



Global Advocacy Diabetes

The newsletter of the Parliamentarians for Diabetes Global Network
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Inside this issue:

Diabetes and COVID-19, Sugar Tax News, Tarantulas and Diabetes, Sudan Health Disaster, and lots of Advocacy Action ideas.

WHO Global Diabetes Compact Launched

The World Health Organisation held an international summit in April at which a Global Compact, focussing on setting global coverage targets for diabetes care was launched.

A key aim of the Global Diabetes Compact is to unite key stakeholders from the public and private sectors, and, critically, people who live with diabetes, around a common agenda, to generate new momentum and co-create solutions.

A "global price tag" will quantify the costs and benefits of meeting these new targets. It will also advocate for fulfilling the commitment made by governments to include diabetes prevention and treatment into primary health care and as part of universal health coverage packages.

At the launch Dr Bente Mikkelsen, Director of the Department of Noncommunicable Diseases at WHO said: "The "all hands-on

deck" approach to the COVID-19 response is showing us what can be achieved when different sectors work together to find solutions to an urgent public health problem.



PDGN's response is simple - Holding Governments to account to deliver the aims of the Compact is crucial if it is to succeed.

Advocacy Action: Your country may have signed up to the Compact. If it did can you ask what your Governments plans are to reach the targets that have been set? If not, can you put pressure on your Government to join up?

[https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/country-profiles/diabetes/narrative---who-global-diabetes-compact---7-april-2021-at-1800-\(final\).pdf](https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/country-profiles/diabetes/narrative---who-global-diabetes-compact---7-april-2021-at-1800-(final).pdf)

<https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/world-diabetes-day/global-diabetes-compact-final.pdf>

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CONTINUOUS GLUCOSE MONITORING

Diabetes and Indigenous communities

The Raven Indigenous Impact Foundation received \$500,000 grant to develop an innovative, Indigenous-led social finance model to reduce diabetes

The Vancouver based Raven Indigenous Impact Foundation (RIIF) has announced plans to create a Diabetes Reduction Bond – an innovative model for designing and financing diabetes interventions in Canada and around the world.

Using a Can\$500,000 grant from the World Diabetes Foundation, RIIF CEO Jeff Cyr described a three part action model they have devised as a way to drive transformation within a health care system. He says: "1. The investment of private capital allows 2. Indigenous community-led intervention to improve health outcomes, 3. resulting in massive systemic savings for government."

He believes that over time that direct investment into communities, improved economic wellbeing for Indigenous families, increased Indigenous leadership in social enterprises, and significant long-term cost-savings for the health care system.

Diabetes and its complications are a serious burden for Indigenous communities in Canada.

"We have to rethink how we address social problems in order to make lasting change in our communities," said Jeff. "Indigenous communities and

knowledge have to be at the centre of the approach."

Participants include six First Nations communities, the RIIF, the Lawson Foundation, the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch of the Department of Indigenous Services Canada (FNIHB), as well as regional health authorities, medical professionals, Novo Nordisk, and several foundations.

The grant will fund the development and launch of a pilot Diabetes Reduction Bond/Community-Driven Outcomes Contract (CDOC) to finance diabetes prevention interventions.

Advocacy Action: Health inequalities can be found in many areas with indigenous populations. Are legislators aware of health inequalities among indigenous populations in your country? Can you do more to highlight their needs and assist them?



Tarantulas Could Offer a New Treatment for Type 2



Set aside your arachnophobia (fear of spiders) if you can, the mighty tarantula could be coming to the rescue of some people with type 2 diabetes.

A team of researchers, led by Professor Nigel Irwin at Ulster University and funded by Diabetes UK, have found molecules in tarantula venom could offer a new treatment for people with type 2 diabetes.

The molecule from the venom of a Mexican Blonde tarantula (pictured) has been found to increase insulin production, lower blood sugar levels and decrease food intake in mice.

While tarantulas give some people the creeps because of their large, hairy bodies and legs, they are harmless to humans (except for a painful bite), and their mild venom is weaker than a typical bee's.

<https://www.express.co.uk/life-style/health/1430262/Type-2-diabetes-treat-tarantula-venom>

Half a Billion People with Diabetes and 90 percent Not Receiving Proper Care

A University of Michigan and Brigham and Women's Hospital study has calculated that ninety per cent of people with diabetes living in low- and middle-income countries do not receive the kind of care that could make their lives healthier, longer and more productive.

The US study, published in the journal *Lancet Healthy Longevity*, showed that nearly half a billion people on the planet have diabetes, but many don't even know they have the condition.

Just one in 10 people with diabetes in low- and middle-income countries receive ample care -- low-cost medicines to reduce blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol levels; and counselling on diet, exercise and weight, which can help lower the health risks. The risks include future

heart attacks, strokes, nerve damage, blindness, amputations and other disabling or fatal conditions.

The researchers analysed data from surveys, examinations and tests of more than 680,000 people between the ages of 25 and 64 worldwide conducted in recent years. More than 37,000 of them had diabetes; more than half of them hadn't been formally diagnosed yet, but had a key marker of elevated blood sugar.

Advocacy Action: There will be many people with as yet undiagnosed diabetes in your country. Have you worked with your diabetes patient group or health department on an awareness campaign? Early diagnosis saves lives, reduces complications and economic costs.

COVID-19 and Diabetes

Almost half South African hospitalised COVID -19 patients have diabetes

A YEAR of research at Groote Schuur Hospital, Cape Town, South Africa, has determined that people living with diabetes, especially Type 2 diabetes, are at risk for more severe Covid-19 complications and have a greater chance of being admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) or have acute kidney injury.

During the first wave of the pandemic in the Western Cape, 45% of patients with Covid-19 who were admitted to hospital had diabetes.

Advocacy Action: Is there research for the percentage of hospitalised covid deaths in your country or region? Can you use it to advocate for greater interest in preventing diabetes and reducing costly complications from the condition?

<https://www.iol.co.za/weekend-argus/news/almost-half-of-patients-in-hospital-for-covid-19-are-diabetic-2a5cedc0-48c8-4226-9713-8400e3e76369>

What's Happening in Your Country?

Please let us know what's happening in where you are? Just add PDGN to your press releases, or send us a report on your successes and challenges - preferably with photos.

We want to hear from you.

Send your stories and photos to:
adrian@pdgn.co.uk



Black Fungus Link to Diabetes

News from India is showing people hospitalised for COVID -19, and particularly those who require oxygen therapy during COVID-19 illness, are at a much higher risk of Mucormycosis, often called Black Fungus. With half of all hospitalisations from COVID-19 in some countries being patients with diabetes as an underlying condition, this is an added risk.

Before the pandemic patients with uncontrolled diabetes were at a higher risk of Mucormycosis because the high blood sugar level made it easier for the fungi to grow and survive, and their weaker immune systems offered less protection against the infection.

Mucormycosis has a high mortality rate of 50 per cent and an increasing number of Covid-19 patients have been developing this infection while still at the hospital or after discharge.

Some of the common symptoms include sinusitis, blackish nasal discharge, facial pain, headaches, and pain around the eyes. Medical professionals warn that both symptomatic and asymptomatic patients with Covid-19 may be at risk and that treatment is available but must be given immediately.

Advocacy Action: Is your health care system looking out for and recording incidences of Mucormycosis? Can you obtain figures in order to highlight the need for action?

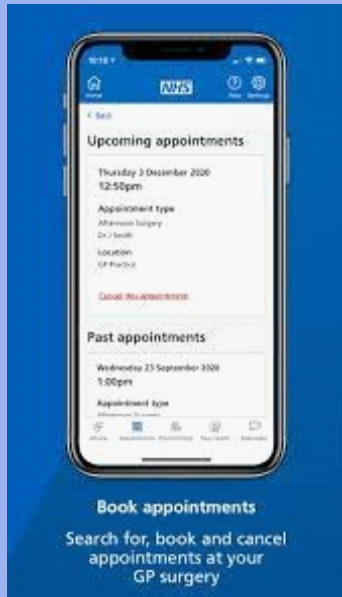
<https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/health/covid-19-mucormycosis-fungal-infection-symptoms-treatment-causes-7286157/>

STOP PRESS: Cases of Black Fungus have since been reported in Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Russia.

COVID - 19 and Diabetes Continued

COVID-19 Telehealth Silver Lining

Telehealth for people with diabetes has become a necessity during the COVID-19 pandemic when social distancing,



lockdowns, and stay-at-home orders have been implemented to prevent transmission of the virus.

These precautions are especially important for people with diabetes to follow because their conditions make them more likely to become severely ill and get

more serious complications from COVID-19 if they are infected. That covers a large proportion of the population: For example; around one in ten US citizens have diabetes.

Telehealth can be as simple as a telephone consultation or as complex as an insulin pump connected to a glucose monitor providing continuous data for a medical team.

Advocacy Action: Is Telehealth taking off in your country? Could it be encouraged through patient awareness, professional training for medical staff, technical support for patients and practitioners?

Risk Factors Identified for COVID-19-Related Death in Diabetes

The German Centre for Diabetes has identified risk factors for COVID-19-related death that show increased risk for older males with pre-existing comorbidities and insulin use.

Advocacy Action: Can you use this study to highlight how diabetes must not be overlooked during this pandemic?

<https://consumer.healthday.com/risk-factors-idd-for-covid-19-related-death-in-diabetes-2652849840.html>

Physical Activity Levels Reduced During COVID-19 Restrictions

Twenty scientists from 14 countries warn of a hidden “pandemic within the pandemic” in two current publications. On the one hand, physical activity levels have gone down significantly, on the other hand, psychological well-being has suffered.



The author of both publications, Dr Jan Wilke (pictured, left) from the Institute for Sport Sciences at Goethe University Frankfurt, warns that Governments and those responsible for health systems should take the findings seriously.

About 15,000 people in participating countries answered standardised questionnaires as part of an international survey asking question about their levels of physical activity alongside ones about the mental health.

Advocacy Action: Are these issues being taken seriously in your country? Have stikikar studies into physical activity and mental health been conducted? Is there a staretyg for improving both?

<https://www.miragenews.com/physical-activity-levels-and-well-being-sink-567431/>

News from Around the World

Malaysia's Diabetes Time-Bomb

Malaysia has the highest prevalence of obesity among adults in South-East Asia. In the 2019 National Health and Morbidity Survey, 50.1 percent of our adult population was reported to be overweight (30.4 percent) or obese (19.7 percent).

Writing in the '*Malaysian Star*' publication, Professors Dr Moy Foong Ming and Dr Noran Naqiah Hairi and Dr Wan Kim Sui from the Centre for Epidemiology at the University of Malaya, warn that compared with individuals of normal weight, obesity increases the risk of getting type 2 diabetes sevenfold in men and 12-fold in women.

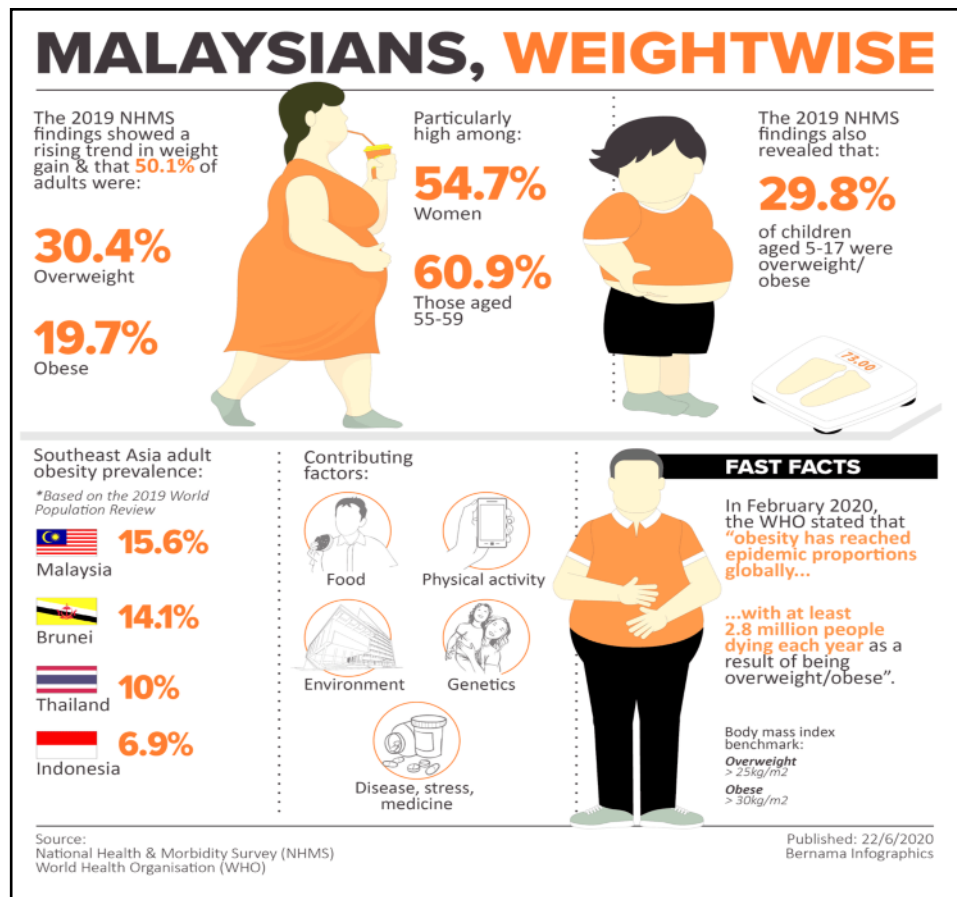
They are concerned that Asian populations are predisposed to type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular diseases at lower than usual body mass index while the economic costs of these diseases are enormous. The conservative estimate of diabetes and cardiovascular disease was RM70.1bill in 2017, equivalent to 5.1% of Malaysia's gross domestic product that year.

Worldwide evidence shows that diabetes is happening at younger ages, ie, below 40 years old. One of the main causes of this is rising obesity. Youth-onset diabetes is associated with a more aggressive form of the disease and higher risks of complications.

Equally worrying is that a considerable number of female diabetes patients are still in reproductive ages. Poor blood sugar control during pregnancy is related to adverse outcomes for both mothers and babies. Moreover, the children born to these mothers are at higher risks of childhood obesity and youth-onset diabetes later on in life. This will perpetuate the high diabetes prevalence in Malaysia.

The rising prevalence of obesity, coupled with the substantial economic costs of its associated diseases means that the situation will worsen if the obesity epidemic is not urgently tackled. It is not just about physical appearance. It is a disease that could give rise to other NCDs.

Advocacy Action: Obesity and its complications can be discouraged through promoting healthier eating and regular exercise. Improved public health education and information. Improved sports facilities and better food and drink labelling. What action is being taken by your Government?



Another Disturbing Diabetes Link for Lawmakers to Consider

There is now convincing evidence that type 2 diabetes is associated with increased risk of Parkinson's Disease.

The recently published research from Queen Mary University, London, has not only concluded this but that it may also contribute to faster disease progression in patients with Parkinson's.



Advocacy Action: More proof of the need to take diabetes more seriously as a growing cost to healthcare, economic productivity and the quality of life of sufferers their carers and families. Can you use this study to help your advocacy?

<https://movementdisorders.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/mds.28551>

Congress Holds Hearings on Prescription Drug Pricing

Two Congressional committees have held hearings on the need for lowering prescription drug costs. Issues facing the people with diabetes who need insulin to stay alive or simply assist their control of the condition were mentioned frequently in discussions.

Congressional Diabetes Caucus Co-Chair, Rep. Diana DeGette gave members an insight into the issues at a time when Congress is considering various forms of legislation to address prescription drug affordability.

Advocacy Action: Is insulin pricing an issue where you are? Is there a patient action group like DPAC (Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition) in the US, whom you could help by raising questions, contributing to or initiating debates, or helping to publicise?



New Zealand – Type 2 Tidal Wave

Type 2 diabetes costs the country NZ\$2.1 billion a year and one in four Indigenous New Zealand and Pacific islanders will have the disease in 20 years, a report has indicated.

This would be a type 2 tidal wave in the opinion of some commentators, igniting the debate for a national diabetes strategy.

The report, conducted by Price waterhouse Cooper



and commissioned by several health groups including Diabetes New Zealand, details the economic and social cost of type 2 diabetes, which more and more young people are developing.

Advocacy Action: Does your county have a national (or regional) diabetes strategy? Is there a campaign you could assist or create for one? If you have one, could it be improved? A first port of call could be your national diabetes patient group who may be able to help you.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/124821585/type-2-diabetes-a-tidal-wave-that-will-devastate-the-nz-health-system>

News From Around the World Continued

Korea's Diabetes Treatment Guidelines

Korea's newly updated diabetes treatment guidelines said physicians should screen diabetes faster, restore blood sugar levels more effectively, and manage blood sugar levels more thoroughly.



The Korean Diabetes Association (KDA) released the 2021 Treatment Guideline for Diabetes at its 34th Spring Conference and the fifth Korea-Japan Diabetes Forum last month.

The KDA emphasized the importance of screening to find those highly likely to be diagnosed with diabetes early. As patients with type-2 diabetes without any particular symptoms often miss the timing of diagnosis, the latest guideline provides the screening criteria and testing methods for high-risk diabetic patients based on results of the recent local clinical trials.

The KDA also encouraged physicians to use internationally standardized continuous glucose monitors (CGM) and outpatient blood sugar controlling programs to help patients manage their glucose levels more strictly.

Advocacy Action: Does your country have a comprehensive screening programme? The cost benefit analysis of catching type 2 diabetes early with the increased change of reversing the diagnosis cannot be over-emphasised. Is this something you could raise, can your national diabetes patient group help you, or can PDGN assist you with background information?

Canadian Parliamentary Diabetes Champion

Since Indian born Sonia Sidhu MP (Liberal) was first elected to the Canadian Parliament in 2015, she has championed diabetes awareness.

She has taken a leading role in the 'Let's Defeat Diabetes' campaign in the country while promoting Private Member's Bill C-237 that seeks to create a National Framework for Diabetes

Her Bill received unanimous cross-party support and now goes to the Canadian Senate for further scrutiny and hopefully similar support.

Advocacy Action: Do you have a Private Members' Bill mechanism within your Parliament? Is there a need for something similar? Read her full story with more detail on the Bill in the link.



- If Sonia Sidhu MP's Bill becomes law Canada's Minister of Health will publish a national framework for diabetes for the nation to follow.

<https://canadianimmigrant.ca/people/community-leaders/brampton-mp-sonia-sidhu-leads-efforts-to-tackle-diabetes>

Can We Help You Form A Group?

If you can persuade a few colleagues to join PDGN – it's free and only takes a couple of minutes to fill in a form on-line at www.pdgn.co.uk

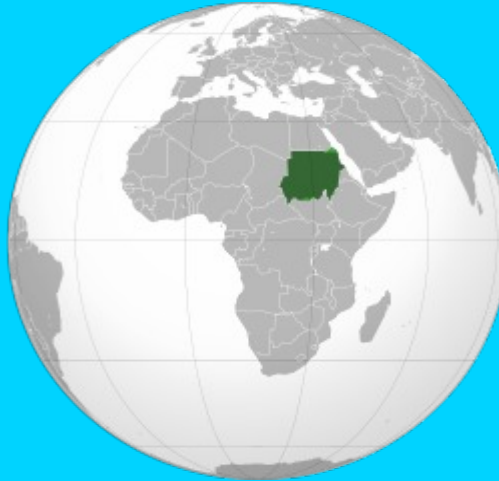
We can liaise with you to arrange an on-line meeting and put you in touch with someone who can help you get your group off the ground.

Sudan - Impending Health Disaster Predicted

Strike action by doctors, that would be unprecedented in many western health care systems, is being carried out in sheer frustration at medicine shortages, lack of funding, insecurity and what has been described as an "impending health disaster"?

The number of COVID-19 cases combined with existing challenges on the Sudanese health care system has gone largely unreported as the world's attention has focussed on the Indian sub-continent in recent weeks.

The Sudanese Ministry of Health admits that as the country's third COVID-19 wave spreads through the country, there is a lack of oxygen and hospital beds. At the same time stocks of medicines required for the treatment of cancer, kidney diseases, heart problems, and diabetes are almost exhausted.



The doctors' association of Sudan claims that the Central Bank of Sudan has not provided any funds for the import of medicines since the beginning of 2021, out of a total of €200 million of allocated funding.

Advocacy Action: Sudan is not alone in facing these challenges. Could your country give more in targeted medical aid to areas facing these issues?

<https://www.dabangasudan.org/en/all-news/article/doctors-warn-of-impending-health-disaster-in-sudan>

Nigeria - Importance of Foot Care Spelt Out

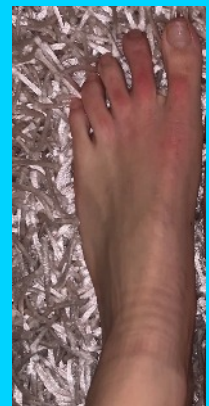
Increased mortality in patients living with diabetes who have had to undergo limb amputations is well documented, yet Podiatry is often seen as a 'Cinderella' part of a health service with limited numbers of practitioners in some countries.

Podiatry is a branch of medicine devoted to foot and ankle surgery where effective management of limb ulcers by a podiatric doctor before it degenerates to the point of amputation can increase life expectancy of those living with diabetes.

Dr. Yahaya Nauzo Nauzo, a Consultant in Podiatric medicine based in Niger State, Nigeria, is concerned at the lack of specialists in the field that he believes has led to avoidable deaths, as the country doesn't have enough podiatric doctors to manage the increasing number of those living with diabetes that develop leg ulcers.

He blamed the situation on the inability of the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria to formally recognise podiatry as a branch of medicine. He is reported in *'The Punch'* saying: "Life expectancy of a person with diabetes becomes reduced once there is an amputation. It's an issue of life and death, and not just about losing the limb".

Advocacy Action: As people with diabetes are at higher risk for many related health problems, including foot or leg amputation, what is the position of Podiatry within your health care system? Can it be improved? Can you make the case for more public health information about the importance of foot care, especially among people with diabetes?



Healthy Food Beyond the Purse of South African Families

Healthy food is too expensive for many South African families increasing the risks of poor health from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as cancers, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, high blood pressure, chronic respiratory diseases and obesity. These account for over half (51 percent) of all death in South Africa, according to Professor Rina Swart, from the University of the Western Cape (UWC).

Lower income populations struggle to access nutritional and healthy foods as they are more expensive than unhealthy products, explained Prof. Swart. This makes them more vulnerable to NCDs.

Dr Jane Battersby from the African Centre for Cities added: "COVID-19 has revealed just how little we



understand our food system and how vulnerable local systems are and how costly NCDs are to society. Thinking on food policies can be central as we seek to rebuild our economy and improve public health," she said.

The challenge is exacerbated by the powerful forces of the food industry in South Africa and how food companies shape public health policy in their favour.

Advocacy Action: How much say do patient groups concerned about NCDs have in public health policy in your country? Can you help to involve them more? What about the views of the medical profession and health economists? Could they be involved more to balance up where there are powerful vested interests?

<https://www.thesouthafrican.com/news/how-sa-food-companies-shape-public-health-policy-in-their-favour-obesity/>

Indian-Food Tips

With a high prevalence of type 2 diabetes among South Asians, food tips to help people with or to prevent the condition could prove helpful.

<https://www.desiblitz.com/content/5-indian-food-tips-to-help-type-2-diabetes>

Sugar Tax News

Sugar taxes continue to hit the headlines, and whether you have or haven't advocated for such a measure to try and reduce consumption this study by Rachel Arthur, Elaine Watson, Niamh Michail, Gary Scattergood, Flora Southey takes a look around the globe to at some of the markets where taxes have been introduced or are under debate.

<https://www.foodnavigator-latam.com/article/2019/12/18/sugar-taxes-the-global-picture-in-2019>

You may also be interested in two studies from Spain and the UK that show contrasting results: <https://www.miragenews.com/studies-offer-differing-perspectives-on-534320/>

Advocacy Action: Where soda, other food and drink taxes have been successfully implemented it has usually been the result of a broad coalition of interests advocating for their introduction. If you are interested in going down this route, talk to any diabetes or comorbidity patient groups, medical professional bodies with an interest in this area, and politically if possible work across party to build a coalition of support that will be difficult to challenge.

Research News



Singapore research finds surgery for type 2 diabetes may restore nearly a decade to life expectancy

<https://www.medwirenews.com/diabetes/surgery-type-2-diabetes-restore-nearly-decade-life-expectancy/19148930>

Children with type 1 diabetes have an increased risk for developing neurodevelopment disorders, with the risk greater for those with a high HbA1c, according to a study published in *Diabetologia*.



<https://www.healio.com/news/endocrinology/20210316/high-hba1c-in-type-1-diabetes-linked-to-increased-risk-for-neurodevelopment-disorders>



Austrian/Swiss research finds that consuming moderate amounts of specific types of sugar may double the production of fat in the liver that in turn can lead to the development of fatty liver disease and type 2 diabetes.

<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/even-modest-consumption-of-added-sugar-may-affect-the-liver>

UK research finds a plant based diet may help control blood glucose levels in type2 diabetes: diet in people with or at risk of developing type 2 diabetes has concluded that a plant-based lifestyle may help control blood glucose levels.



<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/lifestyle/food-drink/2083411/new-study-suggests-following-a-vegan-diet-could-help-control-blood-sugar-for-sufferers-of-type-2-diabetes/>



Homeless people facing a diabetes crisis from Scottish research:

<https://www.hippocraticpost.com/diabetes/homeless-facing-diabetes-crisis/>

German clinical study aims to prevent type1 diabetes in children.



https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2021-03/tud-ncs032621.php



Study finds age at diabetes onset significantly associated with Dementia

<https://www.endocrinologyadvisor.com/home/topics/diabetes/type-2-diabetes/younger-age-at-diabetes-onset-associated-with-increased-risk-of-developing-dementia/>

Diabetes care falls short for most of the world's population. US study of diabetes treatment in 55 low and middle income countries found that many of the participants with diabetes were unaware that they had the condition.



<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/diabetes-care-falls-short-for-most-of-the-worlds-population>



Swedish study explores the link between muscle weakness and type 2 diabetes

<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/study-explores-the-link-between-muscle-weakness-and-type-2-diabetes>

Technology Corner



Lilly collaborates internationally with leading diabetes technology

companies to integrate connected insulin pen solutions for people with diabetes

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/lilly-collaborates-internationally-with-leading-diabetes-technology-companies-to-integrate-connected-insulin-pen-solutions-for-people-with-diabetes-301285043.html>

Dexcom links with WellDoc to chart a digital path for its continuous glucose monitor into Type 2 diabetes.



<https://www.fiercebiotech.com/medtech/dexcom-links-welldoc-to-chart-a-digital-path-for-its-cgm-into-type-2-diabetes>



Bigfoot Biomedical has received the green light from the US Food and Drug Administration for

its Bigfoot Unity™ Diabetes Management System for individuals aged 12 and older. The system features connected smart pen caps that recommend insulin doses for people using multiple daily injection (MDI) therapy and is believed to be the first-of-its-kind.

<https://beyondtype1.org/bigfoot-unity-fda-approval/>

Roche launches mySugr Pump Control within the mySugr app to simplify insulin pump therapy via smartphone



<https://www.prnewswire.co.uk/news-releases/roche-launches-mysugr-pump-control-within-the-mysugr-app-to-simplify-insulin-pump-therapy-via-smartphone->

Associations' News

News from Associate Members of PDGN – national diabetes associations and other not-for-profits

Diabetes Australia awards major research grants on 100-year anniversary of insulin discovery



Research into new treatments for diabetes and ways to prevent the serious complications of diabetes are being supported in 19 diabetes research projects funded by the Diabetes Australia Research Program.

Diabetes Australia CEO Professor Greg Johnson was hopeful that this AUS\$1.1 million of new diabetes research funding will contribute to improved treatment and management options for the 1.8 million Australians with diabetes.

<https://www.miragenews.com/diabetes-australia-awards-major-research-grants-551761/>



Foundation of European Nurses in Diabetes

The Foundation of European Nurses for Diabetes celebrated the nursing profession on International Nurses Day in May. The day pays tribute to the profession of nursing across its specialities and different cultures.

FEND has long highlighted the importance of specialist diabetes nurses in the care and support for people with the condition.

FEND is calling for the profession of nursing and its leadership to be actively engaged in health policy in all its domains to tackle the challenges of healthcare disruption due to COVID-19, the funding of healthcare systems, health inequalities and social determinants of health.

"No Nurses – No Future" is their rallying cry on behalf of the profession.

Advocacy Action: How involved is the nursing profession in health policy in your country? Is there a nursing organisation you could work with on diabetes issues? What is the position of specialist diabetes nurses and could their numbers be increased?

Associations' News

COVID and Diabetes in Bermuda

COVID-19 hit Bermuda in March 2020, reports Debbie Jones, Chair of the Bermuda Diabetes Association.

She said: "Like many other countries Bermuda did the best it could navigating



itself around the advice from CDC, WHO and Public Health England.

"The Bermuda Diabetes Association continued to serve the public during lockdown and provided those with diabetes access to their lifesaving medicines. COVID 19 had a big impact rendering many unemployed without health benefits. This led to the Association to assisting the financially disadvantaged with free medicine and testing equipment.

"Of the lessons to be learned the most relevant for Bermuda Diabetes Association is to promote being healthy as a means of warding off this virus and any future pandemics. The association is calling for water only in schools, regular physical activity and promotion of eating healthy and grow your own."

The island, which is a British Overseas Territory, is just once more beginning to open its doors to visitors.

ADA and Beyond Type (BT1) Partnership Announced

The American Diabetes Association (ADA) and Beyond Type 1 (BT1) have inked-up.

The partnership will feature combined resources, strategies, and tactics to better serve people living with type 1 diabetes, type 2 diabetes, and pre-diabetes



The partnership is founded on a shared vision that both organisations will have greater impact by working together and playing to their unique strengths.

The work will focus on bringing the most important and up to date medical and research information directly to people living with diabetes in the United States. Short video link:

<https://vimeo.com/527800754>

CGM Devices for Maltese Children

PDGN Co-Chair and President of the Maltese Diabetes Association (MDA), Chris Delicata, reports on the work by the Association working with Malta's politicians to deliver a project to distribute Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) devices to children and adolescents under 16 years and living with type 1 diabetes as part of the island's National Health Service.

It is part of a six-month pilot that will see around two hundred children and adolescents benefit. The MDA would like to see this project extended beyond 6-months and to all persons living with type 1 diabetes, irrespective of age.

PDGN News

New Sponsorship Deal

PDGN is delighted to welcome Dexcom as a sponsor for Global Advocacy News. Dexcom, Inc is a company that develops, manufactures and distributes continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) systems for diabetes management.

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Pandemic or Syndemic?

Following a comment piece in the *Lancet* where Richard Horton suggested COVID-19 wasn't a Pandemic, but a Syndemic, a joint EFPIA/EUDD online event was organised to consider the question.

PDGN was invited to join the online panel of experts under the heading: *'Unlocking the potential of the European Health Data Space to improve diabetes management in crises and beyond'*.

It drew out the way that COVID and non-communicable diseases (NCD's), like diabetes, co-exist with some of the wider issues of health care.

A 'syndemic' was explained as different from a 'pandemic' in that conditions do not act in isolation, but are caused by a combination of environment, social and economic factors that perhaps explain the link between COVID-19 and NCD's like diabetes among minority ethnic groups, low income households, poor living conditions.

PDGN Secretary General, Adrian Sanders, joined the panel and gave an overview of how different countries are coping with COVID-19 and diabetes. He spoke on the importance of having well-informed politicians about data sharing who can influence policies that tackle the multitude of challenges in an holistic manner.

Global Advocacy Diabetes is the newsletter for members and friends of PDGN, the Parliamentarians for Diabetes Global Network. Our primary objective is to enable law-makers to help prevent diabetes, encourage early diagnosis of diabetes and improve the treatment of diabetes in every part of the world. We exist to help advocates for diabetes and its comorbidities wherever they are.



**PDGN - The Parliamentarians
Diabetes Global Network**

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