

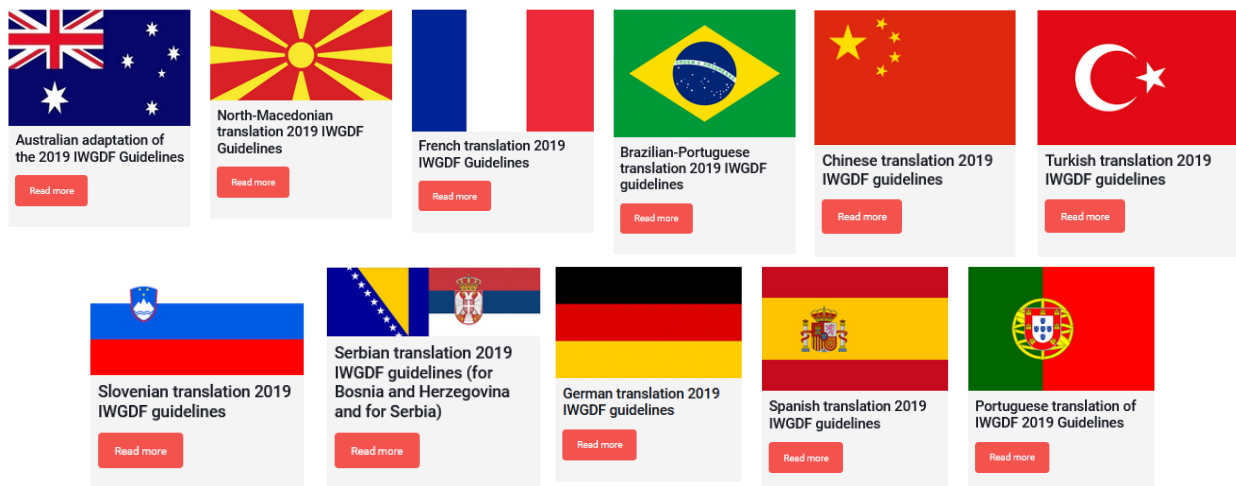
Dear colleague,

At the start of this new year, we would like to inform you in this newsletter about the work the IWGDF has been undertaking since we published the 2019 update of the IWGDF Guidelines. But first of all, we would like to start with wishing you a happy 2022. Let's hope that 2022 will bring us a healthier and safer year, so we can meet each other again in our work to reduce the high patient and societal burden of diabetic foot disease.

Translation of the IWGDF Guidelines

The first step after publishing a new update of the IWGDF Guidelines is to translate this in as many languages as possible. This stimulates local implementation, and ensures that many more healthcare professionals can read the Guidelines in their own language.

With great efforts by local trailblazers, the 2019 update has already been translated in Portuguese, Spanish, German, Serbian, Turkish, Chinese, Brazilian-Portuguese, French, and North-Macedonian. All these translations can be found [here](#). This means that the 2.6 billion people that speak these languages now have access to the IWGDF Guidelines in their own language.



In addition, Australia has published an adaptation of the IWGDF Guidelines, following a rigorous methodological process, the Czech-Republic is finalizing this, and various translations (including in Italian and Bahasa-Indonesian) are underway.

We would like to express our gratitude to all who contributed to these translations, and as such helped make these evidence-based guidelines more widely available, to better inform health care providers all over the world on strategies for the prevention and management of diabetic foot disease.

IWGDF Guidelines – 2023 update

IWGDF Editorial Board

Simultaneously, the IWGDF Editorial Board started to work towards the 2023 update of the IWGDF Guidelines. Professors Lipsky and Hinchliffe stepped down from their role, and we like to thank them again for their enormous service and countless days they have put in creating evidence-based guidelines. Their successors are professors Fran Game, Eric Senneville, Rob Fitridge and Matilde Monteiro-Soares. You can read about all IWGDF Editorial Board members [here](#).



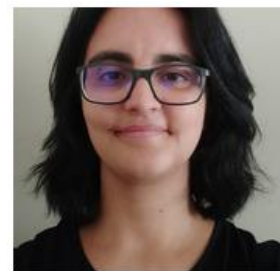
Prof. Dr. Frances Game



Prof. Dr. Eric Senneville



Prof. Dr. Robert Fitridge

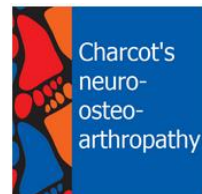


Prof. Dr. Matilde Monteiro-Soares

Working groups

The IWGDF Editorial Board has installed seven working groups to produce the seven chapters for the 2023 update of the Guidelines. These concern the six topics of the 2019 update ([prevention](#), [classification](#), [offloading](#), [peripheral artery disease](#), [infection](#), and [wound healing interventions](#)). In addition, a new chapter will be included with guidelines on the diagnosis and management of [Charcot's neuro-osteo-arthropathy](#), chaired by prof. Dane Wukich.

A total of 74 multidisciplinary experts from all over the world, with expertise in clinical science and experience in clinical practice, participate voluntarily in these seven working groups. You can read about all working groups and their members via the links above.



Prof. Dr. Dane Wukich

Collaborations

Two working groups have started exciting new collaborations. The peripheral artery disease working group has teamed up with the European Society for Vascular and Endovascular Surgery (ESVS) and the (North American) Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS). Together, IWGDF (co-chair prof Fitridge), ESVS (co-chair prof Hinchliffe) and SVS (co-chair prof Mills) will produce one guideline on their topic, a joint publication by these three societies. Furthermore, the infection working group has teamed up with the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), to also produce one joint guideline.

Last year we renewed our close collaboration with the International Diabetes Federation (IDF). The IWGDF will be involved in the IDF's meetings and training programs. Moreover, we continued our fruitful collaboration with D-Foot international and the EWMA, for example via joint involvement in (online) conferences.



Training

Writing guidelines has become an expertise in its own. Because we continuously strive to improve the quality of our guidelines, all working group members have been trained over the past summer. We ensured training from one of the world's most respected institutes in guideline writing, McMaster's University. Together with Guidelines International Network, they organize the [International Guideline Development Credentialing & Certification Program](#) (INGUIDE). All IWGDF working group members are now level 1 certified guideline panel members, while all chairs and secretaries have completed the more extensive level 2 training in order to become a GRADE "methodologist".



Clinical questions

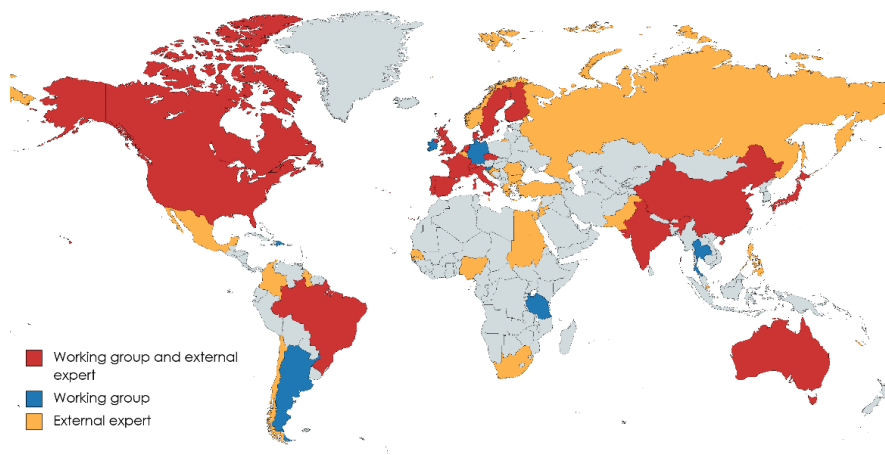
In the autumn of 2021, all working groups came together (digitally) to discuss the 'clinical questions'. Writing a guideline starts with asking the questions a clinician who needs to care for a person with diabetic foot disease would ask themselves. With IWGDF Guidelines, we follow the [GRADE methodology](#). Taking time to ask and select the most important clinical questions (and outcomes) is an important part of this methodology. These questions will inform the systematic reviews of the literature, the step we will take the coming months.

External experts

Writing guidelines is not done in isolation by the working groups, but requires input from all over the world. Currently, we are supported by 85 clinical experts from all continents. These experts reviewed the clinical questions written by each working group, and provided critical input. They will also review the first version of the guideline in the autumn of 2022.

In addition, and new for IWGDF, we have had input from 14 people with lived experience of diabetic foot disease, or their representatives. This patient input ensures selecting questions and outcomes that are relevant for people with the disease.

As you can see in the image below, the IWGDF Guidelines are written with input from people in many countries around the world. Despite this great involvement, there are still some 'white spots' on the map. If you are from such a country, or working together with people in these countries, and are interested in serving as an external expert and reviewing the IWGDF Guidelines, please [reach out](#).



International Symposium on the Diabetic Foot, May 2023

All involved in IWGDF Guidelines will work hard in 2022, to ensure we will again be able to present the update of our Guidelines at the biggest event in the field of diabetic foot disease: the [International Symposium on the Diabetic Foot](#). This quadrennial symposium, that received the sobriquet “The Olympic Games of the Diabetic Foot”, will be held from May 10-13, 2023, in the Hague. We hope to meet you all there, at the presentation of the IWGDF Guidelines – 2023 update.

A banner for the 9th International Symposium on the Diabetic Foot. The background shows a field of various national flags flying against a blue sky. The text is overlaid on the left side of the banner.

9th International Symposium on the Diabetic Foot

**10 - 13 May 2023 | World Forum
The Hague - The Netherlands**

Until then: stay safe and healthy, take care of each other, and continue your efforts to reduce the high patient and societal burden of diabetic foot disease.

With warm regards,

IWGDF Editorial Board

Nicolaas Schaper, chair
Jan Apelqvist
Sicco Bus
Fran Game
Rob Fitridge
Matilde Monteiro-Soares
Eric Senneville
Jaap van Netten