health inequalities in the UK' – addresses a range of problems faced by a variety of groups, including the elderly, ethnic minorities, and the homeless, who are at a significantly higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes and diabetes complications than the general population. The report was published in collaboration with the All Party Parliamentary Group for Diabetes.

Diabetes UK also launched a nationwide campaign highlighting large waist circumference as a major risk factor for type 2 diabetes. The 'Measure-Up' campaign aims to help identify the 750,000 people in the UK who have diabetes but do not know it. Over 3,500 adverts have appeared on bus shelters, and in national newspapers and magazines, and a Diabetes UK Roadshow toured the country during September and October promoting the key messages of the campaign. Public response to the initiative has been high with more than 17,000 people having taken the 'Measure Up' online test. For more information, visit www.diabetes.org.uk/MeasureUp.

Other News

- ➔ On 20 December 2006 the United Nations adopted the **UN Resolution on diabetes**. This means that as of 2007, 14 November will be an official UN Diabetes Day. Member Associations are advised to act on this achievement and celebrate the adoption of the Resolution as soon as possible in order to raise awareness also on a national level. For the complete text of the Resolution, please visit the website www.unitefordiabetes.org
- ➔ **European Nurses Diabetes Collaborative University Project (ENDCUP) - the Federation of European Nurses in Diabetes (FEND)** is organizing a three-module course for European nurses, to be given in London in July 2007 and in Spain in July 2008. Applications are to be submitted before March 1st 2007. For more information, visit www.fend.org/proj_e.html.



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 (+322-5371981) and we shall be pleased to include it in our next newsletters.

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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.