



Effective alliances



Dear Members,

This Spring issue of EDN gives me the opportunity first of all to thank you for your continuing loyal support of FEND. It was an enormous pleasure to see so many of you at our conference in Amsterdam last year. All of the Executive committee look forward to meeting you in Rome for our 13th annual conference, 5-6 September. The planning of the conference is at an advanced stage and the provisional programme can be viewed on our website. A reminder call for abstracts – the closing date for submissions is 30 April and you will find details on the conference 2008 pages of our website (www.fend.org).

The FEND Annual General Meeting for members will take place at 0800 Saturday 6 September at the conference venue hotel. Nomination forms for the Executive committee will be sent by mail to all FEND members in May.

One of the missions of FEND is 'Co-operate and collaborate with national and international health care organisations'. From its foundation FEND has assiduously pursued this mission and this effort is now bearing fruit. Three significant research projects with funding support from EU institutions (DG Sanco and DG Research) have been awarded and FEND is a collaborating partner in all three:

1) The IMAGE project, led by Dr Peter Schwarz addresses the prevention of type 2 diabetes and key stakeholders including FEND are participating actively in this major project. You will recall that Dr Schwarz gave an address about IMAGE at our last conference and you can view his presentation in a webcast from the FEND website (the Conference 2007 page can be found on the left-hand menu from the FEND home page).

2) The DIAMAP project is funded by DG Research, the EU 7th Framework programme, and led by Prof Philippe Halban of EURADIA. This organisation, of which FEND is a member, has been successful in achieving an EU grant. The mission of DIAMAP is to undertake a wide survey of the current European research landscape from which expert opinion can identify gaps and highlight strengths, to guide a roadmap strategy for diabetes research in Europe.

3) SWEET – this project is led by Prof Thomas Danne and will address the establishment of paediatric diabetes reference centres in Europe. Prof Danne's keynote address at the FEND conference can also be viewed as a webcast on the FEND website.

These three major research projects are the result of extraordinary endeavours and commitment by the respective leaders.

FEND in partnership with IDF Europe (IDF-E) has now completed the report entitled '*The Diabetes Policy Puzzle: Towards Benchmarking in the EU 27*'. This survey will update the report of 2005. The report will serve as an important benchmark on the status of diabetes in the 27 member states and a significant influence for future policy development. It is anticipated that the report will be published later in the year. Our first report was enthusiastically received by DG Sanco and features on their website.

Effective alliances in the battle against the epidemic of diabetes are critical to all our endeavours. Together with EASD, EURADIA, IDF-E and PCDE, we will explore further opportunities of working together for maximum effect. The effective European alliances that secured the European Parliament Declaration on diabetes (June 2006) and the global alliances that achieved the UN Resolution on diabetes (61/225 20 December 2006) are excellent examples of what can be achieved by working together for a common purpose.

FEND ENDCUP

The FEND ENDCUP programme which is FEND's commitment to the accredited training of its members will start in June 2008. This course is now fully subscribed and has broad European participation.

World Diabetes Day

A very special personal thank you for your active participation in marking the first UN World Diabetes Day. Europe certainly rose to the occasion with many national iconic buildings illuminated in blue as well as specific local programmes embracing all of the community.

Welcoming new sponsors

In 2008 we welcome three new sponsors of FEND - Abbott, Lilly and Pfizer. They join our much appreciated list of long established and loyal sponsors – Bayer, Becton Dickinson, GSK, Lifescan, Novo Nordisk and Sanofi Aventis.

Until September when we meet in Rome, I wish you all every success in all that you do.

Anne-Marie Felton, FEND President