



NEWS LETTER

Diabetes in Asia study Group

Volume :1 Issue :1 December 2008

DASG COMES OF AGE

The inaugural conference of DASG was held in Kathmandu on the 17th and 18th of October 2008. This was at the Yak and Yeti hotel. The conference was organised in collaboration with the International Diabetes Association (IDF) and Diabetes Association of Nepal. The conference was inaugurated and blessed by His Excellency, The President of Nepal. It was a significant honour for us

The inaugural conference was supported by Professor Martin Silink, The President of IDF, as well as Professor Jean-Claude Mbanya, President-Elect of IDF. The inaugural ceremony was also attended by the chairmen of the various regional committees of IDF. The occasion was glorified with the presence of these eminent personalities from different parts of the world

The theme of the conference was Implementation of Primary Prevention Strategies for Type 2 Diabetes. The workshops on the subject culminated in the Kathmandu Declaration. It was a practical document, which also stated a number of measurable projects that could be implemented before the next conference.

The full report can be viewed at the DASG web site – da-sg.org.

A large number of papers, covering diverse subjects related to diabetes research and practice within the regions of Asia and The Middle East, were presented. A copy of the full programme can be downloaded from the web site, provided the speakers agree we plan to make the papers presented to be available on the web site.



Delegates with Nepal President



A brief history

A meeting was held in Cape Town on 2ND December 2006, to launch Diabetes in Asia Study Group.

The aims stated were to promote awareness of diabetes, to encourage research in the field of diabetes and related disorders, to promote exchanges of opinions and to foster advocacy among the Asian population. This in turn would lead to better strategies for diagnosis, care and prevention of diabetes. This group was a continuation of the Diabetes in Asia Conferences, a movement which was started in 1999. It was agreed that the strategies to achieve the above aims would include holding periodic meetings and conferences, conducting studies to characterize the state of diabetes within the Asian Regions, promoting the publications of activities and guidelines, seek active involvement of governments and non governmental organizations, actively collaborate with national and international groups, and by encouraging the development of human resources to increase our capacity to fight diabetes in Asia.

Delegates

The conference was not only a great success as judged by its scientific and practical content but also by the number of delegates attending. There were **384 participants**. It will be of interest to readers of this news letter to know where they came from.

Bangladesh	47
China	1
Egypt	2
India	17
Indonesia	2
Japan	1
Maldives	2
Mauritius	2
Nepal	103
Pakistan	61
Qatar	3
Sri Lanka	7
Thailand	46
United Arab Emirates	2
Africa, Australia, USA and Europe	88

OFFICE BEARERS

President

Professor Samad Shera (Pakistan)
E-mail: dapkhi@cyber.net.pk

Vice President

Professor Mahen Wijesuriya (Sri Lanka)
E-mail: amrit@slt.lk

Treasure

Dr Abdullah Al Hamaq (Qatar)
E-mail: aalhamaq@qatar.net.qa

Secretary General

Dr Arun Bakshi (UK)
E-mail: Bakshi@bakshi.demon.co.uk

Members

Professor Morsi Arab (Egypt)
E-mail: morsiarab@dataprs.com.eg

Professor Abdul Basit (Pakistan)
E-mail: bidekarachi@yahoo.com

Dr Madhur Battarai (Nepal)
E-mail: mdb@ntc.net.np

Professor Akhtar Hussain (Norway)
E-mail: akhtar.hussain@medisin.uio.no

Dr Shashank Joshi (India)
E-mail: srjoshi@bom5.vsnl.net.in

Professor Hajera Mahtab (Bangladesh)
E-mail: h_mahtab@dab-bd.org

Ms. Sharoud Al-Jundi Matthis (Qatar)
E-mail: smatthis@qf.org.qa

Professor Viswnathan Mohan (India)
E-mail: mvdsc@vsnl.com

Professor Adel Al Sayed (Egypt)
E-mail: el_sayedadel@hotmail.com

Dr Aly El Sharif (Egypt)
E-mail: alyshrf@hotmail.com

Professor Sidartawan Soegonda (Indonesia)
E-mail: sidartawansoegondo@mac.com
Dr Zumin Shi (China)
E-mail: szm@jscdc.cn

ON WHAT DOES THE SUCCESS OF DASG DEPEND and WHO CAN JOIN?

DASG is an association of individuals, medical, para-medical, lay working or interested in the field of diabetes research, care and prevention whether resident or non-resident in the continent of Asia. The success of this organisation will be largely due to the active involvement of each member. This statement is often misunderstood. To some, being an active member implies having to be elected to a committee; this is not true.

So, how can an individual member serve this society?

a. Encouraging your colleagues to join. It is worth remembering that doctors are not the only people who can join as indicated above. The process is simple. An applicant must complete the official form and send it to the secretariat.

b. Keep us informed of events, research or any activities of interest that take place within your area. This will be most helpful.

c. If you know of pharmaceutical companies, who regularly assist health professionals to attend meetings or sponsor meetings locally, it would be great if you could please let me have the contact names and e-mail address. Please give them a copy of this news letter.

We could then seek their assistance in sponsoring DASG in the future, and also encourage them to promote DASG.

d. An important way for serving DASG is to make suggestions about future activities, improvements on the web site, or how we might improve regular communications with you. Indeed, your comments on our first effort, would be most welcome.

e. You could serve by standing for election or nominate somebody you feel would be able to makes significant contribution to DASG. The rules for nomination are available in the constitution, down loadable from the web site.

f. You also serve by attending our conferences, and/or presenting papers on subjects related to the practice of diabetes or research related to diabetes.
g. Serving by being a subscribed member, which is the next topic.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

1. Web site (da-sg.org) – This is undergoing a dramatic change. The team leading this are Abdul Basit, Shashank Joshi, Zumin Shi and AsharafValappil

E-mail: avalappil@qf.org.qa)

Please log in and witness the improvement. .

2. DASG Journal – At its first meeting, the Executive Board requested Abdul Basit and Akhtar Hussain to make firm proposals for establishing a journal of its own.

3. Links with other organisations – it is our intention to develop meaningful relationships with other organisations. In this matter, all members can help.

4. The next DASG conference will be held in Qatar, on the 26th and 27th March 2010. For details, please contact Dr Abdullah Al Hamaq on aalhamaq@qatar.net.qa

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE NOW

The annual subscriptions are for the year January to December. Currently, the fee is 10 US Dollars. Therefore, your membership fee will be due in January 2009, irrespective of when you joined. The rules state that if a member has not paid for one year, membership will automatically cease.

This news letter is being used to remind you of this, and a renewal form is attached for your prompt attention.

Should you have any difficulties in submitting your fees because of international fiscal rules, please write to me by e-mail; I shall try to find a solution.

As soon as the form, along with payment is received, you will get a confirmation of receipt as well as your membership number.

Note for your Diary

1. Conference of the Research Society For The Study of Diabetes In India (Gujarat Chapter) will be held in Ahmedabad, on the 5th to 8th November 2009. Further details obtainable from Dr Banshi Saboo on banshisaboo@hotmail.com, www.RSSDI2009.org .
2. The Second DASG Conference in Doha, Qatar, 26th and 27th March 2010.

Funds for DASG

1. This news letter will be failing in its duties if it were not to acknowledge our grateful thanks to our founder sponsors, without whose generous donations and their continued support DASG would not have got off the ground. It was most remarkable that our sponsors supported us at a time when we had nothing to show apart from our vision and constitution.

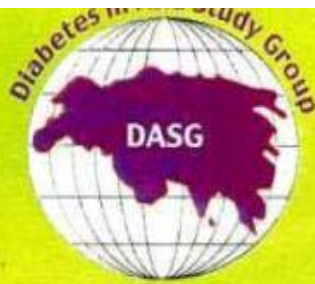
To Merck Sharpe and Dohme, Novartis, NovoNordisk India, and to Sanofi-Aventis, we extend our warmest thanks. We would like you to know that your contributions have been most frugally used and we will continue to do so. We shall keep you posted on developments within DASG.

2. The planned developments will require additional resources. It will be necessary to explore additional sources of revenue. Members from their own regions can assist in this matter. I would welcome e-mails from individuals to discuss this matter in greater depth.

In conclusion, we hope you have enjoyed reading this news letter. Please write in with your criticisms and suggestions. Please feel free to contact any of the members of the Executive Board.

On behalf of the Executive Board, I send you our Warmest Greetings of The Season, and may The New Year bring you Good Health and Contentment.

Arun Bakshi, Secretary General. E-mail: bakshi@bakshi.demon.co.uk



Diabetes in Asia Study Group (DASG)



in association with

2nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE

26-27 March 2010 at Sheraton Doha , Qatar



Diabetes in Asia Study Group (DASG), in association with Qatar Diabetes Association - Qatar Foundation host the **SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE** in Qatar **26-27 March 2010** at Sheraton Hotel, Doha- State of Qatar.

The conference is an opportunity to bring together General Practitioners, Nurses, Dietitians, and other health care professionals working in the area of diabetes care, to network and explore ways to achieve better outcome for people with diabetes.

Abdulla Al Hamaq MPH, PhD
Chairman Local Organizing committee
Executive Director – Qatar Diabetes Association
Secretary General & Treasurer – Diabetes in Asia Study Group