

Global Advocacy Diabetes

Issue number Two 2025

The newsletter of the Parliamentary Diabetes Global Network (PDGN)

Inside this issue: WHO & NCDs, Economics of Diabetes, Early Screening, Sugar Tax News, and lots of advocacy ideas

Insulin Threat to Children



Children living with diabetes are facing an increasingly uncertain future as major insulin donors scale back support.

The issue has been raised in Kenya, but may extend to other countries where families depend on these donations to access life-saving insulin, and the looming withdrawal raises serious concerns about affordability and continuity of care.

Healthcare providers and advocates warn that without a sustainable local solution, thousands of children could be left without essential treatment. The situation highlights the need for national investment in insulin procurement and stronger health system planning to prevent avoidable loss of life.

Advocacy Action: *Can your government develop a long-term plan for insulin access that doesn't rely on external donations? Can you urge your government and health authorities to prioritize domestic solutions that guarantee every child with diabetes receives the care they need—regardless of donor timelines?*

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Type 5 Diabetes Recognized

In a groundbreaking development for the global diabetes community, researchers from leading institutions in the UK, Europe, and the United States have officially recognized *Type 5 diabetes* as a distinct form of the disease.



This new classification marks a turning point in how diabetes is diagnosed, understood, and managed—especially for people whose symptoms have long defied conventional categorisation.

Unlike T1D or T2 diabetes, Type 5 is characterized by a unique combination of autoimmunity and metabolic dysfunction, often presenting in patients previously misdiagnosed or left without a clear treatment pathway. The discovery, published by an international research consortium including teams from King's College London, Oxford University, and partner institutions in Germany and the US, was based on detailed genetic and immunological profiling of atypical diabetes cases.

This new classification has the potential to improve treatment precision and reduce mismanagement.

Type 5 diabetes affects a relatively small percentage of people living with the condition, but its recognition highlights a broader need for a more nuanced approach to diabetes diagnosis. It also underscores the value of investing in advanced research methods, such as precision medicine and biomarker mapping.

However, the announcement has also raised concerns about access and equity. As with many emerging medical classifications, there is a risk that only patients in well-resourced health systems will benefit from early testing, personalized treatment plans, and tailored education. For low- and middle-income countries—where health systems are already under strain—the challenge will be ensuring that advances in classification do not further deepen existing disparities.

Efforts are now underway to develop clinical guidelines, educational resources, and insurance coverage pathways that reflect the latest science while ensuring broad access.

Advocacy Action: Global health leaders and diabetes advocates should ensure that the recognition of Type 5 diabetes leads not only to scientific innovation but also to inclusive care. Will we make space in national health systems for all forms of diabetes—or only for those who can afford a diagnosis?

Diabetes and South African Women



Diabetes remains the leading cause of death among women in South Africa and the second most common cause for men, according to recent mortality data. This sobering reality highlights how deeply non-communicable diseases (NCDs) have taken root in the country's health landscape.

Despite the high burden, awareness and early detection remain dangerously low—especially among women in underserved communities. Experts, like Dr. Patrick Ngassa Piotie, Chairperson of the South African Diabetes Alliance, warn that cultural stigma, gendered health disparities, and poor access to primary care are contributing to late diagnoses and preventable complications.

While some progress has been made through national screening efforts and NCD policy reforms, more must be done to prioritize diabetes as a health emergency—not just a lifestyle issue.

Advocacy Action: *Can you push for gender-responsive diabetes policies that address the unique health risks and barriers faced by women in diabetes prevention and care? Can you advocate for screening programs, gender-sensitive education campaigns, and maternal health integration strategies? Your national diabetes association may be able to assist you.*

T1 Screening Gaining Interest

Type 1 diabetes (T1D) is a condition where the body attacks the cells in the pancreas, meaning it cannot make insulin – a hormone which helps the body turn food into energy and manages blood sugar levels. T1D often starts in children and young adults, but it can happen at any age. There's currently no cure but it can be managed and the sooner it is discovered the better.



Finding ways to screen for T1D has been a long-held hope that is now becoming a reality in Italy, the first country to adopt a policy of screening.

The Innovative Health Institute (IFI) EDENT1FI project is cooperating with the Italian government on screening programmes to detect type 1 diabetes (T1D) in children and teenagers as they are rolled out.

The project was set up with one goal: to improve screening for type 1 diabetes in children and adolescents throughout Europe.

The scientific work behind the EDENT1FI screening programme is substantial; EDENT1FI researchers are comparing different protocols for screening, evaluating the ethics of screening, considering cost-effectiveness strategies and examining best practices for follow-up.

The law announcing a national screening programme for type 1 diabetes in children and teenagers in Italy was introduced by the Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies, Giorgio Mule, and is the first of its kind worldwide.

Other EU countries are starting to show their interest – France and Belgium have indicated that they will soon roll out screening for the family members of people diagnosed with type 1 diabetes.

Advocacy Action: *Can you raise the development of T1 screening in your country? There is plenty of information available online or via PDGN.*

Quick-Buys for Diabetes



The World Health Organisation (WHO) Europe Region has unveiled a set of “Quick Buys”—a menu of affordable, high-impact interventions designed to accelerate action on non-communicable diseases (NCDs), including diabetes.

These interventions are intended to be rapidly implementable, scientifically backed, and tailored to help countries meet their health targets within the next five years.

The Quick Buys include measures such as front-of-pack nutrition labeling, tobacco and alcohol taxation, improved diabetes screening, and investment in primary care systems. With NCDs accounting for nearly 90% of deaths in the region, WHO Europe emphasizes that cost or complexity can no longer be used as an excuse for inaction.

Advocacy Action: *Can you urge policymakers to implement WHO Europe's 'Quick Buys'—cost-effective, evidence-based interventions—to accelerate progress in tackling non-communicable diseases, including diabetes, over the next five years?*

Parliamentary News

Tax Cuts on Diabetes and NCD Drugs

In a landmark move to improve healthcare access, the Philippines has removed value-added tax (VAT) on a wide range of medicines used to treat diabetes, hypertension, cancer, and other non-communicable diseases (NCDs).



This policy shift is expected to ease the financial burden on patients and families, especially those managing chronic conditions long-term.

Health officials and lawmakers are framing the decision as an investment in national well-being rather than a loss in tax revenue.

By making essential medicines more affordable, the government aims to improve treatment adherence, prevent complications, and reduce healthcare costs over time.

Advocacy Action: *Can your government follow the Philippines' lead by eliminating taxes on essential NCD medicines? Removing financial barriers to treatment is a powerful way to protect public health and advance health equity.*

Digital System to Aid Diabetic Foot Care



The World Health Organization, in partnership with the government of the Solomon Islands, has introduced a new digital health information system to track and monitor diabetic foot injuries and surgeries.

This initiative aims to improve care quality, reduce complications, and support timely clinical decision-making in a region where diabetes-related amputations are a growing concern. By collecting real-time data on patient outcomes, healthcare providers can better understand the burden of diabetic foot disease, allocate resources more effectively, and strengthen prevention and follow-up care. The system also supports the broader goal of integrating digital health tools into routine NCD management in Pacific Island countries.

Advocacy Action: *Can digital health tools be used in your country to improve care for diabetes-related complications? Can you call on your government to invest in data-driven solutions that help healthcare workers provide timely, effective treatment—and ultimately, prevent avoidable disability?*

MP Raises the T1DE Issue

Josh Newbury MP, the UK Member of Parliament for Cannock Chase, in the Midlands has raised the issue of Type 1 Diabetes and Disordered Eating (T1DE).

Writing online in *Politics UK* he says: “A deadly combination of type 1 diabetes and disordered eating, known as T1DE, poses significant risks to those affected. With complications ranging from severe health deterioration to death, the UK healthcare system must prioritise comprehensive and specialised care”.



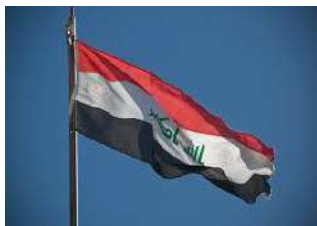
Recent parliamentary debates and pilot programmes have highlighted the urgent need for sustainable, long-term solutions to support those living with T1DE.

<https://politicsuk.com/dangers-of-type-1-diabetes-and-disordered-eating/>

Advocacy Action: *Has T1DE been raised in your Parliament? There’s plenty of material online to start a debate in your country.*

News In Brief

Iraq Partners to Launch Insulin Production Plant



In a major step towards pharmaceutical self-sufficiency, Iraq has signed an agreement with European firms to establish a domestic insulin production plant.

The facility will help meet growing national demand for diabetes treatment while reducing dependency on costly imports.

This partnership marks a strategic move to improve medicine availability and affordability in a region where access to insulin remains inconsistent. By investing in local production capacity, Iraq is positioning itself to better serve its population of people with diabetes and strengthen its healthcare infrastructure.

Advocacy Action: *Would local production of essential diabetes medicines like insulin assist your country? Could you ask your Government to investigate whether such a move could reduce the burden on the health care budget?*

Access to Smart Insulin Pens

South Korea is scaling up access to smart insulin pens, aiming to enhance diabetes care through technology-driven solutions.

These digital devices help patients track doses, improve insulin adherence, and share data with healthcare providers—offering a safer and more personalized approach to diabetes management.



The initiative is part of a broader effort to integrate digital health tools into chronic disease care, reduce complications, and empower patients. With diabetes on the rise, such innovations are expected to improve health outcomes while easing long-term pressures on the healthcare system.

Advocacy Action: *Could your country benefit from wider access to smart diabetes technologies? Do your health authorities invest in digital tools—like smart insulin pens—that support self-management, reduce complications, and promote more efficient, data-driven care? Can you press for the resources to help them?*

Early Screening Call



Indonesia is facing a significant public health challenge, with over 19.5 million adults currently living with diabetes—projected to rise to 28.6 million by 2045. This surge is attributed to factors such as sedentary lifestyles, dietary changes, and limited awareness about the disease.

Dr. Eka Jusup Singka, Head of the Center for Health Crisis at Indonesia's Ministry of Health, emphasizes the urgency of the situation. He says many individuals remain undiagnosed due to inadequate screening programs and lack of public awareness.

Echoing this concern, Dr. Pradana Soewondo, an endocrinologist at the University of Indonesia, points out that insulin usage among patients is below expectations. He stresses the need for improved education on proper injection techniques and better access to insulin across primary care facilities.

Advocacy Action: *Early diabetes screening programs are so important to ensure people with diabetes are treated early to reduce expensive complications later on. Can you raise their importance within your Parliament and need for their introduction for all types of diabetes?*

NCD Survey to Assist Policymaking



Sri Lanka's Ministry of Health has launched a new nationwide survey to assess the current status of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), aiming to inform better policy decisions and resource allocation.

The initiative will collect data on prevalence, risk factors, and healthcare access related to diabetes, heart disease, and other NCDs. Officials hope the findings will strengthen the country's response to the growing burden of chronic diseases and help guide prevention strategies over the next

decade.

Advocacy Action: *Can your country commit to regular, nationwide NCD data collection? Can you urge health authorities to invest in accurate surveillance systems to inform policy, allocate resources effectively, and track progress in combating diabetes and related diseases?*

Health Risk Linked to Climate Change

A new analysis from Japan reveals that individuals with diseases—such as diabetes, hypertension, and obesity—are two to five times more likely to be hospitalized for heatstroke.



As global temperatures continue to rise, this finding underscores the compounded risks that climate change poses to people living with non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Sumitomo Life Insurance is warning that the intersection of chronic health conditions and extreme heat events must be urgently addressed through both public health and climate resilience strategies. Promoting healthier lifestyles, expanding access to diabetes and cardiovascular care, and adapting cities to cope with rising temperatures are all part of a comprehensive prevention approach.

Advocacy Action: *Can you advocate for policies that promote healthy lifestyles while integrating climate adaptation into public health planning? With extreme heat becoming a growing threat, now is the time to ensure that people living with NCDs are protected through both prevention and preparedness.*

Innovation to Prevent Diabetes Complications



A new Australian trial is testing an early intervention strategy to help people with prediabetes avoid long-term complications.

The program, led by leading endocrinologists, combines digital health monitoring with lifestyle coaching and medication review to support early-stage patients.

Researchers hope the approach will reduce rates of progression to type 2 diabetes and improve patient quality of life. Community engagement is a central feature of the trial, with patients helping shape the program's design and evaluation.

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-04-29/naus_diabetestrialnr_2904/105228082

Advocacy Action: *Can you raise the need for public investment in large-scale diabetes trials and the need for community involvement in shaping research priorities and dissemination?*

Depression in Newly Diagnosed T2 Diabetes Patients

A recent study has found a link between low levels of soluble neuropilin-1 and increased rates of depression in patients newly diagnosed with type 2 diabetes.

This discovery adds to growing evidence that emotional and mental health concerns are closely intertwined with the physical aspects of diabetes.



Researchers suggest that measuring neuropilin-1 levels could serve as a biomarker for identifying patients at risk of depression early in their treatment journey.

<https://medicaldialogues.in/diabetes-endocrinology/news/low-soluble-neuropilin-1-levels-linked-to-depression-in-newly-diagnosed-type-2-diabetes-patients-study-147206>

Advocacy Action: *The promotion of mental health screening as a core component of diabetes care, especially for newly diagnosed people with diabetes, is being raised in many Parliaments. Can you raise it in yours?*

Pakistan's Diabetes Costs Crisis



Pakistan is now spending an estimated \$2.7 billion each year on diabetes care, according to new figures that highlight the escalating human and economic toll of the disease.

With diabetes cases continuing to rise across the country, health experts warn that the system is under mounting pressure and long-term sustainability is at risk.

The high cost reflects not only medical treatment but also productivity losses, hospitalizations, and complications. Despite this massive investment, access to preventive care and affordable medicines remains limited for many. Without stronger public health measures and early intervention strategies, the financial burden is likely to grow further.

Advocacy Action: *To avoid the soaring costs in your country, can you call on your government to prioritize prevention and early detection in national diabetes plans? Investing in primary care, education, and affordable medicine today could reduce healthcare spending—and suffering—tomorrow.*

Rising Diabetes Rates in Rural Areas

In Eswatini and other parts of southern Africa, health professionals are sounding the alarm over rising diabetes rates in rural communities. Poor access to diagnostics, essential medicines, and trained personnel is leaving many patients undiagnosed or inadequately treated.



The situation underscores long-standing gaps in rural health infrastructure and the need for governments to scale up non-communicable disease (NCD) services beyond urban centers.

Advocacy Action: *Can you advocate for increased government investment in rural NCD infrastructure? We need policies that expand rural clinics, train healthcare workers in diabetes care, and ensure consistent access to essential medicines.*

Sugar Tax News

Sugary Drinks Behind A Quarter of Diabetes Cases



A global study has reaffirmed what the South African medical community has been stating for quite some time: sugary drinks lead to a whole host of diseases that are, in fact, deadly.

The study found that in South Africa, 1 in 4 cases of diabetes are caused by sugary drinks. In the country diabetes is the second leading cause of death.

South Africa is not alone in this quandary. Faced with high levels of sugary-drink-related deaths, disability, which impacts productivity, and the high cost of treating diseases like diabetes (and other diseases with a causal relationship with sugar consumption such as cancer and heart disease), the international health community has turned to taxing sugary drinks.

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Much like alcohol and tobacco, the rationale is two-fold: one, the tax will dissuade people from drinking it, reducing their sugar intake and thereby the number of people with those diseases. Two, it will help fund the extra healthcare cost burden.

The Healthy Living Alliance recently ran a campaign to rally public support for this public health intervention. Their campaign, “Delay Means Death”, brings the realities of the sugary drink crisis into focus by putting the stories of the people living with diabetes at the forefront.

<https://iol.co.za/sunday-tribune/opinion/2025-02-01-delay-does-in-fact-mean-death/>

The UK Sugar Tax

The UK's updated sugar tax, officially known as the Soft Drinks Industry Levy, continues to shape consumer behavior and health policy.



Originally introduced to curb sugar consumption and reduce obesity rates, the tax has now been refined to better target high-sugar beverages and encourage reformulation by manufacturers.

Studies (see link below) have recorded a marked decline in the sugar content of many popular drinks since the levy's introduction, suggesting it has had a measurable impact. However, questions remain about how the revenue from this tax is being used—and whether it benefits the communities most affected by diet-related diseases, including diabetes.

While the sugar tax has stirred debate, it presents a powerful tool for governments seeking to align fiscal and public health goals. Its success depends not only on implementation but also on how its proceeds are invested.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/347275714_Sugar-Sweetened_Beverage_Reduction_Policies_Progress_and_Promise

*Photo credit - UK College of Contemporary Health

Advocacy Action: *Can the reinvestment of sugar tax revenues into community health programs, nutrition education, and diabetes prevention be prioritized? Policies must be adopted to ensure that low-income areas—most affected by diet-related diseases—are reached and supported.*

Request

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<https://forms.gle/hszfWfZs1qx7gVGx7>

It will help us to tailor our work and communications more effectively to you.

Economics of Diabetes

The Economic Impact of Continuous Glucose Monitoring: A Global Policy Perspective

By Sana Ajmal, PDGN Secretary General

Diabetes, a long-term medical condition that affects how the body processes blood sugar, has reached epidemic levels worldwide.

The International Diabetes Federation estimates that 537 million adults had diabetes in 2021, with this number expected to rise to 643 million by 2030. This growing challenge places a heavy burden on both public health systems and global economies, with diabetes-related healthcare costs reaching \$966 billion in 2021.

Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) technology has transformed diabetes management. Unlike traditional finger-prick tests, which provide only occasional readings, CGMs continuously track blood sugar levels in real-time. This allows people with diabetes to make better decisions about food, exercise, and medication, leading to improved health outcomes. While CGMs have traditionally been used for type 1 diabetes (T1D), their role in type 2 diabetes (T2D) management is expanding, particularly for individuals on insulin therapy. Research suggests that CGMs can help people with T2D reduce complications and improve blood sugar control, even in those not using insulin.

Health and Economic Benefits

CGMs have been shown to improve blood sugar control, helping people with diabetes lower their long-term blood sugar levels (HbA1c). Studies show that better blood sugar management reduces the risk of serious complications, such as nerve damage, kidney disease, and heart problems, which are major causes of disability and early death in people with diabetes.

From a financial perspective, the upfront cost of CGMs is balanced by long-term savings. A study published in *Diabetes Care* found that CGM use in adults with T1D diabetes was cost-effective, reducing healthcare costs over time. By extending the

lifespan of CGM sensors, the technology becomes even more affordable. Further research confirms that CGMs reduce hospital visits and diabetes-related complications, leading to overall savings for healthcare systems.

The global market for CGMs and artificial intelligence (AI) in diabetes care is expanding rapidly. The market was valued at \$0.95 billion in 2023 and is expected to grow at an annual rate of 26.28%, reaching \$7.76 billion by 2032. Advances in AI-powered CGM devices are making them even more effective. AI tools can predict changes in blood sugar with up to 90% accuracy, helping to prevent dangerously high or low blood sugar levels. Studies show that people using AI-assisted diabetes tools see an improvement of 1 to 1.5 percent in their HbA1c levels, reducing their risk of long-term complications.

While CGMs require an initial investment, they can save money in the long run. A UK study found that introducing CGMs would add around £4.6 million in costs initially, mainly for purchasing devices. However, these costs would be offset by fewer hospital admissions and fewer long-term complications. Real-world data shows that CGM users visit hospitals less often due to diabetes emergencies, easing the financial strain on healthcare systems and improving quality of life for patients.

In conclusion, Continuous Glucose Monitoring is a game-changer in diabetes care. By supporting its adoption, policymakers can improve the health of millions while making healthcare systems more cost-effective and sustainable. Countries investing in CGM industry can also reap economic benefits in the long term.

Advocacy Action: To support the wider use of CGMs, policymakers can take the following steps:

- **Expand Insurance Coverage:** Covering CGMs in health insurance plans would make them more accessible and reduce out-of-pocket costs for patients.
- **Invest in Education:** Training healthcare professionals and people with diabetes on CGM use can improve outcomes and ensure the technology is used effectively.
- **Encourage Innovation:** Funding research and development can make CGMs more affordable and user-friendly, increasing adoption rates.
- **Strengthen Data Protection:** Ensuring patient data privacy is essential as CGM devices collect and analyse sensitive health information.

References

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2. McQueen RB, Ellis SL, Campbell JD, Nair KV, Sullivan PW. Cost-effectiveness of continuous glucose monitoring and intensive insulin therapy for type 1 diabetes. *Cost Eff Resour Alloc.* 2011;9:13.
3. Vigersky RA, Huang ES, Leahy J, et al. The effectiveness of continuous glucose monitoring in the management of diabetes: a systematic review. *Diabetes Technol Ther.* 2011;13(11):1149–1154.
4. Roze S, Isitt JJ, Smith-Palmer J, et al. Long-term health economic benefits of continuous glucose monitoring for type 1 diabetes mellitus in the UK. *Diabet Med.* 2015;32(12):1575–1584
5. AI in Diabetes Management Market Size, Share & Growth, 2032. Market Data Forecast. <https://www.marketdataforecast.com/market-reports/ai-in-diabetes-management-marke>
6. Continuous Glucose Monitoring Systems Market Report. Taiwan News. <https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/news/6020057>

Nutrition News

Michelin-Star Chefs Promote Diabetes Awareness



A recent event in Marbella brought together Michelin-star chefs and health advocates to raise awareness around diabetes and the importance of healthy eating.

The initiative, supported by local authorities and healthcare partners, used the power of gastronomy to engage the public in conversations about nutrition, lifestyle, and diabetes prevention.

By combining culinary excellence with public health messaging, the event succeeded in reaching diverse audiences—proving that diabetes awareness doesn't have to be confined to clinics or conferences. It can be creative, community-driven, and even delicious.

This approach offers a compelling model for other regions: leveraging the visibility and influence of the food industry to drive meaningful health outcomes. With rates of type 2 diabetes rising among youth and adults alike, collaboration across sectors is essential.

Advocacy Action: *Can partnerships with the culinary sector be strengthened to promote healthy eating initiatives aligned with diabetes prevention?*

Foods to Avoid for Better Diabetes Management

A recent roundup by UK nutrition experts highlights common foods that can worsen blood sugar control in people with diabetes—such as sugary drinks, processed snacks, and refined carbohydrates.

While these recommendations are well-known among specialists, translating them into everyday habits remains a challenge, particularly in diverse or resource-limited communities.



Effective diabetes management depends not only on medical treatment but also on practical, accessible dietary advice. Yet many national education programs still offer generic guidance that overlooks cultural eating patterns, food availability, and economic realities.

Integrating culturally tailored nutrition education into diabetes programs can improve both understanding and adherence. It also empowers individuals to make healthier choices that align with their traditions and lifestyles—whether in schools, clinics, or community settings.

Advocacy Action: *Can culturally relevant dietary guidance be integrated into national diabetes education programs to support informed food choices? Are your public health campaigns designed to reflect the foods, languages, and habits of the communities they aim to serve?*

1 in 3 Malaysian Children Overweight



Malaysia is facing a growing health crisis as new data reveals that one in three children in the country is overweight or obese.

Experts attribute this alarming trend to high sugar consumption, driven by widespread availability of sweetened beverages and processed foods, as well as limited access to nutrition education and healthy lifestyle support.

Health officials warn that without urgent action, the country will face escalating rates of diabetes and other non-communicable diseases at younger ages. The Malaysian

government has introduced sugar taxes and school nutrition programs, but implementation gaps and food industry influence continue to hinder progress.

Advocacy Action: *Can you call on policymakers to strengthen and enforce sugar reduction strategies, particularly those that protect children? Urgent reforms in school food policies, public education, and food marketing regulations are needed to reverse the rising tide of childhood obesity and early-onset diabetes.*

Conference Reports

PDGN attends many international conferences, online and in person, in order to report back to you. Our reports from recent conferences are posted on our [LinkedIn](#) pages.

- Diabetes UK Professional Conference, Glasgow, February 2025
- World Diabetes Foundation Advancing a T1D Global Road Map, Copenhagen, February, 2025 [\(1\) Rising to the Challenge: Policy Actions for Strengthening Type 1 Diabetes Care Globally | LinkedIn](#)
- The Advanced Technologies and Treatments for Diabetes Conference Amsterdam, March, 2025 [\(1\) Insights from ATTD 2025 | LinkedIn](#)
- International Diabetes Federation (IDF) Congress, Bangkok, 2025 [\(1\) Congress Focus on Diabetes Prevalence - a PDGN report | LinkedIn](#)
- Integrating Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Care in Humanitarian Responses in the Middle East, Jordan, May 2025 [\(1\) Integrating Non-Communicable Disease \(NCD\) Care in Humanitarian Responses in the Middle East - A PDGN Report | LinkedIn](#)

Tech News

SpaceX and Axiom Launch Groundbreaking Diabetes Research to the ISS *Link:* <https://www.teslarati.com/spacex-axiom-space-diabetes-research-iss/>

New Non-Invasive Method Promises Simpler Early Detection of Diabetes *Link:* <https://www.technologynetworks.com/tn/news/a-less-invasive-method-for-simple-early-diabetes-detection-398874>

Exeter University Study into AI use for Diabetes Prescribing *Link:* <https://www.ireland-live.ie/news/uk/1738860/tool-to-predict-best-diabetes-drug-for-each-patient-could-help-millions-study.html>

Research Corner

Swedish Study Finds Strong Link Between Bronchial Asthma and Type 2 Diabetes

Link: <https://medicaldialogues.in/pulmonology/news/swedish-study-significantly-links-bronchial-asthma-with-diabetes-146547>

The Lancet: Advancing Equitable Access to Emerging Diabetes Therapies

Link: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/landia/article/PIIS2213-8587\(25\)00055-5/abstract?rss=yes](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/landia/article/PIIS2213-8587(25)00055-5/abstract?rss=yes)

South Korean Researchers Identify Molecular Target for Diabetes Therapy

Link: <https://biz.chosun.com/en/en-science/2025/05/01/QWYL3XRT4JH6PJQTXQEAQYXDZ4/>

Maternal Diabetes May Increase Risk of ADHD in Children, Study Finds

Link: <https://www.medicalbrief.co.za/study-links-maternal-diabetes-to-adhd-risk-in-children/>

Associations News

Qatar to Host 2027 IDF Congress

Qatar has officially been selected to host the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) World Congress in 2027, marking a major milestone for the region's growing leadership in global health dialogue.



The event will bring together thousands of experts, advocates, and decision-makers from across the world to share research, policy strategies, and innovations in diabetes prevention and care.

Hosting the event is part of Qatar's ongoing investments in health infrastructure and its commitment to addressing the rising burden of diabetes, both regionally and globally. The IDF World Congress is one of the most influential platforms in the field, and hosting it provides a strategic opportunity to showcase regional best practices and foster new international collaborations.

For countries in the Middle East and beyond, the 2027 Congress presents a chance to elevate regional voices, build partnerships, and help shape the global diabetes agenda.

Prioritise Diabetes Call from DA



Diabetes Australia (DA) says it is time for the newly elected Government of Anthony Albanese, (pictured below), to fund and implement the recommendations of the Parliamentary Inquiry into Diabetes and prioritise the National Diabetes Strategy.

In 2020–21, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reported that diabetes cost the health system \$3.4 billion. Alarming, diabetes was also linked to more than 1.2 million hospital admissions, accounting for 10% of all hospitalisations. With 300 Australians being diagnosed with diabetes each day, DA is calling on the Government to elevate diabetes as a national priority. Action is urgently needed in key areas: robust prevention strategies, equitable access to technology, and stronger investment in the diabetes workforce and research.

Access to lifesaving diabetes technologies remains inequitable in Australia. Devices like insulin pumps and continuous glucose monitors dramatically reduce complications and improve quality of life, yet many Australians still face cost barriers.

DA has been calling for expanded subsidies that would mean better access for those most in need, delivering both health and economic benefits by preventing complications such as heart attacks, kidney failure, amputations and blindness.

Investing in diabetes prevention, workforce development and innovative research are also priorities being called for by Diabetes Australia. The organisation has pledged \$40 million over the next 10 years to accelerate research into diabetes prevention, treatment, and ultimately a cure, but government support remains critical.

DA stands ready to work with the Government and Members of Parliament to turn the tide of Australia's diabetes epidemic. With bold policy and sustained investment, we can reduce the toll of diabetes and build a healthier, more resilient Australia.



PDGN News



Our New Secretary General

PDGN is delighted to welcome [Sana Ajmal](#) as our new Secretary General.

She brings exceptional leadership and a globally recognized voice in diabetes advocacy. Her appointment allows Adrian Sanders, our first Secretary General since 2016, to step back slightly and focus more on strategic planning.

World Diabetes Day Event

PDGN is organising a major event aligned with World Diabetes Day in Malta on 14–15 November 2025.

Here, key decision-makers and stakeholders from across the globe will gather and International Diabetes Federation (IDF) President, Prof. Dr. Peter Schwarz, will launch IDF's important new initiative, the Global Diabetes Index. The index will feature essential data relevant to your country.



PDGN Global Parliamentary Advocacy Award



During our Malta event we will be presenting our first Global Parliamentary Advocacy Award to the Rt Hon Baroness Theresa May, the former UK Prime Minister and a person with T1D.

Pictured with our outgoing Secretary General Adrian Sanders in Speaker's House, London.. She will join us for the weekend and deliver an important keynote speech. The program will include expert briefings, policy exchanges, and valuable networking opportunities. Contact Sana or Adrian on info@pdgn.org.uk for details.

Ambassador Appointed

PDGN President, Graham Perrett who retired from the Australian Parliament at the recent General Election has agreed to be a PDGN Ambassador.

While only elected representatives can serve as President or a Vice-President, PDGN is keen to retain contact with members who stand down or lose their seats to tap into their knowledge and expertise for the benefit of people with diabetes.

If you would like to play a role in the management and direction of PDGN, do please get in touch info@pdgn.org.uk

Tribute to Former MP with Diabetes

Major John Kazoora, (pictured right) a respected Ugandan military officer and politician, lived with diabetes for 22 years before his recent passing.



His life stands as a powerful testament to resilience and the importance of long-term diabetes management, particularly for those in leadership roles. His story highlights the need for better access to care, education, and support for people living with chronic conditions—especially in regions where stigma and limited resources still pose challenges.

Advocacy Action: *Can the stories of leaders, celebrities and well known people living with diabetes help normalise chronic illness and reduce stigma to help the fight for stronger national support systems?*

What's Your News

What's your news? Have you had any opportunities to raise issues relating to diabetes in your legislative chamber? Please let us know your successes, or failures?

Have you visited our website or joined PDGN on LinkedIn?

Web: www.pdgn.org.uk

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