

# Global Diabetes Survey: call for your participation

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## Background

Currently, we are experiencing an epidemic growth in the number of patients with type 2 diabetes worldwide.<sup>1</sup> Today, approximately 285 million people have diabetes, corresponding to 6.4% of the world's adult population. The World Economic Forum foresees the development of the diabetes epidemic as a very severe disaster likely to occur in the near future, impacting on global economic growth.<sup>2</sup> In order to respond rapidly in a coordinated fashion to the health threat posed by diabetes it would be necessary to assess the quality and structures of diabetes care in a standardised way before the implementation of a National Diabetes Plan (NDP) presents the goals, processes, responsibilities, availability and accessibility of diabetes care.<sup>3</sup>

In September 2011, the Ministers of Health requested international cooperation and policy decisions on diabetes at the United Nations Summit for Non-Communicable Diseases. There was consensus across the countries that national plans for the prevention and control of chronic diseases have to be

## Summary

Today, there is a controversy about adequate quality of diabetes care and the best concept for the implementation of National Diabetes Plans. In September 2011, the United Nations Summit for Non-Communicable Diseases agreed on a consensus that national plans for prevention and control of diabetes have to be developed, implemented and monitored.

The goal of the Global Diabetes Survey (GDS) is to present an annual report about the quality of national diabetes care which will be assessed by the use of a standardised questionnaire. The GDS will be based on the appraisals of different groups of people such as patients, diabetes educators and general practitioners. The assessment will be performed globally on an annual basis and the results will make possible a comparative analysis between regions and countries. The findings will be freely available for everyone's use and will provide information for politicians and stakeholders to encourage them to improve the quality of diabetes care in its medical, economical, structural and political dimensions.

You are the expert and you are invited – if you are interested in the GDS – to register on the website: [www.globaldiabetessurvey.com](http://www.globaldiabetessurvey.com).

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## Key words

diabetes care; diabetes prevention; Global Diabetes Survey; national diabetes plans; quality of diabetes care

developed and implemented, and that strategies to monitor the implementation progress need to be established. In December 2010, the Diabetes Working Group in the European parliament, together with the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) European Region and the European Coalition on Diabetes, presented recommendations on how to improve the quality of diabetes care in the fields of prevention, care, education, research and rehabilitation. The recommendation called for standardised and annual monitoring of the quality of diabetes care in the member states.

As these actions suggest, one of the critical factors to tackle the diabetes epidemic is the implementation of NDPs. A number of European and international countries have currently developed NDPs with various success.<sup>4</sup> It was learnt that successful NDPs are individual to the implementing country and successful investment was built on the extensive knowledge of the structure-, process- and

outcome-quality of diabetes care as well as consensus between all relevant stakeholders about the implementation process to target action for NDP development.<sup>5</sup>

The Global Diabetes Survey (GDS) will monitor the quality of diabetes care in a number of countries, aiming to achieve 85% of the countries worldwide within the next five years.

## Objectives of the GDS

The Global Diabetes Survey has the following objectives:

- To assess annually the quality of national diabetes care in each participating country.
- To identify gaps and barriers in diabetes management in the participating countries and combine inter- and intra-country comparisons as a best practice strategy to provide targeted evidence to decision makers in the planning, management and organisation of NDPs.
- To analyse annually the changes in the quality of diabetes care by using the follow-up GDS data.

**The methodology of the GDS**

To achieve these objectives two conditions have to be met.

- A standardised set of questions, which represents adequately the quality of diabetes care in different countries, has to be developed.
- These questions have to be answered by the GDS stakeholder representing all relevant areas and focus groups in diabetes care.

**Development of the GDS questionnaire**

The quality of diabetes care will be assessed by the use of a standardised questionnaire. Appropriate items for the questionnaire will be obtained by reviewing existing diabetes guidelines and the NDPs. Identified items will be weighted regarding their relevance. Subsequently, the GDS questionnaire will be translated into different languages and an appropriate online format will be developed.

**Participants in the GDS: diabetes stakeholders**

To achieve a representative image of each country, a relevant number of stakeholders representing diabetes-related groups will be invited to participate in the survey: (1) patients or

patient organisations, (2) general practitioners, (3) diabetes specialists, (4) diabetes educators and nurses, (5) other diabetes carers, (6) scientists and scientific organisations, (7) prevention experts, (8) politicians/policy makers, (9) health insurance and payer representatives, (10) industry, (11) pharmacists, (12) indirectly affected persons, (13) other interest groups. The ultimate goal is to recruit, per 250 000 patients with diabetes mellitus in a given country, one person in each stakeholder volunteers group per country. In some smaller countries it will not be possible to get stakeholders in each group; in this case, those in groups 1–4 (above) are mandatory. The first steps have been implemented so that currently 650 stakeholders from 95 countries are already registered.

**Join and become a volunteer**

You are the right person to participate in the GDS and your opinion is very valuable to us and the global diabetes community.

**Please go to [www.globaldiabetesurvey.com](http://www.globaldiabetesurvey.com) and register yourself.**

If you are an approved GDS stakeholder you will receive an

email with a link to the survey questions in February/March. This first pilot testing will be limited to Europe. After this you will receive an email each year in September or October inviting you to fill out the survey questions. Finally, the project results will be communicated on 14 November, World Diabetes Day.

**References**

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**Diary dates****18<sup>th</sup> Bart's International Symposium: Diabetes Therapy 2012**

20 April 2012

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**PsychoSocial Aspects of Diabetes (PSAD) Spring Meeting**

20–22 April 2012

Ljubljana, Slovenia  
Email: [juliesmith@btinternet.com](mailto:juliesmith@btinternet.com)  
Website: [www.psad-easd.eu](http://www.psad-easd.eu)

**European Diabetes Epidemiology Group Conference 2012**

12–15 May 2012

Swansea, Wales, UK

Email: [EDEG2012@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:EDEG2012@swansea.ac.uk)

Website: [www.edeg.org](http://www.edeg.org)

**Heart UK 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference 27 – 29 June 2012**

The Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK  
Website: [www.heart.org.uk](http://www.heart.org.uk)

**Federation of European Nurses in Diabetes (FEND) Annual Conference**

28–29 September 2012

Berlin, Germany  
Website: [www.fend.org](http://www.fend.org)

**EASD Annual Meeting**

1 – 5 October 2012

Berlin, Germany

Email: [secretariat@easd.org](mailto:secretariat@easd.org)

Website: [www.easd.org](http://www.easd.org)

**International Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Diabetes (ISPAD) 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

10–13 October 2012

Istanbul, Turkey  
Email: [secretariat@ispad.org](mailto:secretariat@ispad.org)  
Website: [www.ispad.org](http://www.ispad.org)

**12<sup>th</sup> International Primary Care Diabetes Europe Conference (PCDE)**

26–27 October 2012

Barcelona, Spain  
Email: [secretary@pcdeurope.org](mailto:secretary@pcdeurope.org)  
Website: [www.pcdeurope.org](http://www.pcdeurope.org)