

Statement from the President and the Chairman

of Diabetes UK

and

Editorial from the Editor-in-Chief

on the following pages

Statement from the President of EASD and the Chairman of Diabetes UK, the conference hosts, on 12th September 2001

The President of EASD and the Chairman of the Local Organising Committee express their deep sympathy on behalf of all those attending the 37th Annual Meeting of EASD for the terrible tragedy and loss of life that occurred yesterday, 11th September, in the United States of America as a result of terrorist action. We remember particularly our friends and colleagues in the USA and the many people whose lives have been lost and their relatives who have been touched by these awful events.

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Editorial

The world in which we live

The 11th of September 2001 will remain engraved in the mind of humankind as the day when innocent people were killed by misguided fanatics flying hijacked planes into the towers of the World Trade Center in New York and into the Pentagon in Washington. These acts of brutal terrorism, unexpected and unprecedented, killed thousands of innocent office workers, airline passengers, firemen and passers-by within minutes. They have subsequently been followed by barbaric acts of insidious biological assaults with anthrax bacteria whose origin has not yet been identified.

This cruel murder of innocent people in the United States occurred at the time of the 37th Annual Meeting of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes in Scotland which was attended by 670 American colleagues, all deeply involved in the clinical and scientific aspects of diabetes care. Their shock at the unfolding tragedy in their country was shared by the ten thousand people attending the congress. On their behalf the President of the EASD and the conference hosts expressed their deep sympathy.

It is without doubt that the acts of mass terrorism perpetrated in New York and Washington have

sparked a crises that requires all us – both governments and citizens alike – to search for new ways of containing terrorism and of resisting hatred and ignorance.

Future terrorism will have to be contained by draining its social soil of poverty, injustice and misery. The goal of a safe world will not be achieved by diplomatic and military action alone but will require – among other things – an analysis of the causes of terrorism as well as a long-term commitment on the part of the global civil society, including the academic community at large and the medical profession in particular, to helping others. Tackling the causes of terrorism will require not only a thorough understanding of other cultures but also improvements in the standards of living of people deprived of the most basic needs. Eradicating poverty and providing health care and education to empower people should become the main weapons against terrorism.

Werner K. Waldhäusl
Editor-in-Chief