

Dr. Mark Atkinson is the American Diabetes Association Eminent Scholar for Diabetes Research and the Jeffrey Keene Family Professor at The University of Florida (UF). He is also Director of the Diabetes Institute at that institution. The author of over 450 publications, he is beginning his 35th year of investigation into the field of type 1 diabetes. His passion for helping those with type 1 diabetes began with serving at a Summer Camp for children with the disease in 1984. His volunteer service to JDRF began in 1989, a relationship that has seen him serve in dozens of roles for the organization over the last three decades. Currently, he serves as Chair of JDRF's Research Advisory Committee. Dr. Atkinson is also Executive Director of JDRF nPOD, what some consider the world's largest research endeavor in type 1 diabetes (242 projects in 21 countries). He is ad hoc Editor-in-Chief for the journals Diabetes and Diabetes Care. Dr. Atkinson is an internationally recognized authority on multiple aspects of type 1 diabetes including disease prediction and prevention, the role for environment in the disease, stem cells and pancreatic regeneration, clinical trials, pancreas pathology, and the identification of markers of immune tolerance and mechanisms of regulating immunity. He has been the recipient of multiple scientific and humanitarian based awards for these efforts. Those include three from JDRF, notably: the Gerold and Gayla Grodsky award (2001), David Rumbough award (2005), and a three-time recipient of the Mary Tyler Moore & S. Robert Levine M.D. award for translational research (2004, 2008, and 2014). Dr. Atkinson also received the prestigious Eli Lilly award for Outstanding Scientific Achievement from the American Diabetes Association (ADA; 2004), Barbara Davis award (2015), Claes Hellerström award (Sweden; 2016), ADA Humanitarian award (2018), ADA Albert Renold award (2018), and the Novo Nordisk Foundation Jacobean award (2019). He has also been active in a leadership service to the type 1 diabetes research community along with a variety of companies from the pharmaceutical and biotech industry. Finally, he is President of Insulin for Life USA, one of the world's largest charities dedicated to providing insulin to persons living with diabetes in the developing world and responding to the needs of those with diabetes in times of domestic disaster.