

**International Diabetes Federation**

Avenue Emile De Mot 19
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium
Telephone +32-2-5385511
Telefax +32-2-5385114
info@idf.org
www.idf.org | VAT BE433.674.528

The consensus workshop: a unique process

The IDF new worldwide definition of the metabolic syndrome was developed during a unique consensus workshop.

The new definition is truly global in its reach and relevance and able to build upon the earlier work done by WHO and ATP III because it represents the views of a broad range of experts in the fields of diabetes, cardiology, lipidology, public health, epidemiology, genetics, metabolism and nutrition from six continents.

Professors Sir George Alberti and Paul Zimmet developed the idea for the consensus workshop on behalf of the IDF Epidemiology Task Force. They were responsible for selecting and inviting participants, several of whom were members of the Task Force.

Twenty-one participants from Europe, North and South America, Asia, Africa and Australia gathered in London in 2004 to build on current research and knowledge and to develop an accessible tool to identify metabolic syndrome in clinical practice throughout the world. The group also came to a consensus on a 'platinum standard' definition, which highlights additional metabolic criteria which should be measured in all research conducted in this field from this point onwards.

After the meeting, Professor Sir George Alberti, Professor Paul Zimmet and Dr Jonathan Shaw convened a writing group, charged with developing the results of the meeting in to a paper which has now been submitted for publication. Dr Scott Grundy was a consultant to the writing group.

Consensus group

Professor Sir George Alberti

Corresponding author consensus statement

Senior Research Fellow at Imperial College, London
National Clinical Director for Emergency Access, UK

Professor Paul Zimmet

Writing Group

Director, International Diabetes Institute
Caulfield General Medical Centre, Melbourne, Australia

Dr Jonathan Shaw

Writing Group

Director of Clinical Research
International Diabetes Institute, Melbourne, Australia

Dr Scott M. Grundy

Consultant to Writing Group

Director, Department of Clinical Nutrition
Southwestern Medical Center, University of Texas, Dallas, USA



Dr Pablo Aschner

Colombiana de Diabetes
Santafe de Bogota, Columbia

Dr Beverley Balkau

Director of Research, INSERM Unit 258
Epidemiology of Cardiovascular and Metabolic Diseases, France

Dr Peter Bennett

Phoenix Epidemiology and Clinical Research Branch
NIDDK, National Institutes of Health, Phoenix, USA

Dr. Edward Boyko

Professor of Medicine
VA Puget Sound (111M), Seattle, USA

Dr. John Brunzell

Professor of Medicine - Division of Metabolism, Endocrinology and Nutrition
University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, USA

Professor Juliana Chan

Department of Medicine and Therapeutics
Prince of Wales Hospital, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Dr. Ralph DeFronzo

Professor of Medicine and Chief, Diabetes Division - Department of Medicine
University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, USA

Dr. Jean-Pierre Després

Lipid Research Center
Québec, Canada

Professor Leif Groop

Department of Endocrinology
University Hospital MAS, Lund University, Sweden

Professor Markku Laakso

Professor and Chair, Department of Medicine
Kuopio University of Hospital, Kuopio, Finland

Professor Jean Claude Mbanya

Diabetes & Endocrinology Unit
University of Yaounde 1, Republic of Cameroon

Professor Chang Yu Pan

Department of Endocrinology
Chinese PLA General Military Hospital, Beijing, China

Dr Ambady Ramachandran

Diabetes Research Centre and MV Hospital for Diabetes
India



Professor Dr. Eberhard Standl

Physician-in-Chief, Third Medical Department
(Diabetes and Metabolism, Endocrinology, Angiology)
Academic Hospital, Munich, Germany

Dr Michael Stern

Department of Medicine
University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, USA

Professor Jaakko Tuomilehto

Professor of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology and Health Promotion
National Public Health Institute, Helsinki, Finland

Dr. Nigel Unwin

Diabetes Action Now - A joint IDF-WHO initiative
World Health Organisation, Geneva, Switzerland

Contributors but unable to attend consensus meeting

Professor Pierre Lefèbvre

President of International Diabetes Federation (IDF)
Brussels, Belgium

Professor Philip Barter

Director, The Heart Research Unit
Sydney, Australia

Professor Yuji Matsuzawa

Sumitomo Hospital
Japan

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