

# CLOSE CONCERNS

Diabetes Close Up, V 2, #5  
March 16, 2003

Greetings! It's raining in San Francisco today, but it's supposed to be beautiful week! I hope this finds you all well. A few items on the diabetes docket that I thought might interest you:

**1. Pick up today's *New York Times*:** If you don't have it already, I recommend getting a copy of today's *New York Times* - the entire issue of the Magazine is focused on "Medicine and its Myths" - some very interesting pieces. This issue includes an article, attached, by Austin Bunn called "The Bittersweet Science" - it's essentially a history of diabetes and its treatments - it's pretty amazing how extreme treatments can become before actual medical breakthroughs occur. While those deeply immersed in diabetes won't glean new factual information from the piece, the perspective is valuable nonetheless - reminded me once again how much we owe to Banting and Best. Interestingly, the piece touches on *The Discovery of Insulin* by Michael Bliss, a gripping volume that I'm just now reading - fascinating even for those less obsessed than I on this subject.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/16/magazine/16BODY.html> (free reg. required)

**2. Yesterday's NYT also had two intriguing pieces on stem cells** - also attached - one on bone marrow use in patients with diabetes and one more general one about all the money going toward stem cells. While clearly this is going to take awhile to bring to fruition, I still like to think Bush is fighting a losing battle.

**3. Bittersweet: Diabetes, Insulin, and the Transformation of Illness:** "The Bittersweet Science" I mentioned above in today's NYT also cites a new book coming out by John Christopher Feudtner - it looks like a different take on the history of the disease. It will be shipped the last week of May - conveniently, in time for the ADA. No doubt, they'll be signing copies in New Orleans! If interested, check it out on Amazon.

[http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0807827916/qid=1047838217/sr=8-1/ref=sr\\_8\\_1/104-6781414-6247939?v=glance&s=books&n=507846](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0807827916/qid=1047838217/sr=8-1/ref=sr_8_1/104-6781414-6247939?v=glance&s=books&n=507846)

**4. Conference reminders:** As a reminder, here are upcoming key meetings this conference season:

- **AACE - American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists** - May 14-18, San Diego. No early registration. Looks like good sessions on pediatric Type 2 and bariatric surgery, among others.
- **ADA - American Diabetes Association:** June 8 - 14, New Orleans. If you aren't signed up yet, you've missed the early registration special - no matter, but I would get hotel reservations soon, they're going fast. Plans to dine at NOLA are always nice too : >  
<http://www.diabetes.org/main/application/commercewf> (click under HCP)
- **AADE - American Association of Diabetes Educators:** August 6-9, Salt Lake City.  
<http://www.aadenet.org/> (click on HCP)
- **IDF/EASD - International Fed. Diabetes:** August 24-29, Paris. This combined meeting (IDF/EASD) should be a great one. Register by April 15 to obtain early registration special.  
<http://www.easd.org/> or <http://www.idfparis2003.org/>
- **NAASO - North Amer. Assoc. for Study of Obesity:** October 11-15 [www.naaso.org/meetings/](http://www.naaso.org/meetings/)

**5. New economic costs of diabetes stats:** The economic costs associated with diabetes in the U.S. have hit \$132 billion (up 34% since 1997's \$98 b estimate), according to the March *Diabetes Care*. Some of you have seen this - for those that haven't, I've attached the piece - a worthwhile read - and my short summary of key stats. I know we're all jaundiced by numbers, but .. this is \$250K/minute! Pressure continues to mount.

Take care! Fond wishes for a happy St. Patrick's Day tomorrow. best kelly

*Note: Kelly L. Close is a specialized consultant to the medical technology/pharmaceutical industries. All observations expressed are Kelly's opinions alone and should not be viewed as recommendations to investors on any companies in the industry. If you prefer not to be included on Diabetes Close Up mailings, or if you know others who would like to be on the mailing list for future occasional observations, please send a message to [info@closeconcerns.com](mailto:info@closeconcerns.com).*