



International Diabetes Federation

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The International Diabetes Federation

"While the vision of living in a world without diabetes may seem an impossible dream, the International Diabetes Federation is dedicated to promoting the need for prevention programmes to those in a position to facilitate change and, for those with diabetes, to ensuring the best possible care and to finding a cure".

Professor Pierre Lefèbvre, President of IDF

The International Diabetes Federation (IDF) is the only global advocate for people with diabetes, their families and their healthcare providers. It is a non governmental organisation in official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO). It has evolved since 1950 into an umbrella organisation of 184 member associations in 145 countries, representing millions of people with diabetes and their carers.

The mission of IDF is "*To promote diabetes care, prevention and a cure worldwide*". It is a statement of intent which the Federation believes addresses the challenges that face the global diabetes community in the 21st century and which better reflects the work that IDF is now doing.

- **Care:** the core activity of IDF remains the promotion of the best possible care for anyone who has to live with diabetes. In close collaboration with its member associations, the Federation continues its work to increase access to and improve the quality of care that is currently available. It does this through advocacy and lobbying, education for people with diabetes to help them manage their condition, public awareness and health improvement campaigns, and the promotion of the free exchange of diabetes knowledge.
- **Prevention:** IDF understands that primary prevention is the only realistic way to curb the rise in the diabetes pandemic. "IDF will always strive to lessen the impact of diabetes upon the quality of life of those currently living with this disease but it is through the promotion of diabetes prevention that we will ensure that the millions who are living with diabetes today will not face a future decline in the quality of their care as the many millions who are predicted to develop diabetes compete for limited resources", says Professor Lefèbvre.

IDF encourages the implementation of prevention programmes. With more than three quarters of its member associations actively involved in the primary prevention of diabetes and seeking to reduce the risks of diabetic complications, IDF promotes recent advances in diabetes management (including lifestyle changes) and the availability of and access to diabetes medications and blood glucose testing materials in all countries.

- **Cure:** while IDF does not support research directly, by increasing awareness and promoting education, it encourages the efforts of those who seek to further understand the causes of diabetes and whose aim it is to find a cure.



Publications

- *Diabetes Atlas* is probably the best known IDF publication and is the most up-to-date global report on diabetes, covering all aspects of the disease from epidemiology through to health economics and education. The second edition has been expanded. Pressing topical issues such as the accessibility of insulin and diabetes supplies, the link between CVD and diabetes, and prevention and strategic action have been incorporated. The *Diabetes Atlas* is available in English and the Executive Summary is available in English, French and Spanish.
- *Diabetes Voice* is the Federation's quarterly "Bulletin", published in English, French and Spanish, and targeted at both professionals and non professionals interested in the promotion of diabetes health. The magazine covers the latest developments in diabetes care, education, prevention, research, health policy and economics, as well as themes related to living with diabetes.
- Publications related to the *metabolic syndrome* produced by IDF include:
 - *Diabetes and Obesity: Time to Act*—a joint International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and International Association for the Study of Obesity (IASO) report that addresses the link between diabetes and obesity, a major risk factor for type 2 diabetes and one of the most serious public health threats today.
 - *Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease: Time to Act*—an up-to-date review of global cardiovascular disease and diabetes, aimed at raising awareness of the link between these two diseases and recommending action to prevent or delay the cardiovascular complications of diabetes.

Regional communications network

To strengthen the collaboration and work of member associations and the central office, IDF is divided into seven regions: Africa, Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East, Europe, North America, South and Central America, South East Asia, Western Pacific.