

HOSTS BIOGRAPHIES

Kirsten de Klerk

Co-founder: SA Diabetes Advocacy, project manager and YLD Trainee (South Africa)

Kirsten de Klerk has been living with diabetes for 13 years. In 2021, Kirsten Co-founded SA Diabetes Advocacy with the main goal of advocating for and with people living with diabetes in South Africa. SA Diabetes Advocacy works on several advocacy projects that are spread across the different types of diabetes as well as across private and public healthcare, tackling some of the biggest issues that people living with diabetes are facing in South Africa. Kirsten has a passion for advocating for CGM access.



Ricardo Eleutério de Oliveira

IDF's Young Leader in Diabetes for Portugal, and representative-elect for Europe (Portugal)

Ricardo has been involved with IDF's Young Leader in Diabetes program since 2022, being elected to represent Portugal, and now acting as a representative-elect for the Europe region. During this period, he has actively contributed to bridging the national and international community of people living with Diabetes. Ricardo has been a contributor and moderator to digital forums such as WHO's Global Diabetes Compact and has launched a podcast around the topic of lived experiences. Ricardo's advocacy work is built on the foundation that everyone's experience plays a key role into shaping the global community.

International Diabetes Federation

Improving the lives of people with diabetes and preventing diabetes in those at risk



PANELLISTS BIOGRAPHIES

Deeksha Dev

Director, Advocacy and Experiences, The Diabesties Foundation, psychologist and YLD Trainee (India)

Deeksha Dev is a counselling psychologist with speciality in working with people undergoing Diabetes Distress and Burnout and a Certified Diabetes Educator who has lived experience of 23 years with Type 1 Diabetes. She works with The Diabesties Foundation as their Director of Advocacy and Experiences wherein she gets the humbling chance of giving back to her community by counselling, educating, and empowering them. She is also the IDF's Young Leaders in Diabetes for South East Asia representing India for the term 2022-2024. Her journey of living with Type 1 Diabetes has been a story of resilience and strength which pushed her to create Unwind- a breakthrough project in the field of mental health and Diabetes. Through Unwind, she aims to create a safe space for everyone to begin a dialogue about living with diabetes and its impact on one's mental health. Her life is dedicated to educating society about different types of diabetes, delivering impact, inspiring and empowering lives around her.



Robin Fein Wright

Psychotherapist and BCV Member (USA)

Ms. Wright is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and practices as a psychotherapist in Princeton, New Jersey, USA. She has been living with Type2 Diabetes for over 20 years. For over 10 years she has been a volunteer peer support group leader for Diabetes Sisters, a national organization. In addition, she has worked as a patient advocate, representing the patient's voice for many organizations, most recently for the Endocrine Society based in Washington, DC.



Naser Altooblani

Patient Advocate, Graduate student, Doha Institute of Graduate Studies and YLD Trainee (Bahrein)

I am currently undertaking my graduate program in Clinical Psychology. I was diagnosed with T1D at the age of 2. My work, advocacy, and experiences mostly focus on the psychosocial factors involved in diabetes management including spirituality, culture, and emotional competencies. I aspire to help build communities that serve as a platform for belonging and connection among individuals living with T1D. I am hoping that I can further the understanding of the importance of psychosocial factors and the crucial role they play in diabetes management.

