



### Editorial

Welcome to the Summer Edition. My thanks to the contributors, including Pat Frengley, who has sent me a good supply of cartoons. I am also extremely grateful to Victoria Farmer who has helped me considerably with the layout of this "rag".

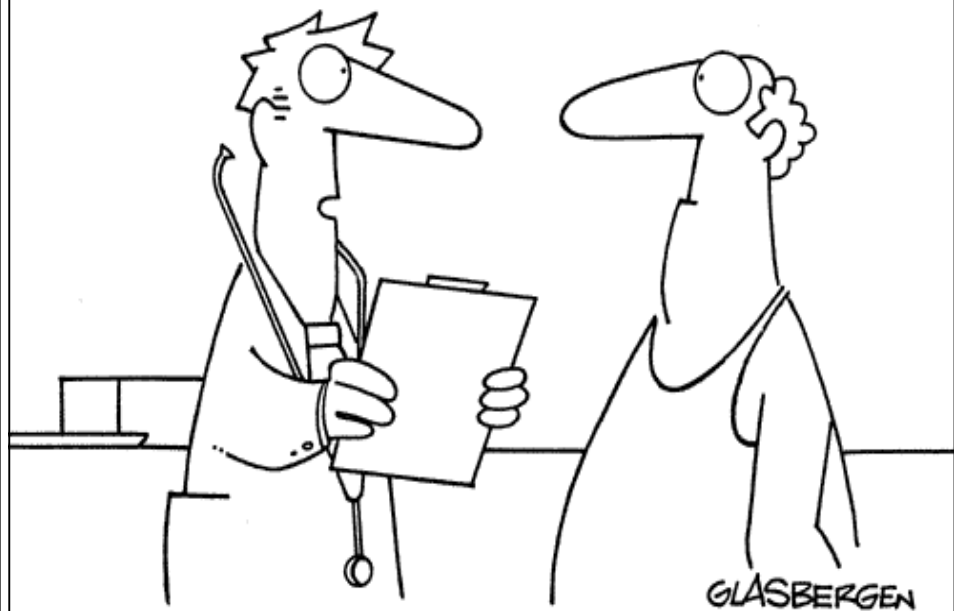
If you have any published research that you would like reviewed in this magazine, please send me the details. Often the readership is unaware of successful publications by New Zealanders in the international diabetes literature.

I had hoped to provide you with an inside story on the trials of being a diabetes health professional in NZ, but unfortunately the author in question has encountered yet another hurdle that needs to be overcome before the story can be told (watch out for a forthcoming edition!).

See you all in Wellington for IDF.

*Nicole McGrath*

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**"The handle on your recliner does not qualify as an exercise machine."**

### A Call to Arms over the Public Health Act

*Robyn Toomath*

The story of the Public Health Act legislation is a very interesting one. In November 2002 the Ministry of Health having determined that the pieces of legislation directly dealing with Public Health were antiquated released a discussion document with regard to an updated version. In it they suggested there could be provision for regulation of the environment to reduce the risks of non-communicable diseases including obesity. Submissions were sought but inside sources told us that within days of this document coming to light lobbyists in support of the fast food and advertising industries were pounding the corridors of parliament to oppose such a change in focus. FOE and Diabetes New Zealand and many others put in excellent submissions by the closing date of March 2203 but thereafter the document went to ground. For literally years we sought the summary of responses but to no avail.

Eventually it came to light. The summary was excellent but the gap between expert opinion and the politically expedient first draft of the bill was huge and we were very disappointed. So much so that we went to see the Minister to make the point that not only we were certain that his aspirations that industry would make the necessary changes voluntarily was a fantasy, he had no legislation in his back pocket to address this. We in FOE thought we were back to a private members bill. But the new legislation has just had its first reading in the House, and surprise surprise....an additional clause has been added which could be just the ticket. Unnoticed by us and the other public health campaigners is clause 374 which states that the Government may regulate for the purpose of reducing, or assisting in reducing, risk factors associated with, or related to, non-communicable disease. As you might imagine it has not however gone unnoticed by industry or indeed the opposition and Tony Ryall's response to Steve Chadwick's first reading of the bill on the 12<sup>th</sup> of this month was devoted almost entirely to this clause. He suggests that parts of this bill "smack of the nanny state having gone too far" and goes on to say that this clause will allow the government to restrict the sale of fish and chips to adults only or to children accompanied by adults" (interesting idea....). You can read the Hansard report via the latest obesity news on the FOE website at [www.FOE.org.nz](http://www.FOE.org.nz).

In my years of campaigning on this front, the passage of this bill its current form would represent the most significant achievement to date. It is ESSENTIAL that lobbying by industry does not result in the softening or removal of this clause. Submissions have been called for and I implore you to use your considerable weight as concerned experts to support the bill in its current form. If you need any help with this, write to me or to Robin White via the FOE website.

## UPDATE: DIABETES NURSE SPECIALIST SECTION

Kia Ora tatou,

An update from the Diabetes Nurse Specialist section of New Zealand Nurse's Organisation. The current committee members until our AGM in July are:

Chair	Mereana Waaka-Murch	<a href="mailto:waakamum@waikatodhb.govt.nz">waakamum@waikatodhb.govt.nz</a>
Vice Chair	Mary Yiannoutsos	<a href="mailto:Mary.Yiannoutsos@midcentral.co.nz">Mary.Yiannoutsos@midcentral.co.nz</a>
Secretary	Arlene Baldwin	<a href="mailto:arlene.baldwin@northlanddhb.org.nz">arlene.baldwin@northlanddhb.org.nz</a>
Treasurer	Meleseini Kaufusi	<a href="mailto:melek@adhb.govt.nz">melek@adhb.govt.nz</a>
Membership	Jenny Britland	<a href="mailto:Jenny.britland@qmc.co.nz">Jenny.britland@qmc.co.nz</a>
Secretary by proxy	Ann Faherty	<a href="mailto:afaherty@adhb.govt.nz">afaherty@adhb.govt.nz</a>
Newsletter	Julie Symons	<a href="mailto:julie.symons@sdhb.govt.nz">julie.symons@sdhb.govt.nz</a>

Membership process, there are currently 349 members in the section. The membership database process has been improved with NZNO updating list and sending on to Jenny.

An electronic contact tree is established with key contact people responsible for disseminating information out to members. Nurses who are members of NZNO can join up to 2 sections as part of their membership, those who are interested in becoming members of the DNS section can contact Emma Hay, [emmah@nzno.org.nz](mailto:emmah@nzno.org.nz).

Accreditation Process is now complete and the first lot of portfolios have been assessed. The section have at least 10 members who underwent assessor training in Palmerston North, so that the portfolios could be done by a larger number of people.

Close off date for next lot of accreditation portfolios is 29th February.

Accreditation Chairperson is Kate Smallman [Lifestyle@adpt.org.nz](mailto:Lifestyle@adpt.org.nz) and Secretary, Bridget Lyon [lydon@ccdhb.org.nz](mailto:lydon@ccdhb.org.nz)

Newsletter, the DNSSection newsletter called "On Target" is posted on the DNSSections website under [www.NZNO.org.nz](http://www.NZNO.org.nz)

Annual General Meeting this year is planned to coincide with the Roche and Novo diabetes Nurses Symposium being held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July in Wellington.

Venue to be confirmed.

The DNS committee decided not to hold a study day this year as it will only be 6 months from last one until Pacific Island Rim IDF in March in Wellington and nurses symposium in July.

- Mereana, Chair.

## **Congratulations to the successful applicants for the 2008 Novo Nordisk Diabetes Grant Scheme, who are:**

- Associate Professor Patrick Manning, Dr Wayne Sutherland, Michelle McGrath. "The Effect of Protein Intake on Post-prandial Adipokine Concentrations in Obese women".
- Linda Kent. "The use of Insulin in Type 2 Diabetes, are we doing our patients any favours? A Study looking at Long Term Outcomes of Insulin Therapy in the Wellington Region".
- Liz Allen, Dr Nicole McGrath. "Whanau Oranga Mate Huka / Healthy Families with Diabetes".
- Craig Jefferies, Jean-Ann Holt, Natasha Heather, A/Prof Paul Hofman, Prof W. Cutfield. "The evaluation of Real Time Glucose Sensing at Insulin Pump Initiation in Children with Type 1 Diabetes".



19<sup>th</sup> November 2007

New Zealand Society for the Study of Diabetes

Dear Patrick

What a surprise it was for me after the 2007 NZSSD Annual general meeting when I received congratulatory messages on being awarded Life Membership of NZSSD for 'long and dedicated services to diabetes'.

It is with humility that I accept this honour bestowed upon me by the Executive and Members of NZSSD. It has been a privilege being a member of NZSSD since I first attended an inaugural meeting at Waikato University at the behest of Dr. John Pearce, Paediatrician here at Taranaki Base Hospital at that time.

This meeting accepted my nomination by John for my Membership of NZSSD. I can well remember the lengthy discussion around a constitution e.g. as to whom should be accepted as members and how many members should sit on the committee.

The Diabetes fraternity in New Zealand owe much to Professor Don Beavan, Drs. Peter Dunn, Russell Scott, Malcolm Watson, Bob Smith, David Scott and I think Jack Kilpatrick who (if my memory serves me correctly) founded NZSSD.

I have attended many NZSSD Annual General Meetings / Conferences where I learned a great deal and was able to bring back valuable information to the Taranaki Hospital Diabetes Team & Diabetes Societies that enabled us to work effectively together to ensure best practice for people with diabetes in Taranaki.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all those founding members and those leaders of today, who in many ways have been very supportive to me; along with the Clinical Fraternity here in Taranaki whom I consider are inspirational mentors for all involved in working in diabetes,

Yours sincerely

*Maureen Lonsdale*

### **NZSSD Executive Statement on the use of HbA1c for diagnosis of diabetes**

- The current opinion of the NZSSD Executive is that, for the diagnosis of Type 2 diabetes, the Society will continue to adopt the recognised international criteria.
- For NZSSD to change from this stance the following criteria (at a minimum) would need to be addressed:
  1. That the anticipated change to the diagnostic criteria accepted after peer review by international organisations [ADA, EASD, ADS, WHO]
  2. That the entire NZSSD membership been fully consulted and that there has been a consensus acceptance of the change in criteria
  3. That a full cost: benefit analysis of the change has been performed, demonstrating acceptable outcomes both in clinical and financial terms

### **NZSSD Executive Position Statement on Xenotransplantation in Type 1 Diabetes**

The Constitution of the New Zealand Society for the Study of Diabetes includes the following three objectives:

1. To advance and foster the study of diabetes in New Zealand and Oceania
2. To encourage, support and enable high quality research in all aspects of diabetes
3. Provide a national source of scientific and clinical expertise, reference and advocacy for:
  - a. The condition of diabetes mellitus, its prevention and its complications
  - b. The care of people with diabetes

Xenotransplantation offers a potentially important therapeutic option for people with Type 1 diabetes. Thus, in keeping with its objectives, the NZSSD Executive considers that the Society should express an opinion regarding the proposed xenotransplantation trials.

NZSSD is, in principle, supportive of future xenotransplantation clinical trials in humans with Type 1 diabetes in New Zealand on the following basis:

- That members of NZSSD who provide specialist care for people with diabetes have the opportunity to comment on the proposed clinical trial.
- That reproducible pre-clinical non-human studies indicate that the procedure is associated with significant expectation of benefit.
- That this expectation of benefit is deemed to significantly exceed any potential risk/s.
- That appropriate independent regulatory oversight of such clinical trials is in place.

## IMPORTANT MESSAGE



### **7th International Diabetes Federation Western Pacific Region Congress: 30 March to 3 April 2008 Wellington, New Zealand.**

The draft programme can be found on:

[www.idfwpr2008.org](http://www.idfwpr2008.org)

All members are encouraged to come and participate. We hope this will be the biggest diabetes meeting ever held in NZ

- Bob Smith, on behalf of Organising Committee

### **Other Meetings 2008:**

- \* American Diabetes Association Scientific Meeting: 6-10th June, San Francisco.
- \* ADS/ADEA Annual Scientific Meeting: 28-30 August, Melbourne.
- \* 44th EASD Meeting: 7-11 September, Rome.
- \* Therapeutic Patient Education (TPE) conference. Including the 4th international DAWN summit: 5-8 November, Budapest, Hungary.



### **Letter to the Editor:**

Congratulations on a great-looking magazine - certainly a turn-up for the books!

- John Denton, General Manager

Diabetes NZ Auckland

(edited version)

NEWSWEET is the newsletter of the New Zealand Society for the Study of Diabetes (NZSSD).

Contributions are welcome and should be sent to the Editor: Nicole McGrath

[Nicole.McGrath@northlanddhhb.org.nz](mailto:Nicole.McGrath@northlanddhhb.org.nz)

## President's Report

Firstly let me wish everyone a happy new year. The NZSSD Executive have several matters that we would like to draw to members attention.

1. The most pressing is to remind you to register for the IDF Western Pacific Region congress in Wellington. The meeting is coming around very quickly and hotel beds are at a premium, so avoid disappointment and register now. The programme looks very interesting with some superb overseas speakers. NZSSD will co-host this meeting with DNZ and therefore a good turnout from NZSSD members will be important. A reminder that the conference grants available to non-physician members will close on 31st of January - please see the NZSSD website for applications (<http://www.nzssd.org/awards.html>).

2. At the end of 2007 the Executive decided that it was important for NZSSD to develop a strategic plan. It doesn't appear that we have ever had such a plan, and this leaves the organisation having a somewhat reactive rather than proactive nature. We are meeting a strategist next month to explore this idea further. We will be asking members for their input and any plan that eventuates will be circulated in draft form for consultation.

3. If you have visited the website recently you will have noticed that we have posted position statements on xenotransplantation and the use of HBA1c for the diagnosis of diabetes. These have been reproduced in this edition of Newsweet.

4. Congratulations to the recent Novo Nordisk awards recipients. We are extremely grateful to both Novo Nordisk and Eli Lilly for their continued support of research awards.

5. As you are aware by reading this, Newsweet is now distributed electronically rather than by paper. There are some downsides to this - some people simply don't like to read from a computer screen and will have to print it - however the Executive feels that the benefits (ease of distribution, reduced cost, reduced paper usage) outweigh the inconveniences. We hope that you agree with this action. Anyone who feels that they still would like a paper version sent to them can contact the secretariat to organise this ([info@nzssd.org.nz](mailto:info@nzssd.org.nz)).

6. Finally, it is election year! We need to make our presence felt this year. This may be in terms of pressure on PHARMAC for easing on availability of certain pharmaceutical restrictions or lobbying central government on other issues e.g.. insulin pump availability, bariatric surgery. Please let me or the Executive know your thoughts on this issue.

Best wishes

*Patrick Manning*