



*dedicated to finding a cure*

## **JDRF Requests Expressions of Interest for Projects in Interconnecting and Synergistic Pathways of Type 1 Diabetic Complications**

### **Background and Purpose of the Request**

Disease systems are characterized by the dysregulation of multiple or redundant biological pathways thus it is a challenge to identify drugs that alone can correct the pathways.

Inhibition of an individual target will be, in many cases, insufficient to restore the system to the healthy state, leading to an alternative approach of modulating the activity of multiple targets (or multiple pathways from one target) might be required to achieve optimal therapeutic benefit.. JDRF believes that if interconnected or synergistic pathways are targeted, then this will lead to the identification of multi-targeted drug candidates **or drug combinations**. Such candidates could have a profound effect through improved treatments for individuals with complications of Type 1 diabetes.

### **Specific Goals of the Request**

JDRF predicts that multi-factorial diseases such as diabetic complications will require safe and effective combination and multi-drug approaches that impact multiple targets simultaneously to be better than single drugs at controlling complications of Type 1 diabetes. JDRF seeks applications from qualified investigators to identify multiple and simultaneous pathophysiological pathways that interact in a complementary or synergistic manner. JDRF believes success through this approach may serve as a basis for future multi-target drug products. More specifically, this request invites an *Expression of Interest* to identify synergistic or interconnecting pathways, specifically retinopathy, nephropathy, neuropathy and systemic inflammatory signaling. Projects can be designed to explore interconnecting or synergistic pathways using creative approaches as well as standard, accepted in vitro and in vivo approaches.

### **Examples of Preferred Project Designs in Diabetic Complications**

1. Combined single-target approach – 2 or more Known signaling pathways whose interference shows an additive or synergistic effect leading to an enhanced therapeutic effect.
2. Single, multi-target approach - Known, single target affecting more than one pathway simultaneously
3. Systems approach to discover new pathogenic pathways and their targets to investigate interconnections or synergies.
4. An approach where one pathway is known and the interconnecting or synergistic one is being sought elsewhere in the system.

### **Restrictions**

This expression is open to academic investigators AND commercial drug development enterprises. An expression submitted from a joint academic/industry is welcome and will be treated as a duplex. It is recommended that prospective applications review the Research Emphasis Areas in Type 1 Diabetic Complication posted on the JDRF website to assess the program interests. In addition to exclusion of cardiovascular disease, large vessel disease,

wound healing approaches and endothelial progenitor cells are not among our priorities for this announcement.

**Expressions of interest should be no more than two pages in length and include the following information:**

- Title of Proposed Project
- Name, title and institution (or company) of principal investigator, and any co-investigator or key collaborator(s)
- Brief rationale
- Description of the research approach
- Primary deliverable of the project
- Approximate budget and project duration (not to exceed \$250K per year for a maximum of 24 months including 10% maximum indirect costs).

**PROGRAMMATIC CONTACT**

Inquiries should be directed to John Gebhard, Ph.D. at [jgebhard@jdrf.org](mailto:jgebhard@jdrf.org); tel: +1-801-673-9929 or Barbara Araneo, Ph.D. at [baraneo@jdrf.org](mailto:baraneo@jdrf.org); tel: +1-212-479-7662

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

**Expressions of interest should be submitted via Proposal Central (<http://proposalcentral.altum.com/default.asp?GMID=16>), using the template provided, no later than November 15, 2008 at 11.59 p.m. EST.**

Principal investigators whose EOIs prove competitive and relevant to this RFA will be invited to submit a full proposal. **An Expression of Interest must be approved before gaining access to a full application.** *If your EOI is approved, log back on to your account on proposalCENTRAL to gain access to the full application.*

**KEY DATES:**

<b>EOI deadline</b>	November 15 <sup>th</sup> 2008
<b>EOI decision by</b>	December 1 <sup>st</sup> 2008
<b>Full application due (Academic R+D)</b>	January 26 <sup>th</sup> 2009
<b>Final review</b>	June 2008

**ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACT**

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**PROPOSALCENTRAL**

☐ <http://proposalcentral.altum.com/default.asp?GMID=16>  
☐ [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.