



Pathway to Stop Diabetes Nomination Guide

Purpose and Intent

With over 37 million Americans living with diabetes and nearly 96 million more at increased risk of developing the disease, diabetes is a tremendous burden for the nation. Despite the disease's epidemic proportions, diabetes research remains critically underfunded. Although researchers have made significant strides against the disease, funding is vital for continued progress.

To accelerate the research needed to stop this deadly disease, the American Diabetes Association's bold transformational initiative, ***Pathway to Stop Diabetes ("Pathway")***, is inspiring a new generation of diabetes researchers. ***Pathway*** provides crucial support to individuals focusing on innovative ideas and transformational approaches that will lead to ground-breaking discoveries in diabetes prevention, management and cure.

This call for nominations is prioritizing exceptional investigators that aim to advance existing knowledge and discovery gained from the basic sciences to its eventual translation into patient and population benefit. The ideal applicant will propose innovative research that will be an important step towards the eventual goal of improving the lives of people at risk of diabetes or living with the disease. Providing a ***pathway*** for realizing this impact is viewed as a critical component of this round of applications.

Nominations are welcomed from all areas of diabetes translational research and span prevention, management and cure of all diabetes types (type 1, type 2 and gestational), diabetes-related disease states (obesity, prediabetes, and other insulin resistant states) and complications.

While most nominees are anticipated to focus on advancing existing discoveries into pre-clinical and early-stage clinical research ('bench-to-bedside'), ADA also strongly encourages innovative later-stage translational research (bedside-to-community) where feasible. Applications focused on a single clinical trial are out of scope.

Pathway supports creative scientists early in their diabetes research careers. Through awards of \$1.625 million over the course of up to seven years, the program will provide researchers the freedom, time and focus needed to explore new ideas.

Pathway award competitions will be held on an annual basis, with grant submissions accepted **through institutional nomination only**.

Pathway accepts nominations for exceptional candidates with medical and scientific backgrounds in all disciplines as applied to diabetes. In addition, nomination of scientists from diverse backgrounds, including minority groups that are underrepresented in biomedical research, is strongly encouraged. The challenges of comparing different research approaches and investigators across a broad spectrum are met by assembling a diverse group of reviewers with content expertise that give careful consideration to all types of proposals during the rigorous review process.

National Office

2451 Crystal Drive, Suite 900
Arlington, VA 22202
Toll free: 800-342-2383

Research Programs

Online at: diabetes.org/grants
Questions: pathway@diabetes.org

Our Mission is to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes.

Meet our 2022 Pathway Awardees:

[Anna Kahkoska, MD, PhD](#), Gillings School of Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Project: Fusing rapid-cycle testing and adaptive interventions: A scientific pipeline to translate and individualize evidence-based psychosocial and behavioral interventions in routine type 1 diabetes care.

This project seeks to investigate how to integrate and tailor evidence-based mental health resources and interventions into routine patient care for people living with type one diabetes. “Psychological well-being is foundational for reaching treatment goals in type 1 diabetes, and interventions that support behavioral and psychosocial aspects of living with diabetes are a critical aspect of providing comprehensive, person-centered care,” said Dr. Kahkoska. “The Pathway award will allow me to build a scientific pipeline to translate interventions from research settings to the clinic and individualize them to meet each patient’s unique needs.”

[Lisa Beutler, MD, PhD](#), Northwestern University Medical School

Project: Dissecting sugar-induced modulation of gut-brain circuits This project seeks to understand how sugar consumption alters the connection between the gut and the brain, and how this may link to obesity and type 2 diabetes.

“Excessive sugar intake is clearly linked with the development of diabetes and obesity, but the mechanisms underlying this association are not completely understood,” said Dr. Beutler. “I want to determine how what we eat alters the activity of brain centers that control appetite and blood glucose at single-cell resolution. This will allow us to understand how certain diets promote the development of diabetes and obesity by disrupting neural activity. Ultimately, we hope this will lead to better treatments for obesity and its complications, including type 2 diabetes.”

The **Pathway** program is highly competitive. Since inception of the program in 2013, the overall success rate for applications to the program has been approximately 5%, but vary depending on award mechanism.

Nomination Guidelines

- Nominations must be made on behalf of the institution by an authorized institutional representative (e.g., Nominating Committee Chair, Division Chair, Dean of Research, or President).
- Each institution is allowed a *maximum of one nomination* in *one* of the two available **Pathway** award types. Institutions may not submit nominees for more than one award type in a single annual application cycle.
 - Initiator
 - Accelerator
- Nominations are accepted from U.S. accredited academic and non-profit research institutions. For the purpose of this award, an institution generally includes all associated departments, medical schools and graduate schools.
- Individual components of multi-component institutions (e.g., University of California Los Angeles and University of California Berkeley within the University of California system, or Harvard University and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center within the Harvard system) are sufficiently independent to be considered

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individual institutions. Institutions must have a unique (DUNS) and/or (IPF) number to be considered independent.

- Nomination of more than the one allowable nominee may result in the administrative disapproval of all nominations from the same institution.
- Any applications received without the appropriate institutional nomination will be administratively disapproved.
- The Association encourages nomination of individuals from diverse backgrounds, including minority groups that are underrepresented in biomedical research. For the purpose of this program, underrepresented racial and ethnic minority groups are defined as American Indians or Alaska Natives, African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, and Native Hawaiians or Other Pacific Islanders.
- Nominees must have the appropriate full-time position to be eligible for the award at the sponsoring institution (postdoctoral fellow for Initiator, independent faculty appointment for Accelerator).
- Nominees are required to devote at least 75% of their total time and effort to research during the funding period. In addition, nominees must devote a specific required percent effort for each of the award types.

Institutional Nomination Requirements

- **Nomination Form**: The Association's Nomination Form must be signed by an authorized institution official, certifying that the nomination is acknowledged by the institution, that all [Pathway Policies](#) have been read and agreed upon and that the grant application has been routed through, and approved by, the sponsoring institution.
- **Institutional Nomination Letter**: An institutional representative responsible for the final approval of the nomination submission (Dean of Research, Nominating Committee Chair, Division Chair, etc.) must submit a letter of nomination on behalf of the institution, co-signed by the nominee's Division or Department Head, outlining the commitment of the institution to the nominee. The letter of nomination from the sponsoring institution must:
 - Provide rationale for institution's nomination of candidate, including why candidate is uniquely suited for the award.
 - Certify that the candidate has the appropriate full-time position at the sponsoring institution as required by the award.
 - Outline the candidate's responsibilities and ensure that at least 75% of the nominee's total time and effort will be allocated to research during the term of this award.
 - Provide assurance of an academic commitment to the candidate and to the research proposal.
 - Outline the institution's plans to support the long-term development of the candidate, including specific expectations for the individual's career course.
- The signed Nomination Form and Institutional Letter of Support must be submitted through the [Grant Management site](#) at the time of application.

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Review Criteria

Scientific excellence is the primary benchmark to be evaluated for all **Pathway** applications, **with an emphasis on the investigator's potential to significantly transform diabetes through translational research ('moving the needle') to improve the lives of people with diabetes**. The proposed research strategy serves as a reflection of the individual's capacity for innovation, creativity and collaboration. The review will include the following components:

- Principal Investigator
 - Strong potential/proven ability to establish independent diabetes research program
 - Strong potential/proven ability for creativity, collaboration and innovation
 - Institutional commitment

- Research Strategy
 - Clarity of thought and approach
 - Innovation and creativity
 - Potential impact for understanding/treatment of diabetes

Support:

Pathway awards provide up to \$1.625 million per award in combined salary and project support.

Materials and Questions

- Nomination and application materials are available [online](#).
- Questions regarding nominations/applications should be directed to pathway@diabetes.org.

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