The Diabetes Research Institute

One Place.
One Purpose.
One Promise.

It began with a handful of parents with one thing in common: they all had children who were victims of juvenile diabetes. These parents felt the pain, confusion and frustration that millions of parents before them had felt when they learned that their own children had diabetes. But instead of resignation, they reacted with resolve. And to do whatever it took to improve the care and treatment of children with diabetes, while raising funds to fight and ultimately find a cure for diabetes.

- *In 1971, they founded the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, which has evolved into the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation.*

Through their fund-raising activities which now span the entire year and reach around the world, they have become a driving force behind the Diabetes Research Institute's tireless efforts to improve the care and quality of life for victims of diabetes and their families.

- *The Foundation also works to expand public awareness of the disease through a comprehensive education program, speakers bureau, special events, and literature such as the bimonthly newspaper, "Focus," and "Pathways," a quarterly publication which offers up-to-the-minute information on new directions in treatment and the latest research findings.*

Symptoms

Type I Diabetes

- Frequent Urination
- Unusual thirst / excessive drinking of fluids
- Rapid weight loss
- Weakness, irritabililty and/or nausea
- Infections or sores slow to heal
- Uncontrollable craving for food

Type II Diabetes

- Tire easily, abnormal weakness, drowsiness
- Frequent skin infections or itchy skin
- Tingling, numbness or cramps in the legs feet, fingers
- Unusual or blurred vision

If you're experiencing any of these symptoms, please contact your doctor, or call the DRI, toll free, 1-800-321-3437.

What is Diabetes?

Diabetes Mellitus is a serious chronic disease afflicting more than 13 million Americans - including 3 million children and young adults - from all social, economic, and ethnic backgrounds. It is a leading cause of blindness, heart and kidney disease, stroke, impotence, and amputation due to gangrene. Diabetes is the third leading cause of death by disease, reducing life-expectancy by one-third. The average person living today has a one-in-five chance of developing diabetes, which is caused by the body's inability to create or effectively use its own insulin, a hormone normally produced by the islet cells located in the pancreas. Without insulin, food such as glucose (sugar) is unable to enter body cells where it would ordinarily be converted to energy. Denied entrance to body cells, glucose builds up in the bloodstream, which can lead to starvation of cells, dehydration, and progressive deterioration of body tissue.

The Difference Between The Two Major Types of Diabetes.

Type I, or insulin-dependent diabetes, is the most severe form of the disease. It occurs when islet cells are destroyed, halting natural insulin production within the body. Insulin must therefore be injected daily. This type of diabetes usually afflicts children, and may sometimes be referred to as "juvenile diabetes." It can, however, occur at any age.

Type II, or non-insulin-dependent diabetes, usually develops in mid or later life, although it can occur in younger individuals, too. Also known as "adult onset," it is the most common form of diabetes, and results from a partial deficiency in the natural insulin supply, as well as from the body tissues' inability to respond adequately to insulin. Therapy consists of diet which focuses on weight reduction, exercise, oral medications or, in some cases, insulin injections.

Insulin Is Not A Cure For Diabetes. But It Plays A Vital Role In Treatment.

Since the discovery of insulin in 1921, scientists have made tremendous advances in diabetes research and treatment, but at present diabetes still cannot be cured or prevented. Insulin remains a vital component of intensive and long-term treatment, helping to control the disease and sustain life. While many mysteries about diabetes still persist, improved methods of treatment and an ultimate cure now seem to be very realistic goals.

The Diabetes Research Institute's new medical complex, now under construction, will be the largest and most comprehensive diabetes research, treatment and education facility in the world. Here, 19 teams of internationally renowned scientists will work together on a scale and at a pace not previously possible.

One Place.

The Diabetes Research Institute at the University of Miami School of Medicine is comprised of more than 70 research scientists and technicians. DRI is a unique entity - a community of international scholars from all major medical disciplines, committed to diabetes research. The carefully coordinated and concentrated efforts of their specialized talents have helped to accelerate a highly focused research program.

One Purpose.

To combine complete and comprehensive medical services in four separate fields of endeavor into one all out effort to improve the care and treatment of diabetes patients, while working toward a cure. These four areas of specialization are:

Basic Research: For more than a decade, DRI scientists have directed their efforts toward transplanting islet cells to reverse diabetes. Success in curing rats and dogs provides important technology for human application; however, many questions remain. Ongoing research studies include:

- Improving isolation and purification of islet cells from donor organs.
- Preserving and storing islet cells.
- Overcoming immunological barriers to prevent rejection of transplanted islet cells and help develop methods of preventing the destruction of islets which ultimately causes diabetes.
- Understanding sophisticated cell-to-cell communications.

Clinical Research: In an effort to prevent or minimize the devastating complications associated with diabetes, the DRI investigates new methods of improving blood glucose control, as well as detecting and understanding physiological causes of complications. DRI conducts studies with new medications, blood monitoring and insulin delivery devices in conjunction with efforts to improve conventional treatment in diet, exercise and insulin regimens. It also explores the emotional impact of diabetes on patients and their families.

Patient Care: At the Diagnostic and Treatment Center, physicians, nurses, dieticians, exercise physiologists, psychologists and clinical research specialists employ a team concept to provide a comprehensive and specialized network of care, education and emotional support for patients and their families.

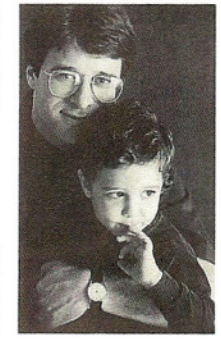
Education: The DRI trains young scientists in the most current approaches and technologies. Continuing education programs also provide health professionals with the latest research and treatment advances. In addition to keeping physicians - nationally and internationally - informed about the most recent advances in diabetes care and treatment, the DRI also educates patients and families so they can better cope with the effects of diabetes.

One Promise.

To work at a pace and scope to reverse the ill effects of diabetes, to prevent it from striking even more victims, and ultimately to eradicate it forever from the face of the earth.

What You Can Do To Help Speed A Cure For Diabetes.

Research funds and volunteer workers are desperately needed so that the Diabetes Research Institute can continue to bring new hope and courage to millions of families who battle diabetes every day. That's why we need the continued support of people like you, all over America and throughout the world. Giving, sharing, caring people, working together to find a cure for diabetes.



For information on how you can help your family and all of our families to outlive diabetes in our lifetime, contact the:

Diabetes Research Institute Foundation

Dade: 477-3437. 8600 Northwest 53 Terrace, Suite 202, Miami, Florida 33166.

Broward: 566-2201. 2727 East Oakland Park Boulevard, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33306

Toll Free: 1-800-321-3437