

1st European and Mediterranean
Research network
on healthy feet

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SoHealthy
www.sohealthyproject.eu

Feb 26th 2014 - One day conference on:

Footwear and Orthotic Research & Innovation for Healthier Feet

Hosted by the University of Salford this one day conference is free to attend and is organised as part of the EU wide “SoHealthy” project supporting research and innovation in footwear and orthotics.

With special focus on the needs of people with diabetes, obesity and older people, the agenda is to:

- share knowledge of the foot and lower limb problems that can be addressed with footwear and orthotics
- share knowledge of the services and products available in the UK and EU-Mediterranean countries
- hear the what clinicians and industrialists consider to be future priorities
- explore what is “state of the art” in terms of foot problems, solutions and services for those foot problems.
- Develop a shared vision for the future research and education priorities for the footwear and orthotics sector.

Programme:

9.00 Welcome from the SOHEALTHY project, its partners and summary of its activities (15 minutes).

9.15 - Session 1: Defining the foot health problem

- Foot health and aging, Dr Farina Hashmi, University of Salford (15 mins)
- Obesity and feet, Dr Stewart Morrison, University of East London (15 mins)
- Diabetes related foot health - at what cost? Charlie McLaughlin and Graham Nuttall, Orthotists, NHS East Lancs Healthcare Trust (20mins)
- Putting Feet First Campaign, Julie Byron, Diabetes UK, (15 mins)
- Patient perspective (15 mins)

10.45 coffee, demonstration and poster session - displays of Footwear and Orthotic projects, *including accessing EU research funds - HORIZON 2020*

11.15 Session 2: UK initiatives

- UK Footwear Special Interest Group, Dr Jane McAdam Chair, UK Footwear Specialist Interest Group (15 mins)
- Healthy Footwear Group, Professor Wesley Vernon OBE, (15mins)
(questions after each speaker)
- Changes in footwear and orthotic use in the UK, Colin Hurley, Orthotic section of the British Healthcare Trades Association (15 mins)
- National Orthotic Managers Group, Simon Dickinson, Chair, NOMag - NHS in-house orthotic managers group (15 mins)
- User involvement in foot health research - the important voices, Dr Anita Williams, University of Salford (15 mins)

12.30 Lunch

1.15 Session 3: International initiatives

- Diabetes and foot health in Tunisia, Dr. Nejib Ben Abdullah, Professor, Faculty of Medicine of Tunis and President of the Tunisian Association of Diabetologists (15 mins)
- European perspective on footwear technology, Dr Enrique Montiel, INESCOP, Spain (15 minutes)
- Foot health in Morocco, Ms Dr. Hind Benziane, President of Moroccan National Association of Podiatrists (15 minutes)
- AFOOTPRINT , Professor Jim Woodburn, Glasgow Caledonian University (15 mins)
- SMARTPIF project - Angel Camp, IVPIE, Valencia, Spain (15 minutes)
- Re-education and functional rehabilitation, Pr. Catherine Dziri, Chief of service, Physical Medicine, National Orthopaedic Institute Mohamed Kassab, Tunisia. (15 mins)
- International actions on diabetes related foot health, Michelle Cullen, University of Salford (15 mins)
(questions after each speaker)

3.00 Quick coffee break!

3.15 Session 4: perspectives from industry

- DB shoes, Charles Denton (10 mins)
- The Society of Shoe Fitters, Laura West (10 mins)
- Salfordinsole Healthcare, Paul Lawless (10 mins)
- Load bearing 3D Foot and ankle imaging using the pedCAT, Guy Long, Curve Beam Europe. (10 mins)

4.05 Round table discussion.

4.30 close

European-Mediterranean Research Network on Footcare Sector – Project summary

The **SOHEALTHY** Project is a transnational initiative with the aim of enhancing the cooperation between Europe and Mediterranean basin countries in the footwear and footcare sector. It focuses on issues of high importance and impact for society, such as people affected by diabetes, obesity and ageing.

Current and future footwear research has a crucial role in preventing and treating important foot problems. Due to the alarming rise of obesity and diabetes, and the ageing population, it is expected that the demand for footwear and footcare products and services from will increase dramatically. This will increase the burden on health care resources but also drive innovative solutions. These groups represent important market opportunities for industry.



The SOHEALTHY Project tries to gather all representative agents of the footcare sector chain, from researchers to health care professionals, patient associations and industrialists. The aim is to create an environment for improved dialogue between agencies and facilitate transfer of knowledge. This will promote the development of a **Strategic Research Agenda** to prioritise current and future R&D needs. The long term ambition is that this agenda translates into new high added value products and services for people with foot problems.

The creation of an Expert Community in the EU-Med area is one of the main expected results of the project. Health care experts and industrial professionals that join our community will be able to get access to the results generated in the project; they will also be able to participate in the workshops, conferences and events related to the project and gain access to the presentations. These experts will be incorporated into the expert database that will be available on the project website, with a significant impact at a European and Mediterranean level, and they will be able to promote those courses and/or conferences that are related to the topics of the project through the SOHEALTHY website. **The project expects to reach in excess of 3000 stakeholders in the footwear and footcare sector across the EU.** The experts will be updated with news related to the sector, etc. All these benefits will be enjoyed free of charge thanks to funding from the European Commission.

We therefore encourage you to participate in this unique experience, at no-cost, and join the SOHEALTHY Expert Community!

5. GET INVOLVED!

- ~ It is free of charge
- ~ Be part of a high-level scientific and technology cooperation network
- ~ Get access to high quality information and participate in the results of the project
- ~ Be part of the first community of the footcare sector at a Euro-Mediterranean level
- ~ Participate in high level events and conferences
- ~ Participate actively in the decision-making process for future R&D agenda
- ~ Receive news related to the sector and SOHEALTHY project
- ~ www.sohealthy.eu

