



Insulin Dependent Diabetes Trust

IDDDT's 15th Birthday Debate joined with World Diabetes Day

Do attitudes need to change for people with diabetes to have real treatment choice?

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On November 10th IDDDT celebrated its 15th Birthday with an afternoon debate at the London Marriott Hotel, County Hall.

Dr Matthew Kiln and Mrs Jenny Hirst, co-founders of IDDDT, felt that a Debate between patients, health professionals, physicians and NHS diabetes policy leads was a fitting way to celebrate IDDDT's achievements and to debate the future of diabetes care.

The motion for the debate - ***Do attitudes need to change for people with diabetes to have real treatment choice*** – was chaired by Lord Clement-Jones CBE, who for many years was the Liberal Democrat spokesman on health. While in some respects the debate was light-hearted, the panel debated the underlying serious message of patient choice and patient care.

The panel consisted of people with diabetes, a consultant nurse and

consultants in the field of diabetes.

Speakers for the motion were:

Professor Simon Heller, Mrs Carolyn Murray, Dr Laurence Gerlis and Mrs Sue Cradock.

Speakers against the motion were:

Ms Jane Essex, Dr Charles Fox, Dr David Cavan and Dr John Chisholm

The audience was made up of people with diabetes and their partners, civil servants from the Department of Health and people with an interest in diabetes, including personnel from other health charities, all of whom voted unanimously for the motion.

It was felt that although attitudes are slowly changing, they are not fast enough for the majority of patients to benefit and unless the patient is articulate, forceful and well-informed, their care is often less

than satisfactory. The view was also expressed that pharmaceutical companies can, and do, withdraw insulins for commercial reasons leaving patients without the choice of a full range of insulins to suit their needs and while this remains the case, neither doctors nor patients have real choice.

Lord Clement-Jones in his summing-up said, *“It is clear from this afternoon’s debate that in cases where the patient is articulate, forceful and well-informed their care is usually good. However, in the majority of cases, patients with diabetes are being sold short. Healthcare professionals and patients need to be better-informed about all the treatments available, to work more closely in considering the patient’s programme of care and to communicate far better.”*

Following the debate, there was a reception at which Jenny Hirst cut IDDT’s Birthday cake and toasted the future of IDDT vowing that the Trust would continue to campaign to maintain supplies of all insulins so people with diabetes to have a fully informed choice of treatment.

World Diabetes Day – Background

World Diabetes Day is led by the International Diabetes Federation and this year’s theme is Diabetes Education.

Blue represents the ‘UNite for Diabetes’ campaign which was instrumental in the United Nations’ resolution recognising diabetes as a major threat to global health. So to mark this, the London Marriott Hotel was lit up blue along with the London Eye and the Shell Building.



London Marriott Hotel, County Hall.



The panel



Stephen Chadwick



Carolyn Murray



Celebrating its 15th Birthday.

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