

Contents	Page
Welcome from Chairman Michael Stumvoll	1
Au revoir: Honorary Chairman Philippe Halban	1
Diary Dates	2
European Coalition for Diabetes Report 2012-2013	3
Something to read ...	3
Foundation for European Nurses Working in Diabetes	4
Primary Care Diabetes Europe	4
Grants and Funding	5
High level Advocacy	5



Welcome from Chairman Michael Stumvoll

As this is my first message as Chair I should like to say how much I am looking forward to working with the broad-based Alliance of stakeholders that goes to make up EURADIA. This unique organisation was ahead of its time. In a world of shrinking research resources we are already well set up to continue to champion diabetes research and represent the views of our stakeholders to the European institutions. In concordance with the message from our past Chairman below I can appreciate the importance of talking with such institutions with a single voice.

These are exciting and challenging times for EURADIA: we have a new office set up in the UK and Germany; the European Platform for Clinical Research in Diabetes (EPCRD) is in the pipeline; we have partnerships with European research projects and we have the challenge of Horizon 2020. I look forward to working with you on these and other issues!

Michael Stumvoll, Leipzig, May 2013

Au revoir a farewell message from past Chairman Philippe Halban



After two terms of office, I have handed over the chairmanship of EURADIA to Michael Stumvoll and felt this might be an opportune moment to take stock of past achievements and visit potential new opportunities for the Alliance. I wish Michael the best of luck as Chairman, knowing as I do that he will do a brilliant job, bringing new vision and renewed *élan* to EURADIA.

EURADIA was created out of need. Diabetes had been dropped as a named disease from the draft document of the European Commission's 6th Framework Programme (FP6: 2002-2006). All the major stakeholders in European diabetes research worked together at the highest level in order to convince the EU Commissioner for Research to correct this incomprehensible omission. We succeeded! Since that time, diabetes has featured as one of just a handful of named diseases in both FP6 and FP7, and thanks to EURADIA's continuing advocacy, we are confident that this will also be case in Horizon 2020.

This convinced the stakeholders' group that working together, putting up a common front, was the key to success in advocacy. That was as true 10 years ago as it is today.

Past achievements: EURADIA's major goal has been to put diabetes clearly on the European research agenda. This has involved public meetings and frequent visits to Brussels to meet with Members of the European Parliament, as well as key Commission staff. As a member of the European Coalition for Diabetes (ECD; EURADIA, FEND, IDF-Europe and PCDE), EURADIA has taken the lead in ensuring that

research is placed alongside the other cornerstones of any future European diabetes plan or strategy. The Coalition worked closely with the co-Chairs of the European Union Diabetes Working Group (EUDWG) of MEPs that represents diabetes interests in the European Parliament, in preparing the **European Parliament Resolution on Addressing the EU Diabetes Epidemic**¹ that was passed with a large majority in March 2012.

In 2007 EURADIA applied for a grant in response to a competitive call under FP7, resulting in funding for the landmark DIAMAP project. This was the first ever publicly funded research road mapping exercise in Europe focused on a single disease. It has served as the model for subsequent FP7 research roadmap projects. DIAMAP has been used by the European Commission Research Directorate to guide diabetes-related calls under FP7 since 2010 and has offered greater visibility and credibility to EURADIA and its members. I consider DIAMAP as the jewel in EURADIA's crown in which we can all take the greatest pride.

New opportunities: Last year we embarked on a lengthy process of self-assessment, identifying the strengths and any weaknesses of the Alliance, as a platform for development of a solid business plan to guide our activities over the next 5 years or so.

There is a need for better communication, to the general public as well as to politicians at the local, national and regional level. We must get our messages across more clearly. What is diabetes and why is it such a challenge to society? Why do we need more research? How will this help people with diabetes? How can investment in diabetes research be justified in these times of budget deficits?

Elections in the European Parliament in 2014 present a unique opportunity to meet with candidates and discuss diabetes with them. After all, around 8% of people voting in Europe will have been diagnosed with diabetes, and that number again as yet not diagnosed. All these votes would guarantee election with a healthy majority! The European Commission will also be up for renewal by the member states, offering an important opportunity for new dialogue.

All members of EURADIA agree that DIAMAP must not be forgotten. The two databases need to be updated and the maps themselves remodelled to take recent research into account. The impact of the roadmaps on diabetes research must be evaluated. The most significant recommendation of DIAMAP was the creation of the European Platform for Clinical Research in Diabetes (EPCRD). A Task Force led by John Nolan has taken great strides in laying the groundwork for future development of this innovative and essential research resource for the benefit of academia, industry and of course people with diabetes across Europe.

Thanks: My work as Chairman would not have been possible without the daily help and guidance of Sarah Hills and Regina Sautter, and last but not least, many thanks to the members of the Executive Committee for their work and commitment, the more so understanding how much time this involves in addition to their "normal" working lives. [Read full article at www.EURADIA.org](http://www.EURADIA.org)

Philippe Halban, Geneva, May 2013

1. Joint motion for a resolution on addressing the EU Diabetes Epidemic (<http://www.euradia.org/news/14/32/European-Parliament-Resolution-on-Diabetes-Epidemic>) 12.03.2012

Diary Dates

Read full list at www.EURADIA.org

23rd European Association for the Study of Diabetes, Eye Complications Study Group
23-25 May 2013, Barcelona, Spain www.easdec.org/pages/

18th Annual Conference Foundation of European Nurses in Diabetes
20-21 September 2013, Barcelona, Spain <http://www.fend.org>

49th Meeting of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes
23-27 September 2013, Barcelona, Spain <http://www.easd.org>

European Health Forum Gastein 2013
2-4 October 2013, Bad Hofgastein, Austria <http://www.ehfg.org>



European Coalition for Diabetes (ECD) 2013-2013

Over the past year, the ECD has witnessed a few successes for diabetes in addition to changes in leadership. March 2012 marked a milestone in EU diabetes policy with the adoption by a large majority of the first **European Parliament Resolution on addressing the EU Diabetes Epidemic**. With this Resolution, the European Parliament sent out a strong political message that the diabetes epidemic is a pressing issue. The Resolution was preceded by an oral question for debate with the Commission in which MEPs from across the political spectrum took the floor to call on the Commission to deliver an **EU Diabetes Strategy**.

ECD member organisations lent their support to the **European Diabetes Leadership Forum in Copenhagen in April 2012**. Outcomes of the forum included a diabetes roadmap and a catalogue of best practices on prevention, early detection and intervention and better management and control.

The EU Diabetes Working Group (EUDWG) of the European Parliament participated in various events organised by IDF Europe for World Diabetes Day 2012. MEP Co-chairs Christel Schaldemose, Sarah Ludford, Marisa Matias, Simon Busuttil and members of the EUDWG were instrumental in achieving the European Parliament Resolution on diabetes. In September, Simon Busuttil MEP was awarded the 2012 MEP Health Award for his continuous and successful efforts to put diabetes on the EU agenda. At the end of 2012, an EUDWG meeting entitled '*A further step forward for sharing best practices in diabetes: How can we learn more from each other in the EU?*' was hosted by Christel Schaldemose MEP. In March 2013, Simon Busuttil announced that he was resigning from his position as MEP to take over a new political challenge in Malta, his home country. Upon learning the news, the ECD expressed its gratitude to the former Maltese MEP for his continuous and successful efforts to improve the lives of people living with diabetes in Europe.

Diabetes has been given an increasing amount of attention by EU decision makers in the last 12 months. MEPs have raised a number of questions on gestational diabetes testing; increases in the number of diabetes cases; EU action following the Parliament's resolution on diabetes; standardization of blood glucose meters; combatting childhood diabetes and type 2 diabetes to name a few.

In February of this year, the ECD met with newly appointed Health and Consumers Commissioner Tonio Borg to discuss the Commissioner's plans for addressing diabetes during his mandate. The Commission working document entitled '*Investing in Health*' illustrates commitment and promises to yield significant efforts in addressing health systems, human capital and health inequalities in the EU.

In January 2012, Anne-Marie Felton took up the role of Chair of the ECD on behalf of the European Foundation of European Nurses in Diabetes (FEND). Following Joao Nabais' nomination as President of the International Diabetes Federation European Region (IDF Europe) in September 2012, Joao took up the role of ECD Chair in January 2013. ECD recently welcomed Michael Stumvoll as New EURADIA Chairman and thanked Philippe Halban for all his work and contribution to ECD.

The ECD looks forward to the numerous challenges ahead such as the 2014 elections, which offer a chance to engage with current and future legislators. ECD will continue to strive and advocate for diabetes as a high priority on the EU political agenda.

www.ECDiabetes.eu

Something to read ...

Europe's 'Horizon 2020' science funding programme: How is it shaping up?

M Galsworthy, M McKee

<http://jhsrp.rsmjournals.com/content/early/2013/04/16/1355819613476017.full>

A new paradigm for improved co-ordination and efficacy of European biomedical research: Taking diabetes as a model

PA Halban, AJM Boulton, U Smith (2013)

Diabetologia 56:439-443

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs00125-012-2790-z>

Horizon: The EU research and Innovation Magazine <http://horizon-magazine.eu/>

European Regions Research and Innovation Network: Health Working Group

<http://www.errinetwork.eu/content/health>

Foundation for European Nurses working in Diabetes (FEND)

FEND was established in 1995 and has established a unique voice for nurses working in the field of diabetes care, research and education in Europe. FEND is a founding member of the European Coalition in Diabetes (ECD).

FEND's two day Annual Conference precedes the EASD Meeting each year. Attendances at our conferences grows year on year and attracts not only nurses but also other relevant health care professions in diabetes. The number attending the 2011 conference was over 650. Leading European experts in the field of diabetes have delivered keynote lectures at our conferences and come from the disciplines of nursing, medicine, dietetics, psychology and people with diabetes. FEND has established an annual award in relation to nursing research in diabetes - the first award was presented during the 1999 conference. The official journal of FEND is *European Diabetes Nursing*.

The 18th FEND Annual Conference will be held in Barcelona, Spain. Registration is now open, see the website for details on registration and abstract submission.

The FEND ENDCUP programme aims to “*Extend the clinical and physiological knowledge, and improve and develop good clinical nursing practice in diabetes, which is patient centred and evidence-based*”. The next ENDCUP course will be from 1-5 July 2013 at Kings College, London. Closing date for applications is 15th April. Full details are available on the FEND website.

The Policy Puzzle – Is Europe making Progress?

The fourth Edition of the Diabetes Policy Puzzle will be published in November 2014. The research survey will start in late spring in partnership with EURADIA, FEND, IDF Europe and PCDE. The third edition is available on the FEND website.

www.fend.org

Primary Care Diabetes Europe (PCDE)

PCDE exists to provide a focal point for primary care clinicians and their patients. The purpose of PCDE is to promote high standards of care for people living with diabetes throughout Europe. Emphasis is placed on incorporating evidence-based medicine into daily practice as well as promoting diabetes education and research in primary care.

PCDE is in close cooperation with the leading European organisations in family medicine/general practice (GP)/primary care (WONCA Europe) and diabetes care (EASD) and strives to provide a link between primary care and specialist care, being an opinion leader for best clinical practice for diabetic individuals and their families and carers in primary health care.

PCDE is also active on the field of advocacy as a member of the European Coalition for Diabetes (ECD) operating at EU level. With its indexed scientific journal *Primary Care Diabetes* (published quarterly by Elsevier and distributed for free to all PCDE members), and its online resource centre (interactive educational website), PCDE is striving to foster evidence-based, state-of-the-art clinical diabetology practice among its members and excellence in primary care diabetes research. PCDE recently organised two joint meetings with the European Primary Care Cardiovascular Society (EPCCS) and a very successful stand-alone conference in 2012. PCDE is planning the next international scientific meeting in Barcelona, Spain in April/October 2014. PCDE has a website with information on activities and events relevant to the diabetes primary care community. With its European GP network of the EASD Primary Care Research Study Group and its good relationship with industry partners, PCDE constantly strives to create opportunities for GPs in state-of-the-art primary care diabetes research.

Membership is open to all primary care physicians/clinicians upon application. Current membership stands at about 4200. PCDE holds scientific stand-alone meeting annually/biannually. Apart from its own meetings PCDE co-organises academic and scientific events with its partners.

www.pcdeurope.org/

Grants and funding

European Commission Research and Innovation Participant Portal: Funding latest Info

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/funding>

Executive Agency for Health and Consumers: Health Programme

<http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/health/tenders.html>

European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes

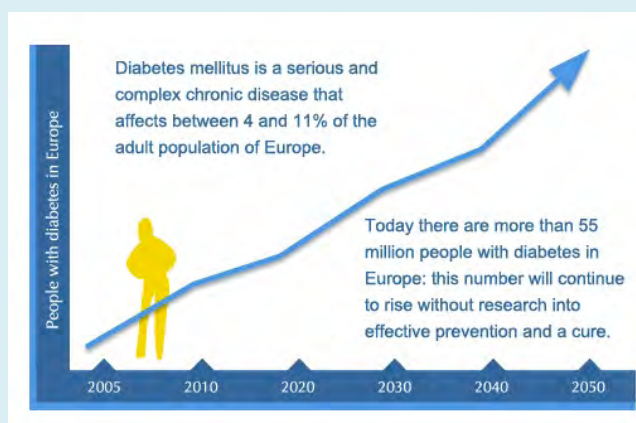
Application deadlines and RFAs for Research Programmes

<http://84.19.28.94/europeandiabetesfoundation/Programmes.html>

European Science Foundation ESF-EMBO Call for proposals 2013 Research Conferences in Molecular biology

<http://www.esf.org/serving-science/conferences.html>

Bringing together the power of the network for a world without diabetes



This newsletter contains links to websites and information practices of which may be different to those of EURADIA. EURADIA does not control the content of the Internet sites or organisations listed. We encourage you to read the privacy statements on other web sites that you visit, as we have no control over information that is submitted to, or collected by, these third parties.

High Level Advocacy for Diabetes Research

Advocacy with the European institutions was the original motivation to create EURADIA. Over the years EURADIA has become increasingly proactive especially within the discussions over Horizon 2020 to advocate for research into diabetes.

EURADIA produced a position paper in April 2012 '*The importance of European Health Research in Horizon 2020: chronic diseases, the case of diabetes*' where the importance of research in addressing the societal and economic burden of diabetes was highlighted. This document was brought to the attention of policy makers in Brussels during discussions on Horizon 2020 and the outcomes of such discussions are being monitored.

EURADIA works independently and together with other organisations including the European Coalition for Diabetes (ECD), which have a wider scope beyond diabetes research. The 2012 *European Parliament Resolution for the EU Diabetes Epidemic*, which makes specific mention of research, is a key tool in European diabetes research advocacy.

Horizon 2020 and Health Research

On **30 November 2011** the Commission published a package of proposals for Horizon 2020, a new EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation for 2014-2020.

Horizon 2020 is structured around three pillars:

- Excellent Science
- Industrial Leadership
- Societal Challenges

Health is addressed under the third pillar on Societal Challenges, which include 'Health, demographic change and wellbeing'. Diabetes is mentioned as one of the chronic conditions, which are major causes of disability, ill health and premature death, and present considerable social and economic costs. In the current economic context and given the rising cost of health and social care, the Commission highlights the need for an appropriate European level response to research and innovation in the area of chronic diseases.

The focus of EURADIA's advocacy campaign in 2012 was on Horizon 2020's third pillar to showcase diabetes as a societal challenge that can be addressed through increased research, hence the need for increased research funding.

More details on www.EURADIA.org

IMI funded project: EUPATI The Patients' Academy – a paradigm shift in public understanding of pharmaceutical R&D

The Patients' Academy - a paradigm shift in public understanding of pharmaceutical R&D The "European Patients' Academy on Therapeutic Innovation" (EUPATI) will provide scientifically reliable, objective, comprehensive information to patients on pharmaceutical R&D. It will increase the capacity of well-informed patients to be effective advocates and advisors, e.g. in clinical trials, with regulatory authorities and in ethics committees. A consortium of 29 organisations, led by the European Patients' Forum, comprises a unique combination of pan-European patient organisations, academic and not-for profit organisations expert in patient and public engagement and EFPIA member companies. It features excellence in state-of-the art, high quality, objective education to patients about therapeutic innovation.

EUPATI will make a substantial and measurable difference to patients, providing the tools and the knowledge for their meaningful involvement and empowerment in pharmaceutical innovation, safety of medicines and access to treatments. It will inform the lay and hard to reach patient community, raising public awareness of the development of new treatments. Find out more about the Patients' Academy below.

Text from the EUPATI website www.patientsacademy.eu

EURADIA NEEDS YOUR HELP! Please contact us with news and information on:

- ✓ **European research grants and funding for diabetes research**
- ✓ **Diabetes conferences and events with a European reach**
- ✓ **Public consultations on diabetes policy and wider issues in research**
- ✓ **Other issues that may be of interest to the diabetes research community that we can publicise through the EURADIA website or in the Newsletter!**

EURADIA
Alliance for European Diabetes Research

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