Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

Funding Opportunities for Research in Diabetic Complications

JDRF's Mission

- To find a cure for diabetes and its complications through the support of research

JDRF Complications Therapies

Program Mission

- Accelerate discovery and development of safe and effective therapeutics for persons with complications of diabetes

Program Strategy

- Investigate genetic susceptibility and resistance to complications
- Investigate metabolic memory to determine the link to complications
- Validation of disease-modifying pathways
- Investigation of strategies to protect cardiovascular and renal systems
- Discover and validate novel biomarkers
- Mechanisms of metabolic dysregulation linked to multiple complications

Research Emphasis Areas
July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

Areas receiving high priority for this grant year

- Candidate genetic factors conferring resistance to diabetic kidney disease
- Mechanistic studies focused on the metabolic memory phenomenon
- Validation of disease-modifying pathways and targets
  - Retinal targets, complementing VEGF inhibition, leading to neurovascular stabilization or regeneration
  - Renal fibrosis
  - Peripheral nerve regeneration
- Sensitive biomarkers and study endpoints in diabetic retinal, kidney or peripheral nerve disease
- Clinical studies to evaluate mechanism-based, disease modifying therapeutics

Current Funding Mechanisms

- Post-doc and Advanced Post-doc Fellowships
  - 2 cycles per grant year
  - both are 3-year awards
  - Basic and clinical
- Career development award
  - 2 cycles per grant year
  - 5-year award
  - Basic and clinical
- Early career patient-oriented diabetes research
  - 2 cycles per grant year
  - 5-year award
  - Clinical
- Innovative
  - 2 cycles per grant year
  - 5-year award
  - Basic and clinical

Modified Funding Mechanisms

- Priority Research Grants
  - AKA “Regular Research Grant”
  - 1 cycle per year
  - Basic and clinical
  - Letter of Intent followed by invited application
- Program Project Grants, Clinical Investigational Research Grant and Center Grants
  - No longer supported as a funding mechanism
- Strategic Research Agreements
  - Replaces CIRG, PPG and Centers
  - Open to initiation by investigator
  - Also by invitation
  - Process
    - Discuss project with staff – recommended
    - Submit project concept
    - Staff invites Letter of Intent
    - Move to application stage and review
    - Funding decision
  - Payments driven by milestones with quarterly interviews

Special Funding Opportunities

- JDRF Initiative in Vision and Eye Research (DRIVER Project) - Discovery and validation of clinical stage biomarkers for diabetic retinal disease is needed to understand natural history of DR and accelerate testing of new therapies
- Genes in DN – second RFA for gene sequencing in diabetic nephropathy
- Strategic research agreements – Validation of pathways and targets in
  - Retinopathy (complementary to VEGF blockade),
  - renal fibrosis
  - peripheral nerve stabilization and regeneration
- GoKind – all samples have been deposited in NIDDK repository and under their control for selection of meritorious research plans