

Global Health Inequalities Persist

The OECD together with the European Commission has published a report showing the persistence of health inequalities and the prevalence of obesity that is continuing to increase across the globe.

The report contains nutrition profiles, which capture the status of nutrition at country, regional and global levels. The country profiles aggregate the very latest data on child, adolescent and adult anthropometry and nutritional status, as well as intervention coverage, food supply, nutrition spending and demography.

Find the statistics for your part of the world here:

URL:
<https://globalnutritionreport.org/nutrition-profiles/europe/?fbclid=IwAR1O9gnh9VZLnqIi9W6MJHdyo9bfEX-Rn4FfEUsTAHEikZSOGsHPw5XuTw#profile>

Advocacy Action: Use the statistics for your country or region to start a debate in your Parliament and raise the profile of the challenge in the media.



Inside This Issue:

- Diabetes and mental health
- Aussie Bidding War
- News from around the Globe
- News on sugar taxes

Lilly to Bring Rocketing Insulin Costs Down to Earth

US insulin manufacturer Eli Lilly has become the first to respond to the growing pressure from patients to cut the cost of insulin.

The company announced in March that it would offer a cheaper version of its top-selling insulin Humalog in the USA. The decision follows a decision by Congress to investigate the three major insulin makers including Lilly.

Despite the political pressure, in January European drug-makers Sanofi and Novo Nordisk raised their prices for insulin in the US. The pressure is on all insulin producers to do

more after months of rising prices forcing some patients to ration their dosages with reports of complications and even patient deaths.



The price rises in the US have been explained as a consequence of everyone taking a share in the price. It is less of an issue in public health care systems but they too are affected by price changes.

Advocacy Action: Your patient groups might welcome your support and your Government could be lobbied to put pressure on the producers and the supply chain.



News on Sugar Taxes

In our last newsletter we reported on PDGN Vice-President Dr Mustafa Brahimí's successful campaign to persuade the Moroccan Parliament to adopt a sugar tax. The issue is gaining ground around the world but support is by no means universal.

In South East Asia the question is being asked whether a sugar tax will solve the growing diabetes problems in the region. Several countries are now considering the matter.

PDGN monitors materials that can help decision-makers and produces briefings or recommends ones on particular issues. If we can help just get in touch.

URL:
<https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Asia-Insight/Southeast-Asian-sugar-taxes-Bitter-pills-for-better-health>

Aussie Parties in a Bidding War

In February the Australian Federal Government announced that scientists searching for the elusive cure for type 1 diabetes will get an extra \$54.5 million in funding to help the more than 120,000 children and adults in the country with the chronic condition.

Almost immediately the opposition Labor Party pledged to give \$ 50 million to help get a Type 1 diabetes cure if it wins the next federal election.

Australian political parties are engaged in a bidding war to help people with Diabetes. The success of the all-party Australian diabetes group in raising the profile and importance of diabetes has not only affected government policy,

whichever party is in government, but how the parties approach the subject with pledges before elections.

PDGN General Secretary Adrian Sanders commented that this is what we want to see in every legislature. "The PDGN model is cross party working on diabetes by a group of advocates who can influence government policies irrespective of which party or parties are in control."

Advocacy Action: Does your group promote ideas for inclusion in manifestos? Could PDGN help your group be even more effective?

We can visit your group, supply briefings, put you in touch with someone or a group who have direct experience. Just contact info@pdgn.co.uk

Welcome Tasmania

Congratulations to PDGN President Guy Barnett MP on helping bring a new cross-party group to life, this time in the Tasmanian Parliament.

The group was set up last year and launched on the lawns of Parliament House in Hobart with plans to have a number of events to get the message of Diabetes out into the community.



Advocacy Action: Could PDGN help you to set up a cross-party group?

NEWS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE



Pakistan - Concerns that Pakistan's health Care system might not be able to cope with the global epidemic of diabetes have been expressed by Dr Azok Fazal Pechuho, the country's health minister. She says Pakistan should not only focus efforts on the prevention of diabetes, but also develop science based natural remedies that can help sufferers.

URL: <https://nation.com.pk/26-Jan-2019/diabetes-affecting-millions-of-pakistanis-minister>



Thailand - Google has launched an artificial intelligence program in Thailand to screen for a diabetic eye disease which causes permanent blindness. The program follows a similar Google program in India and highlights a push by big tech companies to show the social benefits of new AI technologies.

URL: <http://www.asianage.com/technology/in-other-news/141218/google-launches-thai-ai-project-to-screen-for-diabetic-eye-disease.html>



UK - New arrangements determining who can receive flash glucose monitoring on the National Health Service has been published that will result in a small increase in the number of patients who will qualify.

URL: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/flash-glucose-monitoring-national-arrangements-for-funding-of-relevant-diabetes-patients/>



Israel - Israeli biotech firm Kadimastem aims to render needles a thing of the past for diabetes patients. They are developing a stem-cell mechanism that creates insulin in the body.

URL: <https://www.israel21c.org/israeli-company-plans-to-make-insulin-injections-obsolete/>



Poland - A Polish team of scientists have won international recognition for making surgery on diabetics safer. A team at the Foundation for Research and Science Development has found a solution to the damage caused to DNA during transplantation of islets.

URL: <https://www.thefirstnews.com/article/warsaw-team-makes-waves-in-the-fight-against-diabetes-4842>



USA - The Arizona Diabetes Action Plan and Report is a collaborative effort from multiple agencies. The report was mandated by a House Bill last year. It was required to include several statistics about diabetes in the State, efforts that are currently underway, and a plan for reducing its prevalence.

URL: <https://stateofreform.com/news/states/arizona/2019/02/first-arizona-diabetes-action-plan-and-report-includes-policy-recommendations/>



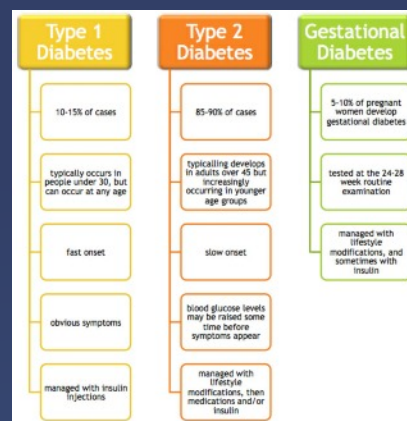
India - The annual South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation diabetes conference held in New Delhi held discussions on best practice and technical advances to improve disease management.

URL: <http://www.pharmabiz.com/NewsDetails.aspx?aid=114739&sid=1>

Importance of Understanding Diabetes Type

Little annoys people with diabetes more than references to one type or diabetes being confused with another.

Grainne Flynn's article is a good insight to the thinking of someone with the condition and the need not to discriminate between the Type 1 and Type 2. All types of diabetes are chronic, life threatening conditions and none are easier to live with than any other.



URL: <https://www.yahoo.com/news/divide-between-people-type-1-195250627.html>

What's going on in your part of the world?

Please let us know what's going on in your part of the world meeting the challenge of diabetes.

Successes and failures are equally valuable to share so we can learn from one another and become more effective advocates for people with diabetes. info@pdgn.co.uk

Diabetes Link to Mental Illness

There are increasing numbers of reports and studies into the links between diabetes and mental illness being published.

For too long mental illness has been seen as a stigma but research has confirmed a clear connection between such illness and both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes across all age groups.

Diagnosis of diabetes can lead to anger, denial, fear or depression and these can range from mild feelings of irritation through to serious depression.

Studies conclude that like most mental health problems, those caused by diabetes are often underestimated or ignored and health care systems need to recognise this and respond.

<https://www.utoronto.ca/news/ut-led-study-draws-links-between-diabetes-and-mental-illness-some-patients>
<https://www.healthcentral.com/article/mental-health-for-young-people-with-type-2-diabetes>

Advocacy Action: Is the link between mental illness and diabetes recognised in your legislative area? Do you have an example of best practice to share with others?



Please Ask Your Colleagues to Join

Our members are our strength. Please ask your colleagues to join, it's free and there's a membership form on our website



www.pdgn.co.uk



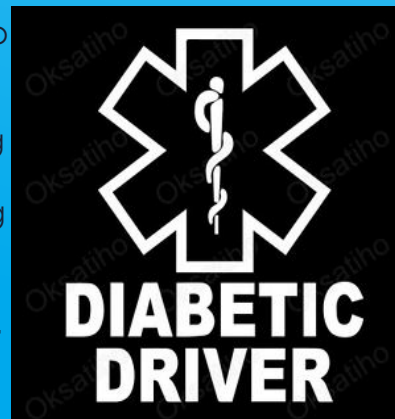
info@pdgn.co.uk

Important Victory for CGM Drivers

Driving regulations for people with diabetes in the UK require those about to go behind the wheel to check their glucose levels with a finger prick blood reading no more than two hours before driving and then again on a break after every two hours of driving. Failure to do can invalidate their compulsory car insurance.

A decision on the position of taking blood glucose readings via a continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) device has been long forthcoming. In February the UK regulatory body made an announcement giving

approval for CGM devices to be used.



The delay in the decision is another example of the problems experienced by patients wishing to take advantage of new technologies referred to elsewhere in this newsletter where tech access in the

UK was found to be not fit for purpose.

<https://diabetestimes.co.uk/cvta-approves-cgm-devices-for-driving-with-diabetes-28347-2/>

Advocacy Action: What's the position in your country? Can you use the UK decision to help in your country?

PDGN News

Thanks to support from a sponsor a comprehensive review of PDGN is currently being undertaken with a likely completion date at the end of May. The review will guide PDGN's future priorities and activities. If you have been contacted to take part, thank you for assisting this important project that is aimed to help deliver what our members want and need to be the best advocates for diabetes that they can.

PDGN was invited to submit an article to the influential OpenAccessGovernment Publication. You can read it here:

<https://www.openaccessgovernment.org/diabetes/59377/>

Why Do South Asians Have Such High Rates of Heart Disease?

Research in the States is beginning to uncover why rates of heart disease are so high in this group.

For the last seven years, a team of researchers at the University of California, San Francisco and Northwestern University has followed more than 900 South Asians in Chicago and the Bay Area. Their ongoing study, known as Masala, for Mediators of Atherosclerosis in South Asians Living in America, has found that South Asians tend to develop high blood pressure, high triglycerides, abnormal cholesterol and Type 2 diabetes at lower body weights than other groups. South Asian men are also prone to high levels of coronary artery calcium, a marker of atherosclerosis that can be an early harbinger of future heart attacks and strokes.

<http://thelinkpaper.ca/?p=72367>

See also - Link between diabetes and heart disease.

<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?q=bc8f8bec-261a-47e8-aa9d-1ea23bb7c83a>

Tech Access in UK "Not Fit for Purpose"

The Association of British Clinical Diabetologists (ABCD) has published a document on access to new technologies for people with diabetes that concludes the current system for reviewing and launching new technology within a health economy is not fit for purpose.



interested parties including patients, clinicians, commissioners and administrators.

Recommendations include a call for a national approach to new technologies, a review of funding systems and identifying clinical leaders to lead change and deliver it.

You can read the report here:

<https://diabetestimes.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Report-Increasing-the-Uptake-of-New-Technology-in-Diabetes-Recommended-Actions-FINAL-VERSION.pdf>

The publication, *Increasing the Uptake of New Technologies in Diabetes: Recommended Actions*, summarises the findings from a meeting of

Can You Help Us to Help You More?

What's happening in your area?

Please share your news both successes and failures so we can learn from one another. Stories and photos always welcome via info@pdgn.co.uk or use twitter



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Research Corner

Diabetes and Back Pain

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2019-02-links-diabetes-pain.html>

Hope for patients with autoimmune disease

<https://medicalxpress.com/news/2019-03-treatments-patients-autoimmune-disease.html>

Kidney Disease in Type 1

<http://care.diabetesjournals.org/content/early/2019/02/25/dc18-2062>

Deprivation linked to poor blood glucose control

<https://www.diabetes.co.uk/news/2019/mar/deprivation-linked-to-poor-blood-glucose-control-in-type-1-diabetes-97428963.html>

More Reasons To Encourage Good Blood-Sugar Control

<https://www.endocrine.org/news-room/2019/higher-risk-of-fracture-in-type->