



**Re: Invitation to InterConnect meeting; a follow up to the EC Diabetes conference**

In 2012, the European Commission hosted an international conference on *“Diabetes – A world-wide challenge: Towards a global initiative on gene-environment interactions in diabetes/obesity in specific populations”* to build wider co-operation to address the global health imperative presented by rising levels of diabetes and obesity.

The **Diabetes** meeting report ([http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/pdf/diabetes-conference-report-022012\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/pdf/diabetes-conference-report-022012_en.pdf)) highlights a consensus that better measured and more detailed study of phenotypes and the environment across the lifespan is needed along with greater international collaboration, long-term studies and trials, and increased sharing of data.

The vision from the **Diabetes** Conference is now being taken forward by the **InterConnect** project (<http://www.interconnect-diabetes.eu/>) which is funded by the European Union FP7 programme and aims to change the way that data is used in population research into the causes of diabetes and obesity. **InterConnect** seeks to develop a shared vision between researchers, stakeholders and funders on a new approach to data sharing that is scalable and sustainable within a simple governance framework to facilitate international co-operation and collaboration.

You are warmly invited to take part in a discussion about **InterConnect** and to find out how your organisation can be part of this innovation. Moreover, if you know of a colleague to whom this meeting might be of interest, please do let us know. This will be an interactive event, to develop a common understanding of the challenges of data sharing and how, together, these can be addressed. The event is for representatives from funders of research with an interest in maximising the value of their investment, and the wide range of stakeholder organisations with interest in the policy, social and economic benefits of diabetes research that would be enabled by more effective data sharing.

The meeting will be held at **The University Foundation in Brussels, Belgium** (<http://www.fondationuniversitaire.be>) on **Friday 10 October 2014** from 10.30 until 16.30. To register, please RSVP to Signe Soderlund at [Ses80@medschl.cam.ac.uk](mailto:Ses80@medschl.cam.ac.uk). Registration is free of charge; however numbers are limited to one person per institution (unless a special request is made), **deadline for registration is Friday 5 September 2014**. Accommodation for one night (9 or 10 October) is available to participants from public institutions.

Please inform us of the following in your email:

### 1. Personal details

Title

Full name

Institution/organisation

City and country

Contact email

Contact telephone number

### 2. Accommodation

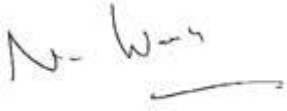
If you require accommodation for 9 or 10 October (public institutions only)

### 3. Special requirements

Any e.g. wheelchair access, diet requirements or allergies

You can find out more about **InterConnect** via [www.InterConnect-diabetes.eu](http://www.InterConnect-diabetes.eu). Specific queries about the event can be addressed by contacting Sarah Hills at [Sarah.Hills@euradia.org](mailto:Sarah.Hills@euradia.org) or Signe Soderlund at [Ses80@medschl.cam.ac.uk](mailto:Ses80@medschl.cam.ac.uk)

We look forward to lively and productive discussion.



With kind regards

Professor Nick Wareham

InterConnect Co-ordinator

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*Message sent on behalf of Professor Wareham by Signe Soderlund*

*Administrative Assistant*

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