

Expert by experience:

Grants Advisory Panel

Role description

Team: Research

Main contact: Dylon Spiers

About Diabetes UK

As the UK's leading diabetes charity, we strive to achieve a world where diabetes can do no harm. We're here to improve the lives of people living with and at risk of diabetes and seek to cure or prevent diabetes. In 2019, Diabetes UK funded over £7 million of research to help us achieve our ambitions.

About the role

Our [Grants Advisory Panel](#) (GAP) helps to improve the lives of people living with or at risk of diabetes by influencing the research funded by Diabetes UK. The Panel is made up of people living with diabetes, and family members or carers of a person living with diabetes. The role involves reviewing funding applications and making recommendations on the areas of research the Charity should focus its research spending. This role lasts 3 years, with the option to stay on for another 3 years if you're enjoying it! (almost all our members do!)

Main tasks and activities:

- Prepare for GAP meetings by reading and reviewing the plain English lay summaries and evidence on patient and public involvement section of research grant applications in advance of the meetings to rank the importance of the applications
- Attend meetings of the GAP for project grants, which will meet four times per year (2 full days when face to face)
- Represent GAP at the Research Committee meetings; The [Research Committee](#) consists of scientific and medical experts who assess and prioritise research project grant applications for funding
- Have the opportunity to be involved in meetings for early-career small grants, strategic grants and fellowships applications
- Participate in training and other research related activities

About you

We are looking for people who:

- Have experience of living with or caring for a person with diabetes
- Have an interest in diabetes related research studies, although we do not expect people to have research knowledge
- Willing to communicate with a range of people and the confidence to talk in a small and supportive group environment (online and face to face)
- Willing to learn, develop and seek help if you come across problems you do not understand
- Have respect for opinions that differ from or conflict with your personal viewpoint
- Respect that some conversations will be confidential and cannot be shared with anyone outside of the group

Diversity of the group

It is important that GAP represents the diversity of people living with diabetes. Members of group will be recruited to ensure representation of:

- Provide members with an induction including speaking to other members of the Panel
- People with different types of diabetes
- Carers or family members of people with diabetes
- People of all ages, including young people under 30
- People from black, Asian and minority ethnic groups
- People from different social economic backgrounds
- People from all four nations in the UK

There are some communities we've struggled to get involved in research in the past, 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-year olds

What Diabetes UK can offer you

- An induction including speaking to other members of the Panel
- An opportunity to develop your knowledge of diabetes, the research funding process, learn new skills and contribute to important funding decisions
- An opportunity to be involved in other research activities, e.g. reviewing fellowship applications, workshops and events

- Reimbursement of out of pocket expenses whilst carrying out activities for Diabetes UK, e.g. travel, lunch and accommodation

How to apply and next steps

If you're interested in joining our initiative fill out our [interest form](#).

Recruitment closes on 29th January 2021. We'll be in touch in February; if it seems like a good fit we will arrange an informal 30-minute chat in February/March to explain the role a bit more and answer any questions you might have. New members will be virtually inducted in late March/early April before their first meeting in May/June.

If you decide to join, we will ask for a couple of references, and we can guide you with this if you have any concerns. We will also carry out a basic criminal record check.

If you have some questions get in touch! Drop an email to the team at research@diabetes.org.uk and we can answer by email or arrange a call.