

March 25, 2015

To Governor Nikki Haley and the Members of the General Assembly:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Diabetes Initiative of South Carolina (DSC), I am pleased to present our Twentieth Annual Report (calendar year 2014). This report was requested in the Diabetes Initiative of South Carolina Act, Chapter 39, Section 44-39.

Diabetes mellitus is a major public health problem in South Carolina. In 2013, South Carolina ranked fourth highest in the nation in the percent of adult population with diabetes.

The DSC is committed to the reduction of excess economic and health burdens linked to the diabetes epidemic in our state. The DSC works to partner with other programs that facilitate activities and interventions creating a cost efficient network for diabetes care throughout South Carolina. The DSC sponsors many programs, which focus on the importance of blood glucose control, blood pressure control, healthy eating, weight control, physical activity, foot care, and reducing disparities in health care delivery. The DSC reports the prevalence of kidney failure, blindness, stroke, heart disease, and amputations in people with diabetes in South Carolina. The DSC board is composed of members from numerous sources throughout the state, including academic medical centers, clinicians, certified diabetes educators, the South Carolina Hospital Association, SC DHEC, SC DHHS, and the South Carolina Medical Association.

A major function of the DSC is the organization of several educational programs for various health professionals about diabetes and its complications. The DSC has sponsored twenty Annual Diabetes Fall Symposia for Primary Health Care Professionals highlighting education and different aspects relating to diabetes mellitus. This symposium is an annual 2-day statewide program that supplies both a comprehensive diabetes management update to all primary care professionals and an opportunity for attendees to obtain CMEs, CEUs, and other continuing education credits at a low cost. Additionally, the DSC sponsors a Diabetes Strategies for the Twenty-First Century program annually in the winter. In March, the DSC offers a Diabetes Under the Dome Day that occurs at the legislature to provide screening for diabetes and educational input about diabetes for our state's representatives and other professionals at the state house.

We thank you for your past support and hope that you will accept the DSC accomplishments as part of your administration. We look forward to providing you the new 2015 strategies and successes on behalf of the DSC related activities in next year's report.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the DSC Board,



Kathie L. Hermayer, MD, MS, FACE
Board Chair, Diabetes Initiative of South Carolina