



## FEND news



The portents of an early Spring are evident from nature and likewise the portents of an exciting and positive year for FEND. The UN has announced a global summit on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) at the UN on 19–20 September 2011 in New York. Diabetes nursing organisations are urged to lobby their governments to ensure that their *Heads of State are fully engaged and present at this summit*. The IDF is one of the leading diabetes organisations working with others, including WHO, in preparing vital background to this meeting. I urge you to go the IDF website relating to NCDs: [www.idf.org/un-summit-ncds](http://www.idf.org/un-summit-ncds). The FEND President and Chairman have received an invitation to attend the WHO Global Forum on NCDs on 27 April 2011.

The next FEND ENDCUP programme is scheduled for 5–10 July 2011. The programme is hosted by King's College London and led by Prof Angus Forbes. King's College will accredit the programme, providing a post-graduate certificate in the first instance with options to go on to a PG Dip/MSc. The programme is ECTS credited. Further information and application forms are available on the FEND website: [www.fend.org/proj\\_e.html](http://www.fend.org/proj_e.html). The closing date for applications is 8 April 2011.

The 16th FEND Annual Conference will take place in Lisbon on 9–10 September 2011. The provisional programme can be viewed on the FEND website. The closing date for abstract submission is 12 May 2011 and abstract guidelines and submission forms are available on the FEND website: [www.fend.org/conference/abstracts.html](http://www.fend.org/conference/abstracts.html).

FEND has now established an online membership application form and payment process. The advantages of being a member of FEND include a cheaper rate for conference registration, FEND ENDCUP training programme which is exclusively for members and is free apart from travel, and the FEND journal *EDN*.

FEND is a founding member of the European Coalition for Diabetes (ECD) which is made up of EURADIA, FEND, IDF Europe and Primary Care Diabetes Europe. The most recent significant work was the symposium on 8 December 2010 at the EU Parliament in Brussels. The report of the symposium can be downloaded from the ECD website: [www.ecdiabetes.eu](http://www.ecdiabetes.eu).

I look forward to your participation in the FEND conference in September in Lisbon, and wish you all a fruitful year ahead.

**Anne-Marie Felton,**  
FEND President

## In from the cold



By the time you read this editorial we hope that the dreadful winter experienced by most of us in Europe will have dissipated. Some of you are used to cold spells but the prolongation of freezing conditions made us wonder if winter would ever be over. However, as we write this editorial there are snowdrops in the parks and the appearance of green shoots – spring is around the corner! There is new life emerging – not only in our gardens and woodlands, but also in our diabetes nursing profession. We are proud to give over our usual editorial space to Professor Angus Forbes, FEND Professor in Diabetes Nursing, who discusses these new beginnings in progressing diabetes nursing in Europe.

This special guest editorial focuses on the next steps vital to furthering the profession of diabetes specialist nurses (DSNs) and our need to: contribute towards the prevention of diabetes; encourage self-management in our patients; and develop more effective systems of care. However, the guest editorial also debates that the real green shoots of professional life and growth lie in our ability to collaborate. We must develop joint working relationships with regard to research and professional education.

Our guest editorial and the messages contained within are further complemented with a range of new research and reviews in this edition. For example, if we are to breathe fresh life into the profession then we need to fully understand the role development process for DSNs. Llahana's original exploration into phases and factors which influence DSN development provides clear recommendations for the future. McDonagh's review of the positive benefits of transitional care for young people with type 1 diabetes echoes the call for us to develop more effectual methods of care. Lastly, Burton leads the way on the collaboration we need for the future with the development of educational support for diabetes nurses in four European countries.

Spring is an exciting time; a time for new beginnings. There is still political upheaval and economic uncertainty in Europe, but this should not dissuade us from our endeavour to promote new shoots of growth for DSNs in Europe. Our professional winter is over. It really is time to come in from the cold.

**Gillian Hood and Bert Vrijhoef,**  
Co-editors, *EDN*