



'Declarations, Recommendations, Resolution, Action!'



The proliferation and richness of international conferences relating to diabetes this autumn is inspiring (including, of course, FEND). It is reassuring that, despite the economic climate, the numbers registered for the FEND 2009 conference are equal to recent years – thank you for your invaluable support.

The Study of European Nurses in Diabetes (SEND) is now complete and will be reported at the FEND conference by our journal Co-editor Bert Vrijhoef, the lead researcher. This study is of huge importance to all of us in healthcare delivery and to the people we serve. The traditional masterclasses will address three key questions from the study and will be reported in plenary during the conference. Your participation in these masterclasses is vital, as we all seek to find solutions to the challenges that face service providers of diabetes care in Europe.

The next FEND Chair in Diabetes Nursing will be hosted by King's College London in partnership with King's College Hospital. The Executive Committee of FEND made their decision in April following interviews with a number of universities. We are enormously pleased that King's will be hosting and providing considerable additional funding and resources. The global search for a suitable appointment is under way. FEND has always been committed to the professional development of the diabetes specialist nurse, and this European Chair of Clinical Diabetes Nursing will further enhance the influence, contribution and advocacy for this specialty.

FEND partnerships and collaborations

John Bowis, former MEP who has now retired from European politics, is a valiant ally and advocate for FEND and people with diabetes. John has unique attributes – his personal experience with diabetes, his professional political experience as a former Minister of Health in the UK and also his years as a highly respected MEP. We in FEND are enormously grateful to John for not only his contribution to this journal (his Eurowatch columns have always been eagerly awaited) but also for his generosity of time and support within many of the significant committees that he has chaired and served on at EU level. John will always be an honoured guest at our conferences, and we wish him a happy retirement.

The St Vincent Declaration (SVD) celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. It was the first of other regional declarations ultimately culminating in the UN Recommendation on diabetes in 2006. The anniversary meeting will take place in Glasgow on 21–23 November 2009 (www.worlddiabetescongress.org/st-vincent). FEND is a contributing partner to this event.

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) appear to be getting the attention that FEND and other international organisations have been advocating for many years. At the recent UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) meeting in Geneva, the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), the International Union Against Cancer (UICC), and the World Diabetes Federation (WDF) called for five immediate actions to avert the growing threat from NCDs to global health:

1. Call for an MDG Plus containing NCD progress indicators in the 2010 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) review.
2. Support the availability of essential medicines for people living with NCDs.
3. Support a UN General Assembly Special Session on NCDs.
4. Support the immediate and substantial increase of funding for NCDs.
5. Integrate NCD prevention into national health systems and the global development agenda.

At the very least we hope that NCD indicators will be included in the review of the MDGs 2010, as NCDs were shamefully absent in the original MDGs.

FEND continues its active collaboration within the European diabetes family of NGOs. A fact-finding discussion between IDF Europe, EURADIA, PCDE and FEND will continue in order to identify and consolidate common objectives and work in a cohesive and effective way.

So the theme of our conference – 'Declarations, Recommendations, Resolution, Action!' – is pertinent to all of us. I look forward to meeting you there, but for those who cannot attend, the keynote presentations will be available as webcasts on the FEND website after the conference.

Anne-Marie Felton
FEND President