



# Global Advocacy Diabetes

The newsletter of the Parliamentarians for Diabetes Global Network  
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**Inside this issue:** World Diabetes Day Activities, Soda Tax News, Pakistan Amputation Concerns, New Aussie Diabetes Strategy, Nutrition News, In Associations' News - two CEO's move on, New PDGN Interim President, and lots of Advocacy Action ideas.

## Big Surge in Diabetes Numbers - WHO

**The number of people suffering from diabetes is surging, even as tens of millions cannot get the insulin they need, the World Health Organization has revealed.**

The UN health agency stressed the need to cut prices and dramatically increase access to the life-saving medicine.

More than 420 million people are currently estimated to be living with diabetes globally, numbers that have nearly quadrupled in the past four decades.

### Half a Billion People

The WHO announced that numbers of people with diabetes are expected to surge past half a billion by the end of this decade. They noted that despite an ample supply, high prices make it difficult for many people with diabetes to access the insulin they need to manage their condition.

Diabetes is divided into two types. An estimated nine million people have type 1 diabetes, a chronic condition where the pancreas does not produce enough insulin – the hormone that regulates blood sugar levels, while most people living with diabetes have type 2, which is associated with obesity

and other lifestyle factors and emerges in adults and increasingly among children.

**Advocacy Action:** What is happening in your country? Are there plans in place to curb the rise? What about access to insulin and medicines, are prices a factor, or distribution? Could you call for answers, or arrange for evidence?

### Interim President Appointed

PDGN's second elected President, Guy Barnett MP, indicated some time ago that he needed to step down to concentrate on his ministerial responsibilities in the Tasmanian Parliament. Susan Jackson MP, a fourth generation Parliamentarian in Bermuda, and a prominent champion of diabetes has agreed to act as President until an election can be held. Meet Susan on page 13.



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CONTINUOUS GLUCOSE MONITORING

# Diabetes Makes Africa More Vulnerable to COVID Deaths

According to World Health Organisation (WHO) data, death rates from COVID-19 infections are much higher in patients with diabetes in Africa, where the number of people with diabetes is growing rapidly.

A WHO analysis of data from 13 African countries found a 10.2 percent case fatality rate in COVID-19 patients with diabetes, compared with 2.5 percent COVID-19 patients overall.

Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa, said: "COVID-19 is delivering a clear message: fighting the diabetes epidemic in Africa is in many ways as critical as the battle against the current pandemic."

The data from Africa on the increased vulnerability of people with diabetes to death from COVID-19 reflects a global trend. Concerns remain high with 8.6 million confirmed COVID-19 cases and 220,000 deaths on the continent and fewer than 7 percent of the African population being fully vaccinated against COVID-19, compared with about 40 percent globally.

The WHO also estimates that 70 percent of people with diabetes on the continent are unaware they have the disease.

In separate statistics, fifty-five million people in Africa are expected to present with diabetes by 2045, from 24 million this year, according to a forecast published by the International Diabetes Federation.

**Advocacy Action:** Is the link between Covid and diabetes widely understood in your country by decision makers and by the public? Is the link mentioned in either diabetes or Covid awareness campaigns?



## Time in Range Movement Boost

In advance of World Diabetes Day (WDD) 2021, Dexcom helped launch The Global Movement for Time in Range in partnership with leading not-for-profits in the diabetes community, including Beyond Type 1, JDRF, TCOYD, College Diabetes Network, and Children with Diabetes.

'Time in range' is the percentage of time spent by a patient with glucose levels in their target range. The global initiative focuses on educating people with diabetes about the importance of time in range and how proper use of the metric can help improve glucose management.

These efforts have been supported by thousands of Dexcom Warriors, people with diabetes and their loved ones across the globe including celebrities Nick Jonas and Patti LaBelle who have opened up about their journey with diabetes on social media.

Many people with diabetes are still unaware of modern diabetes metrics, such as time in range. This campaign aims to change that.

**Advocacy Action:** Can you encourage people with diabetes in your country to get involved? Details here: <https://www.wheninrange.com/>

# World Diabetes Day 2021

World Diabetes Day (WDD) is marked every year on 14 November, the birthday of Sir Fredrick Banting, who discovered insulin along with Charles Best in 1922.

**Cyprus – For WDD the Medieval Castles of Paphos and Larnaka, as well as the Cyprus Museum at Nicosia (pictured), were lit blue.**

The Cyprus Diabetic Association persuaded the Department of Antiquities to embrace their campaign aimed at confronting diabetes at different levels, including the increase of scientific knowledge, and effective prevention.

The Department of Antiquities was keen to get involved saying in a press release that: 'Our cultural heritage reminds us of our duty to protect and provide tangible support to the most vulnerable groups'.



**"Take note politicians", warns DICOMA Chair Dr. Afoke Isiauwe**

**Nigeria - On WDD 21, the Diabetes Control Media Advocacy Initiative (DICOMA), a non-governmental organisation, expressed concerns over the plight of Nigerians living with diabetes, claiming many cannot control their condition because of the high cost of drugs and monitoring devices.**

DICOMA Chair Dr. Afoke Isiauwe called on politicians to take note that there are over 4 million Nigerians with the condition and their numbers are increasing at a fast rate. She called on the federal and state governments to seize the golden opportunity offered by WDD events to introduce measures towards addressing the plight of Nigerians living with diabetes.

A recent announcement by the Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Zainab Ahmed MP, proposed a pro-health tax on soft drinks in Nigeria in the 2022 budget. Patient and medical organisations in the country have been calling on the Government to introduce such a tax and use the receipts to fund health improvements.

**Zimbabwe – In the city of Gweru, The Ministry of Health and Child Care provided a three-day screening programme. Around 800 individuals were tested as a way of establishing the prevalence of diabetes in the country for appropriate responses.**

Meanwhile, In the capital Harare's Warren Park district, 116 people were given a free diabetes test to mark WDD 21 and to raise awareness of the disease which is a major cause of blindness, kidney failure, heart attacks, stroke and lower limb amputations in the country.



**DIABETICS ASSOCIATION  
OF ZIMBABWE**

## WDD reports continued.



Spain – In Valencia, Spain, an annual event marking WDD took place. The V111 Race Walk took place in Alicante on 14 November. Its aim is to highlight diabetes, promote healthy lifestyles

The walk, or run, is over 5 kilometres and starts in the morning from the beach at San Juan. It was carried out this year under COVID regulations, having been abandoned in person for a virtual event in 2020.

Mauritius – The Mauritius Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr Kailesh Kumar Singh Jagutpal, launched a series of activities, aimed at informing people about diabetes to improve understanding that it is a major health issue having a significant economic and social burden on individuals, families and the society in general.



Among the events on the day was an exhibition on non-communicable diseases (NCDs), The day's activities comprised the conduct of the Mauritius Non-communicable disease (NCD) survey, carrying out a survey into NCDs and public understanding of their risk factors, and the publication of leaflets on the dangers of alcohol for young people.

**Advocacy Action:** - Could you replicate any of the examples above for WDD 2022 or during next November's Diabetes Awareness Month? Working with patient organisations, medical professionals or just using your platform in Parliament, you can raise awareness and advance the cause of prevention, early diagnosis and treatments.



**Appeal to Romanian Senate** - PDGN Vice-President, Senator Florian Bodog, presented a political declaration to the Romanian Senate to mark WDD 2021 He is concerned that while the world copes with the COVID pandemic, diabetes can be overlooked.

In his address Senator Bodog said: "I would like to put aside the political issues, and focus my attention on a serious health problem, a problem that has preoccupied me for years and which, unfortunately, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, remained somewhat in the background, although it continues to pose a serious threat to public health.

**"Don't forget the 2 million Romanians with diabetes," Senator Florian Bodog tells the Senate.**

"I am referring to the problem of diabetes and the millions of patients who struggle with this disease every day.

"We must not forget about people with diabetes or other chronic conditions that affect Romanians. It is our responsibility, through the trust invested in us by the citizens, to make sure that all patients in Romania receive the medical care and treatments they need."

**Advocacy Action:** Whether the mechanism is a Presentation Bill, Proclamation, Petition or some other, you don't have to wait for Diabetes Awareness month or WDD to do something similar in your legislature.

# News from Around the World

To mark November's Diabetes Awareness Month and the centenary of the discovery of insulin, Canada's Federal Minister of Health, the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos MP, announced a joint investment of CAN \$20 million to support new research teams across Canada.

The teams will work to develop new approaches to preventing, treating, and caring for Canadians living with diabetes. Researchers will also work with patient partners-people with lived experience of diabetes-to ensure that the research being conducted is relevant and valuable to the people that it affects most.

The Government of Canada is providing \$14 million of the funding with an additional \$6 million provided by JDRF Canada, Diabetes Canada, The Kidney Foundation of Canada, and Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé.



**Jean-Yves Duclos:**  
**"Diabetes continues to be a major health concern for many Canadians".**

Jean-Yves Duclos MP declared: "Diabetes continues to be a major health concern for many Canadians – all of us know someone who has had their life profoundly changed by this disease. That is why we must continue to work with partners to invest in research to lessen the burden of diabetes on individuals, families, communities and our health care systems."

Canadian Parliamentary diabetes champion Sonia Sidhu MP added: "Research will play an important role in the development and implementation of Canada's national diabetes framework. By funding this research in collaboration with key national and provincial partners, we will help find new ways to prevent and treat diabetes and its complications and swiftly deliver solutions to Canadians."

## Pakistan - 200,000 Amputations Preventable

**It was revealed at the inaugural ceremony of the National Association of Diabetes Educators of Pakistan (NADEP) in Karachi that over 200,000 amputations every year in the country are due to diabetes.**

Prof Abdul Basit, secretary general of the Diabetic Association of Pakistan, is urging the Government to work for the prevention of the disease that statistics show now affects around five million people in Pakistan.

Prof Basit says that of the five million, two million develop foot ulcers of whom ten per cent, (200,000), end up having their lower limbs amputated.

"It can be prevented", he said.

## Malaysia - Sugar Tax Principle Extended

In next year's budget the Malaysian Government plans to keep the country's excise duty for sugary beverages and introduce a duty for liquid or gel that contains nicotine used for electronic cigarettes and vapes. This is part of the Government's health agenda, according to Finance Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz.

He said: "In fostering a healthy culture as well as tackling non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure and obesity, the Government has agreed to continue with the Healthy Malaysia National Agenda".

## More News from Around the World Continued

### Priority Groups Targeted in New Aussie Diabetes Strategy

PDGN Patron, Hon Judi Moylan AO, is delighted that the national diabetes strategy, she and others helped to produce was released on WDD 21 by the Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, Greg Hunt.

Its aim is to reduce the incidence and impacts of the disease among priority groups, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. The groups also include people from South Asia, North Africa and the Middle East, Oceania and southern and eastern Europe.

Diabetes cases in Australia have skyrocketed in the past eight years, with around 1.9 million people currently diagnosed. More than 17,000 Australians died from diabetes-related illness over the past year, as another 120,000 were diagnosed with the disease.

It is hoped that the new national plan for tackling this crisis will help guide responses over the coming decade.

Diabetes Australia CEO Greg Johnson said: "As a nation, we've been very pre-occupied with the impact and risks of COVID - meanwhile the serious impacts of the growing diabetes epidemic have continued."

**Advocacy Action:** Does your country have a national plan for diabetes? What are the blocs to adopting one where are? Others have experience with plans and might be able to help you.

### What's Happening in Your Country?

Please let us know what's happening 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](mailto:adrian@pdgn.co.uk)



### Scotland Rolls Out Check Test on Type 1 Patients

Misdiagnosed type 1 diabetes patients could be freed from the need to take insulin after a new test is rolled out. Scotland will become the first country to offer the C-peptide blood test to all patients who have had a type 1 diagnosis for at least three years.

There are about 315,000 people living with diabetes in Scotland and the new programme will be offered to people who have been diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes for at least three years. The tests will be offered at hospital diabetes centres.

Public Health Minister Maree Todd said that tackling diabetes was a priority for the Scottish government and that she wanted everyone living with diabetes to access safe, effective healthcare, treatment and support.



**"Diabetes priority", Maree Todd MSP**

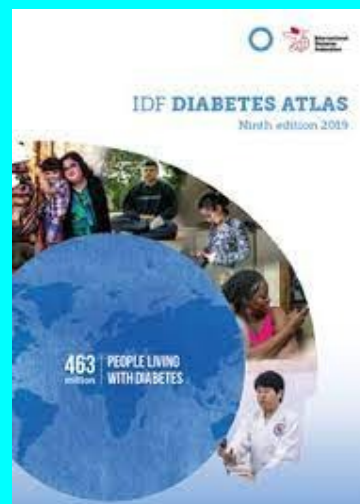
She said: "Type 1 diabetes is a significant health challenge right across the world. I am proud that Scotland will be the first country to introduce this blood test which has the potential to have a significant positive impact on the lives of those people living with diabetes."

### New Global Atlas

The latest diabetes data from around the world is available in the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) Diabetes Atlas.

The 2021 edition has just been published. You can access the latest data for every country is here:

<https://diabetesatlas.org/>



# World News Continued

## National Diabetes Register Call

A Senator in the Irish Parliament (Dáil Éireann) has called for progress on the establishment of a national diabetes register in Ireland.



**Diabetes: "Leading cause of death", Senator Aisling Dolan.**

Senator Aisling Dolan referred to diabetes being one of the leading causes of death with one in ten people globally living with the condition. Her case to the Seanad

is that without a national diabetes register it is difficult to know how many people are affected in the country and how to support them.

Government Minister Anne Rabbitte replied saying she understood that the absence of a register was a barrier to improving care for people with diabetes. She said that the idea of a register was being considered by the Government as part of a wider review of Ireland's health information strategy.

**Advocacy Action:** Do you have a diabetes register at state or national level? Is it properly maintained and up to date? Is it being used by decision makers to allocate resources and or deliver targeted services? Would a register help where there isn't one?

**Global Advocacy News** 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.

## Amendments to Moroccan Finance Bill

PDGN Vice-President, Senator Dr Mustafa Brahimi, is proposing a number of amendments to the 2022 health budget with ideas to help prevent diabetes and improve treatment for those with the condition.

Senator Brahimi is amending the country's Finance Bill as it makes its way towards a final vote by the Commission this month.

Brahimi wants next year's budget to include reduced customs duties for oral anti-diabetic drugs and insulin from 40 percent to 2.5 percent. He is calling to exempt the rest of the drugs market in Morocco from value added tax.

To help prevention of diabetes he has further proposed an increase in the internal consumption tax (ICT) for sugar products (cookies, yoghurt, candy, chocolate, etc).

**Advocacy Action:** Budget time is a great time to raise issues around diabetes that require funding and are an opportunity to text the administration's resolve whether at a national, regional or local level.



**"We must do more", says Senator Brahimi (second from left, front row) moving his amendments.**

# World News Continued

## Call on Kenyan Government to Lower Insulin Cost

Key gaps in the affordability and availability of insulin in Kenya have been identified in a study conducted by the Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH).

PATH is active in around 70 counties, including Kenya, with a mission to advance health equity through innovation and partnerships.

They say that the cost of insulin in Kenya is unaffordable for many people living with diabetes.

The example that the lowest-paid government worker will need to work 15 days in order to purchase 30-days diabetes medication and supplies is a powerful example for the Government to take note and act.

PATH highlights that access to diabetes care is a key component in ensuring deaths and disabilities attributed to the disease are greatly reduced.



Fundamental issues in access to diabetes care include access to insulin and oral medicines, access to education and psychosocial support since diabetes as a condition requires the patient to acquire ongoing education and support in order to manage their condition.

Common to people in all countries around the world is the importance of access to self-monitoring devices and tests. These are key in diabetes management which includes blood

glucose measuring devices that require replenishing strips.

**Advocacy Action:** Are insulin costs under control where you are? Can people with all forms of diabetes access monitoring devices and their supply? Are there existing campaigns being run that you could assist?

## Global Diabetes Compact

The World Health Organisation (WHO) launched the Global Diabetes Compact (GDC) earlier this year.

The GDC is a global initiative targeted at improving diabetes prevention and care, and to contribute to the global targets to reduce premature mortality due to non-communicable diseases (NCDs) by one-third by 2030, are not meeting their targets.

They are crucial to meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Full details of the Compact here:

<https://www.who.int/initiatives/the-who-global-diabetes-compact>

**Advocacy Action:** Can you question your Government on its progress towards meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goal in relation to NCDs?



## What's Your News?

Let us know what's happening where you are? Just add PDGN to your press releases, or send your stories and photos to: [adrian@pdgn.co.uk](mailto:adrian@pdgn.co.uk) We want to hear from you.



# Simple Solution to Malnutrition

Malaysian Member of Parliament, Dr Azman Ismail MP, has raised the issue of malnutrition and linked it to a rise in non communicable diseases (NCDs) claiming there is a simple solution.

"This doesn't require huge funds and you don't need rocket science to go back to our traditional diets," he said when debating the Supply Bill 2022 at the committee stage for the health ministry.

"Our grandparents and parents were on additional diets. Whether Malay, Chinese or Indian (families), there were fewer cases of NCDs among them,"

Dr Ismail explained that Type B malnutrition was a form of food deficiency and those suffering from it could have normal body weight and height".

He also cited experts such as British nutritionist Dr Paul Clayton, who was of the opinion that NCDs were caused by Type B malnutrition.

He said health facilities would try to detect malnutrition when a person's weight was low and their growth stunted.

"But what is happening in Malaysia and elsewhere, in my experience as a doctor of 35 years, is that youths have good body weight and height. But when they reach their 20s, they become obese or suffer from high blood pressure or diabetes.

"This is explained by Type B malnutrition. We fail to detect those who are at high risk of getting NCDs at an early stage."

He called on the health ministry to have a comprehensive strategy to study and understand Type B malnutrition and conduct early screenings to avoid it

"NCDs affect many Malaysians and billions have been lost as all our current efforts have failed. So, we need to review our approach," he said.

**Advocacy Action:** Does nutrition feature as part of your diabetes prevention strategies? Does it include, food information, labelling, and advice? Is nutrition part of any national or advisory education curriculum? Can you help raise nutrition as an issue in your Parliament.

Credit: [https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2021/12/06/go-back-to-traditional-diets-says-mp/?\\_\\_cf\\_chl\\_jschl\\_tk\\_\\_=qCucTic61.0MEBix0F0iYyUqmQ1cNI3nGkS](https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2021/12/06/go-back-to-traditional-diets-says-mp/?__cf_chl_jschl_tk__=qCucTic61.0MEBix0F0iYyUqmQ1cNI3nGkS)



**"This doesn't require huge funds and you don't need rocket science to go back to our traditional diets," Says Dr Azman Ismail MP, addressing the Malaysian Parliament.**

# News In Brief

## UK - COVID and Diabetes Link

People with diabetes are no more likely to catch coronavirus than anyone else, but, people with diabetes are more vulnerable to developing a severe illness if they do get coronavirus. Latest information has been compiled by Diabetes UK.

[https://www.diabetes.org.uk/about\\_us/news/coronavirus](https://www.diabetes.org.uk/about_us/news/coronavirus)

## USA - Progress Made in Congress

Diabetes advocates are thanking Congressional representatives in the US for including in the Federal budget a \$35 per month out-of-pocket cap on insulin for people with Medicare or commercial insurance. It is thought that this legislation is a significant step towards insulin affordability. The bill also provides a series of caps for the Secretary of Health and Human Services to consider when negotiating the cost of the prescription drugs. Manufacturers who refuse to negotiate will be subject to an (undefined in the statute) excise tax.

## UK – Setting Targets for Diabetes Saves Lives

The Lancet has published findings by an international research team – led by the University of Birmingham, that has found significant numbers of lives could be saved through simple measures. They are calling for global targets to treat

diabetes and strokes. Their research found that in developing countries, the setting and achievement of targets for treating diabetes patients with cholesterol or blood pressure medication, as well as tackling blood sugar levels, has increased life expectancy and saved lives from diabetes related complications.

## Canada – Publicly Funded Flash Glucose Monitor

The Ontario Government is now providing coverage for the FreeStyle Libre 2 system, a flash glucose monitoring system, to become available, under the province's publicly-funded drug program. Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, Christine Elliott said: "This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the discovery of insulin right here in Ontario. As we look towards the future, our Government is committed to making life easier and more affordable for individuals living with diabetes."

## India – USD \$2.6 Trillion Cost of Diabetes Productivity Loss

Analysis published by the US National Institutes of Health's National Centre for Biotechnology Information, reveals estimated productivity losses of Indian Rupees 176.6 trillion in lost gross domestic product due to diabetes in the sub-continent..

# Research Corner

**COVID and Diabetes –** Study finds why people with diabetes develop severe COVID-19. Diabetes needs to be considered the main risk factor for severe COVID illness.

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/study-finds-why-people-with-diabetes-develop-severe-covid-19-121091200162\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/study-finds-why-people-with-diabetes-develop-severe-covid-19-121091200162_1.html)

**Advocacy Action:** – Can you use this study to add weight to the case for preventing diabetes? Can you use it to ensure your health care system is targeting people with diabetes to help them avoid COVID? Does your vaccination system prioritise people with diabetes as a likely group to require more expensive medical treatment and care should they catch the virus?

**Diabetes Vaccine?** A study financed by Diamyd Medical, a pharmaceuticals company, and run by a team of researchers at Linköping University, Sweden, is looking at how type 1 diabetes could be altered, by the injection of a protein.

<https://www.openaccessgovernment.org/diabetes-vaccine/111169/>

**Lockdowns Good and Bad for Diabetes** - Study finds COVID-19 lockdowns have major impact on diabetes control.

<https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/929786>

# Nutrition News

## Low Carb Diet Recommended

Diabetes featured during India's 'National Nutrition Week' with the advice that a low carb diet is a key to maintaining a healthy blood sugar balance that reduces the risk of expensive and life changing complications.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/health/national-nutrition-week-low-carb-diet-to-manage-diabetes-7486285/>

## Whole Grains and Economic Costs

Could whole grains reduce the economic impact of type 2 diabetes? That was the subject of a study in Finland that suggest the increased consumption of whole grain foods could reduce the economic costs of type 2 diabetes. Read more At:

<https://www.aninews.in/news/lifestyle/food/whole-grains-could-reduce-economic-impact-of-type-2-diabetes-study20211025133923/>

## Evidence of a Successful Sugar Tax

With more than a quarter of its citizens living with obesity, South Africans are among the top 20 percent of the most obese nations in the world. Around one in eight South African adults – more than 4.5 million people – have diabetes. It was these statistics that persuaded the Parliament of South Africa in 2018 to support a health promotion levy – a tax on sugary drinks.

It was hoped the tax would help to address the diabetes epidemic and the high rates of obesity that were believed to be behind it.

Statistics released this year have shown that South Africans are buying 28 percent less sugary drinks alongside a fall in the sugar and calorie intake of the population.

Under the levy sugar manufacturers are charged a fee of 2.1 cents per gram of sugar per 100 ml. This has pushed producers to cut the sugar in their soft drinks to avoid the tax, and to push up the price increases onto consumers by hiking retail prices. The combination of the two is linked to the reduction in sugar intake in the country by nearly a third.

**Advocacy Action:** Check this link for WHO data on obesity rates around the world.

[https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/prevalence-of-obesity-among-adults-bmi-%3D-30-\(crude-estimate\)-\(-\)](https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-details/GHO/prevalence-of-obesity-among-adults-bmi-%3D-30-(crude-estimate)-(-))

# Technology Corner

## Closed Loop Systems

A Swedish study suggests advanced hybrid closed-loop insulin monitoring and delivery systems are cost-effective for patients with type 1 diabetes.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34596879/>

Also, Children with type 1 diabetes who used an advanced hybrid closed-loop insulin delivery system for 1 year achieved an average time in range of 74%, surpassing clinical consensus guidelines, according to European data released by Medtronic.

<https://www.healio.com/news/endocrinology/20211020/next-generation-artificial-pancreas-boosts-time-in-range-for-children-with-diabetes>

## MRI for Diabetes Detection

German researchers have set out to investigate whether physicians can detect Type 2 by assessing body fat patterns via magnetic resonance imaging.

<https://www.radiologybusiness.com/topics/artificial-intelligence/mri-artificial-intelligence-type-2-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](http://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.

# Associations' News

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

## Changes at the Top

The American Diabetes Association has announced that CEO Tracey D. Brown has left the organisation to become President of Retail Products and Chief Customer Officer at Walgreens.

A statement from the ADA reads: We are extremely proud of the impact she has led in the transformation of the organization and her help in accelerating the positive effect that we continue to have on the ADA's eighty-one-year-old promise "to prevent and cure diabetes for all those affected.

Under her leadership, the organization has experienced a profound transformation. The team created new programs and fundraising models, established new partnerships, re-engaged our professional members and volunteers, refreshed our brand and our website, developed Big A advocacy, punched above our weight with communications, continued to build upon our Science and Healthcare area of expertise and of course, strengthened our connection with those that we serve – People living with diabetes!"



The highly respected Chief Executive of Diabetes Australia, Professor Greg Johnson, is also moving on to take up the role of Executive General Manager and Professor with the Australian Living Evidence Consortium based at the School of Public Health and Preventative Medicine, Monash University Melbourne.

## And Down under

Tributes were paid to him at his farewell event and a number of videos regarding his leadership and achievements were shared, like this one: [https://youtu.be/18QoQH\\_Qx0Y](https://youtu.be/18QoQH_Qx0Y)

## DLC Diabetes Action Plan

The Diabetes Leadership Council (DLC) of America has published a 'Consensus Paper' on their Diabetes Action Plan that received input from 10 organisations with an interest in Diabetes.



Among many issues the plan highlights affordable insulin as the bedrock of diabetes management for 1 in 3 people with diabetes, but recognises that insulin is only one piece in a mosaic of medicines, medical devices, software, supplies, services, medical nutrition therapy and diabetes self-management education and support that the disease demands. You can read the plan here:

[https://assets.website-files.com/613f9606f0c4d3767b48a5d0/616ce9098882f2194e0796c8\\_Diabetes\\_health\\_care\\_reform\\_consensus\\_statement%20\(1\).pdf](https://assets.website-files.com/613f9606f0c4d3767b48a5d0/616ce9098882f2194e0796c8_Diabetes_health_care_reform_consensus_statement%20(1).pdf)

# PDGN News

## Meet Susan Jackson MP, PDGN's new President

Susan is a fourth generation Jackson to commit to public service in the Bermuda Parliament. She approaches public service with a deep sense of responsibility and believes trust is the most important ingredient for effective representation and that trust must be earned.

Susan first met PDGN Co-Chair, Sir Michael Hirst, at a Bermuda summit on diabetes in 2015 and committed to join the network of parliamentarians championing diabetes. She presented at the Vancouver forum in that same year. Susan is a Vice President of the PDGN executive and actively participated in PDGN achieving charitable status.

Susan has been a Member of Parliament since December 2012 and has held the position of House Whip and presently holds the Shadow Transport portfolio and speaks on Education in the House. She sits on the Public Accounts Committee, Committee of Chairs and Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (Bermuda executive committee). Susan's community service includes; former Board Chair of Summerhaven, a residence for people living in wheelchairs and is President of the Bermuda Chapter of the International Women's Forum.

Educated in Bermuda, England and the United States, Susan has a BSc. in Speech from Emerson College, Boston, Massachusetts and professional designations from Communication, Advertising and Marketing (CAM) Education Foundation in London, England.

Susan has two children Scott (26) and Samantha (23) and enjoys running, reading, travel and puzzles.



PDGN - The Parliamentarians  
Diabetes Global Network

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# PDGN News

## Thanks Guy

PDGN President Guy Barnett has stepped down from the role he was elected to in 2015 to concentrate on his Ministerial responsibilities in the Tasmanian Parliament.



He was appointed to the Cabinet in 2016 and is now Minister for Primary Industries and Water, Minister for Resources, Minister for Trade, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction. Guy is also a Diabetes Australia Ambassador.

Guy was a co-founder of our Global Network, and put an enormous amount of effort into the first and successful Forum in Melbourne. PDGN owes him a substantial debt of gratitude for his fundraising and organisational efforts.

Guy will continue as a member and we look forward to hearing from him in his continued advocacy for people with diabetes.

## David Amess

The Global Network of Parliamentary Champions for Diabetes was deeply saddened by the untimely death of Sir David Amess, a vigorous champion of diabetes in the UK Parliament. David was stabbed to death by an alleged terrorist while holding a constituency surgery.



Sir Michael Hirst and John Bowis OBE, co-Chairs of PDGN as well as Secretary-general Adrian Sanders, all served in Parliament with David Amess.

Michael said: "David was one of the most decent, hard-working MPs in Parliament. He could always be relied upon to champion diabetes and the interest of those with diabetes".

To David's widow, Julia, and his family, the Global Network offers its warmest sympathy.

## Professor Trisha Dunning

Trisha Dunning recently lost a long battle with cancer. One of the foremost figures in diabetes research and care in Australia, Trisha was also a strong supporter of the first Global Forum of PDGN in Melbourne in 2013 and was quick to recognise how much could be achieved for diabetes by skilful Parliamentary advocacy.



Trisha was a staunch supporter of Diabetes Australia, served on the Board of the International Diabetes Federation from 2009-2015, and authored the IDF Clinical Guidelines on the Care of Older People with Diabetes. She was a prolific author of books and papers on diabetes clinical care.

**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.