

# DPAC in the News

MARCH 2008, ISSUE 3

*We are well into the first quarter of 2008 and there are many exciting opportunities for DPAC members this year! We send a warm welcome to our newest members: SHARICE PURMAN (Director, ADA in Grand Rapids), DOLLIE GRANT (Associate Manager, ADA Special Events), DAVID JONES (Associate Manager, ADA Community Outreach), DONNA RICE (CDE, Botsford Hospital in Novi) and JIM SLAUGHTER (Executive Director, JDRF in Southfield).*

*We look forward to our entire membership's valuable contributions that will make Michigan a better place to live for people with diabetes. See you soon!*

*The Communication and Public Awareness Workgroup*

## DARE Workgroup

Workgroup members will be keeping an eye out to spotlight important information from recent research with a special focus on *identifying information addressing the uninsured and access to care issues*. At a recent meeting, they also confirmed their goal to support other DPAC workgroups with survey development and data analysis. Please contact the team if you have evaluation needs at [ragnhildb@mcclaren.org](mailto:ragnhildb@mcclaren.org)

## Advocacy and Policy

The DPAC Advocacy Workgroup will be hosting a special web-based training to prepare DPAC members and others interested in advocating for diabetes and kidney disease programs and funding. Please join us for **Advocacy 101 on Thursday March 27, 2008 from noon-1:00 pm**. To register for the Advocacy 101 training, please send the following information to Alex Simpson at [asimpson@nkfm.org](mailto:asimpson@nkfm.org): your name, your organization and your phone number.

**Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>: JDRF Education Series "Diabetes Today and Tomorrow" (Livonia)** – An educational and networking conference for persons with diabetes, their families and the medical care community. Contact Jim Slaughter at 248-355-1133 for more information.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER...**

**Tuesday, March 25: Diabetes Alert Day**, an ADA event. For the risk test, visit <http://www.diabetes.org/risk-test.jsp>  
**Wednesday, April 9: DPAC Board meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 16: Advocacy Day**  
**Friday, April 25: MODE Spring Conference**, Marquette  
**Thursday, May 22: Full Member DPAC Meeting**



## **SPOTLIGHT INTERVIEW...**

**Interview with Carol Grafford, RD CDE, President of the Michigan Organization of Diabetes Educators (MODE) by Ann Scott, MODE representative to DPAC**

[Please tell me how you came to be a Diabetes Educator?](#)

CG: "In 1985, I had a personal diabetes medical crisis, after which I started going to a support group led by Barb Teller, one of the first Certified Diabetes Educators. She became my mentor. I went back to school (University of Minnesota) and became a dietitian and eventually became a CDE. I am an educator at Portage Health in Hancock."

[What do you like most about being an educator?](#)

CG: "I love it best when a client "gets it," when "it clicks" for them, such as that moment when they move from pre-contemplation to contemplation or from preparation to action. I love to see them take charge."

[What are some issues with diabetes that you think need work?](#)

CG: "Prevention, Prevention, Prevention. The number of persons with Type 2 diabetes is huge. This growing epidemic is impacting all age groups. We have a children's clinic and continue to see increasing numbers of children with metabolic syndrome and Type 2 diabetes. The challenge is... What to do? There are many factors and challenges but diabetes prevention should be an area of continued work and great effort."

[Tell me a little about MODE and your involvement prior to becoming President ?](#)

CG: "MODE/AADE is my professional affiliation of choice because diabetes education is my passion. I have served as region representative and have been on the AADE advocacy committee. What brought me to seeking the presidency is my past involvement with the Michigan Dietetic Association. I was president of MDA from 2002-2003."

*Carol and Ann finished their discussion by sharing ideas on how DPAC and MODE can work closer together to leverage the combined efforts toward diabetes education and self-management. The plan is to increase communication through linking websites, sharing newsletters, and keeping informed of various events taking place in Michigan. Together we will make everyone more knowledgeable in the fight against diabetes! Thanks Carol and Ann.*

