



The first UN Resolution on diabetes – an historic event



Dear FEND member,

The bugle call of concord of the United Nations Assembly announcing the first UN Resolution on diabetes is an historic and unique event. For the first time in the history of the UN a non communicable disease has been rightly given the status of a UN Resolution. This UN Resolution was announced at 17:59 (New York time) 20 December 2006. It represents the support of all member nations of UN through consensus that the pandemic of diabetes is a global threat to human kind and that the Resolution will seek to influence nation states and key stakeholders to ensure that the objectives of the Resolution are meaningful, evident and operational throughout the world.

The precise terms of the UN Resolution are:

1. Decides to designate 14 November, the current World Diabetes Day, as a United Nations Day, to be observed every year beginning in 2007
2. Invites all Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, as well as civil society including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to observe World Diabetes Day in an appropriate manner, in order to raise public awareness on diabetes and related complications as well as on its prevention and care, including through education and the mass media
3. 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, taking into account the internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goal
4. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States and organizations of the United Nations system.

The full text can be found on the FEND website and the UNR campaign website (www.unitefordiabetes.org).

FEND has been proud to be part of the 'unite for diabetes' campaign and through its members have played an important role in lobbying support through national organisations and their governments. I personally want to thank all of you for the dedication and skill with which you pursued the campaign. In many respects the work only just begins! IDF and its coalition partners

will pursue the achievements of the Resolution through the continuation of its strategic plan. This requires a global effort from the diabetes community, civic society, professional societies, and governments. Over the next few months the plan will be shared across these key stakeholders in order to ensure that at national, geopolitical and societal levels critical plans are established and implemented to embrace the UN Resolution in health and social policy.

I am confident that you will play your part within your own country and through your national organisations continue to collaborate and influence in the outstanding way that you have done in phase 1 of the campaign.

FEND conference 2007

This year's conference will be held in Amsterdam on the 14–15 September. The theme of conference is: 'The Diabetes Image: Personal, Professional, Political, Societal'. Keynote speakers will address these central themes and masterclasses will be a central part of the conference. The call for abstracts is on the FEND website and as are all details regarding the conference. We look forward to welcoming you – your attendance and contribution are a vital ingredient in the success of the conference.

FEND ENDCUP

The next FEND ENDCUP programme is scheduled for 8–14 July. The closing date for applications is 1 March 2007. The programme will take place at Roehampton university London. Details and application form are available on the FEND website (under Projects). The ENDCUP programme offers a unique opportunity for diabetes specialist nurses from across Europe to study together and establish professional networks in addition to undertaking a pan European diabetes accredited academic programme. We hope that you will consider undertaking this programme. The financial contribution required from students is minimal, i.e. personal travel cost and an administration fee of €150. All other costs including accommodation, tutorial support and course material is paid by FEND.

Diabetes and the EU

FEND and IDF Europe (IDF-E) have been invited by DG Sanco to discuss the public health programme with particular reference to prevention of ill health. This



follows on from the EU Health Ministers Conclusions after the Austrian Presidency Health Summit on the prevention and management of type 2 diabetes and in addition the EU parliamentary declaration of 25 April 2005. FEND recognises that it is important to ensure that these significant statements from the EU parliament and the public health policy are relevant to diabetes. The audit 'Diabetes The Policy Puzzle: Towards Benchmarking in the EU 25', carried out by FEND and IDF-E have proved an important tool in highlighting the status of national plans/frameworks for diabetes. The deficit in terms of operational plans is very revealing. The response of governments suggests that published tools such as this can be highly motivating in political health circles, in particular where there was an absence of plans. This audit will be repeated in partnership with IDF-E and Primary Care Diabetes Europe later this year and will include the recent accession states.

Looking ahead

The year ahead is full of opportunity and FEND will continue to exercise its influence in a positive way through co-operation and collaboration with key stakeholders. Of particular concern is the lack of professional recognition of the diabetes specialist nurse in

a number of countries. We are currently funding a major research programme addressing this very important issue. It is anticipated that this will be completed in the next 18 months and the findings of this research will be presented at a future FEND conference.

At the end of April there will be changes in the structure of the FEND Executive. Three new members elected to the Executive committee are: Selda Gedik (Turkey), Claudia Leippert (Germany) and Angelika Muenzinger (Germany). Vivien Aldridge will assume Treasurer and Deirdre Kyne-Grzebalski assume the position of Chairman and Anne-Marie Felton will become President. Nominations for the Executive committee will be sought in May and a postal ballot will follow in July. The following have retired from the Executive: Dr Seyda Ozcan, Birtha Hansen and Mateja Tomazin. I wish to thank them personally and on your behalf for all their hard work, commitment and inspiration. I know they will continue to be committed to FEND.

I wish you all, somewhat belatedly, a very happy and healthy 2007.

Anne-Marie Felton

FEND Chairman

Membership of FEND

Membership is open to *all* nurses throughout Europe working in diabetes. All members of FEND will automatically receive, free of charge, a copy of the official journal of FEND – *European Diabetes Nursing*

Membership fees:

1 year: 45 Euros

3 years: 110 Euros

If you would like to join FEND, a membership application form can be downloaded from the website at **www.fend.org** and click on Membership, or contact the Membership Secretary Deirdre Cregan. Completed forms and payment should be sent to the Membership Secretary:

Deirdre Cregan

FEND membership, 7 Beech Park, Castle Road,
Kilkenny, Ireland

E-mail: dcregan7@eircom.net

Call for Papers

European Diabetes Nursing

The Editor welcomes contributions to the journal of all types, whether original research, reviews, case reports, conference reports, conference notices, or comments etc.

If you would like to contribute to the journal please contact the Editorial Office at the address below for further information and a copy of the Guidelines for Authors.

Helen Ilter

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