Alberta funding focused on improving treatment of diabetes

The Alberta Diabetes Institute at the University of Alberta has awarded important financial support to two more Alberta-based diabetes research projects. The Alberta Diabetes Institute: Johnson & Johnson Diabetes Research Fund is aimed at supporting research in diabetes with a focus on novel discoveries with a high potential for commercialization.

The research fund is a $600,000 partnership between the Alberta Diabetes Institute, Janssen Inc. (one of the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson), the Government of Alberta and the Alberta Diabetes Foundation.

“With diabetes rapidly rising through young and old in Alberta, it is critical to invest in research that will help people living with diabetes manage this deadly chronic disease,” said Brad Fournier, Executive Director, Alberta Diabetes Foundation. “We rely on the world-class talent of diabetes researchers in Alberta to find the next breakthrough that will provide solutions and hope for people living with diabetes.”

“Alberta’s diabetes researchers are making our province proud – attracting international attention and investment. By supporting our researchers to create new products and discoveries, we’re creating healthier lives for people around the world, new jobs and a more diversified economy here at home,” said the Honourable Deron Bilous, Minister of Economic Development and Trade.

“This innovative fund represents a unique partnership between Janssen, the Government of Alberta and the Alberta Diabetes Foundation that is directly aimed at helping great ideas become real-world solutions for people living with diabetes,” said Dr Peter Light, director of the Alberta Diabetes Institute.

In collaboration with the Alberta Diabetes Institute, experts from Johnson & Johnson Innovation identified the high-potential opportunities from projects submitted by medical researchers across Alberta.
The selected fund recipients are:

**Targeting intestinal phosphatidylcholine metabolism as a treatment for obesity and insulin resistance**
Principal Investigator: Dr. Rene Jacobs, University of Alberta

**Intercellular communications between perivascular adipocytes and vascular smooth muscle cells: identifying novel targets to treat atherosclerosis in diabetic patients**
Principal Investigator: Dr. Vaibhav Patel, University of Calgary

For further details on the Johnson & Johnson Diabetes Research Fund, please visit [www.adi.ualberta.ca](http://www.adi.ualberta.ca)

More than three million Canadians currently live with diabetes. This private-public partnership fund will accelerate the development of health-care technologies within Alberta, a province known for life-changing research in the causes, prevention, treatment and management of diabetes.

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About **Alberta Economic Development and Trade**

The Ministry of Alberta Economic Development and Trade focuses on economic growth and diversification by supporting innovation and research; expanding access to capital for small and medium-sized enterprises; promoting trade, investment and market access initiatives; and leading Alberta’s negotiations on trade agreements. Please visit our website at [http://economic.alberta.ca](http://economic.alberta.ca)

About **Alberta Diabetes Foundation**

The Alberta Diabetes Foundation is devoted to raising money for diabetes research. Through our fundraising efforts, we directly support scientific research that has yielded extremely positive results. To date the Alberta Diabetes Foundation has raised over $11.8 million in support of cure-related diabetes research. For more information about the Alberta Diabetes Foundation, please visit [www.AlbertaDiabetesFoundation.com](http://www.AlbertaDiabetesFoundation.com)

About **Alberta Diabetes Institute**

The Alberta Diabetes Institute is a research facility dedicated to translating discovery science into health solutions for the prevention, treatment and cure of Type I and Type II diabetes. The Alberta Diabetes Institute uses a multidisciplinary approach, bringing together leading researchers from diverse fields of expertise in a state-of-the-art facility on the University of Alberta campus. For more information, please visit our website at [www.adi.ualberta.ca](http://www.adi.ualberta.ca)