



Looking towards 2007: a crucial year



Dear FEND member,

The coming year is a crucial year for diabetes, and over the next twelve months FEND has two key objectives. The first is to secure a European Union recommendation on diabetes across the EU political scene. The second is partnership in the Unite for Diabetes campaign for a UN Resolution on diabetes. FEND is proud to be a supporting organisation to this campaign and is integral in promoting awareness, not only among its membership, but throughout Europe. Of critical importance is the commitment of diabetes nursing organisations across Europe to support the campaign in their individual countries.

The website www.unitefordiabetes.org provides information for the media, and campaign kits that include advice and practical tips to help individuals write letters to politicians and opinion leaders in support of the Unite for Diabetes campaign. It is also possible to download posters that can be displayed in diabetes clinics and community centres to help raise awareness of the campaign. A global online petition is up and running that aims to rally support for the resolution, and we urge everyone to sign this and show their support.

The People's Republic of Bangladesh is lead sponsor for the Resolution on diabetes, and is actively engaged in diplomatic discussions to secure support (an initial draft resolution has now been drawn up – see below). The EU tends to vote *en bloc* in matters relating

to the UN, and lobbying of health ministers and foreign ministers to secure support is critical. We urge our members, and the individual nursing organisations, to engage with people with diabetes and their families to secure their government's support in the UN.

Annual conference and committee changes

The 11th annual FEND conference in Copenhagen was attended by a record number of delegates. FEND would like to thank all the speakers, delegates and our sponsors, who helped to make this conference a huge success. Particular congratulations go to the winners of the FEND and DESG awards, and those selected to present.

The 12th annual meeting will be held on 14–15 September 2007 in Amsterdam. The planning process for this is underway and a call for abstracts has already been posted. The abstract committee will be overseen by Magdalena Annersten. The conference will be chaired by Deirdre Kyne-Grzebalski, who will become Chair of FEND in April 2007. Anne-Marie Felton will become President; and Viv Aldridge will take over from Deirdre Kyne-Grzebalski as Treasurer. Claudia Lipert and Angelica Munzinger from Germany, and Selda Geddic from Turkey have joined the Executive Committee; and Seyda Ozcan and Birtha Hansen will join the Board of Special Advisors.

Anne-Marie Felton

FEND Chairman

The draft UN resolution

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the Millennium Declaration as well as the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, in particular the health-related development goals therein, and its resolutions 60/265 of 30 June 2006 and 58/3 of 23 December 2003

Recognizing that strengthening public health and health care delivery systems is critical to achieving internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals

Recognizing also that diabetes is a chronic, debilitating and costly disease associated with severe complications, which poses severe risks for families, member states and the entire world and serious challenges to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals including the MDGs

Reaffirming the World Health Assembly resolution WHA42.36 of 19 May 1989 on prevention and control of diabetes mellitus and World Health Assembly Resolution 57/17 of 22 May 2004 on a global strategy on diet, physical activity and health

Welcoming the fact that the WHO and the IDF have been officially

observing 14 November as World Diabetes Day at a global level since 1991 Recognizing the urgent need to pursue multilateral efforts to promote and improve human health, provide access to treatment and healthcare education Decides to designate the current World Diabetes Day, 14 November, as a UN World Diabetes Day, to be observed every year beginning in 2007

Invites all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations including civil society and private sector, to observe the World Diabetes Day in an appropriate manner, in order to raise public awareness on diabetes and related complications as well as its prevention and care including through education and the mass media

Encourages Member States to develop national policies for the prevention, treatment and care of diabetes in line with the sustainable development of their health care systems as outlined in internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals

Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States and organizations of the United Nations system