



# Networking is the way forward



Networking is not the answer to all professional problems, but it certainly is a helpful habit for nurses to get into early and FEND is an example of networking on a large scale. Depending on one's long-term aims, the initial investment need not be huge, and the internet makes approaching initial contacts a fairly simple process, certainly more so than even a few years ago. By exchange of views, discussion on best practice and comparison can lead to collaborative projects. Networks are also becoming more relevant in organising chronic care.<sup>1</sup>

*European Diabetes Nursing (EDN)* is a prime example of such networking and, since 2004, the opportunities for nurses in diabetes to publish in this international platform have been enthusiastically taken up by some. Certainly there are great supporters of this journal for whom our thanks are due and they have helped to raise the quality of the work published and the profile of the journal. I hope that authors who have had their work published in *EDN* will also have been pleased by the advice from the referees.

However, the journal needs to extend further into Europe, beyond the more northern countries that regularly publish with us. We need to develop greater links with nurses from further afield who write and wish to publish. By thinking of *EDN* first when you are writing your article, you will be helping all nurses in diabetes by developing the journal further. *EDN* is indexed in CINAHL and PsycINFO, and needs a strong network for application to Medline/Pubmed.

## New co-editor new opportunities!

To help with this task I would like to welcome a new Co-editor, Bert Vrijhoef, PhD, from Maastricht in The Netherlands. He will bring his own network into the journal and you will read more about his work in the next issue of *EDN*. His collaboration will encourage more colleagues from The Netherlands to publish with *EDN*, and also hopefully colleagues from further afield. Our rigorous referee policy will not change and neither will the excellent help with processing manuscripts provided by the publisher, John Wiley & Sons. We are starting a rotation of editorial board members, who have been such a stalwart help to the journal in these early years – some old faces will leave and new ones will arrive to bring in new ideas and new networks. This rotation will then take place on a regular basis.

## Other networking opportunities

It has been known for some time that European funding for diabetes research is well below the amount spent in the USA. European Commission (EC) funding has now been put into a project that will survey the research landscape in Europe (the people doing the research, their expertise and the supporting facilities), along with a survey of available funding (the amount of funding that is provided and what is needed). This 'mapping' exercise (The DIAMAP project) will hopefully mean that funding decisions at the European level will be taken with a greater insight into the real needs demanded by the diabetes epidemic.

As many people as possible working in any area of diabetes research should complete the DIAMAP research questionnaire, available online at [www.DIAMAP.eu](http://www.DIAMAP.eu). The co-ordinator of DIAMAP (Philippe Halban, PhD), urged as many individuals as possible, involved in any aspect of diabetes research in Europe, to contribute. This includes nurses, especially those who are holding their own funding.

FEND is a partner in this project, has supported the project from the time of its inception, and is involved in its co-ordination through the EURADIA alliance. It is therefore only right that FEND members contribute in the same way as other diabetes researchers, but nurses should also benefit from the outcomes. By participating in the online database, information can be shared and made accessible to other groups. This is an excellent opportunity to find possibilities for future funding, to make contacts, and to establish networks or collaborations with colleagues working in similar research areas. It will be an opportunity to expose nurse-led research to the expert groups who will be writing the road map reports, as the results of the survey will be used in the final road map report. The road map will outline a future strategy for co-ordination and funding and will be available to the EC and other funding agencies.

*DIAMAP: A Road Map for Diabetes Research in Europe is a support action funded by the European Commission (FP7 200701). More information can be found on [www.DIAMAP.eu](http://www.DIAMAP.eu)*

## Sarah Hills

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## References

1. Institute for Healthcare Improvement. The breakthrough series: IHI's collaborative model for achieving breakthrough improvement. *Diabetes Spectrum* 2004; **17**: 97–101.