

Speaker biographies

João Manuel Valente Nabais is President of the International Diabetes Federation European Region (IDF Europe). Diagnosed with type 1 diabetes in 1981, João has been actively involved in the field of diabetes ever since his youth through participation and support in numerous activities of the Portuguese Diabetes Association (APDP). He is himself the founder of two local diabetes associations and the President of one of them, the Evora Diabetes Association.

At national level, João has served for 10 years as Board Member of APDP, sitting on the association's Ethical Committee and working on different projects including youth camps (e.g. the IDF Europe Youth Summer Camp), advocating for the Declaration of the European Parliament on diabetes and supporting the "Unite for diabetes campaign". Furthermore, his work for APDP includes close collaboration on educational courses provided to people with diabetes and parents of children with diabetes. He has also been actively working at European level including EU political affairs, namely Food Labelling, European Parliament Diabetes Working Group and the EU Platform on Diet, Physical Activity and Health.

João Nabais graduated in Technological Chemistry from the University of Lisbon and he holds a PhD in Chemistry from the University of Evora (Portugal). Since 2002, he works as Assistant Professor at the University of Evora and is currently President of the Council of the School of Sciences and Technology.

Michele Cecchini is a health economist and policy analyst in the OECD Health Division, where he has been working in the Economics of Prevention program since 2007. His research interests include priority-setting and program evaluation in the health sector, in particular with regards to the health and economic assessment of policies influencing nonmedical determinants of health (e.g., nutrition, physical activity, and alcohol consumption).

Michele holds a position of adjunct professor in applied health economics at the School of Public Health of the University of Siena, and he held a visiting position at the Health Services & Systems Research Centre of the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School in Singapore. He has also served as a temporary advisor to a number of government and international agencies, including WHO and IARC, on a range of issues related to diet and physical activity.

After obtaining a degree in medicine and surgery from the University of Genoa, Michele completed his specialist training in public health at the University of Siena. He also obtained a master's degree in health policy, planning, and financing from the London School of Economics and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

André Scheen is a professor at the University of Liege's Faculty of Medicine. He is the head of teaching for Diabetes, Nutrition and Metabolic Disorders, as well as Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, aimed at students in their last four years of studies in Medicine. Professor Scheen occupies the post of Head in the Diabetes, Nutrition and Metabolic Disorders section in the Department of Medicine at the University of Liege Hospital Centre. He is also the Head of the Clinical Pharmacology Unit at the Sart-Tilman University Hospital Centre. He contributes to the development of new medicines in stages 1 to 4 of clinical research.

Furthermore, he is a member of several national and international learned societies, as well as of the Belgian Royal Medicine Academy. He is also an effective member of the Commission for refunds for medicines and is a member of the Administrative Council and the Medical and Educational Council of the Belgian Diabetes Association. Finally, he is at present the Editor in Chief of the “Revue Médicale de Liège”, Associate Editor of “Diabetes & Metabolism” and member of the editorial board of “Expert Opinion on Drug Metabolism and Toxicology” and “Acta Clinica Belgica”. He is the author or co-author of over a 1000 scientific publications in national and international journals, mainly in the field of obesity, diabetes mellitus and clinical pharmacology.

Vicki Mooney is a member of the EASO Patient Council, a plus size model and owner of Ireland’s only plus size modelling agency-VPlus. As a Patient Council member, Vicki worked on the development and successful launch of the *2015 Milan Declaration* and *Call to Action*. Vicki is a patient of the Weight Management Clinic in Ireland having lost 14 stone in weight via Gastric By-pass surgery in 2005.

As a TV personality on Irish television, Vicki has worked tirelessly to promote her #StopBodyShaming campaign which was launched live on Irish TV Screens in October 2014. Vicki is the face of many boutiques, and co-author of a revolutionary book “Curve-a-licious”, packed with advice, and which promotes healthy eating, healthy talking, and healthy exercise, as well as inspiring all women to embrace their bodies, with the deep down realisation that all shapes and sizes are beautiful.

David Ritchie is Senior Cancer Control Officer at the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL). David joined ECL in 2015 having previously worked for a regional public authority representation based in Brussels. In this role, David worked primarily on health equity, cancer screening and the management of EU projects. He holds Masters Degrees in both Public Health and in Communications.

At ECL, David works with the member cancer leagues and societies to disseminate the 4th edition of the European Code Against Cancer. ECL is a pan-European umbrella organisation of national and regional cancer leagues, providing a unique and important platform for cancer societies. ECL has 25 members from 22 countries in Europe, including non-EU countries such as Turkey and Iceland.

Valeria Fagone joined Medtronic as Director of Government Affairs Europe in October 2013 and is now responsible for Government Affairs for Europe, Middle East and Africa and is part of the EMEA Leadership Team of Medtronic’s Minimally Invasive Therapies Group.

She has a long-standing European affairs experience having previously held the position of Public Affairs Europe Director and Head of the EU Liaison Office at GTech, and having worked for ten years as a consultant in public affairs and strategic communications in Brussels for several companies, trade associations, Government organisations and NGOs. Valeria has a degree in Political Science and a Master’s in EU Political and Administrative Affairs from the College of Europe in Bruges.

Policies to prevent
obesity-related chronic diseases