

# JDRF Research Team



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## Meet JDRF's Research Team



I am pleased to introduce the JDRF Research Team, a dedicated group of scientists who are charged with accelerating our progress toward our key goals: curing type 1 diabetes (T1D), delivering better treatments to lessen the burden of living with the disease, and preventing it in future generations. Members of this team use their scientific knowledge, expertise, and relationships with the broader community to identify research opportunities, advance the most promising research, and bridge the gaps that exist in the field of T1D investigation.

Meet the team of scientists at JDRF who develop and manage our portfolio of research. I am confident that they will deliver JDRF results, playing a critical and ongoing role in translating scientific research into tangible progress and benefits for people living with T1D.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Brewer', written in a cursive style.

**Jeffrey Brewer**  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

## Senior Research Leadership

### Richard A. Insel, M.D.

*Chief Scientific Officer*



Richard A. Insel, M.D., oversees the research strategy of JDRF, the world's largest funder of type 1 diabetes (T1D) research. In addition, he is helping develop JDRF's strategic research plans to prevent T1D. Prior to joining JDRF in 2003, Dr. Insel was the founding director of the Center for Human Genetics and Molecular Pediatric Disease and professor of pediatrics and microbiology and immunology at the University of Rochester Medical Center. During his 26-year affiliation with the university's medical center, he served as the acting chair of pediatrics, director of the Strong Children's Research Center, and chief of the division of pediatric immunology, allergy, and rheumatology. His research program at the university focused on immune responses to bacterial vaccines and B cell immunity. Dr. Insel was a co-founder and board member of Praxis Biologics, a biotechnology company that developed a vaccine that protects against *Haemophilus influenzae* type b, the cause of bacterial meningitis. This vaccine was the first to be licensed in the United States in a decade. A second, a conjugate vaccine, was the first to be licensed for universal use with infants since the vaccine for measles and mumps. Today, the Hib vaccine is regarded as one of the medical success stories of the 20th century, responsible for reducing the incidence of bacterial meningitis in children by 98 percent in the United States. Dr. Insel currently serves on the board of the Alliance for Regenerative Medicine and on the Steering Committee of Type 1 Diabetes TrialNet, an international network of researchers who are exploring ways to prevent, delay, and reverse the progression of T1D, and served on the National Advisory Allergy and Infectious Diseases Council of the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Insel completed his pediatric and immunology training at Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School.

## Cure Research

Halting the autoimmune process and restoring normal insulin production

### Julia L. Greenstein, Ph.D.

*Vice President, Cure Therapies*



Julia L. Greenstein, Ph.D., originally joined JDRF as a consultant in 2005 and currently serves JDRF as the vice president of cure therapies, one of JDRF's core research initiatives. Many of the projects in the Cure research portfolio also contribute toward our goal of preventing type 1 diabetes (T1D) and the Cure Therapies team is responsible for both program areas. In her more than 20 years of experience in the corporate biotechnology arena, Dr. Greenstein has held various leadership positions that have helped accelerate discoveries to market. From 2000 to 2005, Dr. Greenstein was the chief executive officer and president of Immerge BioTherapeutics, a Novartis and BioTransplant joint venture focused on the development of pig xenotransplantation for clinical practice. Prior to this position, she held the roles of chief scientific officer and senior vice president of research at BioTransplant and vice president of discovery research at ImmuLogic Pharmaceutical Corp. Dr. Greenstein currently serves on the Board of Directors of Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions. She also served on the board of the Massachusetts Biotechnology Council, the Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation, and the Massachusetts Society for Medical Research. Dr. Greenstein received her bachelor's degree in biochemistry from Russell Sage College and her doctorate in microbiology from University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, under the direction of Dr. Philippa Marrack. Dr. Greenstein was an assistant professor at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute of Harvard Medical School after completing her postdoctoral work there and at the University of Rochester.

### Joseph A. Hedrick, Ph.D.

*Senior Director, Cure Therapies*



Joseph A. Hedrick, Ph.D., currently serves as senior director of cure therapies, where he oversees the immune and beta cell replacement portfolios. Dr. Hedrick also works with JDRF senior scientific management to develop and implement strategy in both Cure and Prevent Therapies. Dr. Hedrick comes to JDRF with more than 15 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry. Prior to joining JDRF in 2011, Dr. Hedrick was with Merck & Co. as the director of biologics strategy for diabetes and cardiovascular disease. In this role he was responsible for identifying promising new protein therapeutics (antibodies and recombinant proteins). Prior to his time at Merck, Dr. Hedrick held positions of ever-increasing responsibility at Schering-Plough, culminating in his leadership of Schering's diabetes target validation and exploratory drug discovery program. Dr. Hedrick conducted his doctoral training at the University of California, San Diego and San Diego State University, where he studied T cell development and the interaction of Epstein-Barr virus with cells of the immune system. His postdoctoral training was at the DNAX Research Institute in Palo Alto, CA, where he identified and characterized proteins that control movement of immune cells around the body. Dr. Hedrick is the author of more than 50 peer-reviewed scientific articles and several book chapters, and is an inventor on numerous patents.

**Patricia L. Kilian, Ph.D.**

*Director, Beta Cell Therapies, Regeneration*



Patricia L. Kilian, Ph.D., serves as the director of the Beta Cell Regeneration Program at JDRF, where she develops and implements strategic initiatives to accelerate the discovery of therapies to maintain and restore beta cell function in people with type 1 diabetes. In this capacity, she has established a number of industry and academic partnerships with leading institutions and is actively engaged in managing these research projects. In the area of diabetes, Dr. Kilian has extensive scientific and global management experience in both pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. As the vice president of research at Pharmacia AB in Stockholm, Sweden, Dr. Kilian successfully worked with the division of metabolic diseases to move several drug candidates for the treatment of type 2 diabetes and obesity into exploratory development, and prepared and managed a strategy that resulted in the successful spinoff of this division to become a new, independent, and privately owned biotech company, Biovitrum AB. Prior to her work at Pharmacia, Dr. Kilian was the department head of cell physiology at Glaxo, where she played a key role in initiating and implementing an innovative type 2 diabetes genomics program. At Hoffmann-La Roche, she was quickly recognized for her research in cytokine drug discovery while leading the IL-1 project team. In addition to large pharma, Dr. Kilian served as the chief executive officer of Kinexis, a small startup pharmaceutical company that she co-founded and for which she served as a board member. Dr. Kilian also served as the vice president of research and development at gene/Networks, a startup company focusing on genetic targets of metabolic and other complex disorders. Dr. Kilian has worked as a consultant to venture capital firms and early-stage startup companies, preparing business plans and investor presentations, and evaluating internal research and development programs and pharma partnering strategies. She has more than 50 scientific publications and patents.

**Andrew Rakeman, Ph.D.**

*Senior Scientist, Beta Cell Therapies, Regeneration*



Andrew Rakeman, Ph.D., is the senior scientific program manager of beta cell regeneration therapies for JDRF, where he develops key industry partnerships and executes the strategic framework for the beta cell regeneration program. He is primarily responsible for addressing scientific gaps in the drug discovery and development pipeline in order to bring the most promising and innovative therapeutics to market as quickly as possible. He also manages a portfolio of academic research grants for JDRF, and leads strategic partnerships with biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, including Johnson & Johnson, Eli Lilly and Company, and the Genomics Institute of the Novartis Research Foundation. Dr. Rakeman holds an undergraduate degree in biology from Boston University and a doctorate from Weill Cornell Medical College. His graduate training was conducted in the laboratory of Dr. Kathryn Anderson at the Sloan-Kettering Institute, studying the genetic and cellular regulation of axis formation and patterning in the mouse embryo. He has authored and co-authored several papers in the areas of developmental biology and cell biology. Dr. Rakeman is frequently invited as a speaker to meetings and symposia for both scientific and lay audiences.

**Adrienne Wong, Ph.D.**

*Senior Scientist, Beta Cell Therapies, Replacement*



Adrienne Wong, Ph.D., is currently a senior scientific program manager at JDRF, where she is responsible for developing cell therapies and noninvasive imaging in the area of beta cell replacement. She is also involved in negotiating and implementing international partnerships with public and private agencies to create funding opportunities for type 1 diabetes (T1D) research. In her role, Dr. Wong has gained unique perspectives on the commercialization potential for cell therapy in T1D, having represented JDRF on numerous occasions in stem cell translation and policy programs at the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. In her biomarkers and beta cell imaging program, she works closely with two European Union-supported framework programs: as JDRF's liaison to Betalmage and an Industrial Advisory Board member of Vibrant. In the United States, she is also a liaison to the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health, an independent nonprofit organization that facilitates the development of public-private partnerships, including The Biomarkers Consortium. Dr. Wong has expertise in intellectual property strategy and management, which she gained as a science advisor at Darby & Darby. Dr. Wong received her undergraduate degree in biology from Brown University and her doctorate in cell biology from Duke University, where she studied cellular signaling in angiogenesis as a United States Army MRCM Breast Cancer Research Program fellow under the guidance of Dr. Kevin G. Peters. She continued her training in developmental biology as a postdoctoral fellow at Columbia University, studying murine kidney development. Her scientific communication experience encompasses teaching, independent writing, and completing a production internship with National Public Radio's *Science Friday*. Dr. Wong is also committed to mentoring young scientists.

**Albert Hwa, Ph.D.**

*Senior Scientist, Beta Cell Therapies, Replacement*



Albert Hwa, Ph.D., joined JDRF in January 2007 and is currently a senior scientific program manager in the Beta Cell Therapies Program, for which he develops and manages research initiatives related to islet transplantation, bioengineering, stem cell research, cell encapsulation, and cellular reprogramming. He has represented JDRF as a liaison with several funding partners, including the European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes and the Roche Organ Transplantation Research Foundation. Throughout his career, Dr. Hwa has gained extensive experience in program planning and implementation, and has been involved in managing large research consortia, including the European Consortium for Islet Transplantation and the Islet Transplantation Program in Australia. Currently, Dr. Hwa serves as a representative on the United Network for Organ Sharing's Pancreas Transplantation Committee and the Collaborative Islet Transplant Registry's Scientific Steering Committee. Prior to joining JDRF, he worked as a consultant and research associate at the International Biometric Group, where he managed and executed research grants awarded by the United States government. He also communicated research results to the press, produced company press releases, and drafted and delivered webcast reports on industry news and trends. Dr. Hwa received his undergraduate degree in chemical engineering from Cornell University and his doctorate in bioengineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His dissertation focused on liver tissue engineering devices and physiological organ cultures.

**Teodora P. Staeva, Ph.D.**

*Director, Immune Therapies*



Teodora P. Staeva, Ph.D., is the director of the Immune Therapies Program at JDRF, where she leads the strategic development of the program and manages the execution of its initiatives. Dr. Staeva led the initial efforts that established the Network for Pancreatic Organ Donors with Diabetes (nPOD) and was also the catalyst for the creation of JDRF's Autoimmunity Centers Consortium. She is JDRF's liaison with the Immune Tolerance Network, Type 1 Diabetes TrialNet, and the Diabetes Vaccine Development Centre. She is also a member of several committees, including the Immunity and Inflammation Steering Committee of The Biomarkers Consortium within the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health, the nPOD Executive Committee, and TrialNet's Ancillary Studies and Mechanistic Studies committees. Dr. Staeva received her doctorate in immunology from the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences and the Sloan-Kettering Institute in New York.

**Concepcion R. Nierras, Ph.D.**

*Assistant Vice President, International Partnerships*



Marie Nierras, Ph.D., is the assistant vice president of international partnerships at JDRF. Dr. Nierras is JDRF's liaison to organizations that help fund JDRF research, and has helped develop partnerships with international funding agencies, including the Wellcome Trust, the Canadian International Development Agency, and the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia. Dr. Nierras also serves as the program officer for genetics consortia that are co-supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Nierras works with other JDRF scientists on program initiatives such as those that aim to better understand common mechanisms in autoimmune diseases, stem cell research, and diabetic nephropathy. She completed her doctorate in genetics from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and has also worked at Oxford University, U.K., and Albert Einstein College of Medicine, in New York. Dr. Nierras has published articles on the genetics of type 1 diabetes, stem cell research as it applies to diabetes, and research policy. She serves as a member of the NIH Scientific Advisory Committee for the Chronic Kidney Disease Biomarkers Consortium.

**Jessica L. Dunne, Ph.D.**

*Senior Scientist, Immune Therapies*



Jessica Dunne, Ph.D., is the senior scientific program manager for JDRF's Immune Therapies Program, the portion of JDRF's research portfolio aimed at stopping or reversing the immune response that causes type 1 diabetes. In her role, Dr. Dunne develops and implements research programs that address key scientific and program gaps within the immune therapies portfolio. Prior to joining JDRF in 2008, she was a senior scientist and manager of animal biology at Elusys Therapeutics, a small biotechnology company that focuses on life-threatening infectious diseases. There, she led a team of scientists performing preclinical studies in four therapeutic areas. A number of these projects were partnered with big pharmaceutical companies, and Dr. Dunne was responsible for liaising with those companies to develop programs and therapies. Dr. Dunne completed her postdoctoral training at Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research & Development, where she was an integral part of the preclinical team tasked to develop a second-generation CYPHER® stent. During her postdoctoral training, she led a project in collaboration with Ethicon to develop drug and biomaterial combinations that reduce biofouling of implanted biomaterials. Dr. Dunne holds a bachelor's degree from The Johns Hopkins University and a doctorate from the University of Virginia, both in the field of biomedical engineering. Her graduate training focused on the cellular mechanics of acute inflammatory response.

**Simi T. Ahmed, Ph.D.**

*Scientist, Immune Therapies*



Simi T. Ahmed, Ph.D., returned to JDRF in 2011 as the scientific program manager of the Immune Therapies Program, having briefly served in this role from 2007 to 2008 before taking a short break from her career. During her initial tenure at JDRF, she led two initiatives: one to study the role of mucosal immunity in type 1 diabetes (T1D), and another involving the role of innate immunity in T1D. She also participated in the initial funding of the JDRF Autoimmunity Centers Consortium. Prior to joining JDRF, Dr. Ahmed completed her postdoctoral training in Dr. James E. Darnell Jr.'s laboratory at The Rockefeller University, studying the effect of blocking IL-6 signaling in a variety of cancer types, including breast cancer and head and neck cancer. She holds a bachelor's degree in biophysical chemistry from Dartmouth College, and a doctorate from the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences. She was a Cancer Research Institute Fellow as a graduate student and postdoc and received various merit awards during her training years. Dr. Ahmed has presented her work at national meetings, including the Keystone Conferences on Autoimmunity and Inflammation, The American Association of Immunologists, and the International Congress of Immunology.

# Treat Research

Developing new devices and therapies that optimize blood-glucose control and treat or prevent T1D complications

## Emily Frey, MSc

Project Manager for Cure Therapies



Emily Frey, MSc, currently serves as the Project Manager for Cure Therapies. Ms. Frey works closely with the Cure and Prevent teams to further the Encapsulation, Beta Cell Health and Survival, Antigen Specific, Biomarkers, and Prevention programs. Prior to this role, she was the National Manager of Research Administration &

Operations working closely with the Senior Grants Manager to ensure proper grants management across the portfolio and specifically overseeing the grants team dedicated to the Cure and Prevent portfolios. Ms. Frey first joined JDRF in 2008 as a Grants Administrator managing a complex portfolio of Immune Therapies grants and assisting in the development of various grants management tools. Ms. Frey came to JDRF after working at the Fulbright Commission in London while completing her MSc in Human Evolution at University College London.

## Aaron J. Kowalski, Ph.D.

Vice President, Treat Therapies



Aaron J. Kowalski, Ph.D., oversees JDRF-funded research aimed at accelerating the delivery of therapies that will help keep people healthy while living with type 1 diabetes (T1D), minimizing their risk for developing diabetes complications, as well as therapies that will help those who have developed diabetic

complications. Dr. Kowalski is an internationally recognized expert in the area of diabetes technologies and has been a leader of JDRF's Artificial Pancreas Project, a multi-million dollar initiative that began in 2005 to accelerate the progress toward a closed-loop, automated insulin-delivery system. He has authored numerous articles in the field and was a co-author of the landmark study in *The New England Journal of Medicine* that revealed the effectiveness of continuous glucose monitors in T1D. Dr. Kowalski has traveled widely across North America and abroad describing diabetes research progress, and is known for his ability to translate science into easily understandable concepts. Dr. Kowalski has been an invited speaker at many national and international conferences, including the ADA Annual Scientific Sessions, and was the keynote speaker at the 2009 Diabetes Technology Society Meeting. He has been a voice for diabetes research in the popular media, appearing on *The Martha Stewart Show*, *dLife*, *Fox Business*, *NPR*, and many other shows, and is often quoted in print media, including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, and *People* magazine. He earned his doctorate in molecular genetics from Rutgers University and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

## Sanjoy Dutta, Ph.D.

Senior Director, Treat Therapies



Sanjoy Dutta, Ph.D., is the senior director of the Treat Therapies Program at JDRF. He strategically manages a portfolio of academic, biotech, and pharmaceutical initiatives and partnerships that evaluate a strong and promising pipeline of candidate drugs, devices, and related opportunities. He is a member of the Artificial Pancreas

Project, for which he identifies, assesses, and executes necessary translational and clinical studies to bring to market new therapies for improving glucose control. Previously, Dr. Dutta was the associate director of translational medicine and clinical biomarkers at Bristol-Myers Squibb, overseeing the metabolic diseases therapeutic area. He worked on multiple programs in early- and late-stage clinical development, discovering, developing, and validating markers of efficacy, safety, mechanism, genetic predisposition, and other aspects in diabetes and obesity. He was part of the team whose work led to the development of Onglyza, currently on the market for the treatment of type 2 diabetes. Prior to that, he was principal scientist of cardiovascular and metabolic diseases at Hoffmann-La Roche, where he led or was a key member of various drug discovery programs in this therapeutic area. He received postdoctoral training from the department of cell biology and the Joslin Diabetes Center at Harvard Medical School in Boston, where he developed and studied genetic (preclinical) models of diabetes. He obtained his doctorate from the department of biochemistry and molecular biology at the University of Southern California, studying skeletal and cardiac muscle gene expression and responses to drugs during cardiac disease. Dr. Dutta has authored several articles, contributed to regulatory filing documents, and given presentations at domestic and international meetings; he was a member of the American Heart Association and has been a member of the American Diabetes Association for more than a decade. He hails from India, where he completed his Master of Science in biochemistry and neurosciences before coming to the United States.

### **Marlon Pragnell, Ph.D.**

Senior Scientist, Glucose Control Therapies



Marlon Pragnell, Ph.D., is the senior scientific program manager in the Treat Therapies Program at JDRF, where he manages JDRF's multi-million dollar Artificial Pancreas Project, which brings together world-class diabetes clinicians with engineers and mathematicians to develop and test novel artificial

pancreas control algorithms. Dr. Pragnell also leads JDRF's efforts in the area of hypoglycemia research, which aims to better understand the mechanisms of hypoglycemia unawareness in order to find better treatments for this condition. Recently, Dr. Pragnell assumed responsibility for the JDRF-funded CONCEPTT trial, an international effort that aims to improve maternal and fetal outcomes in type 1 diabetes pregnancies through the use of continuous glucose monitors. Prior to joining JDRF in 2007, Dr. Pragnell spent 10 years at Genzyme Corporation as a principal scientist in the renal and metabolic diseases group, where he was a key member on a team studying mineral metabolism disorders in support of Renagel/Renvela and Hectorol, two Genzyme products. In his work on mineral metabolism, he was also a team leader in the design and execution of preclinical proof-of-concept studies for X-linked hypophosphatemic rickets, and a senior investigator on a team studying the effects of thyroid-stimulating hormone on bone volume. Dr. Pragnell received his doctorate from The University of Iowa, where he characterized the first known regulatory b-subunit of neuronal voltage-sensitive calcium channels. Before being recruited to Genzyme, Dr. Pragnell was a postdoc at Columbia University in the laboratory of Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator Dr. Steven Siegelbaum. Dr. Pragnell has published research articles in a number of top journals, including a primary-author publication in *Nature* for his work on voltage-sensitive calcium channels.

### **Helen Nickerson, Ph.D.**

Senior Scientist, Complications Therapies



Helen Nickerson, Ph.D., is the senior scientific program manager for complications therapies at JDRF, where she develops and oversees programs focused on preventing and treating the complications of diabetes. Since joining JDRF in 2006, Dr. Nickerson has developed and contributed to JDRF's research

strategy in several areas, including research in retinopathy, nephropathy, neuropathy, and cardiovascular disease. She has been a team leader in various workshops and initiatives that aim to understand the genetics of nephropathy and the metabolic memory effect in type 1 diabetes. Her work also focuses on the translation of basic science into drug targets and therapies and the development of more sensitive biomarkers for detecting and predicting complications. Dr. Nickerson serves on the Steering Committee of the National Institutes of Health Animal Models for Diabetic Complications Consortium and is an honorary member of Neurodiab, a society that focuses on clinical and experimental aspects of diabetic neuropathy. After completing her doctorate at the University of Cambridge, U.K., Dr. Nickerson received postdoctoral training at Cornell and Columbia universities in New York City, where her work focused on the cyclin family of proteins in the development of cancer. She has been published in peer-reviewed journals, including *Gene Therapy*, *Development*, and *Developmental Biology*.

### **Jiangfeng Fei, Ph.D.**

Senior Manager, New Technology Development, Artificial Pancreas Project



Jiangfeng Fei, Ph.D., is the senior manager of new technology development for JDRF's Artificial Pancreas Project. Dr. Fei's primary responsibilities include identifying new-device development opportunities that fill key gaps and accelerate the goals of JDRF's Artificial Pancreas Project, and acting as the scientific lead on current

device-related partnerships with industry and academic investigators. Prior to joining JDRF, Dr. Fei was a core team leader in the new-product development program management department at the Bayer Diabetes Care Global R&D Center. He was responsible for leading new-product development efforts from product ideation, business case analysis, and technical and commercial feasibility to development, verification and validation, regulatory submission, and successful global commercialization. He led an internal cross-functional team of scientists and engineers as well as professionals in quality assurance, regulatory affairs, product supply, finance, and marketing. Dr. Fei has extensive experience in medical-device market access and product launch in Asian countries, especially China, where he led clinical trials and regulatory submission of a co-branded blood-glucose meter for low-income people with diabetes. Before he transitioned to a product-development leadership role, he managed research projects in the technology innovation department at Bayer Diabetes Care, maintained liaisons with academia, and filed multiple patent applications to enhance intellectual-property portfolios. Dr. Fei received his master's degree in cell and molecular biology from Beijing Normal University and his doctorate in biomedical engineering from Brown University, where he invented and synthesized a polymeric version of a redox-active single molecule that can be used for low-interference continuous glucose monitoring. Dr. Fei is also certified as a Project Management Professional.

### **Agnes Kim-Meade, Ph.D.**

Senior Project Manager, Treat Therapies



Agnes Kim-Meade, Ph.D., currently serves as the senior project manager of the Treat Therapies Program at JDRF. In this role, Dr. Kim-Meade works closely with the Treat Therapies Team to progress the artificial pancreas and complications portfolios. Dr. Kim-Meade comes to JDRF with more than 15 years of experience in the

pharmaceutical industry. She has experience in pharmaceutical product development for oral and inhaled therapies, injectables, and biologics and a strong understanding and hands-on experience with the functional areas of preclinical and clinical research, product development, regulatory affairs, manufacturing, and commercialization. Prior to joining JDRF in 2012, Dr. Kim-Meade was the U.S. project and portfolio manager for several specialty and combination products at Sandoz (Novartis), where she worked with global clinical, regulatory, and technical development teams. She was also responsible for working with manufacturing sites in the United States to prepare for launch. Prior to her time at Sandoz, Dr. Kim-Meade was a global project manager at Schering-Plough/Merck, where she managed the mometasone (Nasonex) franchise as well as other products in late development in the allergy/respiratory and immunology areas. Dr. Kim-Meade started her pharmaceutical career as a development chemist and was a project leader in chemical development for inflammation (Phase I) and oncology drugs (Phase II/III). She moved into project management in 2003 as a project manager in strategic planning and coordination in pharmaceutical sciences. Dr. Kim-Meade received her undergraduate degree in chemistry from Colgate University and her doctorate in organic chemistry from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Following her postdoctoral studies at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Dr. Kim-Meade also worked as a synthetic chemist at GlaxoSmithKline and Eisai. As a chemist, Dr. Kim-Meade has published and given presentations at domestic and international meetings and is also an inventor on several patents.

# Research Partnerships and Alliance Management

Supporting JDRF's research goals through collaborations with external organizations

## Shachi Vyas, MS

Scientist, Treat Therapies



Shachi Vyas is the scientific program manager for JDRF's Treat Therapies Program and is responsible for accelerating the generation of therapies available to treat type 1 diabetes (T1D), with a major focus on clinical trial research, drug repositioning, and aspects of funding opportunities associated with the JDRF

diabetes complications portfolio. Her role includes assisting with strategically prioritized research opportunities for clinical trials in established T1D and various research opportunities in the area of diabetes complications. Ms. Vyas has seven years of clinical trials experience, managing early- and late-phase studies from start to finish. Previously, Ms. Vyas was associated with Veeda Clinical Research, where she managed various Phase I and Phase II clinical trials in India and the UK. In this role, she participated in various regulatory audits, including those conducted by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. She also led a due-diligence team for mergers and acquisitions of hospitals and delivered multiple seminars and webinars on good clinical practice (GCP). Ms. Vyas received her master's degree in biochemistry from Gujarat University in India and a postgraduate diploma in international business management from Ahmedabad Management Association, in Gujarat. Before joining JDRF, Ms. Vyas worked as a clinical trials consultant on a project that involved writing a white paper on electronic records and electronic signatures, in which capacity she performed research and analysis of various electronic data capture and clinical data management aspects for GCP compliance in the United States, European Union, and Japan for Cognizant Technology Solutions. She also performed medical writing for publication and has written two articles on clinical that were published in leading online pharmaceutical magazines.

## Olivia Lou, Ph.D.

Program Officer, JDRF Canadian Clinical Trial Network  
Scientific Program Manager, International Partnerships



Olivia Lou, Ph.D., is the program officer for the new JDRF Canadian Clinical Trial Network (JDRF CCTN), and serves as JDRF's liaison between JDRF International and JDRF Canada. With JDRF CCTN, she is responsible for managing the setup of the trial network and implementing the first set of clinical trials. Previously,

Dr. Lou served as scientific program manager for JDRF's Immune Therapies Program, where she developed and implemented research programs aimed at understanding the immunopathogenesis of type 1 diabetes (T1D) and strategies to halt or reverse the autoimmune response. Dr. Lou has worked with investigators in the diabetes field on initiatives related to biomarkers, immune memory, common mechanisms of autoimmune disease, the microbiome in T1D, and humanized mouse models for diabetes. Dr. Lou also served as JDRF's liaison for international consortia, including The Environmental Determinants of Diabetes in the Young, the Trial to Reduce IDDM in the Genetically at Risk, and the Immunology of Diabetes Society T Cell Workshop. Prior to joining JDRF, she completed her postdoctoral fellowship at Weill Cornell Medical College, focusing on cellular mechanisms during acute inflammation, and additionally has experience teaching at the college level as an instructor for both biology and music. Dr. Lou earned her bachelor's degree in microbiology from the University of Alberta, and her doctorate in immunology from the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences.

## Peter Lomedico, Ph.D.

Director, Partnerships and Alliance Management



Peter Lomedico, Ph.D., joined JDRF in 2005 to lead the Industry Partnerships Program, an effort that supports the transfer of early-stage research to the commercial sector. Dr. Lomedico works closely with the research scientists to accelerate the development and delivery of disease-modifying therapeutics and devices

for people with type 1 diabetes (T1D) by engaging industry on JDRF research projects. A number of large pharmaceutical companies have entered into licensing and product development and commercialization agreements with JDRF-funded biotechnology companies, providing evidence that big pharma recognizes the commercial potential in T1D products. Dr. Lomedico has a diverse background in molecular biology, diabetes research, and drug discovery, with more than 25 years of pharmaceutical and biotechnology experience. Previously, he worked at NeoGenesis Pharmaceuticals, as vice president of strategic alliances, at CuraGen Corporation as vice president of discovery research, and at Genome Therapeutics Corporation as vice president of human genetics. In addition, Dr. Lomedico conducted genomics and drug discovery research in various positions at Hoffmann-LaRoche. Dr. Lomedico received his bachelor's degree in biology from Villanova University and his doctorate in molecular biology from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, and conducted research in the laboratory of Dr. Walter Gilbert at Harvard University with a postdoctoral research fellowship from JDRF.

## Olivier Arnaud, Pharm.D.

European Director, Research



Olivier Arnaud, Pharm.D., is the European director of research for JDRF, based in Paris, France. Dr. Arnaud is responsible for strengthening JDRF's research efforts in Europe and working closely with the Research Department to identify new funding opportunities, both academic and company-related. Additionally, he

is the JDRF regulatory point of contact for the European regulatory agencies. Dr. Arnaud brings extensive experience in applied research, business development, and technology transfer to the JDRF Research Department. Prior to joining JDRF, Dr. Arnaud held the position of director of technology transfer for Inserm-Transfer SA, where he was responsible for licensing and research collaborations, with supervisory responsibilities for more than 20 personnel. His earlier experience includes working as head of biological and clinical studies at Servier, where he was responsible for preclinical/clinical development activities in diabetes/obesity and established an international network of academic researchers. He then took a new challenge as director of business development, leading alliance management activities, with oversight of business intelligence and development of operations, and an international network of scientific experts and consultants. He left his position at Servier to become vice president of European development for ProStrakan/OTL Pharma, responsible for international business development in neurology, and diabetes and metabolism. Dr. Arnaud completed his doctorate at Claude Bernard University in Lyon, France, with a specialized master's degree in pharmacology and pharmacokinetics. He has also completed course work in business intelligence at the Institute of Higher National Defense Studies in Paris.

## Regulatory Affairs

Accelerating regulatory approvals of JDRF-supported products to cure, better treat, and prevent T1D

### Research Partnerships and Alliance Management Team

**Maria Luisa Candelore**

Business Development Manager, Cure Therapies

**Dhanuraj Shetty**

Business Development Manager, Treat Therapies

**Dov Hellman**

Business Intelligence Manager

**Bethany Griffin**

Senior Manager, Alliance Portfolio

**Hilary Fingeret**

Helmsley Charitable Trust Program Administrator

**Leila Ostad**

Project Coordinator/Administrative Assistant

**Cynthia Rice, MPP**

*Vice President, Advocacy and Policy*



Cynthia Rice is vice president of government relations for JDRF. She is responsible for JDRF's advocacy to Congress, the executive branch, regulatory agencies, and health plans to accelerate therapies to cure, better treat, and prevent type 1 diabetes. Ms. Rice joined JDRF in 2005 and prior to her current role was JDRF's director

of new technology access, in which role she led a cross-departmental staff team that defined and implemented the Artificial Pancreas Project's research, government relations, communications, and development goals. Ms. Rice has extensive experience leading complicated advocacy projects in both the government and nonprofit sectors. In the White House from 1997 to 2000, she served as a special assistant to the president for domestic policy, coordinating numerous high profile policy initiatives involving experts from multiple agencies and employing various legislative, regulatory, and communications tactics. Prior to joining the White House, she served in the U.S. Senate as a legislative assistant to two senior members of the Finance Committee, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Senator John B. Breaux. In those capacities, she helped advance and amend a variety of budget, health, and domestic policy legislation. From 2001 to 2005, Ms. Rice served as vice president for policy at the New Democrat Network, where she led efforts to promote the group's policy agenda to elected officials and the public. Ms. Rice has a master's degree in public policy from the University of California, Berkeley, and a bachelor's degree from Harvard University.

**Campbell Hutton, MSPH**

*Director, Regulatory Affairs for Medical Devices*



Campbell Hutton, MSPH, is director of regulatory affairs for medical devices and is responsible for JDRF's interactions with regulatory agencies, including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, in this area. In this capacity, she oversees JDRF's regulatory strategy for medical devices and works closely with the director

of regulatory affairs for drugs and biologics to implement JDRF's overall regulatory strategy. An area on which Ms. Hutton focuses is the Artificial Pancreas Project. She works to ensure that JDRF-funded academic sites gain the necessary regulatory approvals, provides assistance and oversight for JDRF partners' regulatory processes, and implements the regulatory strategy to accelerate regulatory approval of at-home studies and pre-market approval of artificial pancreas systems. Ms. Hutton joined JDRF in 2009 in this newly created position. Prior to joining JDRF, Ms. Hutton was a vice president of the Strategic Consulting Group at Becker & Associates Consulting, a boutique scientific consulting firm in Washington, D.C. In that capacity, she was the primary contact for medical device company clients and served as the lead in developing regulatory strategies and regulatory submissions for innovative medical products. She was at Becker & Associates for five years in positions of increasing responsibility. Ms. Hutton holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Washington and Lee University and a master's degree in public health from the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

## Research Grants Administration Team

### Marjana Marinac, Pharm.D., R.Ph.

*Director, Regulatory Affairs for Drugs and Biologics*



Marjana Marinac, Pharm.D., is the director of regulatory affairs for drugs and biologics and is responsible for developing and implementing regulatory strategy to accelerate approval for priority JDRF cure, treatment, and prevention therapies. In this role, she focuses on encapsulation, diabetic eye disease, and immune therapies, and works closely with the research team and the director of regulatory affairs for medical devices to implement JDRF's overall regulatory strategy. Dr. Marinac joined JDRF in 2012 in this newly created position. Prior to joining JDRF, she was a senior manager of regulatory affairs at Emergent Biosolutions, a biopharmaceutical company in Rockville, MD. There, she oversaw late-stage clinical studies for an anthrax vaccine and was the regulatory lead for merger-and-acquisition activities, which resulted in acquisition of a late-stage candidate for T cell lymphoma. Prior to her work at Emergent, Dr. Marinac was a regulatory affairs manager at MacroGenics, where she worked on the anti-CD3 candidate teplizumab. She began her career in industry and regulatory affairs at Hospira, where she spent five years. There, she led regulatory strategy for late-stage development of a proprietary sedative agent, resulting in two supplemental new drug applications, and managed the review and approval of advertising and promotional labeling. Dr. Marinac received her doctor of pharmacy degree from Butler University and holds a registered pharmacist license in the state of Illinois.



The JDRF Research Grants Administration team plays a critical role in supporting the research department and JDRF's work toward curing, better treating, and preventing type 1 diabetes. Their responsibilities and activities span from the initial request for applications through the fulfillment of all funded awards. They are closely aligned with the scientific team and help to ensure effective and efficient research funding.

**Seated:** Karen Ng, Emily Alexandrino, Kathryn Leslie

**Standing:** Sara Barton, Amanda Rieder, Maria Bieg, Julie Carl, Shavon Smith, Emily Klein, Deborah Kenyon, Bridget Donnelly, Emily Frey

**Not Present:** Monica Seale and Tamara Siskind

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