

Science and Research Advisory Group member

Volunteer

Role description

Team: Research

Main contact: Kamini Shah

About Diabetes UK

Diabetes UK strives for a world where diabetes can do no harm. We aim to improve the lives of people living with and affected by diabetes. We funded over £7.2M of research in 2022, and our expected research spend in 2023 is £12M.

About the role

Our [Science and Research Advisory Group](#) steers the development of, and monitors, the Diabetes UK [Research Strategy](#). The collective voice of researchers, healthcare professionals, and people living with diabetes helps to ensure our research decisions are inclusive, relevant and impactful.

Main tasks and activities:

The key responsibilities of the Science and Research Advisory Group members are:

- To work with the Director of Research to formulate and review the research strategy. The next strategy development will begin in 2024.
- To advise the Director of Research and [Board of Trustees](#) on matters relating to science and research, and its importance to people affected by diabetes.
- Explore and plan for how developments in science and research might affect our research strategy.
- To ensure that research funded by the Charity is having the intended impact on people living with diabetes.
- To ensure the research strategy is being delivered as effectively as possible.
- To ensure the research strategy is guided by people living with diabetes.
- To advise the Director of Research accordingly on the external research environment and how that could benefit people living with, or at risk of, diabetes.
- To promote and encourage research into all aspects of diabetes relevant to the Charity.
- Identify opportunities to use research as an evidence base for policy and advocacy developments across the charity

Members of the Science and Research Advisory Group need to attend **three meetings per year**. These are normally held in March/April (in person), July (online), and October (in person). From time to time there might be ad-hoc shorter meetings (online) when discussions or decisions are urgent.

Members of the Science and Research Advisory Group are accountable to the Diabetes UK Board of Trustees. On an annual basis, the group will review its performance in accordance with the procedure agreed periodically by the Governance & Nominations Committee.

About you

Applicants need:

- Demonstrable interest in diabetes from a personal, clinical or research perspective.
- Demonstrable interest in furthering the diabetes research agenda.
- An understanding of Diabetes UK, its purpose, and its work.
- Commitment to confidentiality
- Willingness to give necessary time and effort to role.

Diversity of the group

It is important that the Science and Research Advisory Group represents the diversity of people living with diabetes. Members of group will be recruited to ensure (as far as possible) representation of:

- people with different types of diabetes
- carers of people with diabetes (such as parents of children with diabetes)
- people of all ages
- people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups
- people from different social economic backgrounds
- people from different gender groups

What can Diabetes UK offer you?

- An induction to the role and additional support, as required.
- An opportunity to develop your knowledge of diabetes, learn new skills and contribute to important research decisions.
- Reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incurred while carrying out activities for Diabetes UK, e.g. travel, lunch and accommodation if required.
- Opportunity for pre-meeting briefing to highlight points for discussion, and to input to the agenda.
- Informal support for experts by experience through drop-in meetings with experts by experience sitting on other research groups, and Diabetes UK staff.
- Free registration to the annual Diabetes UK professional conference.

Safer recruitment

We are committed to ensuring that our volunteer recruitment is fair, safe and consistent. The recruitment and selection process must therefore be appropriate to the nature of the role. Some roles may require a more in-depth selection process, for example those working with children or vulnerable adults. Your volunteering contact will be able to explain more about this.

This role will require references – These will be checked as a safeguarding measure if shortlisted. Please contact the Diabetes UK Research Team (research@diabetes.org.uk) if you require assistance when choosing your referees.