Diabetes mellitus is a world-wide devastating chronic health condition, estimated to cause a death every 10 seconds. Diabetes mellitus Type 2 (which accounts for up to 90% of all diabetes cases) is often described as a “disease of civilization”, as it was seen during the 20th century to become more prevalent in societies with “advancing” life-styles.

A more trenchant view positions Type 2 diabetes as a disease of technology, large and small, that has altered the human energy balance, been responded to with drugs and devices, and generated new markets in health and disease. Dr Chris Feudtner, a pediatrician, historian, and ethicist at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, argues that efforts to control diabetes, if they are to be effective, must understand and address the entire disease system. His co-speaker at this seminar is Dr Gojka Roglic, Medical Officer, Department of Chronic Diseases and Health Promotion.