



FEND news



Another successful and busy year for FEND is coming to a close, a year that has seen the launch of online applications for both membership of FEND and attendance at our annual conference.

Our website is continually updated and relevant information made available; I hope you are able to visit the site and use the information provided.

Our Professor in Diabetes Nursing, Angus Forbes, has been busy this year with the successful launch of the new ENDCUP Programme, which comprised a summer school completed in July and an ongoing e-learning programme. A number of students from Europe and other countries in the world took part in the programme, and on completion will receive a postgraduate certificate in clinical diabetes management.

The conference, held in Lisbon this year, was once again well attended (>650 delegates) and highly evaluated. The programme was very well received with exceptional speakers who delivered highly appropriate and stimulating presentations. Rita Forde, a former committee member of FEND, has written an excellent report outlining the main points from the meeting (see page 117).

The journal continues to go from strength to strength with three issues published each year. I hope you are continuing to think of the journal first for any original work or innovations in practice you may wish to share. The editors are working hard to obtain index submission for the journal.

FEND, through you the members, continues to promote World Diabetes Day, and we trust that this year it will be another successful day highlighting the important issues of education and prevention.

FEND continues to work in collaboration with other European organisations to make up the European Coalition for Diabetes (ECD). The objective of this group is to improve prevention of diabetes, as well as the health and quality of life of European citizens living with diabetes, by influencing European Union policy. There is further information in this issue from your President, with regard to the recent United Nations Summit on Non-Communicable Diseases.

We look forward to hearing from you, whether online, through the journal or at our next annual conference. The conference next year will take place on 28 and 29 September 2012 in Berlin.

Deirdre Kyne Grzebalski,
Chairman of FEND

Benefit by sharing



Under the Stability and Growth Pact, agreed when the euro began in 1999, member states are supposed to ensure their debt does not exceed 60% of their gross domestic product (GDP). According to Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union (EU), 14 out of 27 countries in the EU have a public debt exceeding 60% of their GDP at the end of 2010. Topping the European debt league is Greece with a 142.8% government debt:GDP ratio, followed by Italy (118.4%), Belgium (96.2%), Ireland (94.9%) and Portugal (93.3%). The lowest government debt:GDP ratios were recorded in Estonia (6.6%), Bulgaria (16.2%) and Luxembourg (18.4%).

Productive interactions are necessary to prevent serious complications from occurring, as is a shared vision on how to meet the obvious targets. Doesn't this look common to what we are trying to achieve in diabetes care? One way of getting there is by sharing information in order to learn from each other. This is exactly what *EDN* aims to achieve. Not to solve the euro crisis, but to strengthen diabetes nursing across Europe. Then again, with over 60 million people who live with diabetes in Europe, evidence-based care does have significant economic and other implications.

This issue of *EDN* presents very interesting pieces of evidence. Huber *et al.* shed light on the views held and problems encountered by nurses working in home health care and nursing homes. Clarke reports on associations between personal characteristics and benefits of attendance at CODE, a structured diabetes education programme. Interim results of a study on the contribution of participant-driven patient education to a reduction of new ulceration are presented by Annersten Gershter *et al.* Diabetes specialist nursing in the UK is systematically reviewed by James. Zhang and Ho report on a case of severe hypoglycaemia in an individual with insulin treated type 2 diabetes, secondary to panhypopituitarism from a Rathke's cyst. Finally, highlights of this year's annual conference of FEND are reported by Rita Forde.

Another, special way of visualising the societal value of diabetes care is by awarding people for their contributions. It is with great pleasure to mention that Brigitte Osterbrink, member of FEND since its foundation, has been given the German Cross of Merit Award. Congratulations to Brigitte!

Bert Vrijhoef,
Co-editor, *EDN*