

New European Diabetes Forum launched to drive policy change to improve care across Europe

Berlin, Germany, October 2, 2018 – Today, the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) has announced the launch of a new coalition, the European Diabetes Forum (EUDF). The Forum brings together the entire landscape of stakeholders in diabetes, from policy, research and professional bodies to patient organizations and industry. Beginning with the publication of a bold ‘Call to Action’, the EUDF’s singular vision is to enable the sustainability of European healthcare systems and thus dramatically improve the way diabetes is being managed across Europe, achieving the best possible outcomes for patients.

Commenting on the launch of the Forum, the president of EASD, the founding partner of the EUDF, Professor Juleen R. Zierath, explains: *“It is time to take action beyond research. With the launch of the EUDF, we hope that we, as the diabetes expert community, can contribute to raising the level of care across Europe and shine a light on the great opportunity we have to improve the way we manage diabetes for the millions of people who suffer from the disease across wherever they live in Europe.”*

The Forum’s Call to Action sets out the identified causes in European healthcare systems of the failure in managing a chronic, complex and growing disease like diabetes, as well as potential solutions to address them. These focus on three main areas:

1. Improving outcomes for people with diabetes by measuring outcomes
2. Continuously improving and innovating diabetes care
3. Integrating care and financing diabetes sustainably for the future

While the EASD has a tradition of excellence in scientific and medical research, the EUDF will extend into a much wider remit. It will make sure that the voice of people living with diabetes is included on all levels and will be clearly heard in the public debate, to drive new thinking and strengthen the political prioritization of the condition. Speaking about the initiative, Bastian Hauck, a German patient advocate and founder of the #dedoc° Diabetes Community, says: *“It is great to see the EUDF including the voice of people with diabetes in their decision making and in their bold approach to change policy. It is essential that all stakeholders, including ourselves, work together towards better outcomes and towards an integrated care system that works for and with the people with diabetes, with their carers, families and communities.”*

“Diabetes is not just a lifestyle disease, it is a silent killer, every six seconds, somebody dies from diabetes-related complications¹, such as a heart attack. We simply cannot ignore these dreadful numbers any longer. That is why we invite all stakeholders across the diabetes landscape to unite behind our Call to Action and join in a reinvigorated dialogue around policy solutions to improve diabetes care” comments Professor John Nolan, Executive Director of the EUDF. *“We cannot wait a moment longer to address one of the fastest growing public health concerns of our generation. The time to act is now and the EUDF is determined to lead the way.”*

About the European Diabetes Forum

The European Diabetes Forum aims to improve outcomes for people with diabetes, as well as establishing new approaches to prevention, and to unite stakeholders from across the diabetes landscape in Europe. We will provide the platform where we can collaborate to improve how we, as societies, manage diabetes and jointly advocate policy change. We will support European and national stakeholders in driving a policy conversation, take concrete action to improve diabetes care, and provide a central point of contact for diabetes policy in Europe. More information about the EUDF can be found at: www.eudf.org

About the EASD

The European Association for the Study of Diabetes e.V. (EASD) was founded in 1965 and is based in Düsseldorf, Germany. It is one of the largest networks for diabetologists worldwide with the mission to promote excellence in diabetes care through research and education. EASD membership is open to health care professionals, scientists and nurses as well as students, from all over the world who are interested in the field of diabetes. *More information about EASD can be found at: www.easd.org*

Further information

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References:

1. IDF Diabetes atlas. 7th edn, 2015