REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTENT (LOI):

TARGET DISCOVERY AND VALIDATION FOR DIABETIC NEPHROPATHY:

PURPOSE
JDRF is committed to facilitating the translation of promising targets or therapeutics in type 1 diabetic complications to the clinic and patient. To this end, JDRF is soliciting letters of intent (LOI) for research with the potential to translate into novel therapies for diabetic nephropathy, with a particular focus on identification and/or validation of targets with promise for treatment at chronic kidney disease (CKD) stages 1-3. EOI should address the discovery and validation of targets and/or pathways.

BACKGROUND
Diabetic nephropathy is a complication of diabetes which contributes significantly to mortality and morbidity. Recent publications suggest that despite improvements in care, the risk of end stage renal disease (ESRD) is not substantially reduced. However, there is a paucity of validated therapeutic targets/pathways for effective clinical intervention. Thus, identification of targets which have the potential to offer therapeutic intervention to prevent or reduce loss of kidney function is a high priority for JDRF.

OBJECTIVES
Target Discovery and Validation: LOIs are sought from investigators with innovative approaches to discover, correlate and provide validation for targets and pathways relevant to the prevention, progression or reversal of diabetic nephropathy. Novel targets would be defined as genes, gene products or metabolites which can be causally associated with disease pathogenesis.

Preference will be given to proposals which utilize human clinical data or samples to link a pathway or target to diabetic nephropathy. Please note that targets for therapies to improve treatment of ESRD / CKD5 are not within the scope of this RFA, unless these might reasonably apply to earlier stages of chronic kidney disease.

Validation: LOIs in this category should include the validation of targets/pathways or propose to validate promising targets with prior evidence of association with onset or progression of diabetic nephropathy. In this context, validation is defined as the demonstration that the target is suitable for therapeutic drug development.

MECHANISM
Projects may request a maximum of $250,000 USD of funding per year, including a maximum of 10% indirect costs, for up to 2 years. Funded projects would be subject to quarterly progress reporting. Projects with favorable outcomes may be eligible for follow-on funding in order to further validate identified targets or move a target to the next stage of translation. Proposals for interventional clinical trials will not be accepted as part of this call; however queries in this area may be directed to the scientific contact below.

ELIGIBILITY
Applications may be submitted by for-profit entities as well as nonprofit organizations, public and private universities, colleges, hospitals, laboratories, units of state and local governments. There are no citizenship requirements.
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
An approved LOI is required prior to submission of a full proposal. Please see below for complete instructions.

DEADLINES
- Request for LOI Release Date: September 12th, 2013
- LOI Submission Deadline: October 31st, 2013
- LOI Notification: December 2013
- Application Receipt Date: February 13th, 2013
- Response to Applicants Date: May 2014
- Earliest Anticipated Start Date: July 2014

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS
**Please note that JDRF is transitioning to a new online grants management system called RMS360 in the spring and summer of 2013. Accordingly, please follow these instructions carefully to ensure your LOI is submitted by the October 31st, 2013 deadline.**

Applicants should register and submit their completed LOI in RMS360 (http://jdrf.smartsimple.us). The deadline to submit a completed LOI is October 31st, 2013

REVIEW CRITERIA
JDRF will review and select LOIs to be developed into full proposals. Please direct queries about the suitability of your proposal to the scientific contact below.

SCIENTIFIC CONTACT
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ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACT
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For non grant-specific inquiries or issues while submitting in RMS360, please contact the JDRF Client Services team:
📞 ClientServices@jdrf.org
📞 (212) 479-7605 or toll free in US, (800) 533-CURE (2873) ask for extension 7605
Support Hours: Monday through Friday between 8:30am and 5:30pm US Eastern Time

Note: In order to get a quick resolution for any technical issues you may encounter, please provide as much detail as possible for the issue you are experiencing. Please make sure to contact Client Services well in advance of the submission deadline.