# Funded Research Improves Lives

## BARIATRIC SURGERY REVERSES TYPE 2 DIABETES

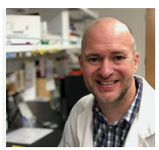
**TRACEY LYNN MCLAUGHLIN, MD**
**2019-2022**

Dr. McLaughlin worked to understand exactly how gastric bypass surgery can reverse diabetes, especially because this surgery is not appropriate for every patient with type 2 diabetes. The research focused on exactly how gastric bypass surgery reverses diabetes, opening the door to the possibility of mimicking the procedure with less invasive treatments or new medications. Ultimately, this could result in the opportunity to improve or even reverse type 2 diabetes in many more patients.

## STOPPING DIABETES FROM EVEN HAPPENING

**JEFFREY ELMENDORF PhD**
**2015–2017**

Dr. Elmendorf found that cholesterol accumulates in fat and muscle cells very early in the development of type 2 diabetes and this may be caused by overeating. The increased cholesterol in the membranes of these cells may contribute to the development of insulin resistance which is a hallmark of the disease. Importantly, he found that lifestyle changes, such as diet and exercise, known to prevent the progression to type 2 diabetes could prevent the toxic accumulation of cholesterol in these tissues.



## PREVENTING OBESITY AND DIABETES

**GREG MORTON PhD**
**2019-2021**

When we are in cold environments, we need to burn more energy to stay warm. This means our heat-generating tissues deplete glucose at a much faster rate and our bodies adapt to meet this increased demand while maintaining normal glucose levels and preventing hypoglycemia. Dr. Morton's work has shown that our brain plays an important role in these metabolic adaptations and a better understanding of the neurocircuitry may lead to novel strategies for treating obesity and type 2 diabetes.

Amaranth Diabetes Foundation, Inc.

*We Fight Diabetes*

## Contact Information

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## DIRECT LINK FOR DONATIONS

**Your donation today will 100% support diabetes research!**

Scan the QR Code or visit:
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Amaranth Diabetes Foundation, Inc.

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*We Fight Diabetes*

**2025–2026**

**FOR MORE THAN 45 YEARS,**
The Order of the Amaranth and the American Diabetes Association® (ADA) have worked together to fund numerous researchers and their cutting-edge work
**in the fight against diabetes.**

In Partnership With

ORDER OF THE AMARANTH
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American Diabetes Association®

# About us

**The Order of the Amaranth** is an international Masonic-related organization that endeavors to develop the moral character of its members through a belief in a Supreme Being and teaching the lessons of Truth, Faith, Wisdom and Charity.

**The Amaranth Diabetes Foundation, Inc. (ADF) is a 501c3 organization** that serves as the charitable arm of the Order. Since its inception in 1979, ADF donates all monies it raises in the United States to the ADA, where 100% of the funds support promising diabetes research. Our International Order also funds research in their respective areas to help stop the spread of diabetes.

**The ADF recognizes that diabetes is a devastating** disease that affects nearly 38 million Americans and countless others around the world. Statistics show that 1.2 million Americans are diagnosed with diabetes every year. It is for this reason that the ADF has been a strong supporter of the ADA and its research.

**We can make a difference** by making a tax-deductible donation to the ADF. In addition to cash gifts, the ADF accepts memorial donations, honorariums, stock, and estate designations. Together, we can help people live longer, healthier lives.

**Truth, Faith, Wisdom, and Charity for a cure.**

## 2025-2026 Amaranth Diabetes Foundation, Inc. Supported Research Awards and Grants

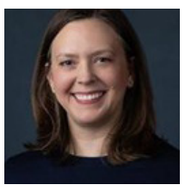
The Amaranth Diabetes Foundation, Inc. is an integral part of the global effort to stop the spread of diabetes. The Foundation Board selects the ADA-sponsored research projects that are conducted by the following scientists:

**ILIA DROUJININE, PhD**
The Scripps Research Institute

**Decoding and validating interorgan communication proteins as new therapeutic targets in diabetes**
Organs produce secreted proteins that travel to other organs as a means of communication, and this communication becomes faulty in diabetes. This project will use this technology to identify and characterize novel secreted proteins involved in organ-to-organ communication in diabetes. Most importantly, is to advance our research to the translational, preclinical stage, because the identified secreted proteins may become new diagnostic biomarkers and therapeutics to treat the underlying causes of prediabetes and diabetes. This will further characterize these proteins, both helping to validate the technology as a platform that can enable more future discoveries, as well as evaluating their potential to serve as therapy for diabetic prevention or treatment in the future.
***(Grant funded through December 31, 2029)***

**MEGAN L. BAKER, MD**
Yale University

**Cellular and Molecular Characterization of Human Diabetic Kidney Disease**
This project focuses on investigating the progression of diabetic kidney disease, aiming to unravel the mechanisms leading to kidney failure. The goal is to develop treatments that specifically target these identified pathways, thereby altering the natural course of the disease. Ultimately, this project holds the potential to contribute significantly towards the prevention and treatment of diabetic kidney disease by offering insights into novel therapeutic targets.
***(Grant funded through June 30, 2027)***



**MARIA GOLSON, PhD**
Johns Hopkins University

**Reducing age-associated onset of diabetes in women with beta-cell-targeted 17beta-estradiol**
Estrogen plays a key role in maintaining the health of insulin-producing cells, and its decline after menopause contributes to increased diabetes risk in women. While hormone therapy can help, it also carries serious risks. This study explores a targeted approach to restoring estrogen's protective effects—delivering it directly to insulin-producing cells to avoid systemic side effects. Using a well-characterized mouse model that mimics age-related diabetes risk, the research aims to generate insights that could inform safer, more precise therapies for women. While early-stage, this work lays important groundwork for future human-focused strategies.
***(Grant funded through June 30, 2026)***

**GIORGIA ZANETTI, PhD**
Columbia University

**Developing a novel T1D mouse model to understand the interactions between human autoimmune systems and human β cells**
Type 1 diabetes (T1D) is caused by immune destruction of insulin-producing beta-cells. This research will help predict how different patients might respond to the drug and identify markers for success or resistance, paving the way for personalized T1D treatments. A humanized mouse model will be generated with human immune systems. These mice will develop diabetes by T cell recognition of antigens presented by human beta-cells. This research could lead to treatments that might help protect these cells in people with T1D, reducing their need for insulin injections and potentially slowing down or even preventing the disease.
***(Grant funded through December 31, 2027)***

**LISA R. BEUTLER, MD, PhD**
Northwestern University Medical School

**Dissecting sugar-induced modulation of gut-brain circuits**
Despite its clear link to metabolic disease, very little is known about how a high-sugar diet alters the dynamics of this communication. This project will monitor the activity of several neural populations critical for normal feeding and glucose balance in mice before and after a high-sugar diet. These experiments will enhance understanding of how nutrition impacts brain function, determine how this goes awry during the development of obesity and diabetes, and identify neural targets for preventing and treating these diseases.
***(Grant funded through December 30, 2027)***

**YILIN YOSHIDA, PhD**
Tulane University

**Early-Onset Type 2 Diabetes and Women's Excessive Cardiovascular Risk**
Women with type 2 diabetes are up to 50% more likely than men to develop heart disease, and this risk may begin much earlier in life. Early-onset type 2 diabetes—when the disease starts in the teen years or early adulthood—is becoming more common, especially in women, and may lead to a heavier lifetime burden on the heart. This study will use health data from two large groups of people who have been followed from youth into midlife, allowing researchers to track how diabetes-related risks build up over time. By using advanced machine learning techniques, the study will identify which women are most at risk and when they are most vulnerable. The findings could help shape more personalized, sex-specific care strategies—and ultimately improve how we prevent and treat heart disease in women with diabetes.
***(Grant funded through June 30, 2026)***