

Connecting For A Cure

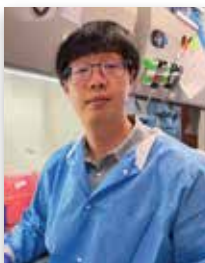
June 2022 Newsletter

DRC's Funded Early-Career Scientists The People Behind the Research



Jennifer Dwyer, Ph.D. - The Jackson Laboratory

"I have always had a fascination with the way things work, which translated into a love of science in my youth and inspired me to earn my Ph.D. in Molecular Biology in 2012. Two years after I earned my Ph.D., my son was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes (T1D). Having a close knowledge of how this impacted his metabolism, I took a break from work to care for my young family. During this time away from the bench, I got to know the greatly inspiring T1D community through my son's physicians, networking with other T1D families, and reading scientific literature. In a nutshell, artificial pancreas technology is wonderful, but it is not enough; we can do better."



Han Zhu, Ph.D. - University of California, San Diego

"When I started my postdoctoral research, I began to focus on T1D, since it's affecting much more people and far more complicated. To me, beta cell replacement or regeneration will be one major therapeutic strategy for T1D in the future. And with my expertise in regenerative medicine and stem cell research, I hope to have my own contribution in helping T1D patients and their families."



Anna Kahkoska, M.D., Ph.D. - University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

"By giving voice to the emerging yet vague notion of precision medicine in T1D, my goal is to continue to build a program of work that will propel the field to realize the potential of this paradigm for the care of chronic disease. At the same time, I aspire to tangibly improve the health of the population of people living with T1D by optimizing care and management at the individual level."

See the project descriptions of these early-career scientists & more at:

diabetesresearchconnection.org/projects/

DRC's Growing Our Team is Taking Us to New Heights!

Staff

- **Casey Davis:** has naturally stepped into an **Executive Leadership** role with DRC and uses her 15+ years of experience in local nonprofits to lead this amazing new team!
- **Lynette Hill, Operations and Program Manager:** for the last 19 years, Lynette has held positions in the Theme Park Industry in operations, primarily on the culinary side of the business. She incorporates her experience in onboarding, budget management, policy implementation, and process improvement to advance the mission of DRC.
- **Hannah Gebauer:** has transitioned into the full-time **Program Coordinator** role, where she hopes to make a difference in finding the cure for T1D while enhancing the Program department at DRC.
- **Kayleigh Dearstyne-Hulin, Philanthropy Coordinator:** Kayleigh has worked at several nonprofits doing education, policy, and advocacy. She is passionate about working for mission-driven nonprofits that assist others, such as DRC and is excited to advance the mission in her new role.

Board

- **Eric Zwisler, Board Member:** an internationalist and business entrepreneur, is committed to finding better treatments and a cure for T1D. His son Taylor was diagnosed with T1D as a child. Eric is active in many T1D organizations, including most recently as board chair of the La Jolla Institute for Immunology.



Expanding Our Reach

A new infrastructure to enhance the communication between our talented DRC-funded researchers and the lay community that funds them was established this year. As a result, most of the new projects that have come online this year are now translated in a way that is easier to understand! Due to our generous supporter's investment, DRC staff can work exclusively with qualified volunteers (Ph.D. students and Principal Investigators) to translate the language clearly and intelligibly.

Meet the Volunteers Who Help Make this Possible



Kaya Keutler:
A Ph.D. Student at the Oregon Health & Science University. She has T1D.



Thatcher Holding:
Marketing and Communications Manager at the Institute for Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine at Washington University. His son has T1D.



Janelle Tobias:
Is also a Ph.D. Student at the Oregon Health & Science University. She has T1D.

Want to volunteer with DRC?

Email us at info@diabetesresearchconnection.org

DRC in The Community



On Monday, May 23rd, DRC's President and Chair, C.C. King, Ph.D., spoke at Del Mar Foundation's speaker series, DMFTalks. Over 30 members of the community came to listen to C.C. talk about the importance of medical research. Throughout the hour and a half presentation, he spoke on topics such as how the FDA works, model systems, and the significance of funding early-career scientists who have bold and out-of-the-box ideas without the years of experience that other researchers have, therefore they often don't receive the funding necessary to make headway with their research. He finished the talk by expressing how Diabetes Research Connection is a vital organization that solely funds early-career scientists with the hope that their unique projects will one day cure T1D.

Seaside Soiree

Dance for Diabetes

SAN DIEGO'S BEST ROOFTOP PARTY OF THE YEAR.

In honor of our 10-year anniversary, our upcoming annual event will be in person this year! We invite you to Save the Date of October 22, 2022, from 6-10 pm at the Del Mar Plaza. If you join us, you will spend the night overlooking the ocean while tasting a curated menu and signature cocktails while enjoying live entertainment. We will be streaming this event, and our online silent auction will be live, so anyone can participate!

diabetesresearchconnection.org/dancefordiabetes/

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Continue your support to help further our mission to fund the most innovative T1D research, by making a donation.