



International Diabetes Federation

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The consensus workshop: a unique process

The IDF new worldwide definition of the metabolic syndrome was developed during a unique consensus workshop.

The new definition is truly global in its reach and relevance and able to build upon the earlier work done by WHO and ATP III because it represents the views of a broad range of experts in the fields of diabetes, cardiology, lipidology, public health, epidemiology, genetics, metabolism and nutrition from six continents.

Professors Sir George Alberti and Paul Zimmet developed the idea for the consensus workshop on behalf of the IDF Epidemiology Task Force. They were responsible for selecting and inviting participants, several of whom were members of the Task Force.

Twenty-one participants from Europe, North and South America, Asia, Africa and Australia gathered in London in 2004 to build on current research and knowledge and to develop an accessible tool to identify metabolic syndrome in clinical practice throughout the world. The group also came to a consensus on a 'platinum standard' definition, which highlights additional metabolic criteria which should be measured in all research conducted in this field from this point onwards.

After the meeting, Professor Sir George Alberti, Professor Paul Zimmet and Dr Jonathan Shaw convened a writing group, charged with developing the results of the meeting in to a paper which has now been submitted for publication. Dr Scott Grundy was a consultant to the writing group.

Consensus group

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