



Some success – much more to be achieved



Dear FEND member,

Luxembourg – 2 June was an important day in EU health affairs. Significantly EU health ministers agreed in broad terms the conclusions of the Austrian EU Presidency health summit on diabetes. In addition there is now a European parliamentary diabetes declaration, which was secured by a majority of MEPs in the EU parliament in April. This was led by John Bowis MEP (member of FEND Advisory board) and colleagues Georgs Adrejevs, Dorette Corbey and Karin Sheele. Following the declaration a press conference was held in the European parliament on 19 April, in which the FEND Chairman and Dr Michael Hall (IDFE) took part. The Council conclusions and parliamentary declaration are available at the FEND website.

What is acknowledged at this high political level is that diabetes is a major cause of (premature) death and reduced quality of life. Significant attention is paid to the need for early diagnosis and identification of at risk groups. Furthermore, there was a recognition of the need for a multidisciplinary approach and structured systems of care which include patient education and the education and training of the multidisciplinary team. In addition, the European Commission has invited and encourages the exchange of best practice between its member states, and report on their own national diabetes plans. The Council conclusions and the European parliamentary declarations will have a significant influence on member states and aspiring member states. FEND and IDFE, together with EASD and PCDE, have played an important role in influencing these two significant achievements. While we have not yet been successful in achieving an EU recommendation, we will continue to lobby for this; building on the solid foundations achieved this year. It is gratifying to note that in the recent update of the DG SANCO website the report *Diabetes: the Policy Puzzle* was cited. This joint report was produced by FEND and IDF-Europe.

FEND ENDCUP 2007–8

We are pleased to announce that the next FEND ENDCUP programme is scheduled for 2007–8, commencing July 2007. Further information will be available on the FEND website and at the FEND

conference in Copenhagen. We particularly urge members from central and Eastern Europe to avail of this significant accredited academic programme. We thank our university partners (University Autònoma Barcelona, Roehampton University London, University of Uppsala) for their continued support.

UN Resolution on diabetes campaign

FEND is extremely proud to be a partner in this global endeavour. This mission is led by Professor Martin Silink, President Elect of IDF global. The media launch of the campaign took place in Washington DC during the ADA in June. There was wide interest with coverage from the *Financial Times* and *New York Times*, among many. The draft resolution is now being carefully crafted and will be submitted by the sponsoring country for the next session of the UN. At national levels the pertinent ministerial departments are being addressed by representatives of the UNR steering committee and other designated persons. The importance of ensuring UN member nation support is critical – hence the intense global lobbying. For members of FEND we hope that you, in conjunction with other key stakeholder organisations in your countries, will join the campaign. The UN resolution has its own website – www.unitefordiabetes.com – and there you will find useful information regarding media access, lobbying and, of course, the objectives of the UNR. FEND has made the decision to carry the logo of the UNR campaign on the cover of European Diabetes Nursing.

The FEND website has the latest news relevant to diabetes in Europe and FEND's responses.

I wish you all a pleasant Summer and look forward to seeing many of you at the FEND annual conference in Copenhagen.

Carpe Diem!

Anne-Marie Felton
Chairman FEND

FEND website: www.fend.org
UN resolution campaign: www.unitefordiabetes.com