

FEND news



The Annual Conference is once again drawing near and will be held in Berlin this year at the ICC Congress Centre. The Executive Committee looks forward to welcoming you all to the conference, and also to reading Abstracts that we hope have been submitted by many of you, highlighting the important professionalism and experience of nurses working in diabetes care.

FEND's main aim continues to be to promote the role of the diabetes nurse in Europe. One of our principal goals is the ongoing development of training programmes for such nurses. Angus Forbes, our Professor in Diabetes Nursing, is working particularly hard to realise these goals in the further development of the FEND ENDCUP programme. The programme is unique in that it is disease-specific and aims to facilitate nurses in Europe to acquire the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to promote the development of accredited training courses for nurses specialising in diabetes in their countries. Please spread the word among your colleagues about this important programme, and watch the website for further details.

Angus is also facilitating a FEND Research Network Group, the main aim to develop a strategy to support diabetes nurses in developing a strong clinical academic platform, to ensure that they are fully equipped to meet the needs of people with diabetes by leading care innovations. There will be more information on this group and its activities at our conference in September.

Unfortunately, we have to announce some sad news, that of the retirement of the two current Co-editors of our journal. They have during their time as Co-editors brought the journal to a very high standard, evident in the quality of the articles published. Through their leadership they have mentored and given support to authors, a role particularly appreciated by our readership. We in FEND would like to wish them every success in the future and say a huge thank you to them for all the hard work and commitment they have given to the journal over the last few years.

We are, however, pleased to announce that we have two new Co-editors who have agreed to take on this important role and they are Angus Forbes, our present FEND Professor in Diabetes Nursing, and Magdalena Annersten-Gershater, a former Executive Committee member and at present Chair of the Abstract Committee.

We hope you all have a great summer and we look forward to seeing some of you in Berlin in September.

Deirdre Kyne-Grzebalski
Chairman of FEND

In the Olympian spirit...



'The important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle; the essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well.' I am pretty sure you are familiar with this citation from Pierre de Coubertin who once wrote the Olympic Creed. Not to win, but to take part is the aim. Perhaps this set of basic beliefs and principles fits daily life as well. It certainly reflects the life of people with diabetes and the professional life of diabetes nurses.

The similarities between the Olympic competitors and the competitors in diabetes care can be easily seen in this issue of *EDN*. One of the essential qualities of a great athlete is a *belief in his or her own ability*. Boström *et al.* study the extent wherein diabetes nurses in Sweden perceive their professional role in diabetes care. Olsen *et al.* present their findings on the perceived knowledge of diabetes among personnel practising in municipal care. The object of athletes should be *to perform to the best of their ability*. Thabit *et al.* describe the individual components of the artificial pancreas and aim to highlight existing clinical evidence from studies performed on available artificial pancreas prototypes. Most athletes *perform better in front of a crowd*. Jutterström *et al.* throw light on turning points in self-management described by people with type 2 diabetes. *Every athlete has to struggle against difficulties such as injuries and defeats*. Peter Schwarz briefly describes how the message of IMAGE gets translated to clinical practice and invites you to register for free on the international network 'Who is active in diabetes prevention'. *The Olympic spirit is shown when spectators applaud all the competitors, not just the winners*. To this end we should all give ourselves a pat on the back for the hard work and dedication we commit to diabetes care.

One important difference, however, is that most Olympic athletes take part once every four years, while people with diabetes and health care professionals participate every day.

Both Gillian Hood and I have decided to retire as Co-editors of *EDN*. We have done our best and do thank: you, the readers of *EDN*, for your contributions; FEND for providing us with the opportunity to take part in the editorial challenge; and the John Wiley & Sons publishing team for their continuous support. Last but not least we wish Angus Forbes and Magdalena Annersten-Gershater lots of fun and success as the new Co-editors of *EDN*.

Bert Vrijhoef
Co-editor, *EDN*