

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 30, 2013 /PRNewswire-iReach/ -- On October 7-8, 2013, a distinguished group of scientists, physicians, psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses and experts from major diabetes centers across the country will be meeting at the Rittenhouse Hotel in Philadelphia to present the latest findings on Type 1 diabetes as it affects mental health. The primary goal of this groundbreaking conference, sponsored by Universal Health Services, Inc. (UHS), in conjunction with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), is to share research and design a new paradigm for the diagnosis and treatment of depression, eating disorders, anxiety, suicide, alcoholism and drug addiction that may accompany a life with Type 1 diabetes.

Lee Ducat, founder of JDRF and the (NDRI) National Disease Research Interchange, said, "Diabetes is epidemic in the US and throughout the world. We propose with the **Mental Health Issues of Diabetes Conference** (MHID), a nationwide effort to survey the field of mental health issues and diabetes clinical care. Ultimately we want to create new standardized modules of treatment across the passages of life."

JDRF board member and former Miss America, Nicole Johnson has Type 1 diabetes and will be attending the conference. She is an international diabetes consultant, advocate, and researcher of the psychosocial aspects of diabetes. Ms. Johnson is outspoken about the need for further diabetes research to study its effect on the brain.

Griffin P Rodgers, MD, Director (NIDDK) the National Institute of Diabetes Digestive and Kidney Disease (NIDDK) at the (NIH) National Institutes of Health will be the keynote speaker at the conference. Honorary Chairman is Arthur Rubenstein, MD, Immediate Past Dean, University of Pennsylvania, School of Medicine, and Professor, Department of Medicine. Conference co-chairs are Lee Ducat

,
Lou Philipson
MD, Ph.D., Professor,
University of Chicago
; and
Barbara Anderson
, Ph.D., Professor,
Baylor College of Medicine

Arthur Rubinstein
said, "We hope this unique conference will explore the possibilities of understanding, preventing and treating mental health issues related to Type 1 diabetes patients and their families."

Alan B. Miller, Chairman of the Board and CEO of UHS, headquartered in King of Prussia, PA, said, "We feel that we have a unique opportunity to develop a nationally recognized specialty product line or "centers of excellence" in this area. Our goal is to position UHS as the premier provider in treating patients with a combination of Type 1 diabetes and mental health conditions."

Current research indicates that eating disorders, substance abuse, depression and suicide may be more prevalent in people with Type 1 diabetes. UHS's Behavioral Health Division through its network of 195 facilities in 37 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands serves a high number of diabetics with complex mental health issues that are related to the disease.

Mr. Miller added, "Through landmark legislation like the Affordable Care Act and the 2008 Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act, we will continue to see a movement towards integrating mental health as a vital component to overall physical health. Healthcare providers will increasingly be required to address the patient's complex needs by treating both body and mind."

What makes this conference unique is that professionals from major diabetes centers such as Joslin Diabetes Center, Boston, Barbara Davis Center for Diabetes, University of Colorado, Kovler Diabetes Center, University of Chicago, the Rodebaugh Diabetes Center, University of Pennsylvania and others are converging to pool their experience and knowledge. Organizers goal is to develop a new model for screening, diagnosing and treating the mental health challenges for

First National Conference on Mental Health Issues of Diabetes

Written by Australian Business

those who suffer from diabetes.

Data gathered indicates depression is more prevalent in the diabetes community. The aim for this conference is to create comprehensive treatments for Type 1 diabetes which is based on medical and physical aspects as well as the mental health issues. For more information visit: www.mhidglobal.org or call 267-207-3515.

Media Contact: Laurel Fairworth, Cachet Communications, 215 219 9358, laurel@cachetcommunications.com

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