

CEDA/FID Presidential Note

Dear members and friends of the Central European Diabetes Association!

The Central European Diabetes Society, originally named Federation of International Danube Symposia on Diabetes mellitus (*FID*), is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year! When Prof. Alois Beringer organized the first Danube Symposium in Vienna in 1969, Europe was facing the Iron Curtain and the Cold War. However, the idea of bringing diabetologists from East and West together in spite of political boundaries in order to exchange scientific knowledge and practical experience soon became a very successful initiative. The initially biennial congresses have been held annually since 2003. A festive jubilee symposium will take place during this year's congress in Sofia.

But it's not just 50 years of Danube Symposia that we celebrate. The fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989 had a huge impact on Central European countries. The opening of borders and economic recovery converged the traditional "*FID* countries". Hence we also commemorate this 30th anniversary in our members' countries. The *FID* borders continued to expand, so that in the absence of geographical arguments for the association with the Danube, the name of our society was extended to "Central European Diabetes Association" in 2007. The modernization of our society did not stop at the traditional congress language, which was German. Through the use of English for the scientific content and discussions, we inspire especially young scientists and doctors for international diabetology and our society. After all, cross-border science and numerous friendships are inextricably linked in the Central European Diabetes Association.

So it was a special honor for me to take over the presidency of the society from Prof. Roger Lehmann in June 2018. The board, especially with Prof. Erifili Hatziagelaki as Vice President and Prof. Christian Herder as General Secretary on my side, has given priority to further develop the Central European Diabetes Association. In a rapidly changing scientific and educational landscape we take the challenges to guide *CEDA* into a successful future. One focus of our activities is set on young diabetologists. At *CEDA* we give them the opportunity to present their research to an international audience, to discuss data with top-class scientists in a friendly atmosphere, and to receive awards for outstanding work. In addition, we have already given *CEDA* a new look with a new logo (see above) and a new website. The now favored short form "*CEDA*" emphasizes our modern attitudes.

I would like to express special thanks to the entire Board and all national congress organizers for supporting our vision and their personal commitment for the *CEDA*; my assistant Mag. Vera Potuzak; and Prof. Christian Herder, who has worked with tremendous diligence for the *CEDA* during his first months in this function.

For *CEDA*, the year 2019 is not just an anniversary year, in which we look back proudly and thankfully, it is also a year filled with new perspectives and initiatives. With your support, *CEDA* will continue to be a success story in the future!

Cordial *CEDA* wishes,

Univ.Prof. Dr. Thomas Stulnig