REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTENT (LOI):

TARGET DISCOVERY AND VALIDATION FOR DIABETIC RETINOPATHY:

PURPOSE
JDRF is committed to facilitating the translation of pre-clinical discovery of promising targets or therapeutics in type 1 diabetic complications to the clinic and patient. To this end, JDRF is soliciting letters of intent for research with the potential to translate into novel therapies for moderate to severe non-proliferative (NPDR), or proliferative retinopathy (PDR). EOs should address the discovery and validation of targets and/or pathways.

BACKGROUND
Diabetic retinopathy is a sight-threatening complication of diabetes and the largest cause of blindness in the US. Despite recent advances in the treatment of diabetic macular edema, there remains a large unmet clinical need to prevent or reverse vision loss via the treatment of NPDR and PDR. Thus, identification of targets which have the potential to offer therapeutic intervention to prevent or reduce vision loss as a consequence of NPDR and PDR is a high priority for JDRF.

OBJECTIVES
Target Discovery and Validation: Letters of intent are sought from investigators with innovative approaches to discover, correlate and provide validation for targets and pathways relevant to the progression of NPDR or the resolution of PDR. Novel targets would be defined as genes, gene products or metabolites which can be causatively associated with disease pathogenesis.

Preference will be given to proposals which utilize human clinical data or samples to link a pathway or target to NPDR or PDR.

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 NPDR or PDR. 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. Since the nature and scope of research supported by this initiative may vary, the budget and length of awards may vary. 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: May 3rd, 2013
- Intent to apply (Email instructions below): June 15th, 2013
- RMS360** Opens for applicants: May 20th, 2013
- LOI Submission Deadline: July 31st, 2013
- LOI Notification: September 2013
- Application Receipt Date: November 2013
- Response to Applicants Date: January 2014
- Earliest Anticipated Start Date: February 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 July 31st, 2013 deadline.

Please confirm your intent to apply to this initiative via email to Dr. Helen Nickerson by 15th June 2013 (hnickerson@jdrf.org) by including the following information: Working Project Title, Principal Investigator Name and Institution.

Beginning May 20th, 2013, applicants should register and submit their completed LOI in RMS360 (http://jdrf.smartsimple.us). The deadline to submit a completed LOI is July 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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✉️ hnickerson@jdrf.org

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.