

EFSD/JDRF/Lilly European Programme in Type 1 Diabetes Research

Deadline Date: 1 July 2018

Background

The European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes (EFSD) was created by the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) to provide funding initiatives in all areas of diabetes research. The aims of EFSD are to encourage and support research in the field of diabetes, to rapidly diffuse acquired knowledge and to facilitate its application.

The mission of JDRF is to find a cure for type 1 diabetes and its complications through the support of research. JDRF was founded in 1970 by parents of children with diabetes who were convinced that the disease could be cured. JDRF gives more money to diabetes research than any other non-profit, non-governmental health agency in the world.

Lilly has for more than 95 years been a worldwide leader in diabetes care. Based in Indianapolis, USA Lilly introduced the world's first commercial insulin in 1923 and remains at the forefront of pharmaceutical and delivery-device innovation to manage diabetes. Lilly Diabetes is Lilly's integrated and global business dedicated to providing personal solutions for everyday life for people who live with and treat diabetes.

Programme Research and Focus

EFSD, JDRF and Lilly have established a programme called EFSD/JDRF/Lilly European Programme in Type 1 Diabetes Research to encourage new projects aimed at advancing current knowledge in this domain. To achieve the goals and objectives of this Programme, EFSD, JDRF and Lilly invite applications by issuing this "Request for Applications" (RFA), which indicates the areas of research emphasis.

The general goals of the Programme are to:

- promote the highest quality of basic biomedical and clinical research in Europe and its associated countries applicable to type 1 diabetes;

- expedite the practical application of scientific advances in our understanding of the aetiology, pathogenesis, treatment and prevention of type 1 diabetes and its complications;
- encourage clinical translational research bridging the bench and the bedside;
- increase awareness of type 1 diabetes research throughout Europe.

This year the Programme would particularly welcome projects in the following areas:

- Research with potential to increase understanding of the natural history, pathogenesis, heterogeneity and/or aetiology of human type 1 diabetes
- Pancreatic beta cell biology with a focus on discovery and validation of potential therapeutic targets and approaches to promote the survival, expansion and/or regeneration of human beta cells
- Pathophysiology of type 1 diabetes autoimmunity with a focus on potential therapeutic targets and testing of autoantigen-specific immunoregulation of type 1 diabetes
- Development and/or testing of therapies that slow or stop the progression of type 1 diabetes before symptomatic disease or that preserve beta cell function in new onset type 1 diabetes
- Biomaterials and novel concepts for implantable, encapsulated beta cell replacement
- Automated closed loop artificial pancreas systems and/or its components
- Novel or repurposed adjunct therapies to improve glycaemic and overall metabolic control in type 1 diabetes
- Novel insulins: glucose-responsive insulin, liver-targeted insulin, ultra-rapid insulin, others
- Therapies that prevent progression of diabetic kidney or eye disease in type 1 diabetes
- Beta cell targeting for drug delivery and imaging
- Discovery of diagnostic, prognostic or predictive biomarkers for all stages of type 1 diabetes to enable “smart” clinical trials

Mechanism of Support and Review

Research will be supported through the award of grants, **each of up to Euro 100,000**. The duration of each award may be one year or longer, depending upon the needs of the project and as justified in the application. EFSD may, on advisement from the Review Committee, recommend an award in a different amount from that requested, but which is considered more appropriate for the proposed studies.

Applicants who have a funding requirement larger than that specified above are also invited to apply to this Programme, particularly if this relates to a clinical research project: in this case, the relevant financial requirements **not exceeding €400,000** should be indicated and well justified in the budget section of the application form for special consideration by the review committee.

Studies forming part of a larger project will be considered for funding but this will need to be well justified in the application (see Review Considerations).

Applications for an EFSD/JDRF/Lilly grant are invited from single non-profit institutions or groups of such institutions from Europe and associated countries. The principal investigator and any co-investigators must be employed full-time at a non-profit institution and the study must be performed at their place of work.

Applications will be subject to scientific review by a specialised and independent *ad hoc* committee. It is anticipated that applications will be received, reviewed and approved for funding by October 2018.

Prior to any final decision on funding, and in order to offer applicants the opportunity to benefit from the review process, EFSD reserves the right to request revision of applications in accordance with the recommendations of the Review Committee.

Research Grant Applications

Applications for research grants may be subjected to pre-review (or triage) procedures. In this event, any application rejected at pre-review will not be subject to a complete scientific review, and no feedback report will be provided to the applicant.

The deadline for receipt of research grant applications for funding this year is 1 July 2018.

All budgets are to be prepared in Euros. For countries in which the Euro is not the common currency, the exchange rate (between the Euro and the local currency in the country where the work is to be performed) used for calculating the Euro budget must be mentioned under "Budget Justification".

Due to a change in the EFSD application system, application will open soon on

All applications must be prepared on the official application form in the EFSD online application system and completed in strict accordance with the detailed instructions to be found there. Applications which do not comply with the instructions given in the application system will not be considered for review.

Please submit your application in the EFSD online application system before 12:00 midday (CET) on the deadline date 1 July 2018.

Review Considerations

Completed applications will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria stated below for scientific/technical merit by an appropriate and independent scientific committee.

Review criteria are as follows:

- **Significance:** Does the study address an important problem in keeping with the goals and focus areas of this Programme? If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge be advanced? What will be the effect of the proposed studies on the concepts or methods that drive this field?
- **Approach:** Are the conceptual framework, design, methods and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, and appropriate to the aims of the project? Are they supported by preliminary data? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics?
- **Innovation:** Does the project employ novel concepts, approaches or methods? Are the aims original and innovative? Does the project challenge existing paradigms or develop new methodologies or technologies?
- **Investigator:** Is the investigator appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the principal investigator and other researchers, if any?
- **Environment:** Does the scientific environment in which the work will be carried out contribute to the probability of success? Do the proposed studies take advantage of unique features of the scientific environment or employ useful collaborative arrangements? Is there evidence of institutional support?
- **Budget and feasibility:** Is the requested budget appropriate for the proposed study? Is the requested duration suitable for completion of the project?
- **Contribution towards a larger research project:** Is the work described in the application intended as part of a larger project? If so, is there any overlap? Is there a clear explanation how the new work will contribute towards the overall success of that larger project?

Reporting Requirements and Approval of Funding

All investigators funded by this Programme are required to submit a scientific report at the end of the project period. For those projects where funding is distributed over a period of more than one year, interim progress reports will also be required. Such reports will be subject to assessment prior to the release of any further funds.

Investigators must provide EFSD with copies of papers accepted for publication, and must acknowledge the support of the Programme in all written material by use of the phrase: "supported by an EFSD/JDRF/Lilly research grant".

Competitive Renewal

Applications for a grant renewal will be accepted on a competitive basis, with the same review process as described in this Announcement. Such applications will therefore be considered in the same fashion as all other new applications received for review and without any special priority.

Schedule

Announcement:	March 2018
Application Deadline:	1 July 2018
Anticipated Award:	October 2018

Enquiries should be directed to:

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About us

The aims of the Foundation are to encourage and support groundbreaking diabetes research and to promote the next generation of leading diabetes researchers.

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