

Message from the President



St Vincent Declaration – 20 years later

“ In 1989, the Diabetes Community in Europe recognized diabetes as a major and growing health problem in Europe. It urged and appealed to all European countries to give formal recognition to the diabetes problem and deploy resources for its solution. It made an urgent call to ensure that all countries have the necessary prevention and treatment plans which would ultimately reduce the complications arising from this condition. All this was summarized

in the well-known St Vincent Declaration.

In 1999, in Istanbul, the diabetes community once again committed itself to the St Vincent Declaration and outlined various objectives that were necessary to fulfil the mission we embarked on ten years earlier. The Istanbul meeting served as a renewal of the 1989 meeting and urged European countries to continue working wholeheartedly to improve the lives of the millions living with diabetes.

In 1989 we felt it was opportune to make this urgent call for action since at the time we argued that this life long condition threatened at least 10 million European citizens. Twenty years later, this condition is a larger threat affecting approximately 31 million people in Europe. Undoubtedly, all the arguments and commitments we made in 1989 and again in 1999 are all still very relevant today.

IDF Europe, together with the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD), Alliance for European Diabetes Research (EURADIA), Federation of European Nurses in Diabetes (FEND), International Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Diabetes (ISPAD), Primary Care Diabetes Europe (PCDE) and Diabetes UK have joined together to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the St Vincent Declaration.

The 20th Anniversary meeting (www.stvincent2009.org), which will be held in Glasgow on 21-23 November 2009, will look at what was achieved in the past two decades. It will address the huge challenges that diabetes poses to people living with the disease and the community at large, and plan ahead for the future. It will bring together a mix of key diabetes stakeholders that will discuss both on a local level and on an EU level what action is required. The theme behind this important meeting summarizes its aims and importance – Defeating Diabetes in the 21st Century.

It is a celebration of the first 20 years of the St Vincent Declaration. However, it will also serve as an opportunity to urge governments to act – we need to utilize the vast knowledge that we have acquired during the past 20 years to turn words and plans into action.

I firmly believe that TOGETHER we can achieve more progress to fight the diabetes epidemic and ultimately improve the lives of the millions of persons affected by it. TOGETHER we can have a stronger voice for diabetes in Europe.

My appeal to all Member Associations of IDF Europe is to participate actively at this high-level and important meeting. All member associations must urge their governments and interested parties to attend this meeting in large numbers. This will give the latter the opportunity to enhance their knowledge, to share their experiences and concerns and position themselves to be well prepared for tomorrow's challenges.

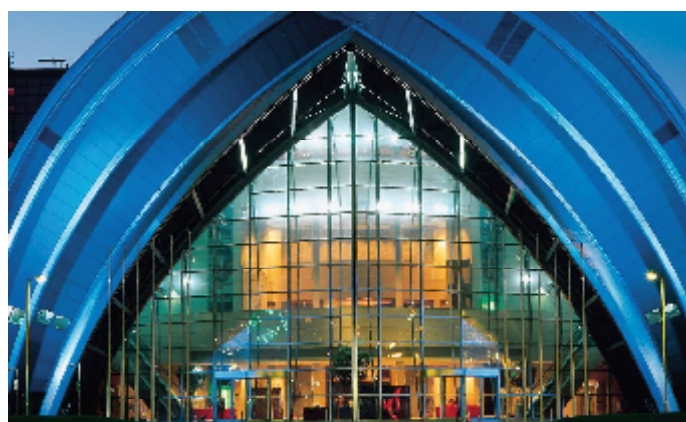
The Organizing Committee, chaired by Dr Michael Hall and the Chair of the Programme Committee Ms Anne-Marie Felton, have prepared an excellent and dynamic programme that will address the issues relevant to diabetes today. I sincerely thank Michael and Anne-Marie and all the Committee for their hard work to ensure that this meeting a memorable and successful one.

I am also delighted that this important meeting will coincide with the 75th Anniversary Celebrations of Diabetes UK, one of the partners of the meeting.

I look forward to meeting you all in Montreal next October where our Region will hold its Annual General Assembly on Saturday 17th October, and again in Glasgow in November for the St Vincent Anniversary Meeting. "

With my best wishes and kind regards

Chris Delicata – President IDF Europe



ST VINCENT GLASGOW
anniversary 21-23 November 2009

Defeating Diabetes in the 21st Century
Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the
St Vincent Declaration

www.stvincent2009.org



IDF Europe News

- Insulin Pump Survey 2009: IDF Europe recently launched a survey on insulin pump therapy. The IDF Europe Insulin Pump Survey 2009 aims to gain insight in access to and use of insulin pump therapy across Europe. The questions included in the survey address different aspects of diabetes management, including both Multiple Daily Injection – and Pump therapy. The survey should take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete.

You can access and contribute to the survey through the following link:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=Rf9Jd66wPEX_2f3Et6AeuaEg_3d_3d

The results of the survey will provide an important basis for recommendations with respect to improving equal access to pump therapy as well as more effective use of the therapy.

Given the importance of the survey for the improvement of diabetes management in Europe and to ensure that people with diabetes have equal access to the necessary technology and tools to manage their condition, we would like Member Associations of IDF Europe to distribute the survey to people with diabetes in their countries.

The survey has been made possible by Medtronic International. For more information, please contact IDF Europe: info@idf-europe.org.

IDF Europe Association News

- In **Greece**, the Hellenic Diabetes Federation (ELODI) hosted the visit of Cristian Andricu, the IDF Europe Association Development Officer, to evaluate the level of diabetes care in the country. During the visit, Christian met with officials and health professionals in Athens and on the island of Crete.
- In **Poland**, the Polish Diabetes Association (PDA) has communicated that people with diabetes have obtained reimbursement for insulin pumps and insulin analogues, after years of advocating for this provision. As of the beginning of this year, insulin pumps and accessories are reimbursed for children and youth under 18 years of age. Long-lasting insulin analogues will be reimbursed from the beginning of July.

The PDA has recently focussed on raising awareness of the importance of oral hygiene for people with diabetes, an issue that has been neglected in the country, by organizing meetings, conferences, and lectures on the topic.

In June, the PDA organized a diabetes fair and conference that was very well attended. Medals and awards were handed out to the most prominent activists and officials.

- In **Slovenia**, the Slovenian Diabetes Association (SLODA) organized its 14th Sport and Recreation Meeting for people with diabetes, in the small seaside town of Koper. Over 1600 people with diabetes took part in events that included walking, shooting, bowling, darts, and sightseeing. The main purpose of the event was to promote the benefit of physical activity for people with diabetes. The Minister of Transport Dr Patrick Vlačič was the main speaker.



Participants at the 14th Sport and Recreation Meeting, Koper, Slovenia.

- In **Lithuania**, the Lithuanian Diabetes Association (LDA) organized 7 educational camps during April and May 2009 in different regions of the country (Vilnius, Telsiai, Rokiskis, Klaipeda, Pasvalys, Marijampole, Akmene). About 800 people with diabetes and members of their families participated in the practical educational programme, which is supported by the Ministry of Social Security and Labour. Doctors and nurses provided practical advice on managing diabetes, and participants were given the opportunity to have their blood glucose and HbA1c tested.



Participants at one of the educational camps organized by the LDA in April and May.

The LDA will be organizing further educational camps for children with diabetes and people with type 2 diabetes during the summer.

- In **Belarus**, the Belarussian Humanitarian Organisation "Children's Diabetes" held its annual meeting of regional affiliates in May 2009. Endocrinologists and representatives of the Ministry of Health also attended. The main goal of the meeting was to coordinate regional activities and disseminate new scientific, legal and social information in the regions.

Other recent activities of the Association included a blood glucose level screening for personnel of the Executive Committee of Minsk. The event was part of the "Check yourself for diabetes" campaign.

Other News

- In the Netherlands, the country's Health Care Inspectorate recently issued a public warning following the discovery of counterfeit needles for insulin delivery systems ('insulin pens'). Use of these needles could present a health risk. It is known that some 200,000 counterfeit needles have been introduced to the Netherlands, of which 30,000 remain unaccounted for and may still be in circulation.

A Dutch company purchased 2,000 packs of needles (with 100 needles in each pack) from a wholesaler in Malaysia. The wholesaler claims that the needles derive from Iran. The supply line cannot be traced beyond this point. The Health Care Inspectorate is continuing to investigate the matter.

Some 200,000 counterfeit needles were released onto the Dutch market, a further 500,000 in the United Kingdom and over 1.3 million in Poland. A total of over two million counterfeit needles have therefore found their way into the regular European distribution channels.

Novo Nordisk B.V., the licensed distributor of genuine NovoFine® insulin needles in the Netherlands, received a patient complaint stating that a recently purchased needle did not fit properly onto the insulin delivery pen. Novo Nordisk submitted a large quantity of needles to its parent company in Denmark for inspection. It was determined that the needles were counterfeit, whereupon the manufacturer reported the matter to the appropriate authority, the Netherlands Health Care Inspectorate.

The Inspectorate advises any users who are unsure of the origin of their needles to contact their pharmacist or supplier. All information about the current situation can be found on the manufacturer's website at www.novonordisk.nl.

The Health Care Inspectorate consulted the Royal Dutch Association for the Advancement of Pharmacy (KNMP) prior to issuing this press release. The Association informed its members of the situation on Friday 19 June.

How can users identify a counterfeit needle?

- Packaging information in English: genuine needles distributed in the Netherlands have packaging information in Dutch.
- The packaging of the counterfeit needles has no barcode.
- Being of inferior quality, the counterfeit needles may not fit the screw thread of the insulin delivery pen properly.
- Counterfeit needles found thus far have the Batch/Lot number 08J02S and an expiry date of 08/2013.
- Traces of transparent adhesive may be apparent where the needle is affixed to the plastic holder.
- The packaging may bear a sticker / adhesive label, which is unusual.
- On the packaging of the counterfeit items, the line below the 'CE' logo is missing.

Risks:

Use of the counterfeit needles presents a number of risks. The needle could break off during use. The needle may not fit onto the insulin delivery pen properly, whereupon insulin is not administered in the correct dosage. It is not known whether the counterfeit needles have been thoroughly sterilised: they could cause discomfort, skin irritation or infections.

The Netherlands Health Care Inspectorate has informed the relevant authorities in all European member states and is also to contact the World Health Organization (WHO).

- Paul Farrelly, from Hampshire (UK), was diagnosed with diabetes in 2000. In Summer 2008, he entered the Bayer Diabetes Care Dream Fund with an ambitious plan to cycle from Portsmouth to Istanbul to raise awareness of diabetes and support Diabetes UK. In June 2009, Paul achieved his goal by completing the 2189 mile challenge in 31 days, crossing 12 countries and meeting with several IDF Europe member associations along the way. Read about Paul's experience and see pictures at <http://www.bayerdiabetes.co.uk/europeancyclechallenge/index.html>.



Paul Farrelly



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.

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 by e-mail (newsletter@idf-europe.org) or Fax (+32 2 5371981) and we shall be pleased to include it in our next newsletters.

Regional Manager: Lex Herrebrugh | Newsletter Editor: Lorenzo Piemonte