WELCOME NOTE

Dear friends and colleagues,

Welcome to Berlin and to Diabetes Education Study Group Conference:

THERAPEUTIC EDUCATION – EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO PREVENT DIABETES AND ITS COMPLICATIONS

All over the world we are facing a continuous raise of Diabetes prevalence. Diabetes and its complications are a serious threat to the survival and well-being of an increasing number of people. Once a disease of old age, Diabetes is now common among adults of all ages and is beginning to affect adolescents and even children. **The good news is that Diabetes and its complications are preventable.**

Health care providers caring for chronic patients have long tried to reduce the gap between the spectacular advancement of medical knowledge and treatment options, and the way this progress is translated into everyday disease's management, by adopting attitudes and actions that demonstrate interest in the patients' efforts, and that address their concerns, skills and values. In the last decades research has shown that Therapeutic Patients Education can be effective in promoting long-lasting behavioural changes, better quality of life, and significant metabolic and medical improvements. A great role in these outcomes could and might play the empowerment of people with diabetes and their family as an important partner of our common efforts for a better diabetes management.

This conference, dedicated to the importance of diabetic patients' empowerment, will gather experts of different fields, coming from all over the world, and represents an occasion where different educational efforts will be presented and discussed, hopefully to reach a greater international integration.

I am particularly grateful and proud to welcome all of you in our annual conference, hoping that will serve as a constant prove of our efforts to broaden our impact aiming to a better and more patients-centered care, for diabetic patients worldwide.

I wish you a fruitful and stimulating conference, and an active participation at EASD Congress.

Yours sincerely

Prof. Florian Toti

President of Diabetes Education Study Group – EASD Study Group

On behalf of the Organizing Committee