

Pressrelease:

## **Austrian Diabetes Charta Adopted**

**The Austrian Diabetes Association (*Österreichische Diabetes Gesellschaft - "ÖDG"*) recently adopted the Austrian Diabetes Charta as a groundbreaking document outlining strategies against the widespread disease diabetes (with an estimated number of 600,000 sufferers in Austria, tendency increasing). The Austrian Minister of health, Alois Stöger, and the provinces Salzburg and Styria have already expressed their support for the charta, other leading organisations like the social insurance carriers shall also be involved.**

„The Austrian Diabetes Charta should be ground-breaking for future health policy decisions concerning the prevention and treatment of diabetes mellitus. Furthermore, the Charta highlights the fact that in many existing issues, Austria is already following a successful path” says Raimund Weitgasser, Associate Professor of Medicine, President of the Austrian Diabetes Association.

The Charta emphasises the importance of lifestyle changes, in particular regarding diet habits and increased exercise for children and adults. The document specifies the most important fields of action for diabetes and makes suggestions for the prevention, medical care and drug treatment, as well as for the improvement of care structures for children. The document stresses the urgency for an Austrian Diabetes registry and increased research funding for diabetes.

“The challenges that the diabetes epidemic poses for our health system are very often not fully perceived in the public discourse”, warns Weitgasser. “If the Austrian health system does not adopt the appropriate measures against diabetes immediately, grave consequences for the financing of our health system will be the result”.

„We are convinced, that the problem of diabetes and the associated health risks can only be tackled in a nationwide coordinated manner. We have to establish intelligent and efficient structures. Their main aim should be the behavioural modifications in the lifestyle of every individual. This is why we work intensively to raise public awareness for diabetes and its prevention and are very glad about every support from Austrian politics”, concludes Weitgasser.

The ÖDG, the scientific society of diabetes experts in Austria, promotes research and scientific exchange between scientists/physicians in order to improve diabetes care and patients' quality of life. The aim is to build a bridge between health care professionals and patients. The ÖDG organises congresses, funds research and publications and develops guidelines for diagnosis and treatment of diabetes and its complications. On the occasion of the ÖDG's Annual and Spring Meetings, scientific news are presented and discussed as well as “state of the art” lectures and workshops offer well balanced information for physicians, dietitians and diabetes educators.

---