



News from FEND



The Annual Conference is again drawing near and will be held in Stockholm this year. The programme is varied with interesting and thought provoking topics and I am sure will promote a stimulating interactive meeting.

Once again the committee have been busy and I will share with you the activities we have been involved with to date. We are very pleased to announce that FEND is now a Registered Charity. Our objectives remain the same but the wording may be different. The object of our charity is to promote for the public benefit, improvements in the health and treatment of people with diabetes. We aim to achieve this by promoting the development of the role of the Diabetes Specialist Nurse and, in addition, promoting the education and training of nurses working in diabetes care throughout Europe by the development of training programmes, and the organisation of conferences to disseminate information.

The final module of the FEND ENDCUP was completed in June this year, and 17 students participated. We were particularly pleased to have the contribution of Professor Jean-Philippe Assal, President of the Foundation for Research and Training for Patient Education in Geneva, for the first three days of the course. His team were very well received and the students were given some excellent ideas to take home to implement in their respective services. Some of the students will present their work as abstracts at our forthcoming conference.

We are also very pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Angus Forbes as our second FEND Professorial Chair in Diabetes Nursing. Professor Forbes is based at the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery at King's College London. The position is a collaboration between FEND, King's College and the Diabetes Centre at King's College Hospital (KCH). We welcome Angus to this important role and look forward to working with him in further enhancing the essential contribution that the profession of nursing makes to the care of people with diabetes.

I am sure you will agree that the journal continues to publish interesting and innovative articles and this issue is no exception. There is however always a need for more and so I ask you to consider sending any current ideas you have to the editors for possible publication. I look forward to seeing some of you in Stockholm.

Deirdre Kyne Grzebalski
FEND Chairwoman



The European Coalition for Diabetes (ECD) continues its work of advocacy and influence in collaboration with the EU Diabetes Working Group (EDWG). This is a platform of four MEPs – Simon Bussutil (EPP Malta), Sarah Ludford (ALDE UK), Marisa Matias (GUE Portugal), Christel Schaldemose (S&D Denmark). On 12 July members of ECD and EDWG met with commissioner John Dalli to discuss the development and implementation of a targeted EU diabetes strategy in the form of an EU Council Recommendation on diabetes.

The ECD recognises the imperative for an EU strategy which would result in all member states establishing national diabetes plans. The commissioner received the representatives and indicated an understanding of the European burden of diabetes. Of particular importance was the commissioner's acceptance to participate in the Expert meeting of 8 December 2010. This meeting will provide a platform outlining the impact of the burden of diabetes with specific reports from expert working groups from prevention, care provision, research, education and training. It is anticipated that this meeting will provide the structure for a formal EU Council Recommendation on diabetes. UN Resolution on non-communicable diseases (NCDs), the Modalities Resolution, is a second key stage in securing the UN Resolution on NCDs. It is anticipated that this will be delivered in October this year and will indicate the scope of the NCD summit and also the duration.

It is of vital importance that your national organisations engage with the relevant departments (health and foreign affairs) of your governments in order to influence their preparation for the NCD summit. There will be regional meetings and these meetings are organised through the regional ECOSOC commission of the UN. At this early stage I urge you to engage with other relevant organisations (*eg* heart, cancer, kidney, respiratory) in addressing, in a co-ordinated way, the critical issues arising from these conditions in your countries. This is a real opportunity for the profession of nursing to contribute to this significant global summit. I would be very happy to meet with Chairs of national nursing organisations attending FEND annual conference to discuss this further. I look forward to meeting you in Stockholm. All good wishes

Anne-Marie Felton
FEND President