



# News from FEND



We are all acutely aware of the catastrophe that fell on the people of Haiti in January. It is a horrendous humanitarian tragedy. FEND has responded by making a donation to the appeal that the International Diabetes Federation has co-ordinated. I am sure that you support this gesture.

## Annual conference 2010

This year's conference will be held on 19–20 September in Stockholm. The provisional programme is on the FEND website, together with online registration facilities and information on accommodation. Please take advantage of the reduced early rates, but check with the membership secretary (Kristin de Backer; fend.membership@fend.org) that your membership is up-to-date to be eligible. The conference programme includes the final reports from IMAGE and DIAMAP addressing, in particular, the implications for diabetes nurses. Submission of abstracts to the conference should be received by 12 May 2010, and you can find details of how to submit on the website. We encourage you to participate and share your research with an international audience. Also, on the website are webcasts of keynote lectures from last year's conference – an opportunity for those unable to attend to share in this important event.

## St Vincent 'Coming of Age' conference

This conference is a partnership with the diabetes European 'family', i.e. IDF Europe, EURADIA, PCDE and FEND. Belgium will hold the rotating EU presidency July–December 2010. We are in preliminary discussions with them in order to include the conference as part of their health summit. We will keep you informed of progress.

## FEND Chair in diabetes nursing

The interviews for this significant post are scheduled for February. We will make an announcement regarding the outcome on the website, so watch out for breaking news.

## FEND ENDCUP

The final module of the current ENDCUP course will be held 20–26 June at Roehampton University, London. It is our hope that the research projects undertaken by this cohort of students will form a distinct poster presentation at our conference in September.

## EU and diabetes

The new Commissioners for DGSanco and DG Research have been announced. FEND has sent official messages

of congratulations to the respective Commissioners, i.e. John Dalli, Commissioner Designate for Health and Consumer Policy, and Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, DG Research. Both have responded warmly to our message.

## EU Diabetes Working Group (EDWG)

Following the European elections in June, I am pleased to inform you that we now have four MEPs who make up the core membership of this significant advocacy group for diabetes within the EU. FEND, IDF Europe, EURADIA and PCDE have prepared a briefing document for this group regarding the challenges of diabetes in Europe. A meeting with this group was scheduled in February with regard to prioritising the agenda, and we hope to establish an EU supported framework for diabetes. This is a significant challenge for all of us. It is equally important that your national associations and partnerships work with your national Ministries of Health, to ensure that every country has a national plan for diabetes and for the prevention of diabetes. FEND is much concerned by the absence of a recognised diabetes specialised nursing service in many of the nation states of Europe. This was a significant finding of the SEND survey presented at our conference last year in Vienna. We will continue to advocate, through the working group, for their support and monitoring of the establishment of diabetes specialist nursing as an integral part of diabetes national frameworks.

## IDF news

I have been re-elected as a vice president of IDF and have been given responsibility as chair of the IDF Task Force on global advocacy. Prof Trish Dunning has been elected a vice president and will chair the Diabetes Education Consultative Section (DECS), and Sir Michael Hirst has been elected president elect. Debbie Jones has also been elected as IDF vice president and will chair the task force for youth. Together with Sir Michael Hirst she will chair the task force TIDES, which will deal with humanitarian emergencies and will work with key NGOs who have expertise in this particular field.

I take this opportunity on behalf of the executive board of FEND to wish you a happy and healthy 2010, and thank you for your continuing commitment to the mission of FEND.

## Anne-Marie Felton

FEND President