

# Educating the *Educators*:

## *An International Curriculum for*

## *Health Professionals in Diabetes*

✉ Marg McGill

*The lack of trained healthcare professionals and of programmes to train them has been cited by many member associations of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) as the most critical issue hindering the delivery of high quality diabetes education and care. To address this, the IDF Consultative Section on Diabetes Education set out to write a curriculum that could be used in all IDF member countries. This goal has now been achieved. Read below for an overview of the most remarkable features of this new publication.*

>>

The long awaited *International Curriculum for Educating Health Professionals in Diabetes* has now been published. Aimed at meeting the need for improved training of healthcare professionals worldwide, this book is the result of joint efforts by many highly committed experts in the field of diabetes education. Contributions have poured in from all IDF regions, making the *IDF Curriculum* a truly global achievement.

### **The modular approach**

The *IDF Curriculum* is set out in modular format to cover all the various steps necessary to provide optimal educators' training. It can therefore be used in full to conduct comprehensive post-graduate university-based diploma and masters programmes or in part for short workshops.

Modules range from those which define the role of the educator in the diabetes healthcare team and point to the relevance of psychosocial and community aspects in diabetes education, to those imparting deeper knowledge about the condition >>

and its complications, and teaching how it can be managed. For each module, an overview of the topic, goals and objectives, teaching strategies, suggested length of time, indications as to who should teach the module, the evaluation process, and a list of references are provided.

The IDF Curriculum aims to meet the need for improved training of healthcare professionals worldwide.

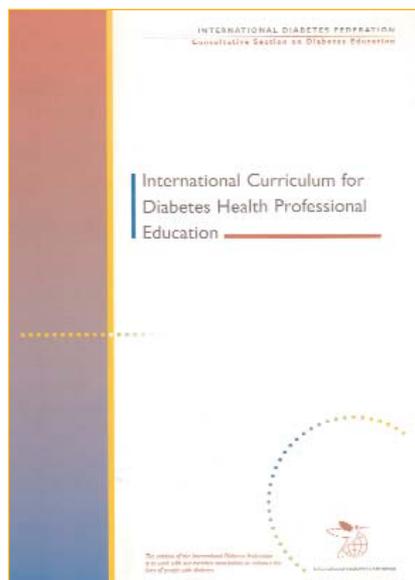
### The international scope

It is important to note that the *IDF Curriculum* has been designed so that it can be readily adapted to meet the different and specific needs of local healthcare professionals, institutions and organizations throughout the world. Moreover, it has been designed to train health professionals from a variety of disciplines and at different levels with a view to enabling them to provide the highest quality of diabetes education and care which are relevant to local needs and resources.

### Coverage of clinical topics

Considerable emphasis has been placed on pathophysiology and clinical management of diabetes. Indeed, healthcare professionals need to have a sound clinical understanding of the condition if they are to provide high quality diabetes education.

Thus, diabetes education delivered by well-trained healthcare professionals becomes integrated with clinical care, forming the key to successful



self-management on the part of the person with diabetes.

### Already widely acclaimed

The *IDF Curriculum* was recently tested in a workshop conducted in the IDF Western Pacific Region in Singapore. This workshop was a clinical update for 60 doctors, nurses and dietitians from 16 countries of the Western Pacific Region, and was presented by an international teaching faculty. The workshop was evaluated by the participants to be of a very high standard.

While parts of the *IDF Curriculum* have already been incorporated in training programmes in the Caribbean and Malaysia, plans for further implementation are already underway. The *IDF Curriculum* has been presented at a number of IDF regional council meetings and at the IDF Executive Board. Many have shown significant interest, and the feedback to date has been only positive. This makes our efforts all the more worthwhile.

The challenge we face in this new millennium is to provide care to the millions of people worldwide affected by diabetes and its complications. Unfortunately, too many countries do not have enough trained healthcare professionals to provide this care. Using this international curriculum is one tool to ensure that they are appropriately trained.

### ✉ Marg McGill

*Ms Marg McGill is Chair of the IDF Consultative Section on Diabetes Education and Editor-in-Chief of the International Curriculum for Educating Health Professionals in Diabetes.*

The International Curriculum Diabetes Health Professional Education is available from the IDF Executive Office and on the Internet. If you would like to obtain a copy, just fill in the form on page 25 or visit the IDF website at [www.idf.org](http://www.idf.org) where you can download the entire publication free of charge.

The curriculum is currently only available in English, but there are plans to have it translated into Spanish and French soon. Keep an eye on the IDF website to find out about any further developments.