



Maltese Diabetes Association
Għaqda Maltija kontra d-Dijabete

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Living with Diabetes – The Way Forward

Saturday 12th November 2011
Grand Hotel Excelsior Floriana

- 08:30 Registration
- 09:00 Opening of the Seminar
Hon. Dr. Joe Cassar, Minister for Health, Elderly and Community Care
- 09:10 Tackling the Diabetes Epidemic in Malta:
The perspective of the Maltese Diabetes Association
Ms. Anna Zammit McKeon, President of the Maltese Diabetes Association
- 09:20 Diabetes in Malta - Where do we stand?
Professor Stephen Fava, Head of the Diabetes & Endocrine Centre, Mater Dei Hospital, Malta
- 09:30 Living with Diabetes for over a half century
Dr. Wim Wientjens, Vice President of the International Diabetes Federation & Special Ambassador for the rights and responsibilities of people living with Diabetes, Netherlands.
- 10:00 Questions
- 10:15 Coffee Break
- 10:45 My Life after the Kidney & Pancreas Transplant
Fr. Pierre Grech Marguerat S.J, person living with Type 1 Diabetes, Malta
- 11:15 Long term and Financial Benefits of using an Insulin Pump
Foreign Speaker from Animas Corporation
- 11:25 Treating Diabetes with an Insulin Pump
Ms. Xenia Averkiou, Diabetes Nurse Specialist, Cyprus
- 11:55 Questions



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Plenary Speakers



Hon. Dr. Joe Cassar graduated as a doctor on 1990. His after specialization was as a psychiatrist at the University of Yale, USA. In fact for a number of years he worked as a consultant within the Department of Health. He is also a lecturer at the University of Malta. During his professional career, Dr. Joe Cassar was President of the Malta Medical Students Association, an executive member within the Medical Association of Malta, the President of Yale Psychiatry Residents Association and an active member of the International Catholic Movement. He is also the author of numerous papers related to psychiatry.

On 12th March, 2008, the Prime Minister of Malta Dr. Lawrence Gonzi chose Dr. Cassar as the Parliamentary Secretary for Health.

Following the new appointment of John Dalli as European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy, Dr Cassar was appointed Minister for Health, the Elderly and Community Care as from the 10 of February 2010.



Ms. Anna Zammit McKeon graduate from the University of Malta in Economics. She is the wife and mother of two family members with Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus. She became actively involved in the Maltese Diabetes Association after her 8 year old son was diagnosed with Diabetes.

Mrs. Zammit McKeon has held various posts in the association – namely treasurer, secretary and is the current President of the Maltese Diabetes Association. A post she has occupied since 2002. During her period in office she has worked hard to enhance the role of the Association. She is the co-founder of the Annual Summer for Children with Diabetes and organized the overseas trip to Dobbiaco Italy for youths with Diabetes, besides organizing educational talks and seminars on the local media and the monthly lecture for members and non members of the association.



Professor Stephen Fava is Head of the Diabetes & Endocrine Centre at Mater Dei Hospital, and a consultant diabetologist & endocrinologist. He is currently the President of the Association of Physicians of Malta and Chairperson of the Specialist Accreditation Committee of Malta. He has co-authored a number of studies on diabetes, which have been published in top international medical journals. He is also an international expert reviewer in many international journals, has written 2 book chapters and is the editor of international medical book.

Key Note Speakers



Dr. Wim Wientjens from The Netherlands is currently a Vice-President of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF). In the past, he has been a member of the IDF Executive Board (1997-2000) and Chair of the IDF European Region (2003-2006). In this triennium (2009-2012) he was appointed Special Ambassador for rights of people living with Diabetes.

Dr Wientjens has been living with diabetes since 1951, when he was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. He studied and holds a PhD in biochemistry from the University of Leiden in the Netherlands. He has been managing director at the Institute for Applied Scientific Research TNO Delft from which he is now retired.

Wim Wientjens has been the President of the Dutch Diabetes Association (Organization of Patients - 1994), a Vice-President of the Dutch Diabetes Federation (Co-operative Society between Patients, Physicians and Nurses - 1995) and a member of the Board of the Dutch Diabetes Foundation (Funding Organization for Diabetic Research – 1996-2002)



Fr Pierre Grech Marguerat S.J. joined the Jesuits in 1978 and was ordained in 1989. Fr. Pierre has been living with Type 1 Diabetes since his teen age years and over five years ago underwent a kidney and pancreas transplant following a serious of complications due to his condition. He has held various positions within the Jesuit Order in Malta.



Ms. Xenia Averkiou earned her Master of Science degree in nutritional sciences at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington. At the same university she completed her dietetic internship with a focus on diabetes and earned her registration as a clinical dietitian. Ms Averkiou worked at the University of Washington Medical Center as a clinical dietitian before returning to her homeland Cyprus. She now works in private practice and educates people of all ages, most of them living with diabetes. Ms Averkiou also lives with diabetes and has been using insulin pump therapy since 2003. With her scientific background and personal experience she played a fundamental role in aiding the Makarios Paediatric Hospital to establish insulin pump therapy in Cyprus. She is also an active volunteer for the Cyprus diabetes association, the Cyprus coeliac association and the Cyprus dietetic association.