

Italian Team at the Dasman Center for the research on Diabetes



Diabetes is representing a major global burden due to its pandemic explosion determined by the worldwide progressive modification in lifestyle characterized by reduced physical exercise and unhealthy nutrition leading to diffuse obesity and Diabetes as a consequence.

Due to the very sudden and considerable environmental changes this tendency finds its most relevant expression in the Gulf Region where the percentage of people affected by Diabetes is higher than 20% in the general population, reaching levels approaching 40- 50% in the people over 50 years.

Great concern is arising from the occurrence of such evolution also in the younger generations of adolescents and even children.

The Dasman Centre for Diabetes Research and Education constituted by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS) is committed to the identification of strategies for counteracting the Diabetes

epidemics through the production of scientific knowledge and educational activities.

As part of its institutional actions the Dasman Centre is participating as a full member together with diabetes research centres representing 22 European countries, in the EUBIROD project promoted by the European Union.

The scope of the project, which is coordinated by the University of Perugia under the responsibility of Prof. Massimo Massi Benedetti present Director for Research and Education at the Dasman Centre, is to improve the quality of diabetes care through the production of advanced Information Technology instruments for the management of diabetes related information. The participation of the Dasman Centre in the project represents a relevant advantage for the finalization of a National Diabetes Registry which, according to the recommendations of the Ministries of Health of the GCC, represents a must in the

prevention of diabetes and of its complications.

Moreover the Dasman Centre has been given the responsibility to host the so called EUBIROD Academy which is to be considered the cultural core of the project with undoubted deriving benefits for the local Kuwaiti environment.

This was quite evident in occasion of the EUBIROD Consortium meeting which was held at the Dasman Centre earlier this year on May 2nd to 4th. The meeting was attended by the representatives of all the European members who received a warm welcome at the Official Opening Ceremony by Dr Yousuf Al Naifs, Undersecretary of State for the Ministry of Health and by a number of European Ambassadors lead by the Czech Ambassador, H.E. Martin Vávra, who addressed the audience on behalf of the country holding the European Presidency.

A welcome speech was also delivered by the Italian Ambassador, H.E. Enrico Granara who

underlined the growing interest for cultural cooperation between Kuwait and Italy also for the promotion of healthier lifestyles based on the Mediterranean diet for the prevention of obesity and diabetes.

As a matter of fact the success of the event was made possible thanks to active cooperation between the staff of the Dasman Centre and the Italian staff at the secretariat of the EUBIROD Project in the University of Perugia who attended the meeting. The fruitful cooperation between the Italian Embassy in Kuwait and the Italian Director of Research and Education of the Dasman Centre has also produced a relevant objective by establishing the link between the KFAS and the INCONET-GCC EU project which has been recently approved and funded by the European Commission. This project will represent a perfect platform for further scientific cooperation between Kuwait and European countries and Italy in particular.