All women with diabetes deserve the right to a healthy future

The theme of this year’s World Diabetes Day (WDD) campaign is Women and Diabetes, with the slogan Our Right to a Healthy Future. Many activities are planned this November 14, 2017 to bring greater awareness to women at risk for or living with diabetes around the world.

Led by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), the campaign is promoting the importance of affordable and equitable access for all women at risk for or living with diabetes for access to the essential diabetes medicines and technologies, self-management education and information they require to achieve optimal diabetes outcomes and strengthen their capacity to prevent type 2 diabetes.

There are currently over 199 million women living with diabetes and this total is projected to increase to 313 million by 2040. Diabetes is the ninth leading cause of death in women globally, causing 2.1 million deaths each year. As a result of socioeconomic conditions, women and girls with diabetes experience barriers in accessing cost-effective diabetes prevention, early detection, diagnosis, treatment and care, particularly in developing countries.

In view of the particular burden of the disease and its impact on women's lives, IDF will mark World Diabetes Day 2017 with the launch of a new program that aims to initiate a wide range of actions in support of women living with diabetes in Middle East and North Africa (MENA), North America and Caribbean (NAC), South America and Central America (SACA), sub-Saharan Africa and South-East Asia (SEA). IDF actions will focus on capacity building for health professionals including train-the-trainer sessions, face-to-face workshops, online refresher CME sessions, and the development and dissemination of information and advocacy resources.

The program will be launched at an IDF stakeholder event in Brussels on November 14. The event will also serve to promote the release of the 8th edition of the IDF Diabetes Atlas, providing the latest data on the prevalence of diabetes worldwide.

World Diabetes Day 2017 will serve as a vehicle to deliver key advocacy information and request recognition and renewal of the 22 action based commitments for the response to noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) that governments agreed to in 2012. The aims and objectives of WDD 2017 support WHO voluntary targets on 0% increase in diabetes prevalence and 80% access to essential diabetes care by 2025 as well as the Global Monitoring Framework on NCDs and the target under Goal 3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which aim to reduce one-third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment by 2030. A letter will be sent to all IDF Members who will be requested to tailor it with information from their own country, deliver the document to their national governments and take an active role in obtaining government recognition and renewal of their commitments by signing the letter.

As is the custom, the global diabetes community will be marking World Diabetes Day 2017 with a wide range of awareness and advocacy activities in November, in the more than 160 countries represented by IDF. A snapshot of these activities can be viewed on the WDD events map – www.idf.org/wdd-events.

Visit www.worlddiabetesday.org for more information and resources about the World Diabetes Day 2017 campaign.