



International Diabetes Federation
European Region

IDF Europe Newsletter

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Message from the President

On behalf of the Board of IDF Europe, I hope this finds you all well, and enjoying success in your efforts for your diabetes communities. I am writing to update you about just some of our activities during the summer.



So far we have hosted a meeting of the Eastern European countries in Almaty, Kazakhstan in April. Political progress and ensuring access to basic care remains the main concern for our associations in this area. We discussed how the UN Resolution on diabetes might help with this, and considered issues relating to the status of children with diabetes, and the support available through the Insulin-for-life and Life for a Child programmes.

Our new Association Development Officer Cristian Andriciu is currently working on in-depth reports on a number of countries in the region, to see how IDF and other colleagues can best support development in the diabetes field in this part of the region. We are also trying to interest the Council of Europe in diabetes, with limited success to date.

Much of our work has been dedicated to the EU, where we are working with the Parliament through the Diabetes Working Group, and the Commission. We have hosted and attended several meetings in the Parliament, most recently to encourage momentum in the implementation of the existing green paper on diet and physical activity. We anticipate some action in relation to the prevention of diabetes in the 2008 commission work programme.

We have taken on a session at the European Health Forum Bad Gastein which will happen in October. This is a highly influential healthcare conference, widely attended by EU and member state administrators. We will co-host a session on diabetes with EURADIA, PCD-Europe and FEND, covering issues as diverse as research coordination, models of care and re-imburement decision-making. The main thrust is to highlight the diverse experiences of people with diabetes throughout the Union, and to encourage EU and member state action to raise all citizens to a level playing field.

We are gratified by the added impact and credibility achieved by approaching this event with a united, agreed agenda. We have found this a learning experience, bringing many joint issues to the fore and creating a sense of constructive, mutual respect. We hope this will be seen as a model to encourage your own efforts to co-operate with sister diabetes associations within each country, and to foster co-operation between patient, professional and research groups. Please think about how you can progress this in your own country.

Further meetings are planned in the Nordic countries in August, and in the Central European countries in November. Meanwhile, I hope you are preparing to come to Dublin in September for what promises to be another successful meeting aligned with the 40th Anniversary celebration of the Diabetes Federation of Ireland. See you there!

Tony O'Sullivan
President IDF Europe

IDF Europe Regional News

- **Working with the EU Presidencies:** During the German EU Presidency in the first half of this year, IDF Europe was fortunate to be invited in February to participate in its Health Conference in Badenweiler entitled: "Prevention for Health. Nutrition and Physical Activity – A Key to Healthy Living". While diabetes did not feature prominently on the agenda, it was continuously referred to throughout the discussions, particularly the serious threat of type 2 diabetes and an ageing population. In addition, IDF Europe's informal discussions at the conference led to a meeting with DG SANCO (the Public Health Directorate of the EU Commission) to discuss possible diabetes actions in the 2008 Public Health Programme. This has resulted in a joint project application to the Programme, led by ISPAD together with FEND and PCD Europe.

As of July, Portugal took over the reigns of the EU Presidency for the next six months. In the area of health, the Portuguese will focus on developing recommendations for an overarching EU Health Strategy, as well as tackling the issue of "health and migration". We are extremely grateful for the immense prestige and hard work of the Portuguese Diabetes Association (APDP) in preparing for this Presidency. They are the oldest diabetes association in the world, having been formed in 1926, and are greatly respected in Portugal. They have helped IDF Europe to become closely involved with the EU Health Round Table on Diabetes which will take place on 12-13 July in Lisbon. It is this sort of contact which is so valuable in helping IDF Europe to raise the profile of diabetes, to promote the needs of people with diabetes and to encourage European politicians to accept the need for an EU Recommendation on the Prevention, Diagnosis and Control of Diabetes.

- **Bad Gastein Conference:** Every year in October, the European Health Forum (EHF) organises a meeting in the small Austrian village of Bad Gastein. This gathering of EU policy makers and stakeholder organisations, such as IDF Europe, is now recognised as a key opportunity to meet and discuss important health issues with European decision-makers in an informal setting. This year marks the 10th Anniversary of EHF with a conference theme of "Creating a better future for health in Europe". IDF Europe has taken the opportunity to bring together all of the major European diabetes organisations including EURADIA, FEND and PCD Europe to hold a diabetes workshop which will address subjects such as primary and secondary prevention, service provision, research and diabetes education. The workshop will take place on October 4-5 in Bad Gastein.
- **Information for people with diabetes:** The European Commission's High Level Pharmaceutical Forum (HLPF), set up by EU Commissioners Verheugen (Enterprise) and Kyprianou (Health), recently held a public consultation on a proposed diabetes "information package" together with a set of quality principals for judging such information. The results of this consultation have now been published and it is clear that there is widespread dissatisfaction with the Commission's proposals. The main criticism appears to focus on the lack of added value of the information package compared with information which is already available to people with diabetes. The results can be found at the following link:
http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/other_policies/pharmaceutical/results_consultation_en.htm

In parallel, the Commission has also published a draft report on the current state of information provision in the EU and held a consultation to determine whether the current legislative framework should be changed. This consultation closed on 30 June, and after analysing the results, the Commission is expected to come forward with a draft proposal by the end of this year. The draft report can be found at the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/pharmaceuticals/pharmacos/docs/doc2007/2007_04/draft_infopatiens2007_04.pdf

- ➔ **European Parliament Diabetes Working Group:** On 12 June, Dorette Corbey MEP hosted the latest meeting of the EU Diabetes Working Group, together with IDF Europe, on the subject of Diet, Physical Activity and Diabetes. The meeting included presentations from Dr. Tony O'Sullivan (President of IDF Europe), Dr Peter Schwarz (University of Dresden) and Anne-Marie Felton (FEND) and was well attended by MEPs from different EU Member States and political parties. The next meeting will take place in September on the subject of diabetes and migration.

IDF Europe Association News

- ➔ In Cyprus, the **Cyprus Diabetes Association** will be holding its international summer camp in Protaras on July 23-28. The camp is targeted at children aged 14-18 years.
- ➔ In France, the **French Diabetes Association (AFD)** has denounced a recent case of discrimination towards people with diabetes in the workplace. The AFD was deeply touched by the unfortunate story of a 25-year-old auxiliary nurse with insulin-dependent diabetes, Ms Nathalie Belloir, who was refused the standard French public sector employment contract after her short-term contract had been renewed no fewer than 11 times. This refusal followed a routine check-up performed by a non-specialist in diabetes, who concluded that 'people with insulin-dependent diabetes are inevitably forced to take long periods of sick leave; and are therefore incapable of performing the functions of a public sector nurse.' The AFD feels that this is a scandalous case of discrimination and an insult to the 3 million people with diabetes in France. It has asked the 'Ordre des Médecins,' the regulatory body for the French medical sector, to take an official position on the case. It has also referred the case to the French High Authority for the Fight against Discrimination and for Equality (HALDE) and to the Administrative Court. A large communication campaign has also been launched and the AFD is currently awaiting the court's decision. Since 2002, around 50 similar cases have been brought to the attention of the association, most of them in the public sector.
- ➔ In Ireland, the **Diabetes Federation of Ireland** has launched a type 2 diabetes education programme to help people with diabetes help themselves. The Community Orientated Diabetes Education (CODE) programme for people with Type 2 diabetes, supported and part-funded by the Health Service Executive, recognises that adults deliver most of their own health care and therefore require a thorough understanding of their condition to do so effectively. The CODE programme will provide general diabetes information and will be adaptable so that it can provide for the needs of participants in the programme. It will assist participants to understand the effect of their own behaviour and that of their medical treatment on their overall wellbeing and help them to improve their behaviour so that they can better self-manage their condition and improve their quality of life. The programme will

be delivered by diabetes healthcare professionals and held in General Practitioner (GP) health centres. Twenty-six courses will be held over an 18 month period.

- In Italy, the **Italian Diabetes Association (FAND)** launched the "Roberto Lombardi Award", in honour of the founder of FAND, during their 25th Annual Meeting held in May. The award is targeted at national journalists who will have contributed to spreading awareness of diabetes over the next year. The winner will be announced in October 2008 and will be rewarded with a trip to Cameroon to write a report on life in the country. Prof Massimo Massi-Benedetti, IDF Vice-President, is among the judges for the award.



- In Georgia, the **Georgian Union of Diabetes and Endocrine Associations (GUDEAS)** has focused its recent activities on implementing the United Nations Resolution on diabetes by raising public awareness of diabetes and disseminating information to improve the quality of diabetes care in the country. These included the translation and distribution of IDF publications and the organization of a number of symposia and workshops. Another activity was directly linked to the World Diabetes Day 2007 and 2008 campaign on diabetes in children and adolescents: the association translated into Russian a colouring book for children with type 1 diabetes, which it passed on to the Diabetes Association of Kazakhstan for publication there.



- In Malta, the **Maltese Diabetes Association** congratulates Ms Moira Grixti, Nursing Officer at the Diabetes Clinic of St. Luke's Hospital, who was recently awarded the St. Luke's Worker of the Year Award by the Hon. Louis Deguara, Minister of Health, Elderly and Community Care. Ms Grixti has been an active committee member of the Maltese Diabetes Association for several years and currently occupies the post of Education Officer. She is also the coordinator of the Annual Summer Camp for Children with Diabetes.

- In the Netherlands, the **Dutch Diabetes Association (DVN)** has appointed two new people to its leadership positions. Peter van de Velden, who is also the mayor of the city of Breda, took over as Chairman of the DVN in December 2006, while Maarten Ploeg will become Managing Director as of August of this year. Among the main aims of the new Chairman is to enlarge the association and improve and increase the influence of people with diabetes in impacting on decisions taken in the political and health arenas that affect them.

The DVN congratulates Joop Gillissen, the current Managing Director, for having received the Hannie van Leeuwen Award for his work in empowering the person with diabetes in the Dutch healthcare system. By supporting people with diabetes in their choice for a good health insurance, thorough negotiations with insurance companies and educating people with diabetes, the DVN strengthened the voice of people with diabetes in the country. Mr Gillissen was a driven leader in this process.



Among the future activities of the association is an innovative

interactive broadcast that will take place during the 43rd Annual EASD conference in Amsterdam in September. The programme - Diabetes LIVE! - aims to provide people with diabetes with the latest insights into diabetes science, research, and development. Viewers will be able to watch interviews with and presentations about prominent diabetes researchers and submit their own comments and questions. A maximum of 10,000 people can participate in the broadcast, which will be in Dutch. For more information, visit www.dvn.nl.



➔ In Serbia, the **Diabetes Association of Serbia** organized the 10th annual DiaBeta exhibition on April 28. Among the special guests in attendance was Mr Ramakant Anaokar of Diabetes UK. Also in April, a member of the association with type 1 diabetes, Ninoslav Raskovic, raised awareness of the condition by participating in and completing the Belgrade marathon.

➔ In Turkey, the **Turkish Diabetes Foundation (TURDIAB)** is carrying out a project - DIABLIVA - to provide support to Turkish immigrants with diabetes living abroad. The management of diabetes in these groups is negatively affected by factors such as language difficulties and socio-cultural differences. In May of this year, the German Diabetes Association (DDG) organized a symposium in collaboration with TURDIAB, entitled 'Approach to the problems of people with diabetes of Turkish origin', during the 42nd Annual Meeting of the DDG in Hamburg. The two organizations will continue to work together to address issues affecting people with diabetes of Turkish origin living abroad.

➔ In the UK, **Diabetes UK** has launched a report on the hard reality of cardiovascular care for people with diabetes. The report - 'Diabetes Heartache' - highlights the fact that up to 2.4 million people with diabetes in the country are still at risk of dying needlessly of cardiovascular disease (CVD), such as heart disease or stroke, if nothing is done to improve awareness, prevention and treatment. It also shows that many people are failing to reach the recommended treatment targets for key risk factors such as blood pressure and cholesterol. Currently only 28 per cent of the general public and 47 per cent of people with diabetes realise that diabetes can lead to heart disease. Diabetes UK calls for people with diabetes to receive improved access to education and appropriate early medical treatment, when necessary, to help significantly improve long-term health.

The association has also produced a report on how the Fire and Rescue Service has accommodated personnel with diabetes since the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) was extended to cover emergency services in October 2004. The findings of the 'Diabetes and the fire service - survey report' are broadly positive and show that having diabetes is no longer a barrier to having a successful career within the service. The report also helps us reinforce the message that each person with diabetes must be individually assessed before any decision is taken regarding their fitness to undertake duties.



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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