

ANNUAL REPORT

2020



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Diabetes Research Connection's 2021 Annual Report

**Imagine a
world where
no one ever
has to hear: “You
have Type 1
Diabetes.”**

We do. And our
mission to eradicate
this autoimmune disease
is what drives us every day
at the Diabetes Research
Connection (DRC).

Letter from DRC's Board Chair & President



It seems appropriate to pause and reflect briefly as Diabetes Research Connection (DRC) begins its second decade of funding innovative early-career scientists. This organization started with the desire to recruit and inspire the best scientists to focus exclusively on Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) research. Specifically, we believed in supporting the next generation of researchers by providing seed money to test scientifically sound and novel ideas that would drive innovation and lead to meaningful advances in prevention, care, and possibly a cure.

A decade later, we can see that this unique concept in funding leads to significant changes. From watching original DRC grant recipients mature into leaders in T1D research, to several high-impact manuscripts published in top scientific journals, to a rate of return of \$30+ in follow-on funding for every \$1 dollar invested; all members of the DRC community have contributed to pushing the boundaries of T1D research.

As the name suggests, we have firmly believed since the beginning that we are connected to the T1D community, and, with your help, we have made enormous strides to fulfilling the promise of our mission. Here at the beginning of 2022, I am pleased to say that DRC is emerging from the pandemic in a stronger position than ever. Through the dedication of our staff and board members, we had a record-raising year in 2021 investing \$422,500 in direct research funding.

As we turn to the future, we will surpass \$2 million in collective research funding and continue with our unwavering commitment to improving the lives of people living with T1D. I invite you to please join me in acknowledging the impact we have all made together.


Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C.C. King'. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

C.C. King, Ph.D.
DRC Board Chair/ President

What is the Diabetes Research Connection?

At Diabetes Research Connection (DRC), we seek out, peer-review, and provide seed funding to the most promising Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) research being conducted by innovative early-career scientists across the country. Their hard work provides hope to those living with this disease.



DRC's Mission:

To connect donors with early-career scientists enabling them to perform peer-reviewed, novel research designed to prevent and cure T1D, minimize its complications, and improve the quality of life for those living with the disease.

DRC's Vision:

To support innovative scientific inquiry until T1D is eliminated.

We believe it takes a community to connect for a cure.

- We believe in investing in peer-reviewed, novel research by early-career scientists with the potential to help us find ways to prevent, treat, and cure T1D.
- We invest in early-career scientists and researchers focused on innovation. We go where no one else is going to study T1D, incentivizing new ideas and scientific breakthroughs.
- We are action-driven. We invest quickly and early, providing the seed funding required to get promising research financed and moving. Within as little as three to six months, a promising T1D research project is funded.
- We are focused solely on early-career scientists studying T1D. The DRC Scientific Review Committee (SRC) made up of 50+ T1D experts from across the country from organizations such as Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of California, San Francisco, University of California, San Diego, University of Michigan, and Cornell reviews and vets novel approaches to T1D research.
- We provide full transparency into where your dollars go to support T1D research. Check out the research projects we've funded and follow their progress.
(DiabetesResearchConnection.org/projects)
- We are the only T1D non-profit organization that enables you to give 100% of your donation to a particular T1D research project we are funding.
- We connect donors with researchers. DRC supporters can interact directly with researchers to learn about them, their scientific work, and where they believe the path is to find better treatments and an ultimate cure for T1D.
- We have uncovered more promising T1D studies than we can fund. It's through the support of our donors that we can get greatly needed seed funding into labs to support innovative early-career scientists on the quest to find a possible cure for the disease.

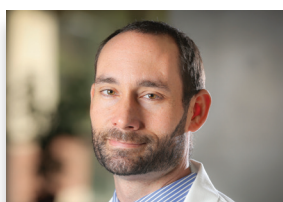
We have the track record to prove it!



DRC's Impact \$12M+ Total

Return on Investment:

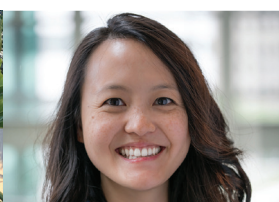
Follow-on Funding Secured



Todd Brusko, Ph.D.-
University of Florida:
\$500,000 in grants



Addie Fortmann,
Ph.D. - Scripps
Whittier Diabetes
Institute: **\$3.5M** NIH
Grant



Wendy Yang,
Ph.D.- University of
Washington: Lab
secured **\$4.5M** in
grants



Joseph Lancman,
Ph.D. - Sanford
Burnham Prebys
Discovery Institute:
\$1.2M in additional
funding



Peter Thompson,
Ph.D. - University
of California San
Francisco: **\$500,000**
in follow-on funding



Jeremy Racine
Ph.D. - The Jackson
Laboratory:
Received a larger
grant



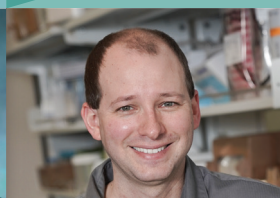
Yo Suzuki, Ph.D.- J.
Craig Venter Institute:
\$1.2M in additional
funding



Francesco
Vendrame M.D.,
Ph.D. - University
of Miami: NIH-R21
Grant up to
\$275,000 over 2
years



Risa Wolf, M.D.
- Johns Hopkins
Children's Center:
NIH Grant up to
\$275,000 over 2
years



Michael Kalwat,
Ph.D. - Indiana
Biosciences
Research Institute:
JDRF Innovation
Grant up to
\$100,000

DRC'S NUMBERS

Early-Career Scientists Outcomes:



13

Funded researchers received follow-on funding.



5

Funded researchers' findings were published in leading scientific journals.



4

Funded researchers started their own labs.



**SANGEETA
DHAWAN, PH.D.**
City of Hope

"I was able to establish a new area of research, and it helped me start my own lab!"



\$2.4M

Since 2015, DRC has committed to investing approximately \$2.4M in innovative T1D research.



48

DRC is committed to funding 48 innovative T1D research projects.



12M+

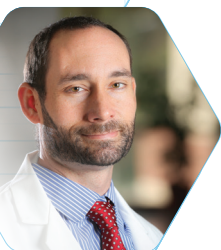
As a result of their DRC-funded projects, 10 of our early-career scientists received follow-on funding totaling approximately \$12M+.

Hear from the Researchers.

As a result of DRC funding:



Schafer Boeder M.D. - University of California, San Diego: will have the data needed to apply for a much larger study!



Todd Brusko Ph.D. - University of Florida: has progressed in stages of his career from Jr. faculty to Research Director.



Jeremy Racine Ph.D. - The Jackson Laboratory: obtained the necessary preliminary data to support a larger funded project.



Bhushan Kharbikar Ph.D. - University of California, San Francisco: "We were able to try out new ideas, developed proof of principle. Based on the data we have generated we applied for bigger grants from agencies like NIH, JDRF and CIRM (decision awaited for all 3 applications). We are also in the process of preparing the manuscript to be submitted to the journal!"

Impact on the T1D Community



Abhishek Kulkarni Ph.D. - University of Chicago: “The most important impact on the T1D community as a result of my research is that we might be able to develop novel therapeutics to prevent the development of T1D in the population who are at risk of developing it.”



Risa Wolf M.D. - Johns Hopkins Children’s Center: “Our goal is to improve access to diabetic retinopathy screening and mitigate disparities in screening rates.”

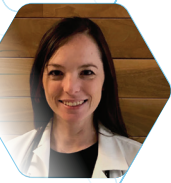
DRC is proud to fund early-career female scientists who inspire us with their innovation.



Pinar Gumus Balikciouglu M.D.
Duke University Medical Center



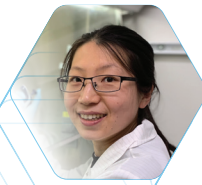
Jing Hughes M.D., Ph.D.
Washington University School of Medicine



Zoe Quandt M.D., Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco



Risa Wolf M.D.
Johns Hopkins Children’s Center



Yao Wang Ph.D.
University of California, San Francisco



Flavia Pecanha Ph.D.
University of Miami



Madhumita Basu Ph.D.
Nationwide Children’s Hospital

DRC's Reach



Online Community

Social media followers: 29,000+

People who receive DRC's

E-newsletter: 6,000+

Unique website visits: 5,500+

Donors

Since 2015 DRC has had 800 donors join the DRC family

Since 2018 DRC's Dance for Diabetes has secured 12 corporate sponsors and 28 local partners/underwriters



2021 Partners



A M C R
INSTITUTE



benchmark
COMMERCIAL INSURANCE SERVICES, INC.



TANDEM[®]
DIABETES CARE



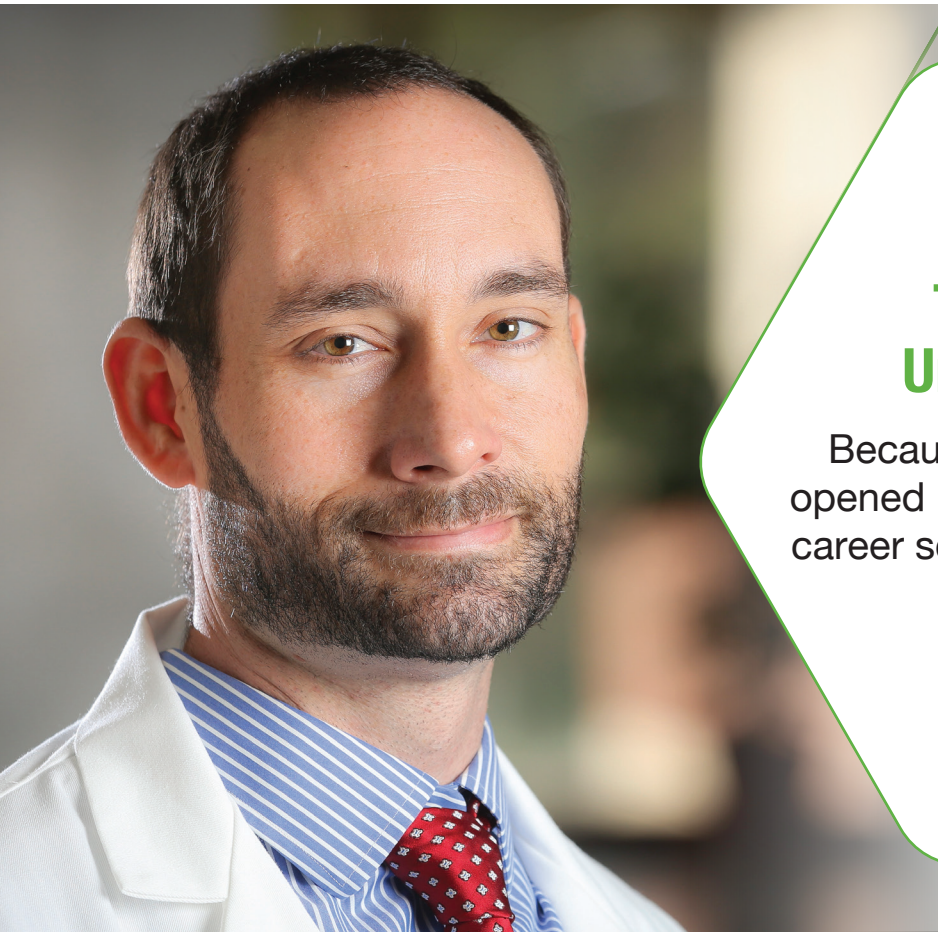
LIVE WELL
SAN DIEGO

PRICE
PHILANTHROPIES

SheppardMullin

moxie
FOUNDATION

2021 Research Milestones:



Todd Brusko Ph.D. University of Florida:

Because of DRC funding, Dr. Brusko opened his own lab where another early-career scientist works and was also able to receive seed funding.

Schafer Boeder M.D. University of California, San Diego:

“We have completed enrollment in our study and the final participants will be finishing up in about a month. After that, we will be able to unblind the data and start analyzing. We are excited to see the results of the study!”





Jeremy Racine Ph.D. The Jackson Laboratory:

“My latest DRC-funded project was the springboard for a larger grant and collaboration extending our diabetes work as well as branching out into another autoimmune disease.”

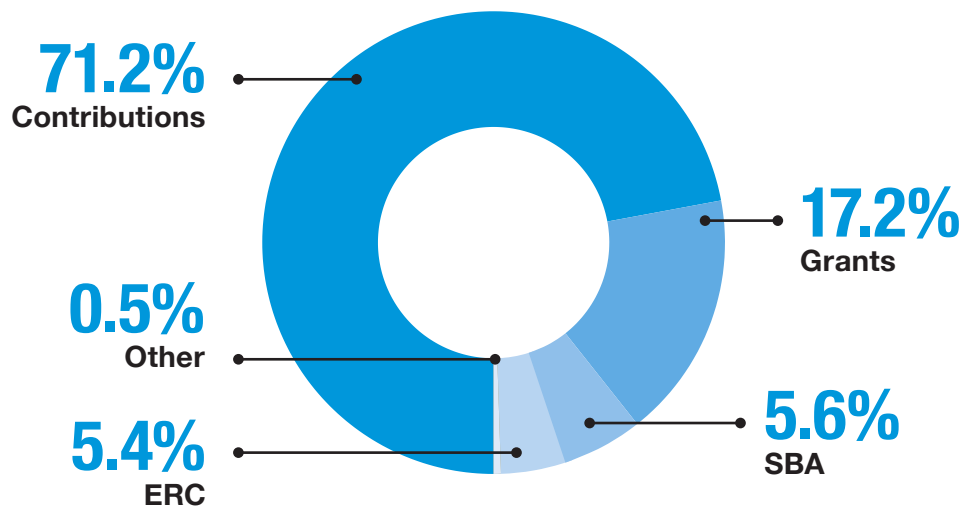
Rizwan Ahmed Ph.D. Johns Hopkins University:

“My DRC-funded project led me to generate exciting data that should facilitate important findings for T1D research. I have started the manuscript on these interesting and important findings and plan to submit this information to a high-impact journal for publication very soon.”



2021 Financial Snapshot

Revenue & Support



Statement of Activities

Contributions:

\$567,980.71

Grants:

\$137,218.29

SBA Forgiveness

Loan:

\$45,061.56

Employee Retention Credit (ERC):

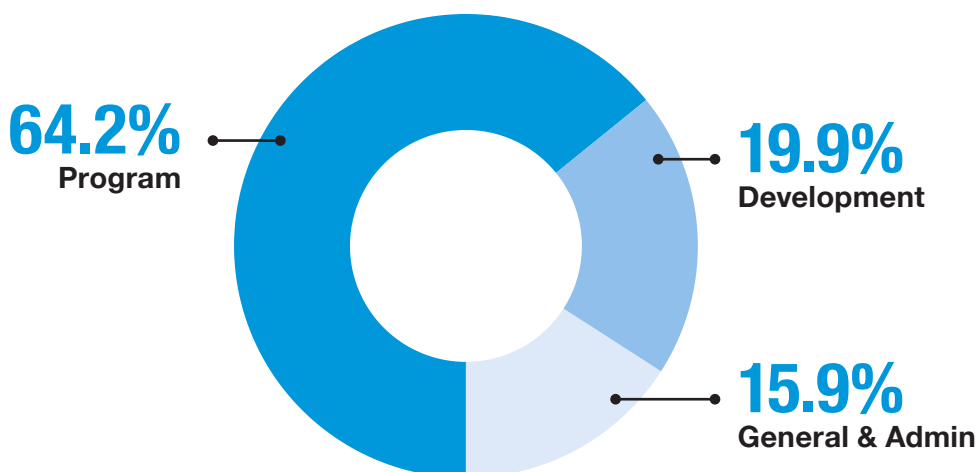
\$43,349.00

Other (Investments):

\$3,639.00

Total: \$797,249.56

Expenses



General & Admin:

\$69,922.00

Development:

\$87,201.00

Program:

\$281,019.00

Total: \$438,142.00



**DRC's audited 2021 financials will be available on their website in spring 2022 and its 2020 audited financials are available now.

Board Members



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President, Chair



Nigel Calcutt, Ph.D.
Vice President



David Winkler
CFO



Vincenzo Cirulli, M.D., Ph.D.
Scientific Director



Alberto Hayek, M.D.
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Felise Levine, Ph.D.
Board Member



Paige McCready
Board Member



Bobby Buchanan
Board Member



Steve Korniczky
Board Member



Amy Adams
Board Member



Eric Zwisler
Board Member

Scientific Review Committee

Each DRC research project is thoroughly vetted for innovation and scientific merit by our volunteer Scientific Review Committee of diabetes experts from across the country.

Domenico Accili M.D.

Columbia University

Daniel Anderson Ph.D.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Mark Anderson M.D., Ph.D.

University of California, San Francisco

Peter Arvan M.D., Ph.D.

University of Michigan Comprehensive Diabetes Center

Mark Atkinson Ph.D.

University of Florida

Juan Carlos Belmonte Ph.D.

Salk Institute

Ernesto Bernal-Mizrachi M.D.

University of Miami

Anil Bhushan Ph.D.

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Harvard Stem Cell Institute

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University of California, Los Angeles

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University of Washington

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University of California, San Francisco

Sangeeta Dhawan Ph.D.

City of Hope

Adolfo Garcia-Ocaña Ph.D.

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

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University of Michigan

Senta Georgia Ph.D.

USC

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University of California, San Francisco

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University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

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J. Craig Venter Institute

David Gough Ph.D.

University of California, San Diego

Dale Greiner Ph.D.

University of Massachusetts

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University of Florida

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The Scripps Research Institute

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University of Florida

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Scripps Whittier Diabetes Institute

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University of Washington Medical School

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University of California, San Diego

Alvin Powers Ph.D.
Vanderbilt University

Alberto Pugliese M.D.
Diabetes Research Institute, University of Miami Medical School

Christopher Rhodes Ph.D.
University of Chicago

Steve Rich Ph.D.
University of Virginia

Camillo Ricordi M.D.
University of Miami Diabetes Research Institute

Holger Russ Ph.D. - Barbara Davis Center for Diabetes,
University of Colorado-Anschutz Medical Campus

Maike Sander M.D.
University of California San Diego

Nora Sarvetnick Ph.D.
University of Nebraska

Ann-Marie Schmidt M.D.
New York University

Peter Schultz Ph.D.
The Scripps Research Institute

David Serreze Ph.D.
Jackson Laboratories

Kumar Sharma M.D.
University of Texas Health San Antonio

Robert Sorenson Ph.D.
University of Minnesota

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University of California, San Francisco

Doris Stoffers M.D., Ph.D.
University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine

Lori Sussel Ph.D.
Barbara Davis Center for Diabetes, University of Colorado

Yo Suzuki Ph.D.
J. Craig Venter Institute

Luc Teyton M.D., Ph.D.
The Scripps Research Institute

Massimo Trucco M.D.
Institute of Cellular Therapeutics, Allegheny Health Network

Rupangi Vasavada Ph.D.
City of Hope

Matthias Von Herrath M.D.
La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology

Gordon Weir M.D.
Joslin Diabetes Center/Harvard Medical School

Michael Weiss M.D., Ph.D.
Indiana University School of Medicine

James Wells Ph.D.
Wells Lab Research

Christopher Wright Ph.D.
Vanderbilt University

Mark Yorek Ph.D.
University of Iowa

DRC's Donors

Legacy Donors

The Winkler Family Fund
Felise Levine

Blue Circle Members

\$50,000+

Ambassadors of Hope

The Coppel Family

\$25,000+

Champions

Amy and Micah Adams
Jose Fernandez and
Deidre Buddin

\$10,000+

Benefactors

Teresa and Steven Korniczky
Cherryl and
Richard Simms

\$5,000+

Leaders of Change

Sherry and Kevin Ahern

\$1,000+

T1D Advocates

Anonymous
Martha and C.C. King
Ashley and
Brendan Ahern

Major Donors

Michael Persall

\$1M

Anonymous

\$500,000+

Anonymous and Winkler Family Fund

\$100,000+

Melvin Garb Foundation

\$50,000

Denny Sanford and Tarson Investments

\$25,000

\$10,000

Bobby and Darcy Buchanan
County of San Diego: Neighborhood
Reinvestment Program
County of San Diego: San Diego Community
Enhancement
Charles and Barbara King
Dawna and Jon Corn
David and Lisa Tarson
Lucy McDonald-Stewart
Seth and Jennifer Grossman
Steve and Lisa Altman
Scott and Lora Polakow
Small Business Stimulus Grant Program

\$5,000+

Allison and Robert Price Family Foundation
Bryan Holker
DLA Piper, LLC
Elliott and Lynn Tarson
Elsa Maria Bours Gutierrez and Ruben
Gutierrez
Facebook
Futures Unbound: Peter and Rachel Zahn
Sara and Keith Tarson
Stewart Winkler
Steven and Cindy Blumkin
Susan and Mitch Ellner
Tandem Diabetes Care

\$2,500+

Anonymous
Anonymous
AMCR Institute
Candace and Rob Cohen
Carol Childs and Peter House
Charna and Sanford Sugar
Dianne and Daniel Gardner
Express Feedback for Good
Lina and Christian Waage
Marlene and Art Greenberg

\$1,000+

Alice and Doug Diamond
Amazon Smile Foundation
Arfa-Bernstein Family Fund
Barbara Donnell
Benchmark, Inc.
Beth Kaufman
CalPortland Company: The Simmons Family
Charity Aid Foundation of America
Charitable Adult Rides and Services
Centura Wealth Advisory
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Diane Goodman
Dennis and Molly Frederickson
Eve Benton and Malcolm Bund
Felise Levine, Ph.D., and John Goodkind Ph.D.
Gummy Beans
Hermoza, LLC
Jagwinder Brar
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James Costello
Jeff and Karen Silberman
Jon and Linda Kurtin
Kevin and Sara Tarson
Kate and Patrick Coen
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Mark and Melanie Greenberg
Marie and Ronald Lucker
McCathay Timber, Inc.
Meisirow Financial
Olejnuk Family
Mona and Jeffrey Platt
Neil Zussman
Nick and Kathy Ervin
Paige McCready
Pro LLC
Robert Wisnik
Ron Leibow
Samuel Lawrence Foundation
Sharon and Richard Leib
Terence Dutton
Thomas Cohen and Lena Price
Virginia Gordon

Supporter's Stories



**Tiana Lavin,
DRC Supporter**

“Finding DRC was so exciting because they share my vision and provide a straightforward strategy where I can see a place for myself in the role of progressing forward with a cure for Type 1 Diabetes.”

**Lorena Bergstrom,
DRC Volunteer**

“My purpose is to change others’ lives through research, just as it has changed mine. Science has been a true life-saver for so many of us with T1D, and it’s an incredibly exciting time in this field; each breakthrough helps us to live with less worry and more freedom.”



Stay Connected

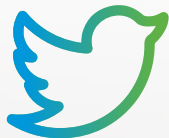
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