

# IWGDF

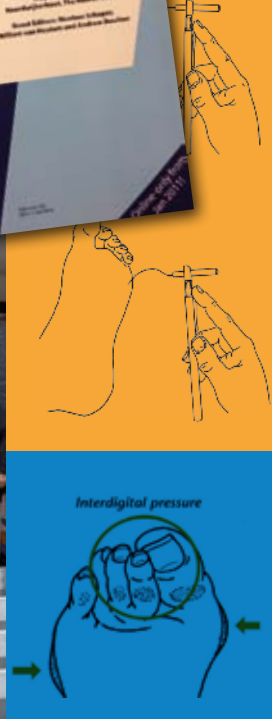
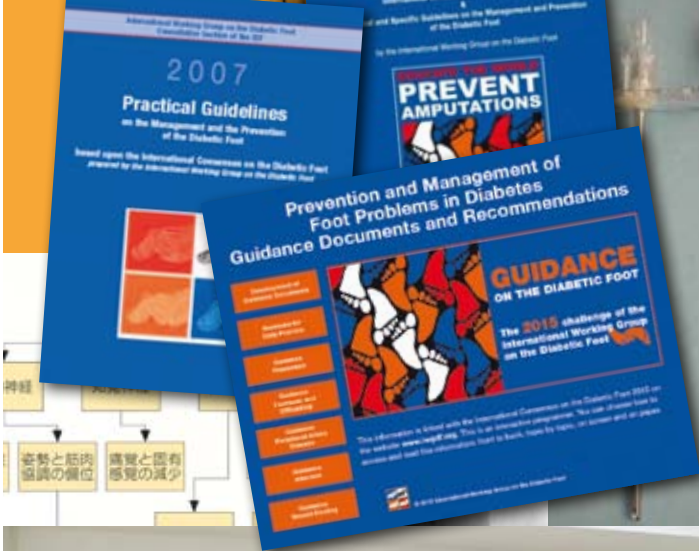
## Guidance 2019

*Every 20 seconds somewhere in the world someone loses a leg due to the complications of diabetes*



Invitation  
to Industry

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# Invitation to Industry

**Every 20 seconds** somewhere in the world someone loses a leg due to the complications of diabetes. After such amputations, over half of these people will die within 5 years. Currently, there are **millions of people with diabetes** suffering from poorly healing foot ulcers, which usually develop as a result of several factors. Successfully managing, or better yet preventing, these ulcers depends on the close collaboration of various types of health professionals; they must integrate up-to-date care in their speciality into an effective multidisciplinary foot team. The key factors for optimal outcomes are that team members share common goals and follow evidence-based, comprehensive guidelines.

In 1996 the International Working Group on the Diabetic Foot (IWGDF) was created to develop **guidelines on the prevention and management of diabetic foot complications**. These are the only international and multidisciplinary guidelines that are produced through a rigorous, scientific process undertaken by health care workers from all over the world. In addition, the IWGDF produces systematic reviews and a summary for daily practice, which are all published in an international scientific journal and on the IWGDF website. These guidelines are adapted for many different countries and they have been translated into most (currently 26) of the major languages of the world. To stay current, the IWGDF guidelines are **updated every 4 years**; existing guidelines are rewritten and new chapters are added under supervision of the IWGDF Editorial Board.

In 2017 the IWGDF started the production of a new set of guidelines that will consist of 6 guidance texts, each underpinned by a systematic review of the scientific literature, and there will be a summary for daily practice. Each of the documents is created by a separate working group (usually of 12 members) comprising clini-

cians, scientists, and other experts-in-the-field from all over the world. The guidance documents are produced using the widely respected GRADE system and in cooperation with our sister organisation, D-Foot International, which was formerly the IWGDF implementation group. Before publication, the IWGDF will seek input from international organisations of various disciplines, e.g. podiatrists, surgeons (vascular, orthopaedic) and general practitioners. The final documents will be presented at the International Symposium on the Diabetic foot (ISDF) in The Hague in May 2019. This quadrennial meeting is the largest and most prestigious conference devoted to the diabetic foot in the world. After presentation at the ISDF, we will publish the texts in an international journal and, with the assistance of D-Foot International, we will start the **translation process into all major languages**.

This unique process of producing evidence-based, multidisciplinary guidelines with a world-wide scope, and that have served as the basis of many national guidelines, is daunting. It requires multiple meetings with over 70 participants. While we use modern communication media, in person meetings are required for each expert group, and multiple meetings for the Editorial Board. As the IWGDF has no source of funding, we require financial support for these meetings, as well as for publication of the documents. Previously, the unconditional financial support of several partners has made our activities possible. We will again need financial support to enable us to produce the new 2019 guidance documents. These documents put the best information, in the clearest presentation, in the hands of health care workers who see diabetic foot patients. The limbs and lives of these patients rest on ensuring they get the best care. We hope you will **join and support us** in this important campaign to prevent foot amputations, premature death and poorly healing foot ulcers in the growing population of people with diabetes.

The IWGDF Editorial Board:



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*chair*



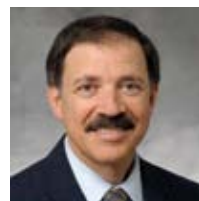
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In 2015, the previous IWGDF Guidance was published. This was done by the following working group members, all diabetic foot experts who voluntarily devoted their free time to this task. By doing so, they contributed to reducing lower amputation throughout the world.

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