

HOSTS BIOGRAPHIES

Prof Akhtar Hussain IDF President-elect



Prof. Akhtar Hussain is President-Elect of the International Diabetes Federation. He previously served on the IDF Board as a Vice-President between 2013 and 2017.

Prof. Hussain originates from Bangladesh and immigrated to Norway in 1984. He graduated in Medicine from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, and subsequently received post-graduate and doctoral diplomas in Boston (USA) and Bergen and Oslo (Norway).

Prof. Hussain has been working actively in diabetes over the last 25 years. He is currently Professor at NORD University (Norway) focusing on diabetes and metabolic syndrome, and previously served as Professor of Global Health at the University of Oslo (2006-17). Other positions he performed include office head of the Clinical Cancer Research and Epidemiology, National University hospital (Norway) and Senior Advisor for Research, Faculty of Medicine, University of Oslo.

Prof. Hussain has been involved with a multitude of diabetes research programmes and organisations in numerous countries around the world. He initiated the Primary Diabetes Prevention Programme in Bangladesh and Pakistan and other programmes related to type 1 diabetes and gestational diabetes. Prof. Hussain is a life member of the Diabetes Association of Bangladesh and a member of the Norwegian Diabetes Association, where he served as an executive member of its Medical Advisory Board for six years.

Prof. Hussain has authored more than 100 peer-reviewed articles published in international journals.

Ms Johanna Ralston WOF CEO

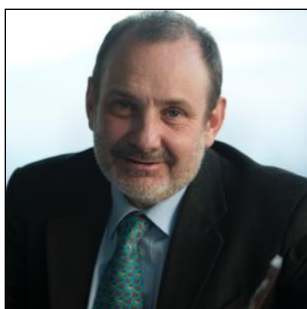


Johanna oversees the implementation of the WOF five-year plan for 2020-25, including advocacy for global obesity targets, education and capacity building, and evidence and data. Prior to joining World Obesity in 2017, Johanna was the CEO of the World Heart Federation and Vice Chair of the NCD Alliance. During her time at the World Heart Federation, Johanna led the CVD community's coordinated effort to elevate CVD on the global health agenda. From 1999 to 2011, Johanna was VP Global Strategies at the American Cancer Society, where she built and led global capacity-building programmes in cancer and tobacco control in low- and middle-income countries

PANELLISTS BIOGRAPHIES

Dr Francesco Branca

WHO Nutrition for Growth Department



Francesco Branca is the Director of the Department of Nutrition and Food safety in the World Health Organization, Geneva (since February 2020).

From 2008 to 2019, he was the Director of the Department of Nutrition for Health and Development. During this period, WHO has developed a WHO Nutrition strategy, established a new nutrition guideline development process and has developed a Comprehensive Implementation Plan on Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition with six global targets. He has been leading the preparation of the 2nd International Conference on Nutrition and the Secretariat of the Decade of Action on Nutrition. Before that, in 2005-2008, Dr

Branca was the Regional Advisor for Nutrition at the WHO Regional Office for Europe.

Between 1988 and 2005, he has been a Senior Scientist at the Italian Food and Nutrition research Institute where he was leading studies on the effects of food and nutrients on human health at the different stages of the life cycle and on the impact of public health nutrition programmes. He has been President of the Federation of the European Nutrition Societies in 2003-2007.

In 1985-1986, Dr Branca has been a medical staff of a Primary Health Care project in the South of Somalia ran by the Italian NGO, CISP

Dr Branca graduated in Medicine and Surgery and specialized in Diabetology and Metabolic Diseases at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Roma and obtained a Msc and then a PhD in Nutrition at Aberdeen University.

Prof Wannee Nitiyanant

Royal College of Physicians of Thailand



Emeritus Professor Dr. Wannee Nitiyanant received medical degree from Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University and an honorary doctorate in Medicine from Mahidol University, Thailand. In the United State of America, she registered to both American Board of Internal Medicine and Subspecialty Board of Endocrinology and Metabolism. She currently is a consultant at Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University, the President of the Diabetes Association of Thailand, the President of the Association of Thai NCD Alliance and the Chair of the Network of Fatless Belly Thais. She has a 40-year experience in management of diabetes and metabolic syndrome in Thailand. She is involved in activities and campaigns to increase

awareness in health promotion, obesity and non-communicable diseases prevention.

Her research interests include diabetes mellitus, lipid disorders and obesity. She published over 100 scientific papers, a number of clinical practice recommendations, and chapters in educational books. She was awarded with the Clinical Research Award from Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, the Best Medical Woman of the Year 2002 from Thai Medical Women's Association, the Good Diabetes Textbook Award from Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, the Outstanding Medical Staff Award from Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital, the Sanofi-Aventis Distinguished Diabetes Service Award from Endocrine Society of Thailand Lifetime Achievement Award from International Diabetes Federation, the Somdej Phra Wannarat Award from Medical Association of Thailand, the Recognized Role Model Faculty Staff Award from Mahidol University and the Best Internist in Clinical Service Award from Royal College of Physicians of Thailand.

Prof Mike Lean
University of Glasgow



Prof Mike Lean is a Professor of Human Nutrition at Glasgow University, and a consultant physician at Glasgow Royal Infirmary. I was a visiting professor at Universities of Otago and Sydney (to 30/06/2021).

Professor Lean leads 'broad-focus' translational, integrative, research and teaching within medical and nutrition training, integrating biomedical research at basic science, clinical and public health levels. Awards include Diabetes UK-Rank Prize Lecturer (2014), Banting Memorial Lecturer (2020/21), Tenovus Medal for Research (2017), elected Fellow of Scotland's National Academy (FRSE, 2018).

Currently PI on the largest research grant ever awarded by Diabetes UK, the Diabetes Remission Clinical Trial (DiRECT, £2.6m), an NIHR-funded weight loss for long COVID (ReDIRECT, £1.0m), collaborative dietary diabetes remission projects in Nepal and Australia, and pharmaceutical trials.

He published over 600 scientific articles and books, G-Scholar H-Index=114.

Outside research, he makes and plays fiddles, and escapes to climb mountains.

Ms Heather Koga
IDF Blue Circle Voices Member from Zimbabwe



Heather Koga is an IDF- Blue Circle Voices (BCV) member from Zimbabwe. She has been living with Type 2 Diabetes since September 2013. She also has other related co-morbidities including hypertension and obesity. She has been a member of the BCV since 2017 and have been actively involved in some of their advocacy campaigns and initiatives. Locally, she has been involved with diabetes associations, and other organisations working on diabetes projects, for example Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF-Zimbabwe). She has also successfully carried out diabetes projects in Zimbabwe with the support of the IDF-BCV. In March 2021, she was involved in a World Health Organisation (WHO)

informal consultation of People Living with Diabetes as a facilitator. She has also taken her advocacy initiatives to social media where she moderates vibrant diabetes groups on Facebook and WhatsApp.