The Diabetic Foot Stream: the most frequently recognised complication

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The Diabetic Foot is a major medical problem worldwide and the most pressing. Complications of diabetes that affect the lower extremities are common, complex and costly. Foot ulceration is the most frequently recognized complication. Prevalence data from IDF estimates that annually foot ulcers develop in 9.1 million to 26.1 million people with diabetes globally. The lifetime risk for developing tissue loss through a diabetic foot ulcer (DFU) is between 19% and 34% among patients with diabetes. Approximately 60% of DFU’s progress to diabetic foot infections (DFI) and 20% of those infections lead to some form of amputation. Losing a limb is among the most feared complications.

The Diabetic Foot Stream for the IDF Congress 2017 will provide sessions covering several issues including: Prevention: How to mobilize patient organizations; Organizations for educating patients; Educating healthcare providers in primary care; Footwear for people with diabetes and people with symptoms of Diabetic Foot; What next after amputation?; and Peripheral artery disease (PAD) in people with diabetes.

Two highlights will be the Meet the Experts sessions on Infection where Professor Eric Senneville will discuss osteomyelitis and Professor William Jeffcoat will discuss Understanding the Cause of Diabetic Charcot and how to make the correct diagnosis. The second highlight is the session on Footwear for people with Diabetes and people with symptoms of Diabetic foot. Sicco Bus the leading authority on offloading will discuss prevention of occurrence/reoccurrence on DFU and footwear in low income settings.

Our program will offer sessions covering educating healthcare providers in primary care. The recently published IDF clinical practice guidelines targeting primary care physicians will be presented and discussed. An Open Forum on PAD in people with diabetes with topics covering evidenced based management and the role for technology.

Cooperation and communication between the healthcare professional and the person with diabetes will be presented and discussed in the opening symposium of the Diabetic Foot stream. The closing lecture is a must attend: Tying it all together: Challenges and Improvement in Integrated Diabetic Foot Care presented by Professor Andrew Boulton (Manchester, UK) who is the leading authority on the Diabetic Foot globally.

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Dr Lawrence Harkless is Founding Dean of the College of Podiatric Medicine and Professor of Podiatric Medicine, Surgery and Biomechanics at the Western University of Health Sciences. He has educated thousands of students, residents, physicians and healthcare providers about the complexities of diabetic foot complications and the importance of preventative foot care for people with diabetes as well as operating his own private practice.