FUNDING DIABETES RESEARCH

SINCE 2000

For Potential Grant Applicants

EFSD European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes

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Foreword

The European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes (EFSD) operates on a strictly non-profit basis working tirelessly in association with many of the world's leading pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies to offer an array of different funding streams to young and established researchers alike.

Over the years, our successful fundraising strategy has allowed us to commit in excess of 120 million Euros to diabetes research and we have grown to become one of the most significant funding agencies for diabetes research in Europe. As we look back on what we have achieved, we are heartened to see the impact that our funding has had. We have helped countless researchers to progress their careers in science and medicine and we've been acknowledged as a funder of research in some of the highest impact journals in the world.

This publication has been designed to celebrate these successes and to introduce you to some of the researchers that we have funded over the years. It is an opportunity for us all to reflect on our progress and how you have helped us with our mission to enhance awareness of the severity of diabetes and the magnitude of this devastating disease across Europe.

It is only through research that we can do this. As we move forwards, our goal is to continue to partner with as many companies and organisations as we can to ensure that we offer new funding streams that are as relevant to today's research needs and that attract the very best grant applications as they were when we started our mission to fund the best research that we could. Its other main purpose is to encourage you to apply for funding and to help you put together the best possible application. We hope you find this document interesting and helpful, and good luck in your application to EFSD!

Countries where EFSD has awarded funding to diab

betes researchers

History of the European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes

In 2000, the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) increased its commitment to stimulate diabetes research in Europe by creating the European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes (EFSD).

EASD recognised that, although diabetes research was strong across the entire continent, the scientific funding opportunities varied considerably from country to country.

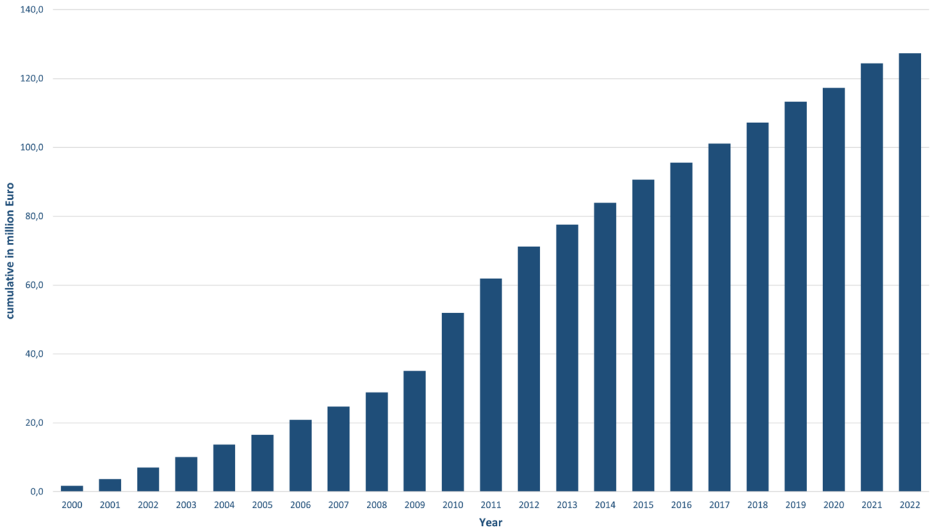
The EFSD was created as a separate legal entity and funding was sought from the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors with invitations to co-fund innovative research programmes. In addition to funding research programmes on its own, these unique relationships with industry allowed EFSD to leverage substantial funds into its research portfolio. EFSD has also collaborated with other organisations to develop highly successful research programmes focused on areas of common interest.

Since it began, EFSD has committed over 120 million Euros to diabetes research across Europe and beyond. The Foundation has now become a significant European funding agency for diabetes research, and is continually striving to enhance diabetes awareness in Europe. There is an urgent need for more research to improve its treatment, management and prevention, and, ultimately, to find a cure.

Today, EFSD offers funding in all areas of diabetes research through a wide range of joint and stand-alone initiatives. Grant programmes offer funding for researchers working in Europe and associated countries while travel fellowships are open to scientists worldwide. All applications are subject to peer review by a panel of leading experts.

The aims of the European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes are to encourage and support groundbreaking diabetes research and to promote the next generation of leading diabetes researchers.

Cumulative spend on diabetes research



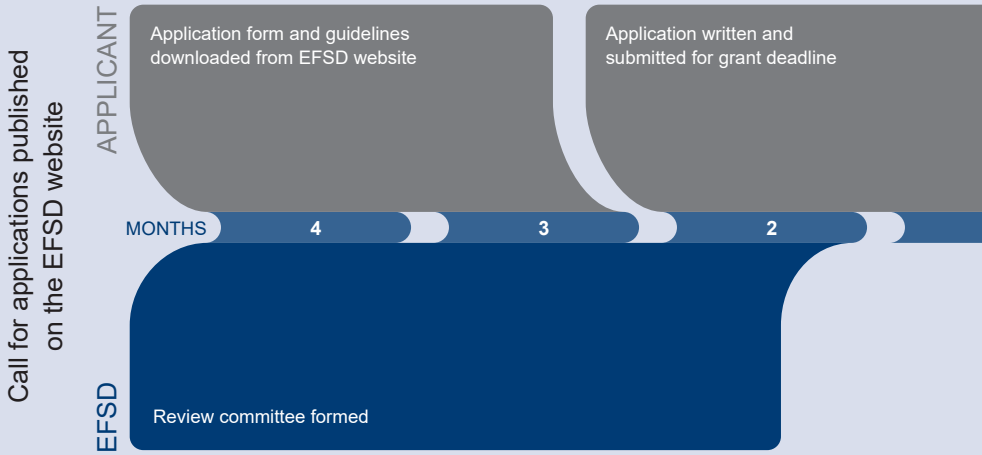
"When we set up EFSD, we knew that to prove our business case, we needed to attract industry partners to work with us to allow the Foundation to fund research. In these early years, we just wanted good applications from good researchers. Almost 20 years later, we're still doing it and the organisation is inundated with hundreds of excellent applications every year. EFSD has now grown into a very significant European funding agency for diabetes research".

Professor Jørn Nerup
President (1998-2001)

"EFSD's great strength over the years has come from its relationships with the pharmaceutical and biotech sectors which have allowed it to co-fund a wide variety of research initiatives. When we started, there was just a small amount of money available for educational and research purposes but now, thanks to the hard work of so many people, EFSD has grown considerably and become a phenomenal catalyst for diabetes research across Europe".

Professor George Alberti
President (1992-1995)

Timeline for EFSD Grant Programmes



Diabetologists who specialise in the focus area of the call are approached and asked to be part of the review committee team. One of them will also be asked to chair the committee.

DEADLINE

Outcome of triage notified

No feedback is given to the unsuccessful applicant at this stage

Outcome of grant application notified

1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4

DEADLINE

Applications checked and entered onto database
1-2 WEEKS

THE EFSD Programme Board ensures that all applications are reviewed by up to three members of the review committee who have declared no conflicts of interest. They score each of the applications assigned to them. A cut-off is then decided, dependent upon the quality of the applications and the number of grant awards available.

Triage completed
5-6 WEEKS

Full review
5-6 WEEKS

All applications to be reviewed in full are sent to the nominated reviewers, who are given the applications that best match their area of expertise. Each application is reviewed by a primary and a secondary reviewer, who provide in-depth and strategic written reviews. They are also asked to read the remaining applications and to form an opinion on them so they can contribute to the committee meeting discussions.

Review Committee Meeting
1 DAY

At the end of each individual discussion during the review committee meeting, a final score is taken from all members of the committee, and the mean score is calculated. This process allows the reviewers to reach a mutual agreement on which applications to fund.

EASD/EFSD Board agreement and sign-off
2-3 DAYS

Inform applicants
2-3 DAYS

Successful applicants are advised and grant activation documentation is sent. Only those passing triage will receive feedback on their proposal.

Professor Michael Roden

German Diabetes Center, Düsseldorf, Germany
Minkowski Prize Winner, 2006

Professor Michael Roden has been funded by EFSD on a number of occasions between 2002 and 2009. "I was encouraged to apply to EFSD because the funding streams that were being advertised were offering attractive amounts of money to allow researchers to expand their research portfolio and, for me, the grants allowed me continuity in my research and bridged funding gaps early in my career. EFSD is an incredibly well recognised international funder so becoming an awardee contributed to my reputation and visibility within the diabetes field and helped me to leverage additional funding from other organisations".

Professor Apostolos Tsapas

Aristotle University Thessaloniki, Greece

"The Albert Renold Fellowship has been instrumental for my personal development in the field of diabetes. It offered me the chance to see research and clinical practice in a world-class centre of excellence in diabetes, but also the stimuli to train and acquire novel expertise in the field of evidence-based healthcare. The EFSD has a number of awards, some big and some small. The Albert Renold Fellowship can support young researchers to get new skills but, in addition, there are calls for much bigger grants. There is good diversity too in that EFSD offers grants that focus on clinical science or basic science but also, for example, on adherence and awareness raising so everyone can find a call that fits their research."

Professor Decio L. Eizirik

Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium
EASD Albert Renold Prize Winner, 2012

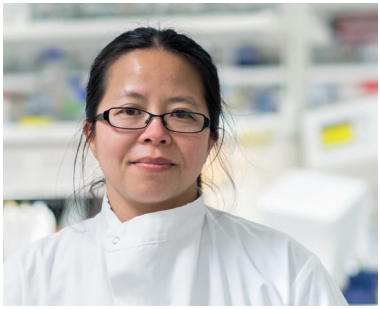
Professor Decio L. Eizirik has held several EFSD grants from a Lilly Fellowship award in 1999 to a JDRF/Novo Nordisk Programme in Type 1 Diabetes Research award in 2010. "The EFSD initiative was a brilliant idea and one that has helped many of us working in diabetes research over the years. The funding is particularly useful for targeted research. And it's prestigious as well, as it has helped younger colleagues from our centre to secure larger grants from other funding agencies and, eventually, to obtain tenured positions".

"EFSD provides a very valuable and prestigious source of grant money. The very positive and fair feedback that I have received from the grant evaluation committee over the years has been incredibly useful and the awards have definitely helped my career development"

Professor Anders Tengholm
Uppsala University, Sweden

"The Rising Star Fellowship helped me not only to build my profile within the diabetes community and to get a tenured position but also to get additional funding. I very much hope that EFSD continues to fund this kind of prestigious award as it helps young researchers so much in improving their visibility in the research world and in helping them to establish their careers".

Professor Hiddo Lambers Heerspink
University Medical Center Groningen, Netherlands



Dr Gabriela da Silva Xavier

Imperial College, London

Dr da Silva Xavier has received several grants from EFSD. “My first grant was an Albert Renold Travel Fellowship which allowed me to work with Professor Raphael Scharfman in France where I worked on pancreatic endocrine cell development. Learning these new techniques allowed me to bring a new dimension back to the lab in London”. She adds “Each grant has allowed me to increase my profile, build my publication list and, through EFSD’s innovative co-funding processes with the pharmaceutical industry, I’ve had exposure to industry too which I may not have experienced otherwise. This gave me great networking opportunities and, thanks to EFSD funding, I have now been able to secure additional, substantial funding from Diabetes UK and the Medical Research Council here in the UK”.

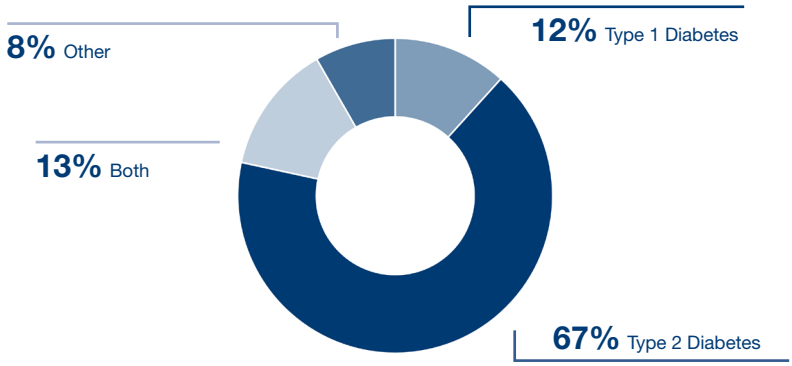
“The application process is simple and straightforward and the organisation is very responsive to any queries. I always encourage young researchers to apply for EFSD grants”.

Professor Flemming Pociot
University of Copenhagen, Denmark

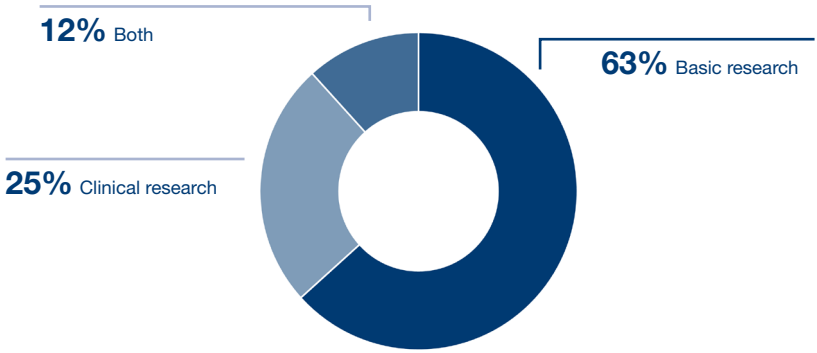
“EFSD offers young researchers so many opportunities for funding. Their grants are highly sought after and EFSD continues to do a great job in supporting ground-breaking diabetes research across Europe.”

Professor Gian Paolo Fadini
University of Padova, Italy

Funding focus: Type of diabetes*



Funding focus: Type of research*



*figures from EFSD awards, 2022

Professor Ronald Ma

The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Professor Ronald Ma attended the EASD's Robert Turner Clinical Research Course which offers young researchers the opportunity to be trained in clinical diabetes research. "This very positive experience led to my first application to the organisation and I was awarded an Albert Renold Travel Fellowship which allowed me to visit the UK to gain experience in epigenetics research. I am most grateful for the support from EFSD, which has been invaluable in my professional development. Without their support, I would not have been able to embark on these work or develop these new research programmes".

Professor Valeriya Lyssenko

University of Bergen, Norway

"When I received my first grant from the EFSD, genome wide association studies were very much a hot topic and I really appreciated the independence that this grant gave me, helping me as a young researcher in this competitive arena. I was able to travel to the States to work with my collaborators, employ my first PhD student and publish a number of papers. This experience encouraged me to apply to the EFSD again. This second grant allowed me to extend my collaborations still further and to leverage additional funding from other agencies. I would really recommend applying the EFSD as it has very attractive funding streams for so many different researchers".

The number of funding streams advertised grew to over **20 in 2013**, averaging over 14 per annum*

*between 2004 and 2023

EFSD funding was **acknowledged in over 400 published papers**

EFSD receives up to **750 applications every year**

"The competition for EFSD funding is very tough but applying for this funding is something that all of us working in the diabetes research world continue to do because the number of calls every year is great and gives us plenty of possibilities to submit applications".

Dr Jørgen Wojtaszewski
University of Copenhagen, Denmark

EFSD's pivotal role in career development is clear from the range and scope of the projects that it funds and the investigators that it supports. Many who have been funded in part along the way by one or more of the organisation's innovative and constantly evolving funding streams blossom from young researchers to full professors. And EFSD continues to adapt to ensure that the funding streams it offers meet the ever-changing needs of the diabetes research community.

EFSD Collaborators 2000 – 2023

EFSD is most grateful to the following for past and present support of its various programmes

American Diabetes Association (ADA)

Amylin Pharmaceuticals Inc.

AstraZeneca

Berlin Charitable Trust

Bristol-Myers Squibb Company

Boehringer Ingelheim

Chinese Diabetes Society (CDS)

D-Cure

Eli Lilly and Company

European Diabetes Forum (EUDF)

GlaxoSmithKline

Janssen

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF)

Japan Diabetes Society (JDS)

Johnson & Johnson

LifeScan

Medtronic Europe S.A.

Merck Sharp & Dohme

Novartis Pharma AG

Novo Nordisk A/S

Novo Nordisk Foundation

Pfizer Inc.

Roche

Sanofi

Servier

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