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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,

C.C. King, Ph.D.
DRC Board Chair/ President
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 Vision:
To support innovative scientific inquiry until T1D is eliminated.

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.
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:

- Funded researchers received follow-on funding.
- Funded researchers’ findings were published in leading scientific journals.
- Funded researchers started their own labs.
- As a result of their DRC-funded projects, 10 of our early-career scientists received follow-on funding totaling approximately $12M+.
- Since 2015, DRC has committed to investing approximately $2.4M in innovative T1D research.
- DRC is committed to funding 48 innovative T1D research projects.

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5

4

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

48

12M+
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

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

Flavia Pecanha Ph.D.
University of Miami

Madhumita Basu Ph.D.
Nationwide Children’s Hospital

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

AMCR Institute
DLA Piper
Benchmark
TANDEM Diabetes Care
LIVE WELL San Diego
PRICE Philanthropies
Sheppard Mullin
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!”
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.”

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

### Revenue & Support

- **Contributions:** 71.2%
- **Grants:** 17.2%
- **Other:** 0.5%
- **ERC:** 5.4%
- **SBA:** 5.6%

### Expenses

- **Program:** 64.2%
- **Development:** 19.9%
- **General & Admin:** 15.9%

### 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

- **General & Admin:** $69,922.00
- **Development:** $87,201.00
- **Program:** $281,019.00
- **Total:** $438,142.00
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CFO

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The Winler Family Fund
Felise Levine

Blue Circle Members

$50,000+
Ambassadors of Hope
The Coppel Family

$25,000+
Champions
Amy and Micah Adams
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Deidre Buddin

$10,000+
Benefactors
Teresa and Steven Korniczky
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$5,000+
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Ashley and
Brendan Ahern

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Virginia Gordon
Supporter’s Stories

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.”

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.”
Stay Connected

Learn More at Diabetesresearchconnection.org or Follow Us on Social Media

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