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**International  
Diabetes  
Federation**


### Review

# Proceedings of the 5th International DAWN Summit 2014: Acting together to make person-centred diabetes care a reality<sup>☆</sup>



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#### ABSTRACT

Almost 250 stakeholders from across the world, representing all aspects of diabetes, attended the 5th International DAWN Summit. The summit focussed on the issues raised by the recently published DAWN2 study, placing particular emphasis on promoting the concept of person-centred diabetes care. Discussions between the delegates took place throughout a variety of sessions, with presentations, interactive exchanges and workshops providing a platform for clarification of common global priorities and opportunities for joint action. Following the summit, these ideas were developed further, leading to the creation of a Global Action Framework. The framework aims to support the ongoing local implementation of change in response to the DAWN2 results, while helping enable person-centred diabetes care to become a reality at all levels.

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## 1. Introduction

The 5th International Diabetes Attitudes, Wishes and Needs (DAWN) summit was held in Leeuwenhorst, the Netherlands, on 7–8 April 2014, hosted by the DAWN summit partners; the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), the International Alliance of Patients' Organizations (IAPO), the Steno Diabetes Center, and Novo Nordisk. In all, 248 participants from 33 countries attended from a diverse range of backgrounds, including people with diabetes, family members, representatives and advocates of people with diabetes, nurses, educators, dieticians, specialist doctors, general practitioners, psychiatrists, psychologists, behavioural scientists, and policy makers.

The summit brought these different stakeholders together to explore ways of translating the findings of the DAWN2 study into partnership action, and to contribute actively to the development of a 'Global Action Framework'. A 'person-centred' approach to diabetes care is vital for achieving optimal outcomes and patient satisfaction [1,2], and this framework aims to facilitate the implementation of change in real-life settings and help make person-centred diabetes care a reality for all.

During the summit, participants listened to people with diabetes and their family members, as well as advocates, researchers, healthcare professionals (HCPs) and policy-makers from across the globe. They reviewed the findings of the DAWN2 study, explored the concept of person-centred

diabetes care and used the DAWN 'Care Needs' model (Fig. 1) to consider stakeholder responsibilities and identify opportunities for change.

## 2. DAWN2 and the challenge of diabetes

Sir Michael Hirst opened the summit by reminding participants of the need for change and highlighting the huge and growing problem that diabetes presents. There are 382 million people with diabetes worldwide, a figure estimated to rise to 592 million by 2035 [3]. The socio-economic burden of diabetes and its associated complications, together with the rapidly increasing number of people at risk of diabetes, requires health and social care systems around the world to work together to reduce the number of people developing diabetes, and also reduce the prevalence and impact of related complications.

Since its inception in 2001, DAWN has recognised and explored these health and social care-related challenges. The initial DAWN study [4] revealed major deficiencies in the provision of education and psychosocial support for people with diabetes. The subsequent DAWN 'Call to Action' [5] encouraged stakeholders to work together to address the issues raised by the original DAWN study, leading to a number of initiatives in the following years. Despite the resultant achievements, the subsequent DAWN2 study highlighted six themes throughout diabetes care requiring attention, outlined in Table 1 [6–11].

The plenary sessions, interactive events and workshops held at the 5th International DAWN Summit brought multiple stakeholders together to explore the DAWN2 results themes, share national action plans, and agree on a way forward to implement person-centred diabetes care. 'Interactive exchange' sessions enabled delegates to share examples of national DAWN partnership initiatives on country posters, and interactive exhibits provided a forum for dialogue and input towards a number of practical tools and education programmes (Appendix, Table A1).

Examples of action plans from the countries participating in the summit are shown below. Additional examples of DAWN related activity are available at [www.dawnstudy.com](http://www.dawnstudy.com) and are reported elsewhere [12].

- In Italy, the DAWN study was undertaken as an integral part of the national diabetes plan, in formal partnership with the Ministry of Health. Building on DAWN insights, a national



Fig. 1 – DAWN 'Care Needs' model.

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