

# The First Congress of the International Diabetes Federation

The First Congress of the International Diabetes Federation was held in Leyden, The Netherlands, July 7-12 1952, with many American participants present.

The Congress was opened by Professor J. D. Boks, Dean of the University of Leyden. The first speaker for the International Diabetes Federation was Dr. Elliott P. Joslin, Honorary President of the American Diabetes Association. Dr. Charles H. Best, Past President of the American Diabetes Association, presented the inaugural address, and Dr. R. D. Lawrence, President of The Diabetic Association of Great Britain, and the current President of the International Diabetes Federation, also spoke. Both Drs. Joslin and Best are Honorary Presidents of the Federation.

Fifteen countries were represented at this First Congress, and there was a total registration of 241 delegates, of which thirty were from the United States. Many registrants were accompanied by their wives and families, so that about 400 persons participated in sessions. The American Diabetes Association is not a member of the International Diabetes Federation, but it was represented officially at the Congress by its President, Frank N. Allan, M.D., and its Executive Director, Mr. J. Richard Connelly.

Although the Federation is a young organization, its

First Congress was exceedingly well organized and carefully scheduled. Great credit for the excellent arrangements is due to its Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. F. Gerritzen, Mrs. Gerritzen and the Federation's Executive Secretary, Mr. Pierre Duys.

Scientific sessions occupied five and a half days and were pleasantly interspersed with social activities and sight-seeing tours. Meetings of lay representatives to cover social and economic aspects of diabetes were conducted concurrently with the scientific sessions on two days.

The gracious hospitality of the Dutch, including members of the Nederlandse Vereniging van Suikerzieken and the faculty of the University of Leyden, came to a climax at the banquet of the Congress, which was held on Thursday evening, July 10, at the famous resort hotel, the Huis-ter-Duin, at Noordwijk.

Among its organizational accomplishments, the following Constitution Committee was appointed: Maître Maurice Paz, France, Chairman; Sir Henry Digby-Beste, England; Dr. F. Gerritzen, The Netherlands; and Mr. J. Richard Connelly, United States. This committee drafted a new Constitution and By-Laws and plans are being made to submit it to the Associations of the International Diabetes Federation for ratification.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Pierre Duys, Executive Secretary of the IDF, we are able to quote Article III of this draft Constitution, outlining the aims of the IDF:

"The objectives of this Federation are to acquire and disseminate useful and accurate information regarding diabetes mellitus and to undertake such activities as will improve the individual, physical, social and economic well-being of persons having that disorder.

"To these ends it is the purpose of the Federation to promote the free exchange of knowledge with respect to diabetes mellitus; to improve the standards of treatment of diabetes mellitus; to promote medical and other related scientific research, as well as statistical, social and economic investigation pertaining to diabetes mellitus; to develop educational methods designed to give diabetic patients a better understanding of their disease; to educate the general public in the early recognition of diabetes mellitus and in the importance of medical supervision of its treatment; and to encourage the creation of national diabetes associations, which it is believed will assist in fulfilling the objectives of the Federation.

"Further, it is the aim of the Federation to take all such measures within its ability, necessary to achieve the above objectives, and in particular to organize congresses and meetings pertaining to the scientific and medical aspects of diabetes mellitus, as well as the social and economic problems of that disorder."

The various national Associations affiliated with the IDF are:

<i>Australia</i>	The Diabetic Association of Australia G.P.O. Box 4746, Sydney, N.S.W.
<i>Belgium</i>	Association belge pour la defense des intérêts des Diabétiques 451, Avenue Louise, Brussels
<i>Canada</i>	The Diabetic Association of Ontario 111, Avenue Road, Toronto
<i>Denmark</i>	Landsforeningen for Sukkersyge Klingenberg 15, Odense
<i>Finland</i>	Sokeritautisten Yhdistys Meritullinkatu 5 B 19, Helsinki
<i>France</i>	Association française des Diabétiques 83, Boulevard de l'Hopital, Paris XIIIe
<i>Germany</i>	Deutscher Diabetiker Bund e.V. Strohberg 103, Stuttgart-Süd

<i>Great Britain</i>	The Diabetic Association 152, Harley Street, London, W. 1
<i>Italy</i>	Associazione Italiana per la difesa degli interessi dei Diabetici Via Bersilia 2, Rome
<i>Netherlands</i>	Nederlandse Vereniging van Suikerzieken
<i>Norway</i>	Prinsegracht 33, the Hague Norges Landsforbund for Sukkersyke P. O. Box 1456, Oslo
<i>Portugal</i>	Associação Protectora dos Diabeticos Pobres Rua de Victor Cordon 12-2, Lisbon
<i>Spain</i>	c/o Prof. Dr. C. Jiménez Diaz General Mola 9, Madrid
<i>Sweden</i>	Riksförbundet for Sockersjuka Rosengatan 14, Sundbyberg (Stockholm)
<i>Uruguay</i>	Asociación de Diabéticos del Uruguay Calle Soriano 1215, Montevideo

During the meeting of the General Council of the IDF, the following members of the Board were elected unanimously:

*Honorary Presidents*

Elliott P. Joslin, M.D., Boston, Massachusetts  
Charles H. Best, M.D., Toronto Canada

EXECUTIVE BOARD

*President*

R. D. Lawrence, M.D., London, England

*Vice-Presidents*

Prof. Dr. J. P. Hoet, Louvain, Belgium  
Me. Maurice Paz, Paris, France  
Howard F. Root, M.D., Boston, Massachusetts

*Secretary-Treasurer*

F. Gerritzen, M.D., Wassenaar, Holland

*Executive Secretary*

Mr. Pierre Duys, c/o Nederlandse Vereniging van  
Suikerzieken, Prinsegracht 33, The Hague