



# SUPPORT DIABETES RESEARCH AT NIH

DIABETES IS A CHRONIC, OFTEN LIFE-THREATENING, DISEASE IN WHICH THE BODY EITHER DOES NOT MAKE ENOUGH INSULIN OR CANNOT USE IT AS WELL AS IT SHOULD. DIABETES AFFECTS MORE THAN 37 MILLION AMERICANS FROM ALL BACKGROUNDS. ENDOCRINE SCIENTISTS STUDY THE PROCESSES GOVERNING THE PRODUCTION OF INSULIN AND RESPONSE TO GLUCOSE AND ARE RESEARCHING BETTER TREATMENTS AND CURES.

## **NIDDK LEADS THE NATION'S DIABETES RESEARCH STRATEGY**

Within the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) is leading the field by providing research support and funding for basic and clinical research on diabetes. For example, NIDDK funded scientists are helping us understand the complex genetic contributors to diabetes, which may pave the way towards advanced precision medicine, and are developing new artificial pancreas technologies that allow patients to better manage blood sugar levels. Clinical research studies funded by NIDDK are helping us understand the development of type-2 diabetes in youth, including the health disparities faced by racial and ethnic minority groups.

Providing NIH and NIDDK with sustainable increases in funding also allows the institute to adapt to public health emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. NIDDK quickly recognized the impact of diabetes as a significant risk factor for patients with SARS-CoV-2 infection and funded basic and clinical research to better understand the links between these conditions, giving patients more insight into their risks and vulnerabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. NIDDK also funded studies that shed new light on the effects of dexamethasone, one of the first widely used medications for the treatment of COVID-19.

## **NEW CURES AND TREATMENTS REQUIRE CROSS-CUTTING APPROACHES**

While NIDDK plays a critical leadership role, every NIH Institute and Center (IC) contributes to the fight against diabetes. Researchers funded by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute are studying cardiac arrhythmias in diabetes patients, scientists supported by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences help us understand how environmental toxicants contribute to worse diabetes outcomes, and the National Institute of Aging studies how diabetes may contribute to dementia in older adults. These and other studies reinforce the need for steady, sustainable increases in funding for the NIH that is applied towards all ICs.

## **CALL TO CONGRESS: SUPPORT DIABETES RESEARCH BY INCREASING NIH FUNDING**

The Endocrine Society calls on Congress to continue the recent trajectory of steady, sustainable increases in funding for the NIH by providing NIH with at least \$50 billion in fiscal year 2023, including an increase of at least 7.9%, applied to the base budget of each of the NIH ICs and OD. This increase would allow researchers to continue making groundbreaking discoveries that advance our understanding of diabetes and lead to new treatments and cures, support early career researchers who have been impacted by the pandemic, and fund innovative investigator-initiated research projects.

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