



diabetes research  
western australia

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Media Statement

### **WINNING DIABETES RESEARCH GRANTS UNVEILED**

WA's peak diabetes research funding group has revealed the winners of its 2022 research grants at its annual World Diabetes Day breakfast.

Diabetes Research WA will invest \$60,000 into two projects, one aimed at type 1 diabetes and the other at type 2 diabetes.

Diabetes Research WA executive director Sherl Westlund said the charity was thrilled to support a fresh pilot study into the use of oral insulin in type 1 diabetes, which was being carried out by Dr Mary Abraham from Perth Children's Hospital and the Telethon Kids Institute.

"The work will investigate improved oral drug delivery systems, which have been designed to overcome absorption issues that have so far limited oral insulin's success.," she explained.

"Insulin injections or insulin pump therapy have been the cornerstone of type 1 diabetes treatment to date but most people with the condition remain unable to achieve optimal blood glucose levels. "

Oral insulin also offers the hope of reducing the risk of blood sugar levels falling dangerously low and minimising weight gain that can be an issue with subcutaneous insulin, as well as providing a much-needed non-invasive insulin option.

Ms Westlund said University of Western Australia Professor Kevin Pflieger and his team at the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research would also receive funding to investigate a new way to tackle disease-inducing chronic inflammation linked to type 2 diabetes.

"In collaboration with their colleagues at Monash University, the WA team hopes to reduce complications of type 2 diabetes – including atherosclerosis and kidney disease – by blocking a novel pathway that they've discovered stokes the fires of inflammation in the body," she said.

The pathway involves Immunoglobulin-like Cell Adhesion Molecules that are turned on by a process called "transactivation" when G protein-coupled receptor molecules on the cell surface are themselves turned on.

"These grants are the cornerstone of what we do – raising money to ensure incredible West Australian scientists can stay in the lab looking for diabetes breakthroughs – and it's wonderful to be able to support local research with so much potential to change lives," said Ms Westlund.

World Diabetes Day is held on November 14 each year.

Head to [diabetesresearchwa.com.au](http://diabetesresearchwa.com.au) for further details about the group.

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