PSAD overview of all the papers for the special issue -

From Strength to Strength: Why PsychoSocial Research in Diabetes Is More Important Than Ever

With a special issue in *Diabetic Medicine,* we celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the PsychoSocial Aspect of Diabetes (PSAD) Group. The special issue highlights the continued importance of psychosocial diabetes research. Bringing together 12 papers on emerging issues and future directions, the issue celebrates 30 years of progress while focusing firmly on the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. The landscape of diabetes research and care has evolved rapidly, driven by advances in diabetes therapeutics, technologies, screening, and data science, alongside increasing recognition of the value of interdisciplinary approaches and the amplification of lived experience voices. Yet these developments have not diminished the importance of psychosocial research. Rather, they have reinforced it.

The papers in this issue illustrate both the breadth of contemporary psychosocial diabetes research and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. While spanning diverse topics and methodologies, a common thread is the recognition that progress depends on bringing together different forms of expertise, including clinical, psychological, social and lived experience perspectives. Together, the papers in this special issue demonstrate a field that continues to evolve while remaining firmly grounded in its central purpose: improving the lives of people living with or affected by diabetes. They highlight the growing importance of lived experience partnerships, inclusive research, effective interventions, implementation science, and thoughtful engagement with emerging technologies. As diabetes care becomes increasingly sophisticated and data-driven, psychosocial research will be essential to ensuring that innovation translates into meaningful improvements in care, support and quality of life for all affected by diabetes.

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Dr. Maartje de Wit is an associate professor in Diabetes Psychology at the department of Medical Psychology Amsterdam UMC in the Netherlands. She received her PhD in 2008 with her thesis entitled: Monitoring and discussing health related quality of life (HRQOL) in adolescents with type 1 diabetes in routine care. In her research, she focusses on the psychosocial aspects of diabetes in youth and adults with type 1 diabetes. Her professional interests include participatory research involving people with diabetes in research projects, the development and evaluation of psychosocial (e-health) interventions and methods to further advance precision medicine in the psychosocial aspects of (early stage) type 1 diabetes. Topics of specific interest are: disturbed eating behaviours, diabetes distress, youth and their families, and the psychosocial aspects of early detection of type 1 diabetes.

Throughout her career, she has been an active member of ISPAD and of the PsychoSocial Aspects of Diabetes (PSAD) research group. Since 2020, she is an associate editor of Diabetic Medicine. Together with Dr. Rita Forde and Dr. Elizabeth Holmes-Truscott, she led the special issue in Diabetic Medicine to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the PSAD, focussing on emerging topics in the field of psychosocial research in diabetes.