

# Our commitment to a world without diabetes

IDF President Shaukat Sadikot

Welcome to the December issue of Diabetes Voice and to the 2017 IDF Congress in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. If you aren't attending, I hope you will log onto [www.idf.org/congress](http://www.idf.org/congress) to view the exciting scientific programme we have planned.

With nearly a **half billion people living with diabetes worldwide** today, there is no other more important conference than IDF's biennial Congress where the largest global gathering of diabetes healthcare professionals assembles to hear a consortium of distinguished international speakers share knowledge and raise awareness of diabetes—the number one health epidemic facing our world. For five days, this virtual global village, bringing together IDF Member Associations, healthcare professionals, researchers, industry leaders, policy makers and people with diabetes—all dedicated to diabetes care, prevention and a cure—will be the place to learn the latest findings in diabetes research and best practice. IDF Congress 2017 reflects one very important fact: we have the knowledge and expertise to continue to work towards creating a world without diabetes.

As is the tradition, the General Assembly will convene at the IDF Congress 2017 on 4 December marking the end of my term as IDF President. It has been a very productive term with the assistance of all members of the IDF Board of Directors, IDF Delegates, IDF Staff in Brussels, IDF Member Associations and thousands of volunteers worldwide. The work of IDF's Implementation Plan for 2016-2017 was a transformative year focused on IDF's Global Voice. IDF and its partners spoke with authority and delivered action in a wide range of initiatives covering diabetes care and prevention, epidemiology, statistics, health economics, health education for professionals and citizens, as well as health system reform. Through our collaboration, we have achieved many great initiatives and I'd like to mention a few here.

Developing and implementing authoritative guidelines and standards for care and professional education was a number one priority. In 2016, the IDF School of Diabetes was created to deliver high standard, evidence-based diabetes education for healthcare professionals, people with diabetes and caregivers worldwide. The



critical element of IDF's School of Diabetes is to meet the demand for effective diabetes detection, prevention, quality care and treatment strategies with an online portal for healthcare professionals in real-time. In just one year, we have achieved: 1845 learners from 154 countries; 3 certified courses for Primary Care Physicians, Educators and Specialists; and all courses have been accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME).

In the past year, we issued several guidelines including Clinical Practice Recommendations on the Diabetic Foot and the Management of Type 2 Diabetes and the Global Survey on Access to Essential Diabetes Medicines and Cost Effective Solutions for the Prevention of Type 2 Diabetes. Each of these publications reflects a common denominator: IDF's mandate to develop policies and resources to raise awareness of the need to effect change at a population level for diabetes prevention and improving care.

It has always been the remit of IDF to fight not only for diabetes access and care but to also combat stigma and discrimination. Our Blue Circle Voices (BCV) initiative goes right to the heart of the challenges of living with diabetes by representing the interests of people living with, or affected by diabetes through a worldwide network of members and other stakeholders. BCV is the global voice of people living with diabetes and draws upon the experiences of people living with diabetes. BCV reflects many of our key core values—solidarity, compassion, cultural sensitivity and collaboration.

Just a few weeks ago, we celebrated the impact of diabetes awareness on World Diabetes Day 2017 with a campaign dedicated to Women and Diabetes And Our Right to a Healthy Future. Over 200 million women live with diabetes today and without affordable and equitable access to care and education this number will continue to rise by the hundreds of millions. Current estimates reported in the *8th Edition of the IDF Diabetes Atlas* state that 21.3 million or 16.2% of live births to women in 2017 had some form of hyperglycaemia in pregnancy, putting both mother and child at risk for type 2 diabetes later in life. The right for women to have access to diabetes prevention and care equates to healthier generations and brighter futures.

In closing, I want to be sure to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable time at the IDF Congress and thank especially the Organizing Committee, chaired by Monira Al Arouj, the Programme Committee, chaired by Nam Cho, the National Advisory Committee, chaired by Abdulrazzaq Al Madani and great appreciation to the Emirates Diabetes Society and Abu Dhabi Health Authority for their assistance and hospitality.

*Shaukat Sadikot*  
IDF President 2016-2017