

Dear colleague,

With days at their shortest in the northern hemisphere, and at their longest in the southern hemisphere, the year 2023 is coming to an end. It's been an incredible year for many people caring for the treatment and prevention of diabetes-related foot disease. After the "dark, digital and distant days" of the pandemic, we were grateful to meet with so many in The Hague, during the launch of the 2023 IWGDF Guidelines. The interactions with colleagues continue to be a source of learning and inspiration. Together, we help reduce the global burden of diabetes-related foot disease.

With this newsletter, we would like to reflect on the work from the past year, and introduce the "[IWGDF Outreach Kit](#)", to help implement the IWGDF Guidelines – 2023 update.



IWGDF Guidelines – 2023 update

In May 2023, during the International Symposium on the Diabetic Foot, we successfully launched the IWGDF Guidelines – 2023 update. Thanks to the immense work of so many dedicated healthcare professionals and clinical researchers, we delivered the 7th version of the IWGDF Guidelines. Since the first version in 1999, they have been successfully updated every four years, to ensure the IWGDF Guidelines continue to reflect the most up-to-date scientific evidence.

In a packed World Forum, with more than 1,000 delegates from all over the world, the chair of IWGDF (professor Nicolaas Schaper) introduced the guidelines, and all the editorial board members and working group chairs. Each chair then presented the key aspects from their guideline, to give the audience a snapshot of what's in there. But a guideline of more than 500 pages, based on more than 1,000 scientific publications, cannot be summarized in 90 minutes. For that, there's only one solution: go to our website, [download the guidelines](#), and enjoy reading them.



New in 2023 was the chapter on Charcot Neuro-Osteo-Arthropathy, and two intersocietal guidelines: the infection guideline written and published together with the Infectious Disease Society America, and the peripheral artery disease guideline written and published together with both the Society for Vascular Surgery and the European Society for Vascular Surgery. A big thanks for the leadership of, respectively, professor Dane Wukich, professor Eric Senneville, and professor Robert Fitridge, to manage these chapters.

Also new was the rapid publication as a peer-reviewed scientific paper in *Diabetes/Metabolism Research and Reviews*. On the day of their presentation in The Hague, the guidelines were available in the journal. The intersocietal guidelines are also published in the journals of the various societies, respectively *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, *Journal of Vascular Surgery*, and the *European Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery*. We thank all the editors for their support.

And while “an update” of the prevention, offloading, classification and wound healing guidelines seems not “new”, we like to emphasize again the enormous amount of work required to ensure that each update is completely up-to-date with the latest scientific evidence, and in line with the latest rules for evidence-based guideline development. Professor Sicco Bus, professor Fran Game and professor Matilde Monteiro-Soares ensured that this was the case for these guidelines.



Our enormous thanks also for the scientific secretary of each working group, and everyone else involved. As we calculated and [published in Diabetes Therapy](#), updating the IWGDF Guidelines required 10 years of full-time voluntary work: a collective achievement from our 119 experts from 63 countries. If anyone has 2 million Euros available, we could reimburse them for all this work. But for now, we do this unpaid, because we believe that this is a crucial part in acting against amputation.

Guidelines are there – what’s next?

IWGDF Outreach Kit

Having guidelines is useful, but what’s next? Do you want to tell your colleagues, students or friends about the guidelines? IWGDF has got you covered!

We have created an “IWGDF Outreach Kit”, free to use for anyone who wants to drive this field forward and help prevent ulcers and amputations. Simply got to www.iwgdfguidelines.org/outreach.

On that site, you will find:

- YouTube videos from the IWGDF authors presenting their guideline
- The slides from these presentations, to use and pay forward
- Our recent publication in Diabetes Therapy, describing the story of the IWGDF

And in the new year, we will add podcasts and more, so stay tuned!

With warm regards, the IWGDF Editorial Board



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Prof. Dr. Robert Fitridge

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