



Congressional Diabetes Caucus

Monthly Newsletter

111th Congress – May 2009

MESSAGE FROM THE CAUCUS LEADERSHIP

As the chairs and vice chairs of the Congressional Diabetes Caucus, we would like to present the May edition of the Caucus Monthly Newsletter. Below you will find the latest news in diabetes, summaries of recent diabetes events, and updates on the legislative priorities of the Caucus. We hope that you and your staff find this newsletter helpful and informative.

The Caucus has a reminder:

- **Don't forget to check out the "Did You Know???" section of the newsletter. Each month the Caucus will highlight a legislative priority area or an interesting fact about diabetes policy. Please contact Heather Foster in Rep. DeGette's office or Olivia Kurtz in Rep. Castle's office if your office would like the Caucus to feature a particular policy concern.**

Please contact Heather Foster at heather.foster@mail.house.gov or 5-4431 in Rep. DeGette's office if you would like more information about the Caucus or would like to join.

Rep. Diana DeGette
Co-Chair

Rep. Michael N. Castle
Co-Chair

Rep. Xavier Becerra
Vice-Chair

Rep. Mark Steven Kirk
Vice-Chair

NEWS FROM NIH



New Tools for Promoting Health from the NDEP: The National Diabetes Education Program has recently released *The Road to Health Toolkit*, which provides community health workers / "promotores de salud," nurses, health educators, and dietitians with interactive tools that can be used to counsel and motivate those at high risk for type 2 diabetes. These tools will help reduce their risk for type 2 diabetes by encouraging healthy eating, increased physical activity, and moderate weight loss for those who are overweight. [Toolkits can be ordered from the National Diabetes Education Program website.](#)

Lifestyle Factors Continue to Impact Diabetes as We Age: While healthy diet, physical activity and weight loss is proven to reduce diabetes incidence in those at high risk including older adults with pre-diabetes, there is much less information about the role of lifestyle factors in the general elderly population. A 10 year study of older adults, all of whom were over 65 and who averaged 73 years of age at the beginning of the study, found that development of diabetes was reduced by 80% in those with healthy physical activity and diet habits, who did not smoke, and had moderate alcohol use. Thus, the new study suggests that even later in life, the great majority of new diabetes cases can be prevented by modest dietary and physical activity goals and an achievable healthy lifestyle.

New Technique Offers Hope for Treating or Preventing Chronic Diseases like Type 2 Diabetes: "RNA interference" (RNAi) is a technique for selectively and temporarily nullifying the impact of a single gene. Since the technique was developed the late 1990s, scientists have hoped that RNAi could be used medically to modulate the effects of genes whose effects are damaging to health. However, researchers have not previously found a way to deliver interfering RNA molecules to appropriate cells. Recently,

however, diabetes researchers found a way to use RNAi to silence inflammation-promoting genes in a type of white blood cell called macrophages that play a key role in inflammation. Studies in mice showed that oral delivery of RNAi to macrophages in the gut reduced levels of indicators of inflammation and decreased death after exposure to a substance that stimulates macrophages activation and inflammation. This new technique offers hope for treating a variety of major chronic diseases associated with macrophage-induced inflammation, including type 2 diabetes, arthritis, atherosclerosis, and inflammatory bowel disease.



Diabetes News

- [Type 1 Diabetes May Double in Young Kids](#)
- [‘Manmade Pancreas’ Introduced in UK](#)
- [Diabetes shouldn't affect Sotomayor's ability to serve on Supreme Court](#)
- [1 in 4 Americans has Type II diabetes ... and most don't know it](#)
- [Can New Surgery Revolutionize Diabetes Treatment?](#)
- [Americans Who Don't Know They Have Diabetes Incur \\$18 Billion In Health Expenses Each Year](#)

FASCINATING FACT – DIABETES DISPARITIES



Did You Know???

In May, the co-chairs of the Diabetes Caucus introduced H.R. 2425, the ***Medicare Diabetes Self-Management Training Act of 2009.***

In a study of over 32,500 high risk pregnant women with gestational diabetes, Diabetes Self-Management Training (DMST) reduced overall pregnancy related health costs by an average of \$13 thousand per pregnancy. In addition, a review of existing literature found that 70% of all relevant studies showed DSMT resulted in decreased health care costs.

The proposed legislation would amend Title XVIII of the Social Security Act to recognize certified diabetes educators (CDE) as providers for Medicare diabetes outpatient self-management training services (DSMT). CDEs are the only health professionals who are specially trained and uniquely qualified to teach patients with diabetes how to improve their health and avoid serious diabetes-related complications. The 1997 authorizing DSMT statute did not include CDEs as Medicare providers and it has become increasingly difficult to ensure that DSMT is available to patients who need these services, particularly those with unique cultural needs or who reside in rural areas.

UPCOMING EVENTS



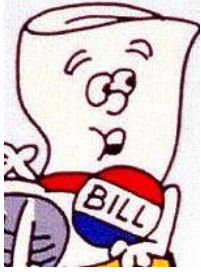
Diabetes Briefings

The JDRF Childrens Congress

Held biennially since 1999, JDRF Children’s Congress brings more than 150 children and their families from all fifty states and five other nations to Washington, DC to emphasize the need for federal funding of type I diabetes research. These children between the ages of 4-17 have a personal stake in thanking national policymakers for their previous support and encouraging them to continue their efforts to help JDRF find a cure for type I diabetes, a chronic, life-threatening disease.

Children's Congress takes place this year June 22-24 and will include such events as a celebrity Town Hall, Congressional Hearing and Hill Blitz. For more information on JDRF Children’s Congress events, and the delegates visit the website at <http://cc.jdrf.org/>.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



H.R. 1995, the ***Eliminating Disparities in Diabetes Prevention, Access and Care Act***. The Eliminating Disparities in Diabetes Prevention, Access and Care Act is designed to promote research, treatment, and education regarding diabetes in minority populations. This specific focus will help us address the unique challenges faced by minority populations and provide more effective treatment and education. The bill currently has 9 cosponsors

H.R. 1625, the ***Equity and Access for Podiatric Physicians Under Medicaid Act***. The bill would classify podiatrists as physicians for purposes of direct reimbursement through the Medicaid program. The Bill currently has 59 cosponsors.

H.R. 2425, the ***Medicare Diabetes Self-Management Training Act of 2009***. The bill would make a technical clarification to recognize certified diabetes educators (CDE) as providers for Medicare diabetes outpatient self-management training services (DSMT). CDEs are the only health professionals who are specially trained and uniquely qualified to teach patients with diabetes how to improve their health and avoid serious diabetes-related complications. The 1997 authorizing DSMT statute did not include CDEs as Medicare providers and it has become increasingly difficult to ensure that DSMT is available to patients who need these services, particularly those with unique cultural needs or who reside in rural areas. The bill already has 4 cosponsors.