

BIOG

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Jane is the Secretary General, International Federation on Ageing (IFA) an international NGO with general consultative status at the UN and its agencies including the WHO. Her leadership drives the agenda for the world's population ageing, through the lens of the Decade of Healthy Ageing. Among her many current positions Jane is a Member, Vision Academy; Director, Baycrest Health Sciences, Associate Scientist, Sinai Health System; Member, Global Committee, Diabetic Retinopathy Barometer Program; Member, International Council for Adult Immunisation and Task, and CSO Representative, WHO COVAX Pillar "vaccine strategy" and Member of the European Interdisciplinary Council on Ageing Assembly.

ABSTRACT

The challenge of older people with diabetes

By 2040, diabetes will affect more than 642 million adults around the worldⁱ. Rapid global population ageing is one of the major drivers of this serious trend with older people representing one of the swiftest growing segments of the diabetes population. However, the story should not start and stop with statistics but rather how health care professionals, and especially nurses in diabetes can be central to creating an environment that enables older people with diabetes to do what they have reason to value rather than what the system dictates.

The action areas and enablers of the [UN Decade of Healthy Ageing](#) provide an important framework to examine societal and systemic barriers that impact the delivery of integrated care and primary health services responsive to their needs. An integrated system that is built on coordinated care holds promise of not only saving lives, but optimising function and autonomy.

Integrated diabetes education and care requires a strategic cross-sectoral, interdisciplinary approach that harnesses not only the latest advancements but drives a life course approach to management that includes prevention and access and equity by addressing the social determinants of health.

Diabetes does not discriminate when it comes to age. The way health professionals and nurses especially respond can be life altering and life saving
