



*dedicated to finding a cure*

## **Announcement of Funding Opportunity Imaging of Functional Human Pancreatic Beta Cells At least \$5 Million per Year Available**

JDRF has an unprecedented opportunity to make progress in the discovery and validation of biomarkers in Type 1 diabetes and its complications. As part of this broad initiative, and in order to highlight its importance, JDRF will commit an additional \$5 Million per year towards projects to develop technologies for the functional imaging of pancreatic beta-cells. Development of these technologies will be an invaluable resource in reaching the goals of the JDRF: early detection of diabetes, monitoring therapy in clinical trials, and following the natural history and pathogenesis of diabetes.

Duration of support will in general not exceed 3 years. Budgets proposed should be justified and commensurate with the type of study and the research plan; however, no specific budget limit is imposed.

Studies proposed utilizing human samples (i.e., identification and validation of human biomarkers) will receive the highest priority. Either academic or industry investigators may apply; JDRF encourages the submission of proposals with collaborations between academia and industry. Applicants are encouraged to submit multidisciplinary approaches (e.g. beta-cell biology, probe expertise, imaging expertise, etc.) to address the challenges in developing a viable, clinically adaptable approach. All interested investigators are strongly encouraged to consult with JDRF Program Staff as they develop their applications.

### **JDRF requests *Expressions of Interest* for projects to develop technologies for *Imaging of Functional Human Pancreatic Beta Cells***

JDRF is soliciting Expressions of Interest (EOI) to develop technologies to non-invasively, safely, specifically, and quantitatively image the mass and function of the endogenous pancreatic beta-cells/islets in humans over time.

These technologies must ultimately be applicable to the assessment of the pancreatic beta cell mass and function of healthy individuals. EOIs for the imaging of transplanted islets may be considered if a strong case can be made for the translation of the methods to endogenous islet imaging. Imaging of human beta cells is the target, but animal studies will be considered if the studies are translatable to human beta cells.

The EOI should address aspects of the following:

- Beta-cell specific targets for imaging
- Markers of beta cell physiology, anatomy, function or metabolism for functional imaging

- Novel or existing imaging probes, particularly those aimed at verified beta cell specific targets
- Development or application of novel imaging approaches and algorithms
- Integration of these technologies

Applicants are strongly advised to consult with JDRF Program Staff to discuss the responsiveness of their proposal to this program. Enquiries in this area should be referred to Adrienne Wong, Ph.D., [awong@jdrf.org](mailto:awong@jdrf.org), +1-212-479-7642, or to Albert Hwa, Ph.D., [ahwa@jdrf.org](mailto:ahwa@jdrf.org), +1-212-479-7663.

**Expressions of Interest are being solicited to be able to provide advice about the most appropriate grant mechanism.**

**Expressions of Interest should be no more than two pages in length including, where applicable, the following information:**

- Brief details of approach proposed, including rationale and references to published or preliminary data (preliminary data need not exist)
- Short and long-term development goals set forth as milestones
- Access to clinical samples (JDRF is pleased to help the principal investigator identify such in advance of submission of the Expression of Interest)
- Total estimated budget and project duration (up to 3 years)

**Key Dates:**

- Expressions of Interest for the first round of assessment should be submitted no later than March 5, 2008 at 11.59 p.m. EST on proposalCENTRAL (<https://proposalCentral.altum.com/login.asp>). For questions regarding submission, please contact [grantsupport@jdrf.org](mailto:grantsupport@jdrf.org).
- Submitted expressions of interest will be acknowledged with brief responses as to their suitability for further development by the relevant JDRF Program Staff no later than three weeks from submission.

Announcement Date	EOI Deadline	Decision on EOI	Full Online Application Deadline	Notification
1/11/2008	3/5/2008	3/21/2008	4/23/2008	6/30/2008

- This is an initial announcement. Follow-on efforts are anticipated, including additional funding opportunities
- Interested investigators may access available research resources:
  - <http://www.t1diabetes.nih.gov/investigator/resources.asp>
  - <http://www.betacell.org/>
  - [http://www.jdrf.org/index.cfm?page\\_id=104491](http://www.jdrf.org/index.cfm?page_id=104491)

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[pcsupport@altum.com](mailto:pcsupport@altum.com)

(301)-916-4557 ext. 227, or toll free in the US, (800)-875-2562 ext. 227

Assistance can be obtained Monday through Friday between 8:30am and 5pm U.S. Eastern Time.