

DAWN: a 'Call to Action'

In 2001, the results of the first Diabetes Attitudes, Wishes and Needs (DAWN) study were published. Producing evidence to support how self-management behaviours are primarily influenced by psychosocial problems was groundbreaking. Healthcare professionals and people with diabetes came together and developed a plan of action.

Five goals for improved diabetes care were identified as a result of those DAWN study findings. The 'Call to Action' identified ways to improve the health and quality of life with diabetes, sending a strong message that addressing the psychosocial and behavioural needs of people with diabetes is an essential component of diabetes care.

Cities challenged to be 'diabetes aware'

The world's cities will soon have the opportunity to be officially designated 'diabetes aware'. They will be challenged to show that their public services and businesses encourage healthy lifestyles for people with diabetes and those at risk.

The new scheme is being created by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and the European Connected Health Alliance (ECHAlliance) who plan to launch it on World Diabetes Day, 14 November 2014. IDF and the ECHAlliance want to create a global network of 'diabetes aware' cities using mobile health tools to promote diabetes awareness and support.

A 'diabetes aware' city will demonstrate that all sections of the community are committed to creating a healthy urban environment. Local public services, businesses, and institutions will demonstrate that they understand the challenges faced by people with diabetes and those at risk. This may include providing appropriate nutritional information in restaurants or city authorities ensuring green spaces are safe and accessible for exercise.

Using mobile health tools and apps, key stakeholders in city life will be able to target diabetes aware options to those at risk of diabetes and those with the disease.

An expert group is being established by IDF and the ECHAlliance to draw up the scheme. It will include representatives from business, NGO and mHealth sectors, amongst others.

'By 2035 one in ten of the world's population will have diabetes unless there is radical change,' says Dr Petra Wilson, IDF's Chief Executive. 'People in urban areas will be particularly vulnerable. Socially and economically this diabetes epidemic will be very costly. It is important that we find new ways of working across all sectors to provide people with targeted information on healthier lifestyle options,' she added.

Brian O'Connor, Chair of the ECHAlliance welcomed the new partnership, 'Providing people with mobile information on healthier places to eat, shop, and exercise in cities is the first step toward making the healthy choice the easy choice. Information is the key to enabling healthy choices.'

Addressing the challenge of GDM in the developing world

The Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare (AMPATH) is a partnership between Moi University School of Medicine at the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Kenya, and a consortium of North American universities and schools led by Indiana University.

AMPATH's mission is to provide and expand sustainable access to high quality care through: the development of passionate leaders in global health; research focused on local and global solutions; and the establishment of critical healthcare infrastructure and systems.

An AMPATH study group is in the process of developing a strategy for screening and diagnosing gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) in resource-constrained settings.

IDF welcomes two new Member Associations from Africa

At the 22nd IDF General Assembly, 18 new Member Associations were approved, reaching a total of 231 worldwide. Two new Full Members from Africa were included: the Diabetes Association of Botswana in Gaborone, Botswana; and the Association des Diabétoques du Congo (ADIC) in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo.

The complete list of Full Members can be viewed on www.idf.org/membership/meet-our-members.



IDF appoints new Chief Executive Officer

The International Diabetes Federation (IDF) has appointed Dr Petra Wilson as its Chief Executive Officer.

Dr Wilson joins IDF from Cisco, where she was Senior Director of the European Health and Care Business Solutions team. At Cisco she worked

with the World Health Organization, the European Commission, national and regional governments, and healthcare organisations on policies to use communications technologies to drive safer and more efficient health and care delivery systems.

'I am delighted to be taking up this challenging post. Diabetes is one of the most pressing health challenges globally, which demands that people, organisations, communities and nations work together to create a better future for those affected by the disease. IDF has a deservedly high reputation as a forthright advocate for people with diabetes, and I look forward to being part of such a dynamic global movement,' she said.

Estimates show that diabetes kills one person every 6 seconds

Diabetes kills one person every 6 seconds and afflicts 382 million people worldwide, according to the International Diabetes Federation, which has been canvassing the help of celebrities to raise awareness about the problem.

The number of diabetes cases has climbed 4.4% over the past 2 years and is more than 5% of the world's population, according to new figures the Brussels-based federation released in March. The number of people affected by the disease is expected to climb 55% to 592 million by 2035 as factors including poor diet, a more sedentary lifestyle, increases in obesity, and life expectancy fuel an epidemic, it said. There were only 285 million sufferers worldwide in 2009.