

Dear ISPAD members,

The year of 2008 has been busy for ISPAD. On behalf of the ISPAD Steering Committee, you will below find an update of our activities since the previous Spring Newsletter.

Durban meeting

This meeting was a success with 604 delegates that came from 72 countries. The meeting certainly had the friendly ISPAD atmosphere that many newcomers spontaneously mentioned and appreciated. Many thanks to Kuben, his co-workers Dr Areti Philotheou, David Segal, Kiran Parbhoo, Steven Delpont the local Conference Company and KIT for your hard work in making this happen! We also thank especially the platinum sponsors Medtronic, Novo Nordisk, Eli Lilly, Johnson & Johnson Diabetes Franchise, but also Aventis, Roche Diagnostics, Animas and the Durban City Council and all other sponsors. A report on the Durban meeting by the roving reporters, Nicolin Datza, from Berlin, Germany, and Marianna Rachmiel, Tel Aviv, Israel, will appear in the February issue of Pediatric Diabetes.

Prizes:

ISPAD's prizes for 2008 were presented at the meeting. The ISPAD Prize for Achievement is the Society's highest honour. It is awarded to any individual who has made outstanding contributions in the areas of SCIENCE, EDUCATION or ADVOCACY which have had a major impact on childhood and adolescent diabetes. The ISPAD Prize for Achievement (sponsored by Eli Lilly) may be awarded to members or non-members of ISPAD.

The 2008 Prize for Achievement was awarded to Dorothy Becker, Pittsburgh, USA. The ISPAD Young Investigator Award (sponsored by Medtronic) was awarded to Wojciech Mlynarski, Lodz, Poland, and the ISPAD Lestradet Prize for Education and Advocacy (sponsored by Lifescan) was awarded to Francois Bonnici, Cape Town, South Africa.

Dr A. Ponsonby, Parkville, Australia, received the Best Poster Award for describing the associations between allelic variants of the vitamin D receptor gene and T1DM onset and their variation according to ambient winter ultraviolet radiation levels, by a meta-regression.

Dr A. Lin, Melbourne, Australia, received the Best Oral Presentation Award' for demonstrating quantitative structural differences in the thalamus and lentiform nuclei of young adults with T1DM, possibly related to the finding of the accelerated brain ageing hypothesis.

Business meeting:

Please see the attached minutes for details.

Steering committee:

Outgoing officers were thanked; Ethel Codner (Chile), Alan Delamater (USA), Ragnar Hanas, Sweden), Joe Wolfsdorf (USA) and incoming were welcomed; Maria Craig (Australia), Lori Laffel (USA), Wojciech Mlynarski (Poland), Marie Hallman (Sweden).

Thomas Danne (Germany) took over as president after the meeting, and Ragnar Hanas (Sweden) as Secretary General. Kenneth Robertson (UK), was voted in as Treasurer Elect. The past president Stu Brink (USA) and secretary General Thomas Danne were thanked for their contributions.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee has in 2008 met at the meeting of the American Diabetes Association in San Francisco in June and during the days prior to the Durban meeting.

Registration in the UK

One of the most important things that we have accomplished in 2008 is the changing of our non-for-profit registration from Norway to the UK. We have now been registered with the Company Number 6641016 according to the THE COMPANIES ACTS 1985 AND 1989 as COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE with our Charities registration approved. Special thanks to our treasurer Lynda Fisher for her tireless efforts in this project. The legal process will make it necessary for all members to reapply for membership, but we will make that as simple as possible for you. You will get more information about this later on.

Membership

We now (December 2008) have 772 members (47 new members in 2008) with the following distribution:

Africa	38
Asia	103
Europe	439
North America	126
Oceania	44
South America	22

We have 501 registered as physicians, 3 as diabetes nurses, 93 as other health professionals, 1 as dietitian, 1 as industry and 20 as "Other". Only 397 seem to have paid their membership fee for 2008! We know many have had problems with their passwords, so please contact our secretariat at secretariat@ispad.org if this is the case. Please everyone, log in and check your membership data in the database (Click Members -> My Data). Quite a lot of you are registered as professors, and however nice that may seem, you probably would want to correct it. And we are missing the profession for some 150 of the members, not including those who may have the incorrect profession stated. Please enter your date of birth or decade of birth as it is important for us to know the age structure of the membership. For telephone numbers, you should write + and your country number, then the number for calls from abroad, for example mine is +46-522-92000 (omitting the zero in the area code).

Names are different in different parts of the world, so please state if you are male or female – if you let us guess, we might get it completely wrong.

Pediatric Diabetes

Our membership journal is now a bimonthly publication, with yearly special supplements. The Impact Factor for 2007 is 2.314, which is an improvement from the 2006 IF of 2.162. PDI is ranked 56 out of 93 journals in the fields of Endocrinology and Metabolism and 14th among 74 journals in the field of Pediatrics.

For access to Pediatric, log in with your usual login/password combination. Then click on one of the links to the journal (either on the front page, left column, second paragraph or under "Resources" in the menu), and you will be redirected to the homepage of Pediatric Diabetes where you can freely download the articles.

Website

The website is now functioning well after switching to a new host in November. If you find any links that need updating, please notify the webmaster at webmaster@ispad.org. We wish to extend our sincere thanks to Jeff Hitchcock from Children with Diabetes (www.childrenwithdiabetes.com) who has hosted our website for free since it was first launched in 1996. He has also helped me as webmaster with invaluable technical advice throughout the years.

World Diabetes Day November 14th

Many ISPAD members around the world participated in this event, and more than 1000 buildings all over the world were lit in blue. This is the second year that IDF has Diabetes in Children and Adolescent as the theme of the year. The two topics for this year have been diabetes in School and Prevention of Ketoacidosis.

Diabetes in School

There was a media event at the EASD meeting in Rome where parents and children with diabetes were interviewed about their experiences in school. The DAWN Youth survey was conducted in Spin, Brazil, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands and USA. The results were released in September, finding that only 51% of parents of young children and 49% of young adults were satisfied with school support. See

www.dawnyouth.com/documents/article_page/document/DY_survey_results_final.asp

The DKA challenge – an ISPAD campaign with IDF approval

The incidence of DKA at onset ranges from approximately 15-80% in different parts of the world. The lower numbers are usually from countries with a higher incidence, thereby having a greater public awareness of the warning symptoms. Professor Vanelli from Parma, Italy, published already in 1999 results from a very successful campaign. Posters were displayed in schools, at GP offices and pediatric centers 1991-1997. The frequency of DKA at onset of diabetes in the age group 6-14 years decreased from 78% to 0% after 1992.

All cases of DKA at onset are preventable. ISPAD and IDF have produced posters that can be used the same way as in Parma. You will find these for download at www.worlddiabetesday.org/dka. We encourage you to use them and spread them as much as possible and to find local support for printing where possible.

Science Schools

The Fifth ISPAD Science School for Health Professionals was held in Durban August 10-12th, just before the annual meeting. The three-day Workshop is designed for health professionals (dietitians, nurses, psychologists, and social workers) who wish to develop a research expertise in young people with diabetes. It was chaired by Professor Alan Delamater, Psychologist from Miami, USA, and Dr. Sheridan Furber, Senior Dietitian from Dorchester, UK. There were 46 applications from 32 countries for the 15 sponsored positions. This course was sponsored by Johnson & Johnson. The sixth Science School will take place in Ljubljana, prior to the annual meeting. Closing date for applications is February 15th, 2009.

The Science School for physicians was held in Denver, USA, co-organized by Marian Rewers and Georgeanna Klingensmith. This course was held with 24 students from across the world and sponsored by Lilly Company. The focus was on Autoimmunity in type 1 diabetes as well on issues in type 2 diabetes. The 2009 Science School will take place in Cambridge, UK, 15th to 20th November 2009 with Carlo Acerini as convener, and will be sponsored by Novo Nordisk. Closing date for applications is April 15th, 2009.

Postgraduate courses

Regional educational focus persons were appointed by former president Stu Brink:

Africa: Areti Philotheou and Larry Deeb

Middle East: Abbas Al-Qadreh and Ken Robertson

Asia: Warren Lee and Louis Low

Latin America: Ethel Codner and Manuel Vera Gonzalez

Former Soviet Republics: Jan Bruining

South Asia: Anju Virmani (appointed by Thomas Danne)

The Romanian annual course was held in Buzias in April 2009, organized by Viorel Serban with Stu Brink and Harry Dorchy

The African initiative was organized by Kuben Pillay in conjunction with PAEDS-SA and held in Durban prior to the annual meeting. Fourteen physicians participated, most of them pediatricians, from 10 African countries. Another 10 had applied, but could not make it because of problems with travel or funding.

A course was held in Buenos Aires Argentina in November 14-15th, 2008 with Olga Ramos as the local organizer and Ragnar Hanas. The interest was huge, with 407 registered participants. We received more than 50 new applications for membership.

Manolo Vera and Johnny Ludvigsson held an ISPAD/IDF course in Havana, Cuba, November 20-21st, 2008.

Upcoming postgraduate courses:

Bhutan: Leonardo Pinelli coordinating with Professor Kinzang

Amman, Jordan (November 2009): Abbas Quadreh and Stu Brink

Russia: Professor Kourashvili and Jan Bruining

ISPAD Clinical Practice Recommendations

The last and final chapter was published in the December issue of Pediatric diabetes. All chapters are available for download from our homepage www.ispad.org (click on link in the right column on the first page).

We now aim for 2 things to be accomplished in time for the 2009 Ljubljana meeting:

1) Assembling all the chapters into a compendium, which we plan to have available both in printed form and as a CD. We do not aim to have a general update of the guidelines, but we may need to change some details for the chapters to harmonize. So please have a look at the Guidelines chapters again and look for conflicting wordings. You will find all chapters on our webpage www.ispad.org/FileCenter.html?CategoryID=5.

2) Summarized Guidelines to be produced in collaboration with IDF.

Fellowships

Research Fellowship:

This grant for members below age 40 is designed to cover expenses for a 6 month's (or longer) visit in an ISPAD member's centre and can be applied for by ISPAD members or other young researchers who wish to study or carry out diabetes related research at a recognized centre of excellence. The individual applicant needs to have a project which can be at least in part accomplished in that time frame, with good science. A letter of support from the member in whose center they will be working should also be provided. This needs to attest to the acceptance of not only the person applying, but the project and the support of the applicant in their center. In June we changed from 3 fellowships of 8,000 USD each to one research fellowship, and increased the funding for this to 25,000 USD. The recipient will give credit to ISPAD on any publication arising from any work done during the fellowship. If applicants are not members of ISPAD at the time of application they will be expected to apply for membership before the commencement of the fellowship.

The 2008 fellowship was awarded for studies at a center in USA, but due to problems with verifying the qualifications of this center, it was later withdrawn.

Clinical fellowship:

This is the Alan Drash Clinical Fellowship for ISPAD members below age 45 and is currently for 5,000 USD. It is intended for spending time (approximately 6 weeks) at a center of excellence to learn programmatic issues, clinical care, setting up a program, learning how to set up a clinical study, etc. This needs to be done at an ISPAD centre of excellence. The ISPAD member needs to send a letter of support for the applicant, indicating what that individual will be doing in their program. The applicant needs to state the reasons for choosing that center, and a description of their objectives and goals.

The 2008 Alan Drash fellowship was awarded to Menang Joshua Ngwang, Cameroon, for participating in a diabetes research course in Vienna.

Applications:

Applications including CV, current place of employment, outline and goals of intended project should be submitted by e-mail to the Secretary General. Please see the attached invitation for further details. Deadline for applications of both fellowships is June 1st. The decision will be taken by the steering committee in connection with the ADA meeting. A report should be published on the ISPAD website within 1 year after completed fellowship.

.Future Annual Scientific Meetings

- ISPAD 2009 in Ljubljana, Slovenia (Tadej Battelino) September 2nd to 5th, www.ispad2009.com
- ISPAD 2010 in Buenos Aires, Argentina (Olga Ramos), October 27th to 30th, www.ispad2010.com
- ISPAD 2011 Miami, U.S.A., (Alan Delamater) in November
- ISPAD 2012 Izmir, Turkey (Damla Göksen, Sukran Darcan)

Travel grants

We know that many that many participants will need to apply for a visa, and that this can be a difficult process that takes a long time. From past years, we have learned that several participants who were awarded travel grants did in the end not make it to the meeting because of such problems. We therefore decided to announce special travel grants with an early application, so that the visa process can be finished in time for the meeting.

These grants are reserved for participants from the non-high income countries on the World Bank's list (currently <\$11,456, see <http://go.worldbank.org/D7SN0B8YU0>). They include economy travel, housing and free registration. Apply by e-mail to the Secretary-General with a CV, stating your current position and work for children with diabetes. There will be an application fee of USD 50, which will be returned upon arrival in Ljubljana. The deadline for these travel grants is March 1st, 2009.

We are introducing a new abstract category for the Ljubljana meeting: "Diabetes project in developing country". This means that there is no need for a formal scientific study design for submitting an abstract in this category. It is not necessary to submit an abstract to apply for the above described travel grants, but participants submitting such an abstract will be prioritized when applying for a travel grant.

Regular travel grants will also be available, and can be applied for when you submit a scientific abstract to the Ljubljana meeting.

Access to Essential Diabetes Medicines

The "Access to Essential Diabetes Medicines" meeting was held in London October 25 by invitation from IDF. The meeting was exciting, conducted in an atmosphere of true collaboration and incredibly positive in outcome. It was a big success for the children with diabetes in developing countries and the Life for a Child program (www.lifeforachild.org). Lilly has pledged to donate insulin for 4,500 children next year, increasing to 18,000 by 2011, a Polish company 1,000 and Novo will increase up to 10,000 by. Syringes were donated and strips seem to be coming as well. A business plan is to be set up and ISPAD will take part in writing this plan.

EURADIA

Carine de Beaufort has been appointed Liaison officer for European affairs by the President Thomas Danne and represented ISPAD at this meeting in December. EURADIA is an alliance between NGO (non-governmental organizations) and industry. DIAMAP is a road mapping with establishment of documents on all research in diabetes. This major action has been honored by the EU Commission. European members are encouraged to register their research projects at www.diamap.eu

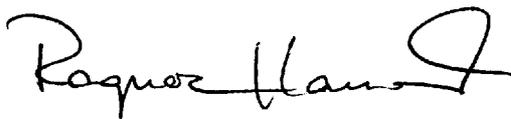
St Vincent Declaration

The 20th Anniversary of the St Vincent Declaration will be celebrated by a meeting in Glasgow, UK 21 – 23 November 2009, and there will be a pediatric track included in the program.

ISPAD Rare Diabetes

More than 50 % of children diagnosed before 6 months of age are positive for the Kir 6.2 or SUR1 genetic analysis, or have abnormalities of the imprinting of 6q. Between 6 months and 1 year the pick up rate is much lower, only 1-3%. Dr. Andrew Hattersley's lab in Exeter will perform this analysis free of charge in children with onset < 6 months (but you have to pay for transport of the specimen to the UK), regardless of the current age of the child. See the website www.diabetesgenes.org and <http://projects.exeter.ac.uk/diabetesgenes/rarediabetes/index.htm> for further information.

With very best wishes to ISPAD and to you all for 2009,
Jan 20th, 2009



Ragnar Hanas
ISPAD Secretary General