



Pr Jamal BELKHADIR

President of the Moroccan League for the Fight against Diabetes
President of the International Diabetes Federation MENA Region

Dear friends and colleagues,

With your support, the **Moroccan League for the Fight against Diabetes** had a year 2019, rich in scientific and medico-social events:

1- **The 8th National Conference on Diabetes and Nutrition, “ Diabetes Morocco 2019”** on July 5th and 6th 2019, under the aegis of the Ministry of Health, National Education, Professional Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research and the National Council of the National Order of Physicians.

2- **The celebration of World Diabetes Day, November 9th and 10th, 2019 in Laâyoune**, with the support of the Wilaya of Laâyoune Sakia El Hamra and in collaboration with the provincial medical delegation of Laâyoune.

3- **A continuing medical education program for physicians and nurses** in different regions of Morocco, having started in Kenitra (January and March 2019) and in November 2019 in Laayoune during World Diabetes Day.

4- **The adoption by the Moroccan Parliament** in December 2018 of the soda tax, then in December 2019 of a progressive internal consumption tax (ICT) on sugary drinks proportional to their sugar concentration. The aim is to encourage manufacturers to reduce the sugar content of sugary and energy drinks to avoid over-taxation. This acquisition was defended by the Moroccan League for the Fight against Diabetes in collaboration with the Moroccan Society of Nutrition, Health and Environment and a group of experts from the Ministry of Health, Nutritionists and Parliamentarians.

5- **The participation in numerous scientific activities** at the national, Maghrebian, African and regional level, with the presidency of the International Diabetes Federation MENA Region for the year 2020 and 2021.

This year 2020 began with the COVID-19 pandemic which affected health systems in a severe and unprecedented way, with unprecedented disastrous economic and social consequences. A vibrant tribute to the health professionals who have shown dedication and total selflessness in the face of the epidemic.

On the other hand, and despite the negative impact of COVID-19, the program of the Moroccan League for the Fight against Diabetes, includes many activities:

1- **The 9th National Conference on Diabetes and Nutrition, "Diabetes Morocco 2020"** at the Ibn Tofail University in Kénitra, on November 12th - 14th, 2020.

2- **The virtual scientific activities** through multiple webinars, including the Moroccan League for the Fight against Diabetes, the IDF MENA Region and the IDF Africa.

3- **Online surveys on Diabetes** among health professionals in the Maghreb and in the MENA Region.

4- **The celebration of World Diabetes Day 2010 on November 15, 2020 in Kenitra**, under the theme "**Diabetes : The Nurses make the Difference**" with an education and awareness campaign for diabetics and the general public.

This year, under the aegis of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of National Education, Professional Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research and the National Council of the National Order of Physicians, the Moroccan League for the Fight against Diabetes organizes the **9th National Conference on Diabetes and Nutrition, Diabetes Morocco 2020 at Ibn Tofail University in Kénitra, on November 12th - 14th, 2020.**

This event will be organized in collaboration with the Moroccan Society of Endocrinology, Diabetology and Nutrition, the Moroccan Society of Nutrition, Health and Environment, the Ibn Tofail University, the Designated Regional Center for Nutrition AFRA / IAEA (Ibn Tofail University - CNESTEN) and the Regional Medical Delegation of the Province of Kenitra. **Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, this congress will be in virtual mode.**

The program, centered on Diabetes and Nutrition and spread over two days, will bring together national experts from different backgrounds (academia, public and private) and will allow participants to follow the news in Diabetology and Nutrition, with in particular the COVID-19 consequences. It will also be an opportunity to present the work and surveys testifying to our country's efforts in the fight against Diabetes and Nutrition Diseases.

Also, we would like to reiterate our heartfelt thanks to all those who continue to give their support for the success of the activities of the Moroccan League in the Fight against Diabetes and Noncommunicable Diseases. **We also take this opportunity to pay a vibrant tribute to the Presidency of Ibn Tofail University**, and to the entire teaching and communication team for their precious collaboration.

We are confident that the year 2020, which started with this pandemic in a global panic, will have a less unfavorable outcome and a rapid end, especially for the vulnerable, elderly and person with diabetes.