



Global Advocacy Diabetes

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Inside this issue: Health Service Challenges in Egypt and Thailand, MPs Forced to Give Up Sugar in Malaysia, MPs Test Sensors in Australia, Obesity in Russia, ISPAD report, New Group in Spain, plus lots of advocacy ideas.

Amputation Risk Higher in Lower-Income Areas

In Canada more than 7,000 people with diabetes undergo a leg, foot or toe amputation every year and most of those procedures could have been prevented according to the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI).

The report published last month said people with diabetes living in the lowest-income neighbourhoods are three times more likely to have an amputation than those living in the highest-income communities. Those living in remote communities were also at higher risk of amputations than people living in urban centres.

"Our report is looking at leg amputations that occur annually as a complication related to diabetes," Erin Pichora, CIHI's program lead for population health, said in an interview with CTV News.

"We're looking at these because they're largely preventable."

Lack of access to a primary-care provider to help people manage diabetes is one likely factor behind the inequalities, Pichora said.

Disparities are also likely in access to specialists who can treat diabetic wounds on people's feet — including podiatrists and chiropodists — before they worsen, she said.

Diabetes Canada said CIHI's report shows the importance of ensuring people with diabetes have equitable access to the care and resources they need.

Advocacy Action: Do you know the number of amputations involving people with diabetes in your country, and their breakdown by factors such as income, geography, and access to care? Can you raise any shortcomings and campaign for change?

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/people-with-diabetes-in-lower-income-areas-at-higher-risk-for-amputations-report-1.7053090>



This edition of Global Advocacy News has been sponsored by Dexcom

Diabetes Awareness Month

PDGN Vice-President Sonia Sidhu was busy during November's Diabetes Awareness Month raising awareness of diabetes and advocating on behalf of those with the condition.

The Canadian MP for Brampton South, a city to the North West of Toronto, hosted an event recognising World Diabetes Day, met with young people seeking a cure, and spoke in Parliament about diabetes awareness month.

As the local MP and the Chair of the All-Party Diabetes Caucus in the Canadian Parliament she joined representatives from the City of Brampton, including His Worship Mayor Patrick Brown, Council Members, MPs, MPPs, representatives of national organisations and grassroots teams, for the city's commemoration of World Diabetes Day.

Mayor Brown issued a commemorative statement recognizing November 14 as World Diabetes Day in the City of Brampton. Dynacare, a locally-based national business offered free diabetes testing to Bramptonians attending the event.



Sonia (centre) meeting with youth delegates from Breakthrough T1D's 'Kids for a Cure' event.

You can view Sonia Sidhu's speech to the Canadian House of Commons here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/yuin5wzlx2l8tyfvi8tuz/AAvf0nuJgmiP50IBP-O9yzA?dl=0&e=1&preview=SO-31+Diabetes+Awareness+Month.mp4&rlkey=oimnlji9h7bor7h5sdwc4yley&st=xxpbt1q>

Advocacy Action: What did you do to raise awareness during the month of November or just on the 14th, World Diabetes Day? Please let us know via info@pdgn.org.uk ? It is never too soon to start planning an event or events for next year. Your national diabetes organisation, a local diabetes group or a health centre would probably welcome your ideas for working together to make an even bigger impression in 2025.

Nigerian States Roll Out 'Project 10 million'

Nigeria's Ondo state government has inaugurated a 30-man committee to screen 300,000 residents for non-communicable diseases under a federal government's programme tagged 'Project 10 Million'.



Ondo State has a population of around 5.5 million and lies to the East of the capital Lagos in the South of the country.

The state Commissioner for Health, Banji Ajaka, pictured left, said the programme was to screen 10 million Nigerians for non-communicable diseases across the country.

Mr Ajaka said non-communicable diseases, such as diabetes, contributed 27 percent to the mortality rate in Nigeria.

"The exercise took place last month with screening held at markets and health centres in the eighteen local government areas of the state".

The committee comprises permanent secretaries in the state's health and education sector and the secretary, Ondo State Drug and Health Commodities Management Agency.

It also includes chief medical directors and representatives of the Nigerian Union of Journalists, Nigerian Medical Association, Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria, and Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists, amongst others.

Advocacy Action: Successful screening programmes can identify and diagnose diabetes, or the risk of developing type 2 diabetes (T2D) early offering opportunities to prevent, or at the least delay its onset. Can you suggest a similar approach if you do not already have a programme? There are many interested organisations who might be able to help.



**PDGN – Turning Research into Policy,
Policy into Practice**

Australian Parliamentarians Test Continuous Glucose Monitoring

PDGN President Graham Perrett was one of a group of six Australian parliamentarians who volunteered to use a continuous glucose monitor (CGM) for two weeks. He was joined by Rowan Ramsey MP, Tania Lawrence MP, Louise Miller-Frost MP, and Dr Mike Freelander MP.



PDGN President Graham Perrett MP attaching a CGM

Wearing the CGM device complemented the inquiry activities. It was just one of the ways to better understand how government and the health system can better manage and prevent different diabetes conditions.

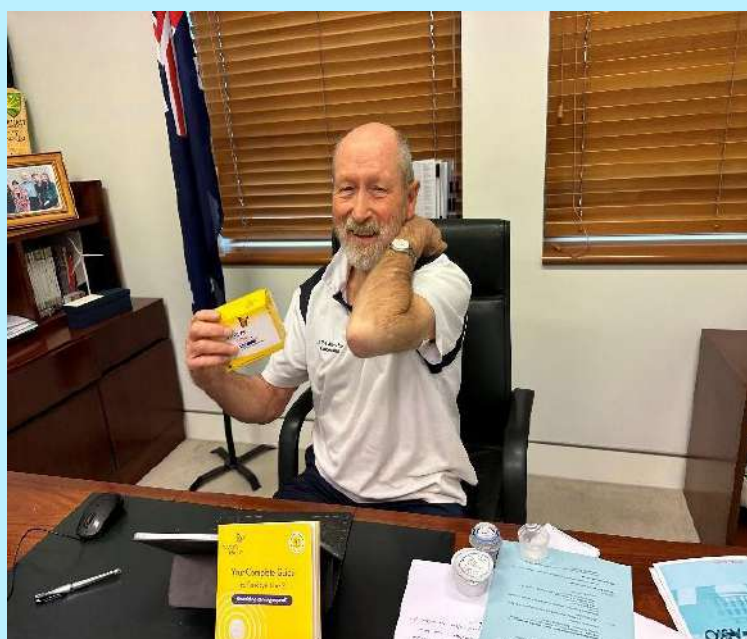
“The process of applying the CGM was as easy and painless as I was promised,” said Graham. “It was fascinating to read my levels on the app, and to realise that some of the foods that I thought were healthy choices were far from it!”

People with diabetes who made submissions to the inquiry described CGMs as being “game changing”. Most Australian

The trial was organised by Diabetes Australia, and the timing was linked to the release of a report into a parliamentary inquiry into diabetes. Graham was invited onto the Health Committee for the inquiry due to his long-standing interest in this topic.

Graham is the Co-Chair of the Australian Parliament’s Parliamentary Friends for the Prevention of Diabetes (APPFPD). This group raises awareness about the prevalence and impact of diabetes; assists in the development of public health policies regarding diabetes; and engages with medical, research and advocacy groups who work to prevent and manage diabetes.

After a year-long inquiry the Australian Government has now received the Health Committee’s report titled The State of Diabetes Mellitus in Australia in 2024.



APPFPD Co-Chair Rowan Ramsey MP getting to grips with his CGM trial.



**Rob Mitchell MP checking his reading
on his mobile phone**

people with Type 1 diabetes can access a CGM free of charge through a federal government program.

The State of Diabetes Mellitus in Australia in 2024 report recommended that subsidised access to CGMs be expanded to remove existing access limitations for people with Type 1 diabetes. It further recommended that subsidised access should be given to people with insulin-dependent Type 3c diabetes; women with gestational diabetes; and people with Type 2 diabetes who depend on insulin. Graham Perrett commented: “My brief experience of the ease of use, and up to the minute analysis of glucose levels shows how valuable this technology is for people with diabetes. It aids in the vital timely management of glucose highs and lows.”

The inquiry also heard from international experts regarding the efficacy of levies on

sugar- sweetened beverages. The report includes a recommendation to implement such a levy in Australia and proposes adopting a levy modelled on international best practice. The Australian Government will provide an official response to the report’s 23 recommendations in due course.

Advocacy Action: Sensor companies are keen to promote the efficacy of their equipment, and most would be willing to arrange a similar exercise in your Parliament.

MP calls for urgent reforms for Egypt’s healthcare crisis

Egypt is among the ten countries with the highest prevalence of diabetes that has led to a call from Member of Parliament Samira al-Gazar on both the Prime Minister, Mostafa Madbouly, and the Minister of Health, Khaled Abdel Ghaffar, to respond to the country’s worrying health statistics.

Samira al-Gazar MP listed all the areas where the health system needed support from lack of medicines to staff shortages. She explained that: “Diabetes patients in Egypt have recently suffered from a catastrophic shortage of insulin, especially Mixtard 70/30 insulin. Public and specialized hospitals also suffer from a shortage of doctors and beds”.

She called on the Minister of Health to visit the hospitals she said were in difficulty and accused the private sector of putting profit before care. The MP listed several policy suggestions to improve the system and called on the Health Committee to instigate a public discussion.

Advocacy Action: Are there issues around diabetes and its comorbidities in your country that you could ask your health committee, or its equivalent, to investigate? Where does your country stand in the list of countries, see the link below for the top ten.

<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/diabetes-rates-by-country>

<https://www.egyptindependent.com/mp-calls-for-urgent-reforms-for-egypts-healthcare-crisis/>

MPs Forego Sweetened Drinks

Every Wednesday through October and December when the Parliament has been sitting, all 222 Malaysian MPs have not been able to enjoy sweetened drinks.

It was reported in The Star that Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Johari Abdul announced the ruling in September and that it would be enforced to promote a healthier society. He said that common drinks, such as teh tarik, will be served without sugar during the period to set an example and encourage a healthier society.



"If you want to bring in tea, you have to see if there is sugar in it or not. The move is being done so that we will become a more healthy society," Johari was quoted as saying.

The sugar-free rule implemented in parliament comes in addition to a ruling that requires all MPs to undergo health screenings and declare their health status

"After making [health screenings] mandatory, I have been getting their

reports. Many whom I have met said they discovered that they have illnesses following the health screenings. They are now undergoing treatment and taking medication," he said.

He added that all MPs should be fit to serve their constituencies.

Advocacy Action: Could you suggest a similar exercise for one day a week in your Parliament to promote healthier choices? Screenings, for staff and elected representatives will reveal diagnosis that might not otherwise have come to light. Screenings in Parliaments can save lives, improve outcomes for those diagnosed early and promote the idea among the public to get checked.

Victoria's Parliament House Shines a Light on Diabetes Care

A recent event at Victoria's Parliament House marked a significant milestone in our collective efforts to improve the lives of those living with or affected by diabetes. Marked by its bipartisan support, this gathering brought together members of parliament and stakeholders from diverse sectors to network and engage in meaningful discussion about the impact of diabetes on people and communities.

In Victoria, almost a million people are affected by diabetes. That's more than 1 in 7 people living with, at high risk of, or undiagnosed with diabetes.

Hosted by Diabetes Friends of Parliament Chair Bronwyn Halfpenny MP and Co-Chair Gaelle Broad MLC, the event offered attendees a unique opportunity to connect with experts, advocates, and policymakers dedicated to improving the lives of people affected by diabetes. Guest

speakers included Hon. Mary-Anne Thomas Minister for Health, Georgie Crozier MLC, Professor Elif Ekinici and Diabetes Victoria CEO Glen Noonan (centre).



The event facilitated meaningful discussion among experts, advocates, and policymakers, highlighting a clear and unified commitment to enhance diabetes care and support. In conjunction with the establishment of the bipartisan 'Parliamentary Friends of People Affected by Diabetes group', this event will pave the way for ongoing conversations and collaborative efforts to advance diabetes care and support across the community.

"It's incredibly important to share ideas and opportunities for innovation and collaboration. The new Victorian Virtual Emergency Department - Diabetes Service is a great example of this, and more opportunities exist. Bringing key stakeholders together, like we did at the Parliamentary event, to hear more about these and future initiatives is a step towards real impact. But we can only achieve this together", says Diabetes Victoria CEO Glen Noonan.

"While there is much to do, this gathering demonstrated that as a state, we are well-equipped to tackle the diabetes epidemic head on. Collectively we have the ideas, minds, passion, and unwavering commitment that will guide us toward a brighter, healthier future for all Victorians living with diabetes."

NCDs Escalating in Pakistan

The General Secretary of the Pakistan National Heart Association (Panah), Sanaullah Ghumman, claimed at a media briefing that the prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) is escalating in Pakistan, and that statistics show over 4 in 10 adults in Pakistan are either obese or overweight.



Thirty-three million people are currently living with diabetes in the country, with another 10 million on the verge of developing the disease. He said that without immediate policy interventions, the number of individuals with diabetes is projected to surge to 62 million by 2045.

“After every minute one Pakistani experiences a heart attack and after two and half minute one Pakistani dies due to heart disease. According to the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), approximately 1100 deaths in Pakistan are attributed to diabetes and its complication every day.”

He said unhealthy diets were among the major risk factors of heart, diabetes, obesity, kidney and many other fatal non-communicable diseases. Ultra-processed food and beverage products (UPPs) often laden with excessive sugar, salt and trans-fats significantly contributed to the crisis.

“The absence of evidence-based policies like front of pack nutrition labelling and warning signs on ultra-processed foods is among the primary reasons that people are unable to adopt the healthy food choices,” he said.

Mr Ghumman emphasised the urgent need for policy action by regulatory bodies to address the increasing risk of diabetes and other NCDs.

Advocacy Action: Is the prevalence of non-communicable disease escalating in your country? Can you campaign for policy change, drawing attention to the scale of the challenge, and the need for urgent actions across government, not just health providers.

News In Brief

Tackling Chronic Diseases in Belize



As part of a broader strategy to combat Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD's), the Health Ministry held a forum of stakeholders to focus on chronic diseases such as diabetes.

The event focussed on hypertension and heart disease as well and promoted practical ways to reduce their prevalence.

It was reported that NCD's are among the leading causes of death and disability in the country.

Diabetes and Brain Ageing



Healthy eating is being promoted as the best way to counter the association of accelerated brain ageing and diabetes.

According to a new study from the 'Karolinska Institutet' in Sweden published in the journal *Diabetes Care*, type 2 diabetes is a known risk factor for dementia. The study found a clear link between how diabetes and its early stages, known as prediabetes, can affect ageing of the brain in people without dementia.

<https://news.ki.se/a-healthy-lifestyle-may-counteract-diabetes-associated-brain-ageing>

Is Thailand's healthcare system on verge of collapse?

In an interview with Thailand's twice weekly newspaper, *Thanettakij*, a leading public health expert, Dr Supakit Sirilak, director of the Health Systems Research Institute warned that Thailand's healthcare system is on the verge of collapse.



He has predicted this on the evidence of what he called the "tsunami of ageing", and the lack of effective strategies to address non-communicable diseases (NCDs). He urged the prime minister to take a leading role in addressing these issues before his claim that the country faces a severe economic crisis in 2034. By 2040, it is estimated that one-third of Thailand's elderly population will be dependent, meaning that the working population will need to support a significantly larger number of retirees.

Advocacy Action: There are similar mounting demographic pressures across the world with ageing populations living longer thanks to medical advances. Does your government have up to date statistics to predict the figures for your country? Is there a plan to mitigate the effects of increased NCDs such as diabetes?

Over Half of Russia's Adults Overweight



The head of the Russian Federal Research Centre of Nutrition, Biotechnology and Food Safety has revealed that more than 60 percent of Russia's adult population are overweight and more than two in ten are obese. He also announced that 10 percent of the country's children have obesity.

Viktor Tutelyan, the head of the Centre said: "More than 60 percent of the adult population are overweight and [some] 22 percent are obese. We are concerned about children's obesity, 10 percent of the children already [are obese]," Tutelyan is reported as saying at a Congress on National Healthcare in the country.

<https://interfax.com/newsroom/top-stories/107128/>

Free Monitors Extended in Malta

Further pressure by people with diabetes and their supporters in Parliament has led to the Continuous Blood Glucose Monitoring service, which previously provided support to monitor blood glucose levels of patients up to 46 years, will now reach a further 160 people with Type 1 diabetes aged between 46 and 50, the Minister for Health Jo-Etienne Abela announced last month.

Minister Abela announced that the service of Continuous Blood Glucose Monitoring (CBGM) will continue to be extended so that it may reach more people. He spoke of the work being done by the government to continue addressing diabetes since it affects 10 per cent of the Maltese population.



Responding to the news PDGN European Chair and Maltese MP Claudette Buttigieg (left) said: "The CBGM service offered in our country is a step in the right direction, however, the roll out to all persons with T1D is too slow.

"I will continue to work closely with local NGOs representing patients and I will continue to give them a voice in Parliament through parliamentary questions and speeches. All persons with T1D should be given the Continuous Blood Glucose Monitoring service immediately."

Diabetes survey uncovers serious hidden complications

A diabetes survey in Bermuda has uncovered serious hidden complications. Conducted by Dr David Owens of Cardiff University it found that approximately 13 percent of the island's population has diabetes, climbing to 23 percent in people over age 50.

Bermudan MP Susan Jackson, pictured right, a Vice-President of PDGN, is backing Dr Owens recommendation of a national screening programme.

Dr Owens said the eye screening carried out last year on some of the island's diabetes patients revealed a high rate of damage to the retina that can lead to visual impairment or blindness.



The procedure can reliably spot the lurking risk of stroke, heart disease and other conditions simply by examining nerves and blood vessels within the patient's eyes.

He suggested that Bermuda might emulate the diabetic national eye-screening programme run under Britain's National Health Service. The scheme makes a regular practice of studying patients with diabetes aged 12 and over, scanning for the signs of retinopathy caused by high blood sugar damaging vision.

Bermuda adopting a similar programme under universal healthcare would be "a vehicle for insuring consistency" in arresting a condition that can lead to blindness, Dr Owens said.

Shingles and Diabetes

People with Diabetes are 78 percent more likely to get shingles than those without the condition. Shingles is a painful rash caused by the varicella-zoster virus (VZV), the same virus that causes chickenpox



The link has led health groups in Hong Kong to join forces to raise awareness of shingles. The Hong Kong Pain Society has partnered up with Diabetes Hongkong and Care for Your Heart to raise awareness of the risks of shingles.

Using a promotional truck, they launched a six week campaign through September and October known as “Ahead of shingles”, that targeted parts of the population at increased risk, such as people with diabetes, and all those over 50 years of age.

Taking diabetes as an example, research shows that diabetes patients are 78 percent more likely to get shingles than those without diabetes. In addition, some researchers have pointed out that about one-quarter of people with diabetes will have an increase in glycated hemoglobin (HbA1c) levels after giving birth, making it more difficult to control the disease.

Advocacy Action: Do you have data to show a similarly high level of connection between Shingle and Diabetes in your country? Could you encourage a study to find out, and act on the findings with an awareness campaign.

Nutrition News

India

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has approved changes to the nutritional information labelling on packaging food items.

The Authority has approved a proposal to display nutritional information regarding total sugar, salt and saturated fat in bold letters and relatively increased font size on labels of packaged food items.

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/health/nutrition/bold-letter-bigger-font-check-out-food-safety-bodys-new-labelling-rules/ar-BB1pwhyJ?ocid=BingNewsVerp&apiversion=v2&noservercache=1&domshim=1&renderwebcomponents=1&wcseo=1&batchservertelemetry=1&noservertelemetry=1>

Advocacy Action: Labelling is an important tool to help people make informed decisions. Do you have display regulations in your country? Would India’s regulations help as an example to advocate for them? There are many examples in different countries that could be adopted.

Conference Reports

ISPAD conference Report 2024

The 50th Anniversary ISPAD Conference took place in Lisbon, Portugal from October 16 to 19th. This year's theme was "Inclusion and Innovation in Paediatric Diabetes".



The conference saw over 1,750 registered participants and more than 600 abstracts, making it the largest ISPAD conference ever.

Key highlights included:

- The Declaration of Lisbon: An update to ISPAD's previous "Declaration of Kos," focusing on the latest advancements and consensus in paediatric diabetes care.
- ISPAD Clinical Practice Consensus Guidelines: New guidelines to help practitioners manage paediatric diabetes more effectively.
- Networking Opportunities: Various sessions and spaces for attendees to connect and share knowledge.
- 50th Anniversary Activities: Celebrations and special events to mark the milestone anniversary.

The conference was a significant milestone for ISPAD, emphasizing the importance of innovation and inclusion in the field of paediatric diabetes

ATTD Asia Conference Report 2024



The very first Asian Conference on Innovative Therapies for Diabetes Management (ATTD-ASIA 2024) took place in Singapore from November 18 to 20th.

The conference brought together experts, clinicians, and scientists from across Asia and beyond to share knowledge and insights on the latest advancements in diabetes care and technology.

The event included AI-powered simulation training focussing on mastering sensitive discussions on weight management and other aspects of diabetes care.

As with ATTD Global the gathering offered networking opportunities where links could be made, knowledge shared, and collaborations fostered.

Sessions were held on innovative therapies, latest treatments and new medical technology and improvements for people with diabetes, tailored to the unique needs of people in Asia.

Many in attendance commented that they hope the first ATTD Asia will not be the last.

Sugar Tax News

An Alternative View

An article in the Vietnam Investment Review suggests that international experiences applying an excise tax on sugary beverages is not an effective measure in controlling and reducing the rate of overweight, obesity, and non-communicable diseases.

It claims some countries that have imposed taxes on sugary beverages for a few years reported the rate of overweight and obesity increasing.

Advocacy Action: If your parliament is considering a beverage tax and you favour the idea, it is worth looking at the evidence against to strengthen your advocacy in favour.

<https://vir.com.vn/beverage-tax-is-not-be-all-and-end-all-for-obesity-problems-115445.html>

Malaysia Health Ministry to Introduce Sugar Grading System

The Malaysian health ministry is to introduce a food and drink nutrition grading system. This is part of efforts to reduce non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the country linked to excessive sugar consumption.

According to the Deputy health minister, Lukanisman Awang Sauni MP (pictured), the grading system will display clear labels using the first three letter of the alphabet, A, B, or C, that will be based on the percentage of sugar in the products.



He said: “These labels are intended to make it easier for consumers to assess the sugar content in their food choices and make more informed decisions.”

The Borneo Post reported Mr Lukanisman declaring that the grading system was part of the government’s large-scale “War on Sugar” campaign. He added that the campaign could help reduce the strain on healthcare services, which has seen an increased number of patients suffering from NCDs due to their sugar intake.

https://www.msn.com/en-my/news/news/content/ar-AA1qc3Gw?ocid=superappdhp&muid=2CF75CEC5DD64EDBA0F8E2120FFB9E5F&adid=&anid=&market=en-my&cm=en-my&activityId=66dd935d540b425cace2ef89031ba48b&bridgeVersionInt=91&fontSize=sa_fontSize&isChinaBuild=false

Sugar Taxation Measures to Prevent NCDs

During discussions at the Finance Committee, and in the plenary session of the Moroccan Parliament, Dr Mostafa Brahimi, presented several amendments relating to primary prevention against Obesity, Diabetes and non-communicable diseases (NCDs).



Dr Brahimi, pictured left, is the vice president of the commission of social sectors and the world parliament for the fight against diabetes, as well as a vice-president of PDGN. He argued that NCDs are behind rising health insurance costs and premature excess mortality.

It is calculated in Morocco that 4 NCD diseases consume half of the mandatory health insurance budget at a cost of \$2.4 billion dollars, or 3 percent of Moroccan GDP.

A sugar tax was adopted by the Moroccan parliament in 2023 and in 2024, but the tax rate was deemed insufficient to achieve the set aim of a 30 percent reduction in sugar concentration believed to be enough to influence public health and reduce sugar content in food products.

Advocacy Action: Do you have a soda or sugar tax, and is it achieving what was set for it? Can you share any successes or challenges with PDGN – info@pdgn.org.uk

Tech News

Dexcom celebrates funded access to life-changing diabetes technology for all New Zealanders with Type 1 diabetes.

<https://www.nzdoctor.co.nz/article/undoctored/dexcom-celebrates-funded-access-life-changing-diabetes-technology-all-new>

Roche to launch new CGM in Europe in ‘coming weeks’

Roche will roll out its Accu-Chek Smartguide in the Netherlands, Switzerland and Germany. The company hopes to stand out from competitors with features to predict hypoglycemia.

<https://www.medtechdive.com/news/roche-cgm-launch-europe/726863/>

Tubeless insulin patch pump receives FDA clearance for type 1 and type 2 diabetes.

<https://www.healio.com/news/endocrinology/20240909/tubeless-insulin-patch-pump-receives-fda-clearance-for-type-1-and-type-2-diabetes>

Tandem Announcement - Tandem Diabetes Care has announced that its t:slim X2 insulin pump, featuring Control-IQ automated insulin delivery technology, received approval for use with the ultra-rapid-acting insulin, Lyumjev (insulin lispro-aabc injection) from Eli Lilly, in the European Union (EU).

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/tandem-secures-approval-t-slim-103307707.html>

PDGN News

Do You Have News to Share?

We want to hear from you. Successes, challenges, questions – all your news is warmly received by our members.

Help our network and advocacy to prevent diabetes, encourage early diagnosis and push for the best treatments wherever someone lives with the condition.

Please encourage your colleagues to join PDGN – membership forms can be found on our website at www.pdgn.org.uk As you know, membership is free.

Interested?

PDGN Holds events online and in-person involving parliamentarians reporting on the challenges they face, and successes they may have had.

If you would be interested, or can recommend someone as a parliamentary panellist, online or in person, please let Adrian Sanders know – adrian@pdgn.org.uk

Are You in the IPU or the CPA?

Are you a member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, or other international parliamentary body?

Please let us, know. International gatherings that take place could be places where diabetes issues could be raised, and we want to push diabetes up the agenda whenever we can. Please contact: info@pdgn.org.uk Thank you

PDGN Events

New Group in Spanish Parliament

There were some great contributions from Parliamentarians, diabetes associations, people with diabetes and others on 26th November at a Parliamentary Panel organised by the PDGN in Madrid, Spain.

Chaired by Agustin Santos Maraver, President of the Health Commission of the Spanish Congress of Deputies, those present and online heard about the work of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) from Bruno Helman, and of PDGN from Sir Michael Hirst.



PDGN Secretary General Adrian Sanders spoke about the issues faced by people with diabetes and those being promoted in parliaments around the world. With the emphasis on prevention, tackling stigma and access to medicines, technology and treatments. Adrian stressed the need to work in partnership and network with others to strengthen their advocacy.

From the Maltese Parliament, PDGN European Chair, Claudette Buttigieg talked about her work creating a cross-party group and how it changed the environment of the debate on diabetes and secured improvements for people with the condition.

Encouraging and creating broad coalitions of support was a theme throughout the event with Spanish elected representatives vowing to create an all-party group on diabetes in the Congress.

PDGN Co-Chair Sir Michael Hirst thanked our hosts, the Spanish Royal College of Physicians, Agustin Santos Maraver and his colleagues from the Spanish Congress of Deputies, all the speakers and participants in person and online, and Dexcom for their sponsorship grant for the event.

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LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/parliamentarians-for-diabetes-global-network/>

Email: info@pdgn.org.uk

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