

NEWS

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DFCON 08 GLOBAL CONFERENCE ATTRACTS DIABETIC FOOT 'THOUGHT LEADERS' FROM 50 COUNTRIES

Bringing together a record number of diabetes “thought leaders” from 50 countries, DFCon 08 was termed a “massive success” by organizers. The global diabetic foot conference, sponsored by Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center, was held March 13-15, 2008, in Los Angeles.

With 850 delegates from all 50 U.S. states and 50 nations, and a distinguished international faculty, the annual meeting serves as a premier gathering place for disseminating new research and practical knowledge on diabetic foot issues and on the fight against diabetes-related amputations.

“This year’s conference was nothing short of a massive success – we had world leaders in many different disciplines sharing their knowledge in an integrated way,” said George Andros, MD, conference co-chair and a renowned vascular surgeon who is director of the Diabetic Foot Center and director of vascular services at Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center in Burbank, Calif.

"Every 30 seconds someone loses a leg due to diabetes," said David G. Armstrong, DPM, PhD, conference co-chair. "This meeting, in bringing together top physicians, surgeons, nurses and therapists from around the world, has become a rallying point to help change that interval," said Dr. Armstrong, who is associate dean, professor of surgery and

director of the William M. Scholl College's Center for Lower Extremity Ambulatory Research (CLEAR) at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science in Chicago.

Drs. Andros and Armstrong also participated in a live satellite link from the conference with about two dozen television and radio stations across the country that reached an audience of more than one million.

Feedback from conference delegates was enthusiastic. Said Rene D. Perez-Silva, MD, an internist in Long Beach, Calif: "The breadth of the topics was truly amazing, from how to obtain a proper culture to advance modalities for treatment. The information I learned will be put to use in my practice on Monday morning -- that's how relevant it was."

"The seminars, the faculty, the food were without equal," said Bret M. Ribotsky, DPM, of Boca Raton, Fla.

"Few (conferences) involve as many global thought-leaders in the field of medicine as DFCon -- Drs. Andros and Armstrong foster diversity, dialogue and rich exchanges," said Wayne Zefeldt, senior manager/professional affairs at KCI USA. KCI was one of more than 80 corporate exhibitors/supporters at the conference.

Advances presented and discussed at this year's meeting ranged from stem cell therapy to heal wounds and improve vascular disease to special thermometers that identify potentially amputation-causing wounds of the foot.

DFCon presented its 2008 Edward James Olmos Award for Advocacy in Amputation Prevention to Benjamin A. Lipsky, MD, of the University of Washington and the VA Puget Sound Acute Care System in Seattle.

Next year's conference, DFCon 09, is set for March 19-21, 2008, again at the Renaissance Hollywood Hotel in Los Angeles.

For more information on the conference, visit www.DFCon.com or contact Dennis A. Vitrella, conference director, at 337-235-6606, dennis@dfcon.com.

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