

Ascensia Diabetes Care hosted the EMEA* Diabetes Nurse Symposium 2016



Participants of the EMEA Diabetes Nurse Symposium 2016

On November 3rd and 4th, Ascensia Diabetes Care organized the EMEA Diabetes Nurse Symposium in Vienna, Austria. The event was endorsed by the Foundation of European Nurses in Diabetes (FEND) and attracted nearly 100 participants with diabetes specialist nurses coming from 15 different countries including Poland, Serbia, Romania, Turkey, Lebanon, KSA, Iran.



Anne Felton
Chair of the symposium

The faculty comprised nurses, doctors and people with diabetes from across Europe and the Middle East, including Angus Forbes (UK), Anne Felton (UK), Professor Tomasz Klupa (Poland), Seyda Özcan (Turkey) and Mohammad Al-Bahar (young

IDF leader from Kuwait). Taking place in Vienna, the two day symposium consisted of various presentations and panel discussions tailored towards providing valuable information for diabetes nurse specialists with the goal of offering a platform for sharing best practices with international colleagues.

During the first day of the symposium, sessions covered the importance of "Diabetes and Primary Care" as well as the impact of Lifestyle and Education on people living with diabetes.

Interconnected Diabetes Management is a topic that is becoming increasingly relevant. After a very insightful presentation by Professor Klupa showing the different aspects of interconnectivity, Professor Forbes led a panel discussion on Diabetes Self-Management and Technology, in which he highlighted the potential of mHealth to improve outcomes and provide easy access to valuable data for healthcare professionals and patients.

The day was rounded off with presentations on Diabetes Complications Updates, including the Diabetic Foot, presented by Magdalena

Annersten Gershtater

The focus of the second day shifted to patient communication. This was underpinned by three people narrating their personal experiences from their daily lives living with diabetes. The audience was very impressed to have the unique contribution of these individuals sharing their life stories.

In the afternoon, the sessions covered the evolving role of the diabetes specialist nurse as

well as political advocacy in Europe and what could be done also in other countries/ regions. Anne Felton, chairperson of the symposium concluded the conference also with an outlook on FEND activities in 2017.

Ascensia Diabetes Care are already planning for a continuation of the 2017 EMEA Nurse Symposium and is showing their continuous interest in supporting and collaborating with diabetes specialist nurses.



Angus Forbes

"The symposium provided a vibrant opportunity for diabetes nurses to learn and be stimulated by an interesting and diverse programme that addressed issues of high relevance to the care of people with diabetes. The programme emphasised both technical aspects of care and the importance of listening to the patient's voice. It was also a good opportunity for nurses from across Europe to network and share experiences."

*EMEA = countries from (Eastern) Europe, Middle East, Africa