

From: Adrian Sanders, Secretary General PDGN (Parliamentary Diabetes Global Network)

Dear PDGN Supporter

On behalf of the President and Officers of PDGN I am writing to update you on developments as a new era in our network's history begins.

To recap in as few words as possible; at the Vancouver Forum in December 2015 it was agreed that the Officers would seek the continuation of a close working relationship with the International Diabetes Foundation (IDF) despite the evident downgrading of advocacy from IDF's future priorities. It was further agreed that if this was not possible PDGN would continue as a separate organisation.

Repeated attempts to seek such an arrangement with IDF failed, although a close working relationship with IDF Europe is emerging. At their meeting in Rabat the Officers agreed to set up a company limited by guarantee and seek charitable status in the UK. That process is nearing completion and when it is our new website will go live and a more comprehensive mailing (newsletter) will be published.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, ideas or news, please get in touch.

Kind regards and best wishes

Adrian

P.S. Can you help update our records by filling in the attached form?

Website

A website is currently under construction that will contain contacts, past newsletters, Forum details and news. It will also host a membership application page prospective supporters can be directed to. In the meantime, past PDGN documents and materials, and the ExPAND toolkit, continue to be hosted on the IDF website.

Hosting Officer meetings

Thanks to PDGN Officer, Dr Mostafa Brahimi, and the Moroccan Parliament, the Officers were able to meet in Rabat. The visit gained significant press, TV and radio publicity. If your Parliament has a budget that can be used to host a two day visit by up to 10 politicians from around the world, please contact the Secretary General. Officers meet in person at least once a year in between the biennial forum. As well as thanks for hosting, congratulations are due to Mostafa on his recent re-election to Parliament.

Membership

PDGN is only as strong as its members and supporters and the more we have the stronger our influence and ability to support you. Do you have a colleague with an interest in diabetes who could join? Membership is free and open to any national or regional parliamentary representative, including the European Parliament. Just contact the Secretary General with names and email addresses and he will send out application forms.

Advisory Board

In addition to the input of our voluntary Officers PDGN is creating an Advisory Board open to sponsors to help guide our progress and offer practical support to our members.

New Co-Chair

Following the appointment of Co-Chair Adrian Sanders as Secretary General, Officers voted to co-opt Chris Delicata from Malta to the position. Chris is a former board member of IDF, a former President of IDF Europe, and currently chair of the European Diabetes Coalition. Our current Board of 8 members has representation from Australia, Eastern Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and North America.

Biennial Forum

The next biennial forum is being considered and venues are being scoped. Having previously held our Forum in Australia 2013, and Canada 2015, we are looking to Europe in 2017/18. As previously two places will be offered to serving Parliamentarians who are already members of PDGN or are identified as champions for diabetes from each country. The theme of the next forum and detailed agenda will be influenced by our supporters and the PDGN Advisory Board. Your views are welcome, just contact the Secretary General.

Future Events and dates of interest

Political:

G7/G8 Summit May 2017 Sicily, Italy

G20 Summit Jul 2017 Hamburg

Jun 2018 Buenos Aires

EU Presidency Jan-Jun 2017 Malta

Jul -Dec 2017 Estonia

Jan – Jun 2018 Bulgaria

Jul – Dec 2018 Austria

Medical:

ISPAD 2017 Oct 18-21 Innsbruck, Austria

Emirates Diabetes Congress Feb 2017 Dubai

WHO Assembly May 2017

May 2018

Diabetes UK Professional Conference Mar 8-10 Manchester

ADA Conference Jun 9-13 2017 San Diego

Patients:

IDF Congress Dec 2017 Abu Dhabi

Feedback

All feedback by email to Adrian Sanders, Secretary General, adrian@pdgn.co.uk

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