DIABETES UK RESEARCH 2020 FUNDING OUTCOMES AND SUCCESS RATES

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DiABETES UK
KNOW DIABETES. FIGHT DIABETES.

OUR PORTFOLIO

Our portfolio in 2020

Our current research portfolio comprises of 140 grants worth over £32 million. The 24 new research projects funded in 2020 can be divided into:

- 2 fellowships (£791,269)
- 4 PhD studentships (£367,506)
- 2 early career small grants (£30,000)
- 7 research projects (£1.5 million)
- 5 diabetes and COVID-19 projects (£400,198)
- 1 NIHR PgfAR funding grant (NIHR: £2,000,000, Diabetes UK: £200,000)
- 2 AMS Clinical lecturer Starter Grant (£60,000)
- 1 AMS Springboard Grant for Basic Scientists (£100,000)

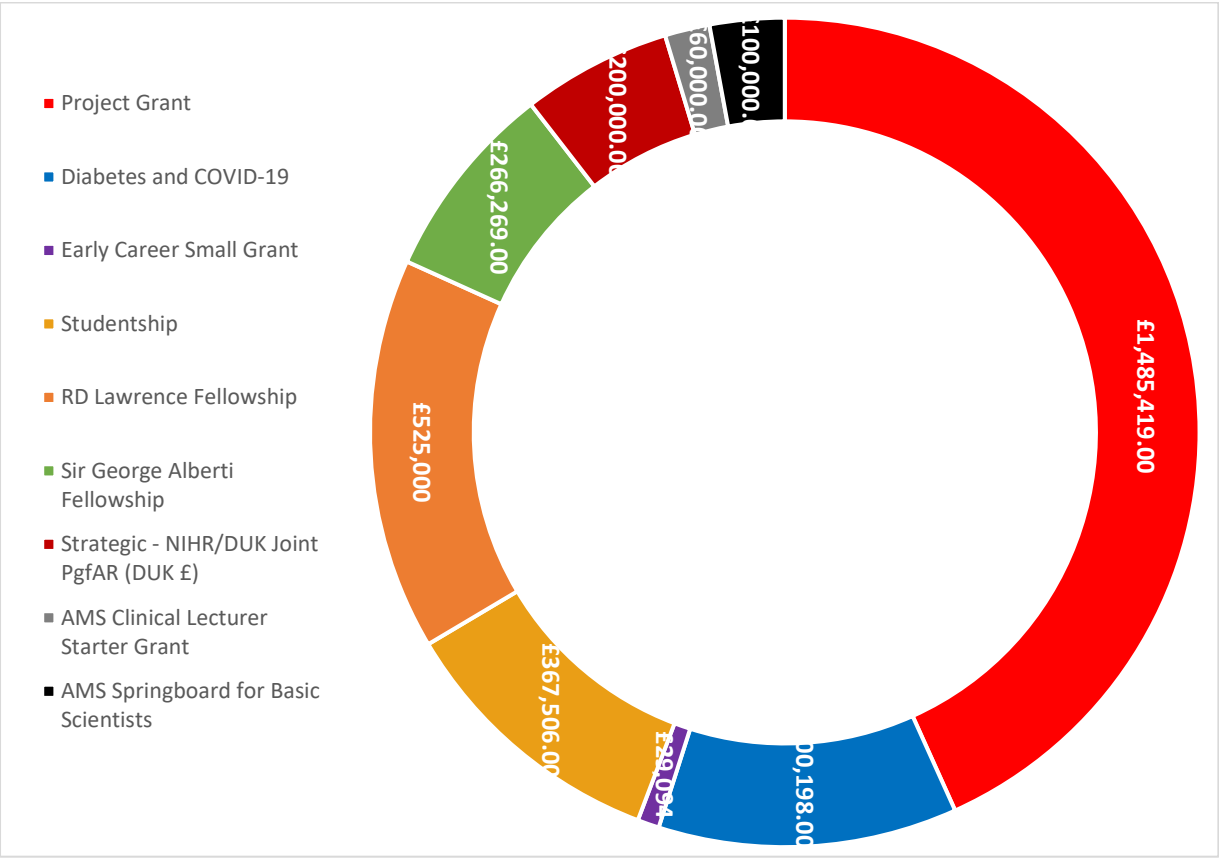

Figure 1. The number and total cost of Diabetes UK research awards 2020, divided by type

Success rate

In 2020, we funded new research totalling £3,433,486. Of the 174 applications submitted across all funding schemes, 57 applications scored as fundable and in funding 24 applications we were able to fund 42% of applications that were deemed to be high quality by our Committees and Panels.

Our award rate for applications submitted to all funding schemes was 13%. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, we reduced our project and early career small grants round to one and postponed the Harry Keen Intermediate Fellowship to 2021. This represented a decrease on the 2019 award rate of 29%, and 2018 award rate of 25%.

These figures also include three awards made through our partnership with the Academy of Medical Sciences, three diabetes and COVID-19 awards jointly funded with Fight for Sight, JDRF and Moorefield's Eye Charity, and one strategic award made through our partnership with the National Institute of Health Research.

Table 1 shows the # of application submitted across all Diabetes UK funding schemes (including those in partnership).

Funding scheme	Submitted	Scored fundable	Funded
Project grant	36	13	7
Early career small grant	8	2	2
PhD Studentship	28	21	4
Harry Keen Intermediate Clinical fellowship	0	0	0
Sir George Alberti Fellowship	7	1	1
RD Lawrence fellowship	13	4	1
Strategic Awards - NIHR Programme Grant	3	1	1
Joint DUK/NIHR Doctoral Fellowship	5	0	0
Covid-19 Rapid Response Call	54	12	5
AMS Starter Grant	9	2	2
AMS Springboard	11	1	1

Research area & type

Diabetes UK funds research into all types of diabetes, and of basic science as well as clinical science.

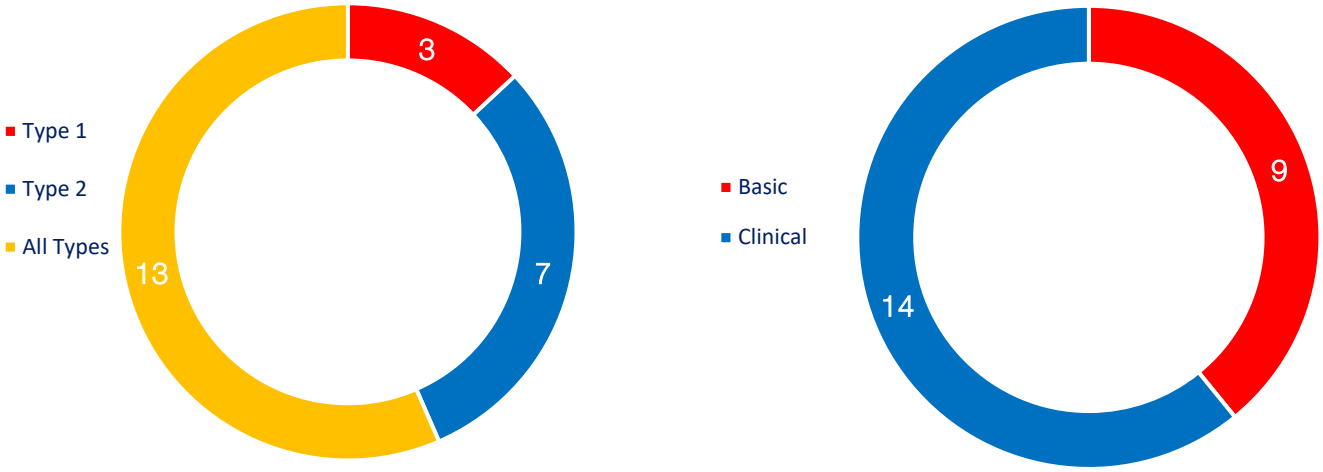

Figure 2. Diabetes UK research projects awarded 2020 divided by research area and type.

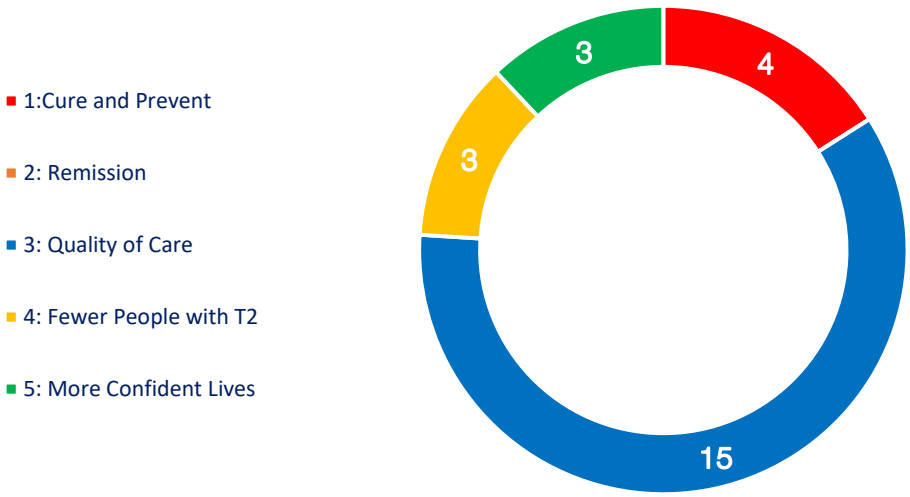

Figure 3. Diabetes UK research projects awarded in 2020 divided by strategic outcome

Locations

We fund research at institutions across the UK. Figure 4 shows the number of research projects we have funded in each UK region in 2020.

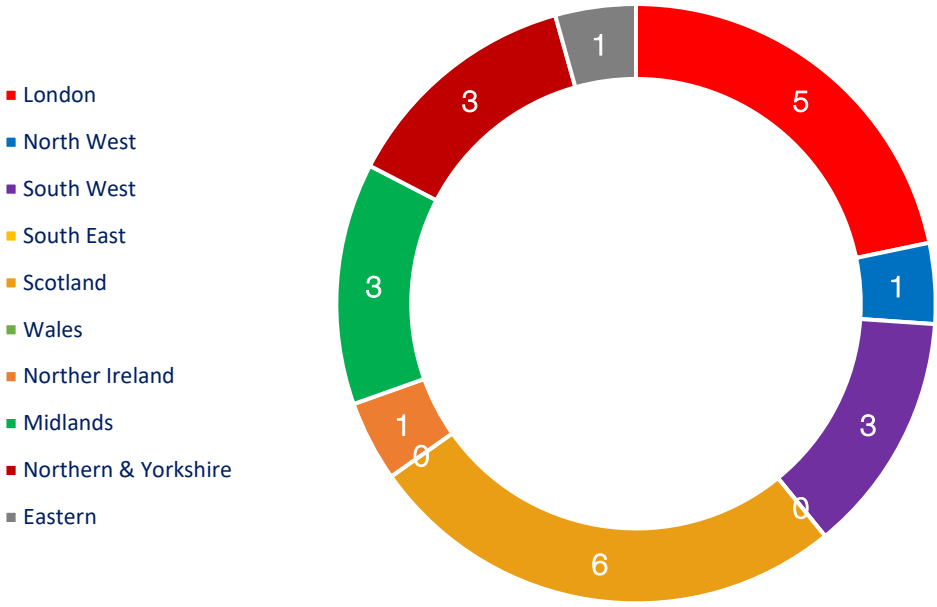

Figure 4. Diabetes UK 2020 awards by UK region

2020 Awards

Here you can see the list of our 2020 grant awardees. (The list does not include the one made by the Academy of Medical Sciences Springboard which falls as part of a funding consortium)

RD Lawrence Fellowship

Generation of beta cells from stems cells using novel regulators
Dr Ildem Akerman, University of Birmingham

SirGeorge Alberti Fellowship

Deep learning for the automated prediction of diabetic retinopathy progression
Dr Paul Nderitu, King's College London

PhD Studentships

Identifying novel insulin secretion disorders caused by mitochondrial dysfunction to highlight fundamental pathways within the β-cell
Dr Elisa De Franco, University of Exeter

What factors in human blood cause insulin resistance and promote development of Type 2-Diabetes?
Professor Gwyn Gould, University of Strathclyde

Regulation of G-protein-coupled receptors in the development of type 2 diabetes
Dr Dawn Thompson, University of Aberdeen

Re-Purposing Anti-Ageing Drugs to Heal Diabetic Foot Ulcers
Dr Holly Wilkinson, University of Hull

Early-Career Small Grants

Evaluation of footwear fit guidelines under pressure in at-risk feet
Dr Petra Jones, University of Leicester

Defining the role of edited microRNAs in diabetes mediated brain microvasculature alterations
Dr Prashant Srivastava, Imperial College London

Using C-Peptide measurement to clarify, simplify and personalise the management of diabetes (funded in partnership with Academy of Medical Sciences Starter Grants)
Dr Laura McCreight, University of Dundee

Developing light sheet microscopy of murine and human gut to assess (pre)diabetic microvascular (funded in partnership with Academy of Medical Sciences Starter Grants)
Dr Kathryn Griffin, University of Leeds

Project grants

Role of the GSK3-NRF2 axis in beta cell decline in type 2 diabetes
Professor Calum Sutherland, University of Dundee

Use of capillary blood ketone meters to improve ambulance service care of hyperglycemic patients: a feasibility study (KARMA2 study)
Dr Larissa Prothero, East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust

Understanding how BMP9 protects from diabetes-induced blood retinal barrier breakdown
Dr Reinhold Medina, Queen's University Belfast

Exploring combination therapy to optimise costimulation blockade in autoimmunity
Professor Lucy Walker, University College London

Can breaks from sitting improve glucose control and vascular health in people with type I diabetes?
Dr Matthew Campbell, University of Sunderland

Impaired maternal β-cell adaptation to pregnancy: effects on glucose homeostasis in mother and offspring
Dr James Bowe, King's College London

Is adult health trajectory determined by maternal glucose levels during embryo implantation?
Professor Melissa Westwood, University of Manchester

Diabetes and COVID-19 Research

Impact of deferring intra-vitreal injections for diabetic macular odemea under the CVOID-19 pandemic (funded in partnership with Moorefield's Eye Charity)
Mr Ranjan Rajendram, Moorefield Eye Hospital

Investigating retinal vasculopathy pre-COVID-19 as an independent risk factor predictive of sepsis in COVID-19 (funded in partnership with Fight for Sight)
Dr Miguel O. Bernabeu, University of Edinburgh

Understanding the association between diabetes and severity of COVID-19 infection
Dr John Dennis, University of Exeter

COVID-19 antibody screening in families with type 1 diabetes: infection rate and effects on diabetes (funded in partnership with JDRF)
Professor Kathleen Gillespie, University of Bristol

Effects of Covid-19 Pandemic on Diabetes Risks and Outcomes In UK
Professor Naveed Sattar, University of Glasgow

Strategic Research – NIHR Programme Grants for Applied Research partnership

Developing and Evaluating A Multifactorial Intervention to Improve
Professor Kamelsh Khunti, University of Leicester