

# A World of Experience



## UN Resolution on Diabetes:

*“Time to put fine words into action”*

Practical guidance to inspire and  
empower the diabetes community

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Dear Colleague,

The Global Partnership for Effective Diabetes Management was founded in 2004 as a multidisciplinary taskforce of internationally respected diabetes experts from leading institutions and diabetes organizations, committed to improving outcomes for people with type 2 diabetes.

We applaud the recent United Nations (UN) resolution on diabetes and feel that it is imperative to capitalize on the momentum generated. For this reason, we have developed a series of publications to provide inspirational, yet practical, guidance for the global diabetes community. Published in the December 2007 issue of *International Journal of Clinical Practice* (<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/toc/ijcp/61/s157>), this special supplement supports the mission of the UN Resolution and urges governments, healthcare professionals, the general public and the worldwide diabetes community to take action and share responsibility in the fight against diabetes.

We hope you will join us in our efforts to drive this mission forward and raise global diabetes awareness. To help you communicate with as wide an audience as possible, we have produced three short presentations that embody the key aims, learnings and case studies at the heart of this publication. Offering 'real world' practical guidance, and underpinned by examples of motivational success stories from around the world, the three presentations aim to raise diabetes awareness, improve clinical practice, increase understanding and stress the urgent need for action. The presentations can each be adapted for your own use, allowing you to focus on the most relevant examples for your audience. You may also wish to consider using local examples and drawing from your own personal experiences. All the highlighted case studies, along with further examples, are discussed in more detail in the publication.

We can make a difference at all levels. To achieve real change, it is critical to reach out to policy makers about the global diabetes epidemic and steps that can be taken to improve care and prevention. With this audience in mind, we have designed a presentation that highlights both the health and economic burden of diabetes and includes case studies for Finland and Australia, among others.

At the clinical level, glycemic control remains the cornerstone of effective diabetes management. To ensure that improvements in clinical practice lead to better patient outcomes, we have developed a presentation for healthcare professionals to highlight the need for tighter HbA1c goals, early and intensive treatment, better patient education and a multidisciplinary team approach to diabetes care. Examples include initiatives from Korea, Canada and the USA.

Progress at governmental and clinical levels is imperative; however, we must also increase knowledge and understanding in the population as a whole. Greater public awareness of the severity of diabetes and the serious nature of its complications is crucial for both early diagnosis and prevention. In this presentation, we highlight ways in which communities and the public can get involved to make a real difference, again illustrated with excellent examples from around the world, including the UK and India.

We hope you will find these three presentations and the publication a useful resource that will facilitate your interactions with colleagues, policy makers, and individuals and their families affected by diabetes. Together we can continue the momentum of the UN resolution and improve diabetes treatment and prevention in the 21st century.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Stefano Del Prato (Chair)

On behalf of the Global Partnership for Effective Diabetes Management