

History of Diabetes in Asia

Study Group

Asia

(DASG)



History of Diabetes in Asia Study Group (DASG)

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History of DASG

Introduction of Diabetes in Asia Study Group (DASG)

The idea to hold Diabetes in Asia conference and to establish Diabetes in Asia study group (DASG) was coined by Dr. Arun Bakshi, an eminent physician from UK and Prof. A Samad Shera, Secretary General of Diabetic Association of Pakistan (DAP) when they met in Helsinki in July 1997.

The objectives were to elevate the profile of diabetes in Asia, to promote prevention strategies and to improve delivery of diabetes care. A very important objective was to enable young scientists and health professional to present their research and work experiences at International conferences nearer to their places of work rather than have to undertake expensive travel to International conferences in the West.

DAP had the singular honor of hosting the first ‘Diabetes in Asia Conference’ in Karachi in 1999. With the consolidation and maturation of these ideas during subsequent Diabetes in Asia Conferences held in Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka, the foundations of DASG were formalized in Cape town, South Africa in 20006, confirming the objectives stated above [1].

Membership of DASG

Individuals within the fields of diabetes care, research, and advocacy are eligible to be a part of DASG. Individuals who wish to apply should submit an application to the secretary, which will then be considered by the committee for approval. The annual membership fee is \$15, with lifetime membership fee being \$100, payable to DASG [1].

Objectives of DASG

- I. To organize periodic meetings and conferences.
- II. To conduct studies to characterize the state of diabetes within the Asian Regions.
- III. To promote the publications of activities and reformed guidelines.
- IV. To ensure the participation of governments and non-governmental organizations.
- V. To pursue active collaboration with national and international organizations such as (IDF and WHO).
- VI. To encourage the upliftment of human resources to eradicate diabetes in Asia by improving health care [1].

DASG CONFERENCES

1st DASG conference

The 1st DASG conference was held on October 16-18, 2008 in Kathmandu, Nepal on “Implementation of Primary Preventive strategies for type 2 diabetes”. About five hundred delegates from 25 countries representing 6 out of 7 IDF region participated in this conference. More than 40 international and regional speakers delivered lectures and presented their research work on different aspects of diabetes.

During the first DASG meeting “Kathmandu Declaration October 2008” based on United Nation Resolution for Prevention, Treatment and Care of Diabetes was signed and published. Following were the objectives of declaration;

- 1) To identify genetic, pre- and post- natal environmental, and behavioral factors.
- 2) To provide guidance and a framework for prevention and care to people at all stages of life.
- 3) To ensure life- supporting medication as an integral part of basic care.
- 4) To ensure that declaration is followed by actions which should be supported by evidence.

OFFICE BEARERS

President Prof. Samad Shera - Pakistan	Vice President Dr. Mahen Wijesuriya - Sri Lanka Dr. Shaukat Sadikot - India
Secretary General Dr. Abdulla Al Hamaq - Qatar	Treasurer Dr. Abdulla Al Hamaq - Qatar
Coordinator EMME Prof. Adel El Sayed - Egypt	Coordinator General Dr. Arun Baksi - UK

Members

Prof. Morsi Arab - Egypt
Dr. D L Singh - Nepal
Prof. Madhur Bhattarai - Nepal

2nd DASG conference

The 2nd DASG conference was held in Doha, Qatar in collaboration with IDF, Qatar Diabetic Association and Qatar Foundation on March 26-27 in 2010. The conference was held under the patronage of her highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation for Education. The conference was inaugurated by Dr Saad Rashid Al Kabi, medical director of Hamad Medical Corporation, supported by Sir Michael Hirst, President-Elect of IDF and chairman of various regional committees of IDF. More than 370 delegates from all over the world who attended the conference also witnessed the second General assembly of DASG in which the members of the executive board were elected.

The conference holds several successful meetings to enhance the field of Diabetes care and management in the region apart from offering a unique opportunity to empower regional collaboration and exchange of information. The conference presented scientific contribution from different parts of the world covering the latest information, treatment and developments in the field of diabetes management. The Kathmandu Declaration was reformed and published. The conference enlightened the knowledge of the expertise in this field whereas the new scholars and researchers increased their knowledge in the field of diabetes.

After the tireless efforts of Prof. Abdul Basit, the Editor and Prof Akhtar Hussain, deputy Editor, of the Journal of DASG, Journal of Diabetology came into existence during the Doha conference.

OFFICE BEARERS

President Prof. Samad Shera - Pakistan	Vice President Dr. Mahen Wijesuriya - Sri Lanka
Secretary General Dr. Arun Bakshi - U K	Treasurer Dr. Abdulla Al Hamaq - Qatar

Members

Prof. Abdul Basit - Pakistan
Dr. Madhur Battarai - Nepal
Prof. Akhtar Hussain - Norway
Dr. Shashank Joshi - India
Prof. Hajera Mahtab - Bangladesh
Ms. Sharoud Matthis - Qatar
Prof. Viswanathan Mohan - India
Prof. Adel El Sayed - Egypt
Dr. Aly El Sharif - Egypt
Prof. Sidartawan Soegonda - Indonesia
Dr. Zumin Shi – China

3rd DASG conference

The 3rd biennial conference of DASG was held on 13th -15th April 2012 in Mumbai, India. The objectives of the conference were to elevate the condition of diabetes care and management in Asia, format prompt preventive strategies and improve delivery of diabetes care. The conference was aimed particularly to develop close collaboration between all the Asian countries.

The conference ended with a vote of thanks from the organizers to all foreign and local delegates along with pharmaceutical industry for their support. The conference presented all the latest information to the large number of people who attended the conference and gained success worldwide.

OFFICE BEARERS

President Dr. Abdulla Al Hamaq - Qatar	Vice President Dr. Mahen Weijusryia - Sri Lanka
Secretary General Dr. Arun Baksi - UK	Treasurer Prof. Adel El Syed - Egypt

Members

Prof. Samad Shera - Pakistan

Prof. Abdul Basit - Pakistan

Dr. Shasank Joshi - India

Dr. Zumin Chi - china

Prof. Akthar Hussain - Norway

Dr. Madhur Battarai - Nepal

Dr. Bettina Harms - UK

Dr. Zaman Shaikh - Pakistan

Prof. Hajera Mehtab - Bangladesh

Ms. Dhanya Wijesuriya - Sri Lanka

4th DASG conference

The 4th Diabetes in Asia Study Group (DASG) Conference was held in Muscat, Oman from May 1-3, 2014 with support and cooperation from the Oman Ministry of Health. An assembly of international and regional speakers participated in the conference which focused on key diabetes care issues in Asia. Updates in pediatric diabetes, microvascular and macrovascular complication management were discussed. Advanced topics like approaches in tissue and cell therapy, pancreatic transplantation and bariatric surgery were also discussed and the importance of Primary prevention of diabetes was reinforced.

Committee members concluded the conference with a plan to formulate regional, national and ethnic specific guidelines for risk factor assessment, diagnosis, management and prevention strategies for diabetes. The 4th DASG Conference was an important medical assembly aiming to provide a common platform for regional healthcare professionals to share the latest updates in diabetes care taking further the aim of establishment of Diabetes in Asia study group (DASG) in 1999.

OFFICE BEARERS

President Dr. V. Mohan - India	Vice President Dr. Mohamed Lamki - Oman
Secretary General Prof. Abdul Basit - Pakistan	Treasurer Mr. Ashraf. P. V - Qatar

Members

Dr. Abdulla Al Hamaq (Past President) -Qatar
Prof. Mohamed Zaman Sheikh - Pakistan
Prof. Akthar Hussain - Norway
Prof. Azad Khan - Bangladesh
Dr. Banshi Saboo - India
Prof. Adel El Sayed - Egypt
Dr. Bettina - UK

5th DASG Conference

The 5th Biennial Conference of Diabetes in Asia Study Group (DASG) was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on April 16th to 17th, 2016 which continued the tradition of successful meetings related to the field of Diabetes care and management in the region and strengthened the primary infrastructure of regional collaboration and dialogues. The scientific contributions from different parts of the world were presented to the delegates covering the latest information, treatment and developments in the field of Diabetes management. It was of immense support to the doctors and researchers, as well as the other health care professionals working in the field of diabetes management.

The conference was inaugurated by Mr Mohammad Sayeed Khokan, Honourable Mayor Dhaka. The special guests were Prof Nam Han Cho, President-Elect, IDF and Prof Akhtar Hussain Vice-president, IDF. The conference had two full days of 9 plenaries and 8 normal sessions attended by more than 550 health professionals. 14 foreign and 21 local speakers delivered state-of-the-art lectures. The editorial of the Journal of Diabetology was shifted down from Prof Abdul Basit to Dr V. Mohan from India.

OFFICE BEARERS

President Prof. A.K Azad Khan - Bangladesh	Vice President Dr. Shasank Joshi - India
Secretary General Dr. Asher Fawwad - Pakistan	Treasurer Mr. Ashraf. P. V - Qatar

Members

Dr. V. Mohan (Past president)– India
Dr. Bettina Harms- UK
Prof. Peter Schwarz – Germany
Prof. Hanan Gawish -Egypt
Dr. shabeen Naz Masood - Pakistan
Dr. Arun Baksi - UK
Prof Mesbah Syed Kamel - Egypt
Dr Banshi Saboo - India

6th DASG conference

The 6th biennial conference of DASG was held in Cairo, Egypt on 8-11th march, 2018 in conjunction with the 13th Upper Egypt Diabetes Association (UEDA) Conference. As diabetes care is facing many challenges both DASG and UEDA decided to overcome those challenges by bringing together inspired people in Cairo and to ensure that their vision and mission remained at the cutting edge.

Six workshops focusing on Lifestyle, Diabetic Foot, Obesity, Thyroid, Insulin and Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome remained an important feature of the Conference and was led by experts in the field. Special consideration was given to NCDs through a joint meeting with WHO to tailor a roadmap for collaboration and create new opportunities in low socio-economic settings.

The Conference focused on supporting the development of the next generation of healthcare providers through a special pre-conference educational course that will provide young professionals with basic knowledge and recommendations for improved diabetes care.

OFFICE BEARERS

President Prof. Akhtar Hussain - Norway	Vice President Prof. Mesbah Kamel - Egypt
Secretary General Dr. Banshi Saboo- India	Treasurer Dr. Biswajit Bhowmic - Bangladesh

Members

Prof. Adel El Sayed (Past president)– Egypt
Dr. Arun Bakshi - UK
Dr. Asher Fawwad – Pakistan
Dr. Jamal Belkhadir -Morocco
Dr. Lobna Eltony- Egypt
Dr. Prasad Katulanda – Sri Lanka
Dr. Shabeen Naz Masood - Pakistan
Dr. Shashank Joshi – India
Prof. Samad Shera - Pakistan
Prof. A.K. Azad Khan – Bangladesh
Dr. Abdulla Al Hamaq - Qatar
Dr. V. Mohan - India

DASG JOURNAL (Journal of Diabetology)

Journal of Diabetology (JOD)

The title of the journal was proposed by the first editorial team including Prof Abdul Basit and Prof Asher Fawwad from Pakistan which was later on approved by the DASG executive committee. One of the strategies of DASG to achieve its objectives is to hold periodic meetings and conferences and to promote the publications of research activities in diabetes. In this regard, the Journal of Diabetology, was started as a peer-reviewed online free journal with 3 issues annually. The journal's full text is available online at <http://www.journalofdiabetology.org>.

Journal Ethics

The journal keenly follows the industry associations, such as the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) and World Association of Medical Editors (WAME), that set standards and provide guidelines for best practices in order to meet these requirements. The summary of our specific policies regarding duplicate publication, conflicts of interest, patient consent, etc. is available at its website [2].

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CLOCKSS enables any library to maintain their own archive of content from Wolters Kluwer Medknow and other publishers, with minimal technical effort and cost effective hardware [2].

Ahead of Print policy

Articles available online underneath the Ahead of Print model are carefully printed and will be cited and recited by means of the DOI as the reference track. Wolters Kluwer Medknow has a rule that modifications will not be created after publication of a manuscript without subsequent acknowledged procedures for making alterations to the scientific information [2].

Indexing of JOD

Baidu Scholar, CNKI (China National Knowledge Infrastructure), EBSCO Publishing's Electronic Databases, Ex Libris – Primo Central, Google Scholar, Hinari, Infotrieve, National Science Library, Netherlands ISSN center, ProQuest, TdNet, Wanfang Data

Editorial Board of JOD

Name	position	Country
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Prof. Akhtar Hussain	Co-Editor	Norway
Dr. Ranjit Unnikrishnan	Managing Editor	India
Dr. R. Pradeepa	Executive Editor	India
Dr. Adel A El-Sayed	Advisory Board	Egypt
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Prof. A. Samad Shera	Advisory Board	Pakistan
Prof. Gundu Rao	Advisory Board	USA
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Dr. Bodhini Dhanasekaran	Associate Editor	India

CONSTITUTION OF DASG

Articles of the Constitution

1. Aims

The aim of Diabetes in Asia Study Group (DASG) is to promote education and awareness of diabetes, to encourage research in the field of diabetes and related disorders, to promote exchanges of opinions and to foster advocacy. This in turn would lead to better strategies for diagnosis, care and prevention of diabetes [1].

2. Membership

Any individual medical, para medical or lay person working or interested in the field of diabetes Research, Care and Prevention, whether resident or non-resident in the continent of Asia, will be eligible for membership after the payment of a statutory annual fee applicable at the time. Applications for membership, should be made using the official form, and addressed to the secretary-general of DASG [1].

2.1 Categories of membership

2.1.1 Full Member

Any individual satisfying the criteria in Section 2 and applying for membership will be required to pay the stipulated annual membership fee which will be decided by the Executive Board from time to time. They will be entitled to vote, and will be eligible to stand for election to the Executive Board after being a member for a minimum of six months.

2.1.2 Life Member –Any individual satisfying the criteria in Section 2 can become a life member on paying the stipulated fee which will be decided by the Executive Board from time to time. The life member will have all the privileges of a full member [1].

2.1.3 Honorary Member

The General Assembly may, at the recommendation of the Executive Board, confer Honorary Membership upon any individual whose life time contribution and commitment to diabetes has been outstanding and exceptional. Honorary Members will not be asked to pay a membership fee, and will not be entitled to vote nor be eligible to hold office or be a member of the Executive Board, but will be entitled to attend meetings/conferences etc and will be exempted from Registration Fee in the conferences, held under the aegis of DASG [1].

2.1.4 Corporate Partnership

The Executive Board will have the right to grant corporate partnership.

2.2 The organisation of the DASG

The DASG comprises of

- 1. The General Assembly**
- 2. The Executive Board**

2.2.1 General Assembly

All members are considered to form the General Assembly and shall meet at least once in 2 years or more as deemed necessary by the Executive Board.

The GA will be chaired by the President or in his absence by Vice President.

Notice for a GA shall be given 45 days prior to the scheduled meeting instating venue, time and agenda of the meeting.

Quorum of the general assembly shall be 75 members or 15% of the total members eligible to vote, whichever is less.

Voting will be by secret ballot and the outcome will be decided by simple majority of those votes except for special matters mentioned elsewhere in the constitution. In case of a tie, the President shall have the right to cast a vote and his/ her decision will be final.

2.2.2 Executive Board

a) The Executive Board will be empowered by the GA to carry out its duties on behalf of GA within the frame work of the constitution and the legal liabilities and financial constraints. The legal liability of the Executive Board is limited to the assets of the DASG and will not involve liability of members.

b) Composition of the Executive Board & Office Bearers

The Executive Board must comprise of up to 12 members, 11 of whom shall be elected by the General Assembly. The immediate past President of the Executive Board will be an ex-officio member, but shall not be eligible to be an office bearer [1].

The office bearers of DASG will be:

President

Vice-President

Secretary-General

Treasurer

The first item on the agenda of an elected Executive Board is election of the office bearers from amongst the elected Executive Board members. The Executive Board shall meet once a year.

(c) The Executive Board shall consist of not more than two elected members from the same country.

2.2.3 Nominations for the Executive Board

All Nominations for the Executive Board elections should be received in writing supported by 2 full members of the DASG by the Secretary-General 60 days prior to the meeting of the General Assembly. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted, if supported by at least 5 full members of whom at least 2 will be from the Executive Board members [1].

2.2.4. Elections of the Executive Board & Office Bearers.

The General Assembly elects 11 members of the Executive Board by simple majority of the quorum present in the general assembly. The office bearers are elected by the Executive Board by simple majority. Voting by proxy is not permissible.

2.2.5 Tenure of Office Bearers & Executive Board Members –

The President shall be for one term only and not eligible for re-election. The Vice-President, the Secretary-General, the treasurer & Executive Board Members are eligible for re-election for not more than three consecutive terms [1].

3. Amendment of the Articles of the Constitution

- (a) This can be done only at the General Assembly meeting after considering the recommendations of the Executive Board.
- (b) Notice of such a request must be made to the Secretary-General giving at least 60 days' prior notice to the GA.
- (c) The proposed change / changes shall be approved by atleast 2/3 members present at the General Assembly.

By-Laws of the Constitution

1. Enrolment of Members

Any person desirous of becoming a Life / Full member can do so by submitting an application to the Secretary-General and later will be subjected to the payment of current membership fees, after the approval by the Secretary-General if he/she fulfils the criteria of membership as in section 2 of the Articles of the constitution. An entry to that effect shall be made in the Member's Register kept by the Secretary-General [1].

1.1 Eligibility of members to vote: All members who have paid membership fees and have been members for at least six months are eligible to vote.

1.2 Full/ Life Membership fee

The Full membership annual fee and Life membership fee will be determined by the Executive Board from time to time.

The Executive Board have allowed members since the inception of DASG to carry their voting rights up to 31st December 2008, irrespective of the date a member achieved full membership. However, in order for members to be eligible to vote at the next AGM in Doha, members will be required to have paid their dues for 2009 as well as for 2010 before the AGM in Doha.

1.3 Termination of membership

Termination of membership can be initiated by the member of the Executive Board. A member may terminate his/her membership by writing to the Secretary-General at any given time with or without reason. The Executive Board may terminate a member if he has not paid his / her dues for more than one year from the due date in spite of written reminder [1].

2. Powers of the Executive Board

- (a) The affairs of the DASG shall be managed by the Executive Board and the Executive Board have the power to make rules & By-Laws for the purpose of administrating the affairs and business of DASG. All Executive Board members shall serve as volunteers and will not be entitled to any remuneration.

The day to day management of the DASG are handled by the Managing Committee as per powers delegated by the Executive Board.

The Managing Committee comprises of President, Vice-President, Secretary-General, and Treasurer.

- (b) The Majority decision of the Executive Board, with regard to any matter and/or dispute between the DASG and any of its Members, shall be final

- (c) The Treasurer shall open account or accounts in a reputable internationally recognized bank for the DASG and keep a correct and accurate account of the receipts and expenditure of the DASG. He shall present the quarterly income and expenditure account to the Executive Board.
- (d) The Financial Year of DASG will be from 1st January to 31st December from one year.
- (e) The Treasurer is authorized to sign a cheque only after authorization by the President and if the President is not available then by the Vice President.
- (f) Treasurer shall have the accounts of the DASG audited once a year by a qualified Accountant.
- (g) The Secretary-General shall keep proper minutes of all meetings of the DASG including that of the Executive Board. All records of the DASG shall be in the custody of the Secretary-General.
- (h) The Executive Board may appoint and employ staff at such remuneration and salaries as the Executive Board may consider reasonable. It shall also have the power to terminate or suspend any person appointed / employed in the DASG
- (i) The Executive Board shall have the power to retain professional services of Lawyers, Accountants, Surveyors, valuers or any other professional person on behalf of DASG when necessary.
- (j) The Executive Board shall have the power to appoint special Sub Committees for specific purposes and to make rules for the conduct of those special Sub Committees.
- (k) No Member of the Executive Board shall be entitled to any remuneration, except by way of disbursement of actual expenses incurred by him/her on behalf of the DASG in the discharge of duties entrusted to him by the Executive Board.
- (l) If there is an unexpected vacancy arising from death, disability or resignation of an

Executive Board member, the Executive Board has the right to fill the vacancy immediately by postal ballot by a simple majority

3. Executive Board Meetings

- (a) The Executive Board shall meet at least once a year or more often as they require at a convenient venue, time and date subjected to the availability of funds.
- (b) Notice of an Executive Board meeting shall be given 45 days prior to such a meeting and shall state venue, date and time. It shall include the agenda, minutes of the previous meeting and interim reports from the Secretary-General.
- (c) The quorum for an Executive Board Meeting shall be seven.
- (d) Voting at all Executive Board meetings shall be by secret ballot. In the event of a tie, the vote of the chair will be the deciding factor.

4. Site of Office/ bank accounts of DASG

The Head Office of DASG is in Doha, State of Qatar, unless the Executive Board decides to change its location.

5. Amendment of the By-Laws

- (a) Amendments to the by-laws can be proposed by any member of Executive Board & sent to the Secretary-General.
- (b) The Secretary-General shall circulate the proposed amendment to all the members of the Executive Board, with in one week of receiving the proposed amendment. The proposed amendment shall be discussed at the next meeting of the Executive Board. There should be a clear gap of 45 days between the circulation of the proposed amendment & the regular meeting of the Executive Board.
- (c) The Executive Board have a right to accept or reject the proposed amendment by 2/3 majority [1].

Website of DASG

The official website of Diabetes in Asia Study Group is; <http://da-sg.org/public/index>

References

1. DASG - diabetes in asia study group available at: <http://da-sg.org/public/index> (last assessed 3-2-19)
2. Journal of Diabetology: About us available at: <http://www.journalofdiabetology.org/aboutus.asp> (last assessed 3-2-19)

Picture Glossary



Meeting held at Cape Town in which DASG founded

Journal of DASG



Picture of cover pages of Journal of Diabetology (JOD) in left the cover page of 1st issue of JOD and in right side latest issue cover page of JOD



Inauguration ceremony of Journal of diabetology in 2nd DASG conference held in Qatar.

1st DASG conference



Inauguration ceremony of 1st DASG conference held at Kathmandu, Nepal on 16th to 18th October, 2008.

2nd DASG Conference



2nd DASG conference was held in Doha, Qatar in collaboration with IDF, Qatar Diabetic Association and Qatar Foundation on 26-27 march 2010.

3rd DASG Conference



The 3rd biennial conference of DASG was held on 13th to 15th, April 2012 in Mumbai, India.

4th DASG Conference



The 4th DASG Conference was held in Muscat, Oman from May 1st to May 3rd in 2014 with support and cooperation from the Oman Ministry of Health.

5th DASG Conference



The 5th Biannual Meeting of Diabetes in DASG was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh on April 16th to 17th, 2016.

6th DASG Conference



The 6th biennial conference of DASG was held in Cairo, Egypt on 8-11 march, 2018 in conjunction with the 13th Upper Egypt Diabetes Association (UEDA) Conference.