

# Expert by experience: DRSG

## Role description

**Team: Research**

**Main contact: Steven Parks**

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### About the Diabetes Research Steering Groups

[The DRSGs](#) bring together researchers, healthcare professionals and people with first-hand experience of diabetes to talk openly to work out what research needs to happen to improve people's lives. Once they know what needs to be done, they figure out how to promote research in that area.

We keep the priorities of the DRSGs at the heart of our research strategy. But we can't tackle diabetes alone, so we take what we learn from the DRSGs to other influencers and funders of research to encourage them to drive forward research that is important to people with diabetes too, and get even more diabetes research done.

It is people with life experience of diabetes getting involved and telling us what they want, and what it's really like living with diabetes, that makes this initiative so successful.

### About the role

We are looking for passionate people to share their experiences of diabetes and the experiences of their friends, families, and communities in group discussions about what problems research most needs to solve. Because everyone's experience of diabetes is different, a big part of this role is encouraging the group to reach out and find out what is important to the wider community of people living with diabetes.

This role lasts 3 years, with the option to stay on for another 3 if you're enjoying it (almost all of our members do!)

Main tasks and activities:

- Talking to the group about your experiences of diabetes, and the experiences of your friends, family and people in your local community
- Helping the group work out how to bring in the views of people living with diabetes not in the meetings
- If you find a project you are interested in, you may do some reading or have some calls outside of the main meetings

## About you

We are looking for people who:

- Are interested in research and appreciate how research can transform people's lives
- Have experience of living with or caring for someone with diabetes, or is at risk of diabetes
- Are willing to share their experiences in open group discussion
- Want to talk to the wider community of people living with diabetes to get their thoughts on research
- Respect that some of the discussions will be confidential and can't be talked about outside of the group

## Our commitment to diversity and representation

We need to listen to as many voices as possible to make sure we drive forward research that benefits everyone. There are some communities that have been underrepresented in these groups, if you are part of any of these communities we would love to hear from you:

Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Indian, Black African, Black Caribbean, under 30 years old, people living with type 2 diabetes, people at risk of type 2 diabetes

## What Diabetes UK can offer you

- **The opportunity to be a part of** the diabetes research community
- An insight into the world of diabetes research
- A chance to influence the direction of research
- Connection to a network of likeminded people
- Support to talk to the wider diabetes community
- Expenses to attend meetings in across the UK when they are back up and running, and as much technical support as you need to attend virtual meetings in the meantime

## How to apply and next steps

Recruitment to the DRSGs is not currently open, but if you are keen to get involved, or have any questions, please drop an email to the team at [DRSGs@diabetes.org.uk](mailto:DRSGs@diabetes.org.uk) and we can answer by email or arrange a call.