

# **DIABETES UK RESEARCH 2021 FUNDING OUTCOMES AND SUCCESS RATES**

Published April 2022

**DiABETES UK**  
KNOW DIABETES. FIGHT DIABETES.

# OUR PORTFOLIO

## Our portfolio in 2021

Our current research portfolio comprises of 134 grants worth over £30 million. The 33 new research projects funded in 2021 can be divided into:

### Awards funded by Diabetes UK

- 3 fellowships (£1,761,123)
- 6 PhD studentships (£618,254)
- 4 early career small grants (£60,000)
- 14 research projects (£3,735,906)

### Awards funded in partnership

- 1 NIHR Doctoral Fellowship (NIHR: £384,844, Diabetes UK: 128,281)
- 1 NIHR Programme Grant for Applied Research (NIHR: £2,067,478, Diabetes UK: £200,000)
- 1 AMS Clinical Lecturer Starter Grant (£17,604)
- 1 AMS Springboard Grant for Basic Scientists (£100,000)
- 1 research project (Diabetes UK: £500,000, JDRF: £331,516)

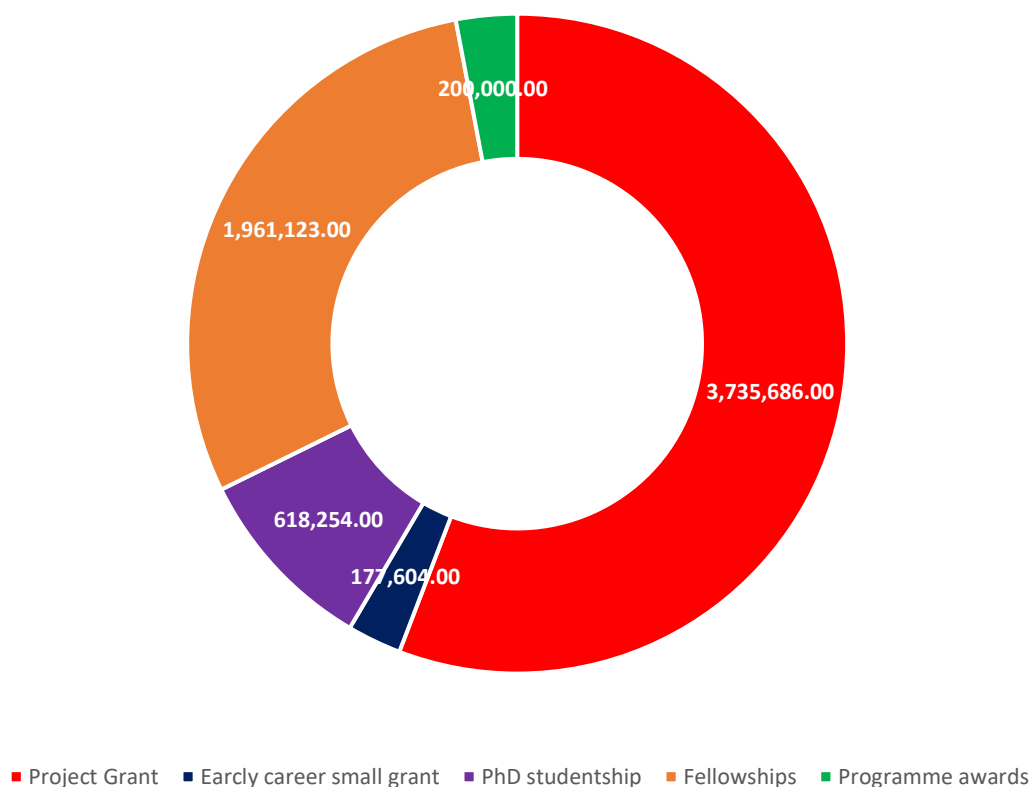


Figure 1. The total cost of Diabetes UK research awards 2021, divided by type.

## Success rates

In 2021, we funded new research (lifetime costs) totalling **£6,611,600** and leveraged **an additional £2,783,839** through partnership. Of the **126** applications submitted across all funding schemes, including those through partnership, **47** applications scored as fundable and in funding **35** applications we were able to fund **74%** 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 **28%**.

These figures also include five awards made through our partnerships with the **Academy of Medical Sciences**, **JDRF** and **The National Institute of Health Research**.

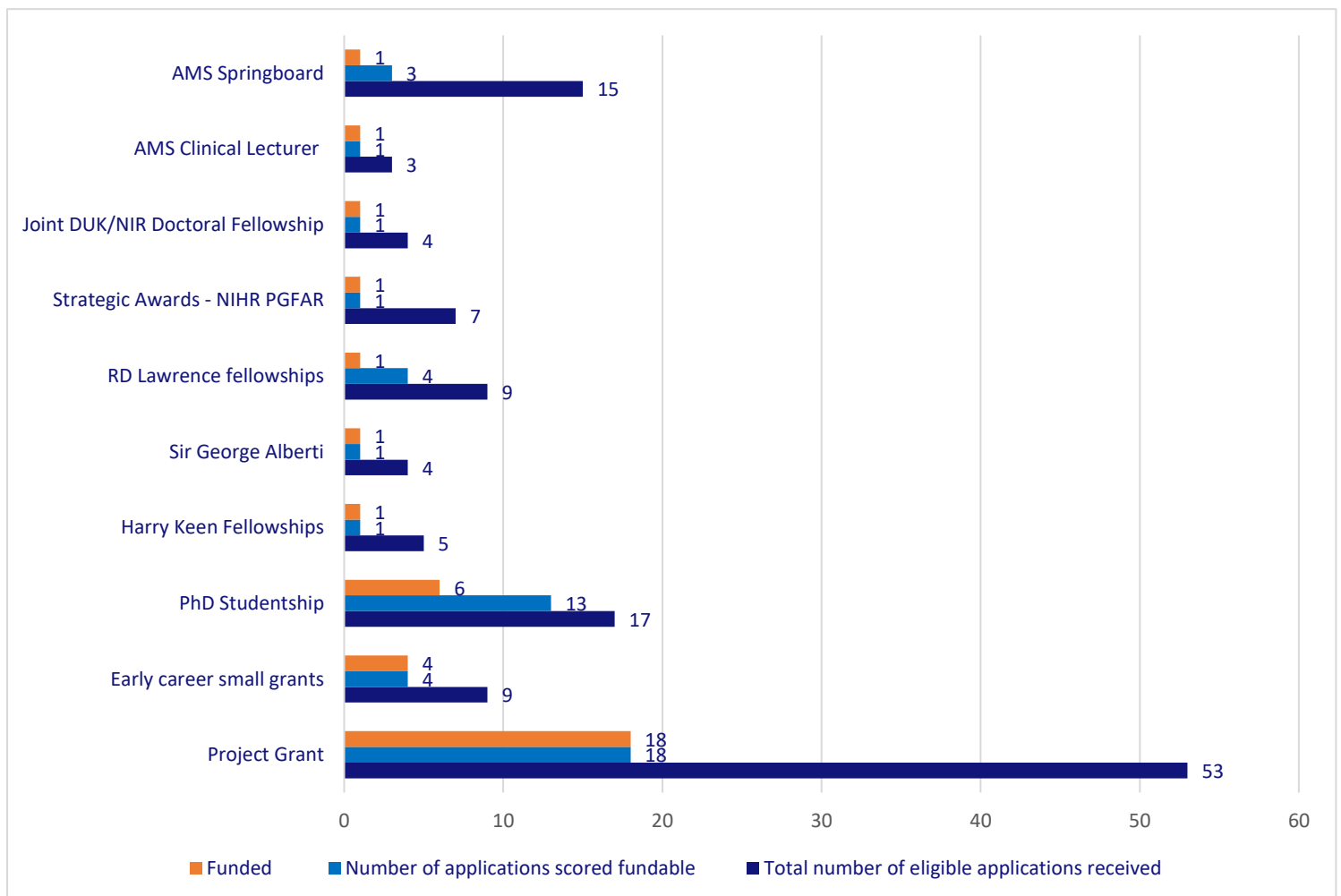
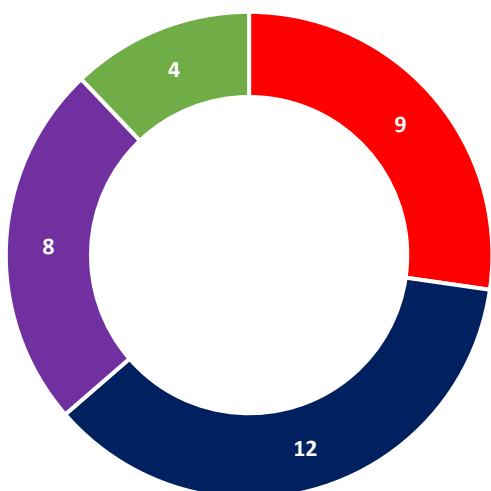


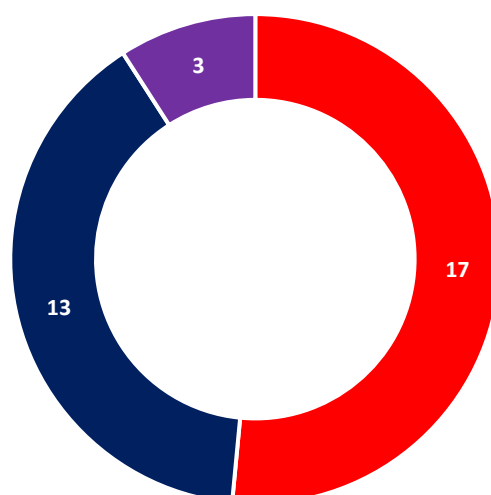
Figure 2 shows the # of application submitted across all Diabetes UK funding schemes (including those in partnership).

# Research area & type

Figures 3, 4 and 5 provide a breakdown of the awards made based on the type of diabetes, type of research and mapped against the Diabetes UK strategic outcomes. Diabetes UK funds research for all forms of diabetes and both basic and clinical research.

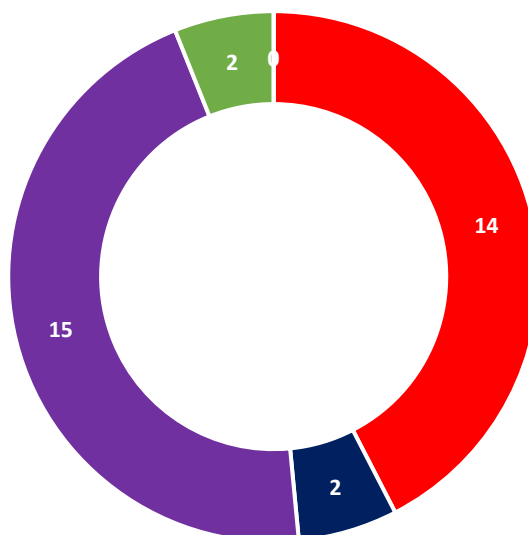


■ Type 1 ■ Type 2 ■ All types ■ Other



■ Basic ■ Clinical ■ Basic and Clinical

- More people with type 1, type 2 and all other forms of diabetes will benefit from new treatments that cure or prevent the condition
- More people will be in remission from type 2 diabetes
- More people will get the quality of care they need to manage their diabetes well
- Fewer people will get type 2 and gestational diabetes
- More people will live better and more confident lives with diabetes, free from discrimination



Figures 3, 4 and 5. Diabetes UK research projects awarded 2021 divided by research area, diabetes type, and strategic outcome

# Locations

Figure 6 shows the number of research projects we have funded in each UK region in 2021.

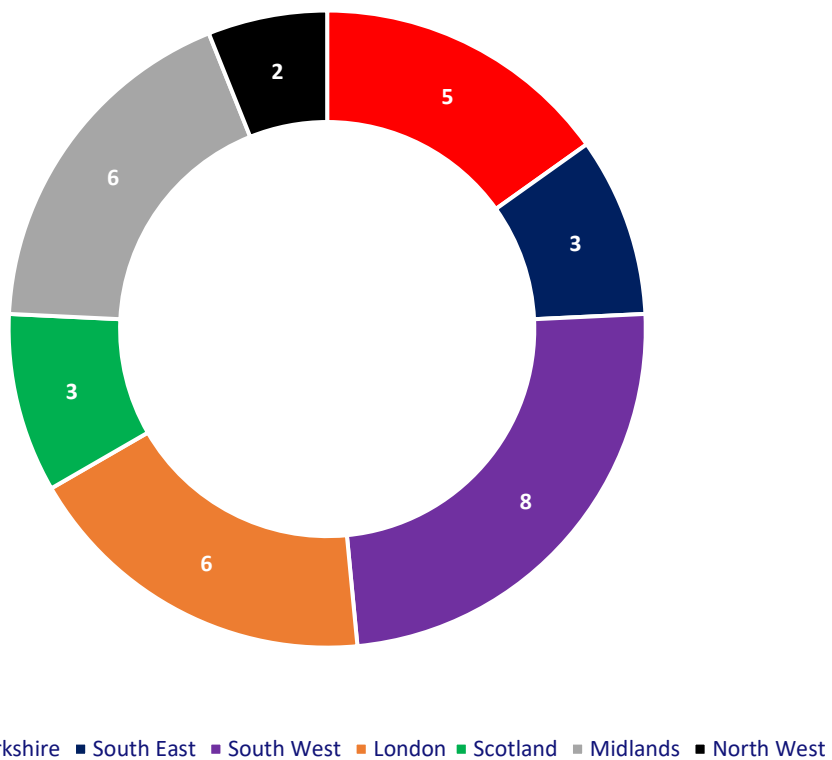


Figure 6. Diabetes UK 2021 awards by UK region

# 2021 Awards

Here you can see the list of our 2021 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)

## NIHR Programme Grants for Applied Research (partnership)

**New remission care pathway: Diabetes Adaptive Weight management Network "NewDAWN"**

Professor Susan Jebb, University of Oxford

## Project grants

**Low Energy DiEt iN obese adolescents with type 2 diabetes: The LEGEND study**

Dr Pooja Sachdev, University Hospital Nottingham

**Identifying new subtypes of syndromic diabetes to provide novel insights into diabetes**

Dr Kashyap Patel, University of Exeter

**Does ZnT8 autoimmunity more accurately reflect beta cell destruction compared with other islet autoantibodies?**

Dr Anna Long, University of Bristol

**The extracellular matrix remodelling and receptor activation drives adipose tissue malfunction in obesity**

Dr Lee Kang, University of Dundee

**Developing clinical calculators to improve classification of atypical diabetes and diabetes in under-represented populations**

Dr Beverley Shields, University of Exeter

**The CD47/SIRP $\alpha$  axis in pancreatic islets: a critical regulatory pathway in type 1 diabetes?**

Professor Noel Morgan, University of Exeter

**Enabling people with diabetic peripheral neuropathy to drive safely & stay independently mobile for longer**

Professor Dilwyn Marple-Horvat, Manchester Metropolitan University

**Testing the feasibility and acceptability of EarLy Surveillance for Autoimmune diabetes: The ELSA Study**

Professor Parth Narendran, University of Birmingham (*Funded in partnership with JDRF*)

**Targeting  $\beta$ -cell microRNA-33 (miR-33) for maintenance of islet function and improving glucose homeostasis**

Dr Bo Liu, King's College London

The regulation of insulin secretion by RNA-binding proteins  
Professor Terence Herbert, University of Lincoln

Functional characterisation of GLP1R gene variants and their effects on type 2 diabetes pathogenesis, treatment response, and mood conditions  
Professor Inga Prokopenko, University of Surrey

Cost effective strategies to measure islet autoimmunity in individuals with and "at risk" of type 1 diabetes  
Professor Kathleen Gillespie, University of Bristol

Modulating islet NAMPT levels to improve islet transplant outcomes  
Dr Paul Caton, King's College London

Rescuing mitochondrial self-repair for the management of diabetic retinopathy  
Dr Jose Romero, University of Birmingham

Determining the role of microvascular blood flow in type 2 diabetes  
Professor Kevin Murphy, Imperial College London

Regulation of adipose tissue metabolism by asymmetric dimethylarginine  
Dr Ian Salt, University of Glasgow

### Early-Career Small Grants

Functional significance of hypoxia activated dorsal horn sensory neurons in the maintenance and permanence of type 2 diabetic neuropathic pain  
Dr Richard Hulse, Nottingham Trent University

Exploring the Long-term health Outcomes following a PrEgnancy with Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (ELOPE GDM)  
Dr Nerys Astbury, University of Oxford

Identifying the molecule responsible for the novel cross talk between the endothelium and gut which causes favourable remodelling of the microbiota  
Dr Natalie North, University of Leeds

Defining defective wound healing mechanisms in type 1 Diabetes  
Dr David Gurevich, University of Bath

### Harry Keen Clinical Fellowship

Decoding the 3-dimensional epigenomic landscape for human pancreas development and risk of type 2 diabetes mellitus  
Dr Rachel Jennings, University of Manchester

### RD Lawrence Fellowship

Exploiting gene therapy to discover treatments for type 2 diabetes  
Dr George Mcilroy, University of Aberdeen



### Sir George Alberti Fellowship

Functional cardiac imaging and ECG analysis in the fetus and neonates of women with diabetes in pregnancy

Dr Sian Chivers, King's College London

### NIHR Doctoral Fellowship (partnership)

Evaluating Shockwave therapy Of Lower Extremity diabetic Foot ULcers (SOLEFUL)

Dr Louise Hitchman, University of Hull

### PhD Studentships

Targeting hemichannels as a common mechanism to reduce senescence and inflammation in the diabetic kidney

Professor Claire Hills, University of Lincoln

Dissecting insulin signals with a view to generating safer therapeutics

Professor Nia Bryant, University of York

Harnessing the capacity of MSCs to rescue islet cells from the inflammatory demise after transplantation and during the pathogenesis of diabetes

Dr Chloe Rackham, University of Exeter

Assessing the impact of NADPH oxidase on human pancreatic beta-cells in diabetes

Dr Catherine Arden, University of Newcastle

The innate immune response to respiratory virus infection in diabetes: is glucose control the key?

Dr Margarita Dominguez-Villar, Imperial College London

The role of Mitochondrial Fission Process 1 (Mtfp1) in pancreatic beta cells

Dr Aida Martinez-Sanchez, Imperial College London

### Academy of Medical Sciences Clinical Lecturer

The association between glycaemic control in young people with Type 1 diabetes mellitus and executive functioning in social contexts: a pilot study

Dr Anne-Lise Goddings, University College London