



Establishing an EU framework for diabetes



Dear FEND members

Welcome to the Autumn issue of *EDN*. As our Editor in Chief has pointed out, we are celebrating the third anniversary of our journal. I hope that you continue to find it informative and motivating. I am sure you will join with me in thanking the Editor in Chief, Sarah Hills and her editorial team for their commitment and leadership.

A European strategy for diabetes remains a constant objective for FEND. I am very pleased to inform you that the Portuguese EU Presidency has included diabetes in its health agenda in association with chronic diseases. FEND, together with IDF Europe (IDF-E) made a significant contribution to the discussions at the express invitation of the Portuguese Ministry of Health. While European progress to policy recommendations is gathering momentum, there is still an unseemly reluctance by EU institutions to collaborate with the relevant non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to establish an EU framework for diabetes. What was particularly encouraging from the Portuguese round table meeting in June was the recognition of the importance of the third sector (i.e. NGOs) in bringing their significant influence on political decision makers in relation to priorities of health. FEND raised the significant landmark UN Resolution (UNR) on diabetes of 2006 and urged the Portuguese Presidency to acknowledge this UNR in its submission to EU health ministers in December. FEND recognises that the global dimension of diabetes is a global concern for all and this is further recognised by the Crisp report on matters of international health and national responsibility. The Millennium development goals to which EU member states have agreed and signed a commitment include some important aspects of health but exclude others, particularly the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

This is a most regrettable omission, especially for low and middle income countries in Europe. A European diabetes strategy must be established and sustained. The importance of engendering co-operation between European governments and NGOs such as FEND, IDF-E and Primary Care Diabetes Europe (PCDE) in pursuance of this objective cannot be understated.

The first UN World Diabetes Day (14 November 2007) is a significant opportunity for all national diabetes nursing organisations to influence and contribute to marking this special event. Some of the plans in member states are exciting – e.g. the possibility of the Eiffel Tower, the London Eye and other iconic buildings in European capitals, being illuminated in blue.

It is important to recognise the significant achievements that have been made thus far, particularly the placing of type 2 diabetes on the EU health agenda during the Austrian Presidency in 2005. FEND has welcomed the opportunity of working with our other partners in the EU, in particular IDF-E and PCDE. The importance of establishing effective allies cannot be underestimated and the spirit of effective alliances will continue to be one of the hallmarks of FEND. More recently, we have been establishing closer links with ISPAD (International Society for Paediatric and Adolescent Diabetes) and we are immensely pleased that Professor Thomas Danne and Bärbel Aschemeier will present a keynote lecture at our conference this year.

I look forward to meeting you at the FEND conference and the AGM for members which is scheduled for 0800 Saturday 15 September in the conference venue hotel.

All good wishes

Anne-Marie Felton
FEND President

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

European Diabetes Nursing, John Wiley & Sons, The Atrium, Southern Gate, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 8SQ, UK
Tel: +44 (0)1243 770520 **Fax:** +44 (0)1243 770144 **E-mail:** hilter@wiley.co.uk