IDF CONGRESS NEWS - PAST AND FUTURE

A look back at IDF Congress 2017, Abu Dhabi, UAE

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The global diabetes community united together in December for the biennial IDF Congress 2017 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates under the Patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and with the attendance of His Excellency Sheikh Abdulla bin Mohamed Al Hamed, Chairman of the Department of Health, Abu Dhabi.

The Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Center set the stage for a rigorous scientific program attended by a total of 7534 participants from 182 countries. The scientific program, with 330 top-level speakers that shared their knowledge in more than 160 hours of sessions, covered the latest advances in diabetes, from clinical practice, education, child and maternal health and a “Living with diabetes” stream generated great interest and brought together professionals from all fields—clinicians and scientists, educators, public health specialists, epidemiologists, politicians and lawyers, among others. There were 1850 abstracts, 9731 posters and 252 e-posters displayed and discussed in lively e-poster sessions. Invariably attractive sessions ran simultaneously. The IDF 2017 exhibition welcomed 50 national, regional and global exhibitors. In this wonderful physical space were also present 100 IDF member associations from all regions, showing their activities. In support of raising awareness about healthy lifestyles, 600 people from 107 countries ran in the 5K@IDF which has become a longstanding event at IDF Congresses.

With diabetes on the rise worldwide, many patients in developing countries struggle with limited access to proper healthcare, in addition to delays in diagnoses, medications are often unavailable or too expensive. With a passion for change, presenters at the Congress spent considerable time discussing new efforts to promote healthy lifestyles and to improve access to care.

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The general consensus as the meeting came to a close is rallying around and emphasizing the importance of enacting strong measures and policies aimed at preventing diabetes at primordial, primary and secondary levels in order to stop the astronomic rise of diabetes worldwide.

IDF Congress 2019

In Abu Dhabi, we had an average temperature of 22 C and many hours of sunshine. Now we are preparing for the slight cold breeze and to enjoy a nice cup of hot chocolate with average temperatures of 7°C for the IDF Congress 2019 in Busan, Korea (2-6 December 2019). For more information on IDF 2019, please click here.

Douglas Villarroel is Editor-in-Chief of Diabetes Voice.