**Initiator Awards**

The Pathway Initiator Awards are designed to support early career researchers who have distinguished themselves during their research training as exceptionally talented and promising investigators with a high likelihood of establishing successful, independent research programs and making seminal contributions in diabetes research. These awards provide salary and research support for applicants during late stages of mentored training and transition through establishment as independent research faculty.

Initiator Awards are available to individuals (MD, PhD, DMD, DO, PharmD, DVM, or equivalent) who are currently in research training positions (post-doctoral fellow, research fellowship) and have no more than seven years of mentored research training experience after their terminal doctoral degree at the time of application. Candidates will be identified through institutional nominations only.

The Pathway Initiator Awards will provide two distinct phases of research support for a maximum of seven years of research support totaling up to $1,625,000 for Phase 1 and Phase 2 combined.

- **Phase 1** will support up to two years at up to $100,000/year (including 10% indirect costs) for mentored research training to allow investigators to complete ongoing research, publish results, receive additional training and develop independent research plans. At the completion of Phase 1, investigators will be required to submit documentation to verify the following:
  1. The candidate has obtained a faculty appointment at an accredited research institution,
  2. The institution has agreed to provide adequate laboratory space necessary to perform the proposed research and adequate time (75%) to dedicate to research,
  3. The institution has agreed to provide the candidate with an adequate and protected start-up package.

Continuation into Phase 2 of the award will be approved by the Association pending review of required documentation and adequate progress in Phase 1.

- **Phase 2** will support up to five years at up to $325,000/year (including 30% indirect costs) for independent research.