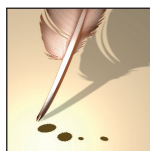




# FEND developments: participation is key



## Dear FEND member,

Welcome to the second issue of *European Diabetes Nursing*, the official journal of FEND. This year, 2005, is a significant year in the history of FEND – in September we celebrate our 10th anniversary. The 10th FEND Annual Conference will take place in Athens 9–10 September 2005. The programme promises to be an exciting event. The overall theme is ‘The Diabetes Marathon’. Choosing the marathon as a theme is significant in the context of Greece and has synergies for people with diabetes and for health care professionals in the partnership of care, research and education. The conference will address some critical areas within the profession of nursing – for example: the meaning of professionalism in the 21st Century; the social and political challenges of diabetes within the European Union; the role of national diabetes nursing organisations; prevention of diabetes; the evolving role of the diabetes specialist nurse with emphasis as a prescriber; workshops; and masterclasses that explore further the keynote addresses. Ample time will be given for discussion and socialisation. We hope that you will join nursing colleagues from across Europe in this conference. We encourage submission of abstracts, the closing date for which is 30 April 2005. Registration is now open and you may take advantage of early registration rates. Details are available on the FEND website, <http://www.fend.org>.

The date 7 March 2005 marked another significant development in the history of FEND. The European Centre for Diabetes Nursing Research, a partnership with the medical faculty of Uppsala University and FEND, was inaugurated. This centre will be led by Professor Karin Wikblad, FEND Professor of Diabetes Nursing. On behalf of all our members we congratulate Professor Wikblad on this significant achievement. I am sure that this centre will be an important beacon for all nurses working in diabetes care, research and education. Through this centre, Professor Wikblad is establishing a network of diabetes nurse researchers. We wish this venture every success and look forward to receiving regular reports in this journal. Further information regarding this centre can be found on <http://www.medsci.uu.se/diabnurse/>.

## FEND ENDCUP

The ENDCUP programme 2004–05 is nearing completion. The final research module will take place in Barcelona at University Autònoma in July. Applications are now welcomed for the 2007 course and details are

available on the FEND website. A full review of FEND ENDCUP in partnership with the three universities will take place in 2005. The aim is to review the outcomes of the courses delivered so far, and to consider curriculum development and also new university partners in order to facilitate easier access in other European countries.

## New national diabetes nursing organisations

Congratulations to Malgorzata Gasiorowska (FEND Executive Committee Member) and her colleagues who have established the Polish National Diabetes Nursing Society. The inaugural conference will be held in May 2005. We wish them every success and look forward to continued collaboration between our two organisations.

I had the honour and pleasure of presenting a keynote lecture on FEND and FEND ENDCUP at the Slovenian Annual Diabetes Nursing Conference in Bled in October 2004. This conference was well attended and great interest was shown in FEND and we now anticipate a significant number of our Slovenian members undertaking the ENDCUP course in 2006–07. Congratulations to Mateja Tomazin (FEND Executive Committee Member), Chairman of the Slovenian conference, for a splendid programme in a perfect setting.

We welcome reports from national diabetes nursing organisations. Such reports will ensure that members are aware of activities in individual European countries and may well promote collaborative exchange and research. To this end we will ensure that in the FEND annual conference national diabetes nursing organisations will be given an opportunity to present their activities.

## Further FEND activities

As this is the 10th anniversary of the founding of FEND a special pre-conference reception, courtesy of LifeScan, will be held on the evening of 8 September in the conference venue (Divani Caravel Hotel). On 10 September after the FEND conference, there will be a symposium organised by Sanofi-Aventis. All registered delegates will receive personal invitations to both events.

Nominations are invited for the Executive Committee of FEND. There are four vacancies and nomination forms will be sent to members in May. I hope that there will be much interest in this important aspect of FEND’s continuing development.

May I wish you all a happy Spring break and, together with the Executive Committee, I look forward to seeing you in Athens this September.

**Anne-Marie Felton**, FEND Chairman