Innovations in Diabetes Management

This year, Diabetes SA celebrated World Diabetes Day with a seminar focused on innovations in type 1 diabetes management, on Wednesday 11 November at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

Light refreshments were provided from 6.30pm and there was an opportunity for all attendees to visit trade displays and see the different insulin pumps, smart meters and continuous blood glucose monitoring devices currently available in Australia.

After introduction by Diabetes SA’s General Manager Fiona Benton, Endocrinologist Dr Elaine Pretorius presented a very insightful overview of the latest research and trials in type 1 diabetes. Discussed were trials covering the possibility of creating new beta cells, transplanting islet cells, future progress of development of the bionic pancreas, and the most recent nanotechnology advancements.

CDE Tania Kelly presented second segment of the seminar, covering latest technology advancements in type 1 diabetes management. Discussed were the future directions in blood glucose monitoring such as 'smart tattoos', smart contact lenses, iWatch and 'gluco track' devices.

Improved technology in insulin delivery modes sees thinner and lubricated syringes and pen needles, as well reusable, disposable and needle free devices. Insulin delivery in the future could involve inhaled insulin spray, insulin patch, oral insulin, or intranasal glucagon. CDE Tania Kelly predicted that 'closing the loop' with better CGM accuracy and reliable glucose control algorithms will come in small steps over time.

Also provided was information about latest diabetes apps for smart phones to improve diabetes management.

The seminar concluded at 9pm. Both presenters were very engaging and informative and received some wonderful feedback from members and registrants.
Thank you to all who attended and organised the seminar, making it a great success.
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The National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS) is an initiative of the Australian Government.