

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS: TELEHEALTH IN TYPE 1 DIABETES BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOLOGY

PURPOSE

JDRF International is soliciting Letters of Intent (LOI's) from investigators across behavioral health and psychology to advance the understanding of the efficacy and utility of telehealth in type 1 diabetes (T1D) care. Interventions with behavioral and psychological emphasis are of particular interest. The aim is to gain insights into the application of telehealth and to identify and address the barriers associated with virtual care delivery. The incomplete knowledge of telehealth efficacy in T1D care, how to utilize telehealth in behavioral/psychological care delivery, and how to effectively communicate practice insights to health professional communities remain a challenge towards advancing this form of care delivery. The purpose of this call is to invite innovative ideas that address these needs in novel ways that drive progress.

BACKGROUND

Telehealth has been explored for more than 30 years by clinicians, health services researchers, and others with the aim of improving health and health care delivery. In recent years, studies have shown the efficacy of telehealth in pre-diabetes, type 2 diabetes, and transitioning teens with type 1 diabetes, but much is still under-investigated. Much can also be gleaned from work in other telehealth areas such as rural health delivery, military health delivery, telehealth uses in follow up care, and remote patient monitoring.

The spectrum of telehealth delivery ranges broadly from telephone and the use of radio to link emergency medical personnel, to largely experimental, highly specialized innovations such as telesurgery. In between these two ends of the spectrum lie an array of video, audio, and data transmission technologies and applications.

The use of common, handheld technology and the integration of such technology into T1D practice and psychology has been limited and has demonstrated varying degrees of success. Telehealth is infrequently used in T1D clinical practice and there is little published evidence about specific psychology use. Some success has been demonstrated by text and online group interventions, but these have not been adopted broadly in clinical practice.

OBJECTIVE & SCOPE

The overall objective of this RFA is to advance new research on mechanisms of telehealth and its application to T1D care, specifically behavioral health and psychology, and to ultimately incorporate these new insights and techniques into clinical practice.

Examples of pertinent topics include, but are not limited to:

- Analysis of clinical process that would deepen understanding of effective use of technologies.
- Analysis of existing datasets featuring the use of technology-augmented care delivery to deepen insights into efficacy, process, execution and reimbursement.
- Focused clinical studies that aid in identification of efficacy and utility of telehealth approaches, including patient engagement and reimbursement strategies.
- Exploration of novel approaches to study processes and implementation barriers.
- Identification of how telehealth intervention affects health outcomes.



- Behavioral health interventions that promote coping and adaptation with diabetes.

FUNDING MECHANISM

All applications must include at least two patient reported outcomes and must directly incorporate T1D clinical outcomes. Applications should aim to utilize novel technologies in a multidisciplinary manner and should include at a minimum psychology and/or behavioral health. In response to this announcement, LOI's can be submitted under the following mechanism:

Strategic Research Agreement (SRA)

For Strategic Research Agreements, proposed project budgets should not exceed **\$350,000 USD** (*including 10% indirect costs*) total costs for up to two years. The level of funding will vary depending on the scope and overall objectives of the proposal. Under the terms of the grant award, written semi-annual reports will be required from the funded investigator as a basis for continued support.

Investigators funded through this RFA will be required to participate in regular meetings of the group and share progress and data under confidentiality.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must hold an M.D., Ph.D., or equivalent academic degree and hold a faculty position or equivalent at a college, university, medical school, or comparable institution. Applications may be submitted by domestic or foreign non-profit organizations, public or private, such as colleges, universities, hospitals, laboratories, units of state or local governments, or eligible agencies of the federal government. For clinical studies, applicants must hold an appointment or joint appointment in a subspecialty of clinical medicine and conduct human clinical research.

Projects involving parties with complementary expertise are highly encouraged to submit to this RFA. This may include collaborations between research and clinical groups, science groups with technology experts, and public-private partnerships.

There are no citizenship requirements. To assure continued excellence and diversity among applicants and awardees, this RFA welcomes applications from all qualified individuals and encourages applications from persons with disabilities, women, and members of minority groups underrepresented in the sciences.

LETTER OF INTENT

Prospective applicants should submit a Letter of Intent, [**2 pages maximum**] on line via RMS360 (<http://jdrf.smartsimple.us>) to be considered for a full proposal request. The LOI template provided on the RMS360 website must be used to complete the application. Applicants will be notified approximately eight weeks after the LOI deadline date if they have been approved to submit a full application.

PROPOSAL

An approved Letter of Intent is required prior to submission of a full proposal. Upon notification of a request for a full proposal, the application must be completed using the templates provided on the RMS360 (<http://jdrf.smartsimple.us>). Proposal section templates in MS Word, [**10 pages maximum**] should be type-written, single-spaced and in typeface no smaller than **10-point font** and have no more than **six vertical lines per vertical inch**. Margins, in all directions, must be at least ½ inch. Complete



information should be included to permit review of each application without reference to previous applications.

Note that all applications involving human subject research must include supplemental information to address subject safety, study design and investigational product information. More details can be found in the [Human Subject Research Guidelines](#).

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants must register as an applicant and submit their application in response to this RFA using RMS360, JDRF’s grant management system (<https://jdrf.smartsimple.us>).

PROJECTED TIMELINE

- **RFA Release Date:** **September 4, 2019**
- **Letter of Intent Deadline**.....**October 3, 2019**
- **Notification of LOI Outcome**..... **October 18, 2019**
- **Full Proposal Deadline**..... **November 21, 2019**
- **Earliest Response to Applicants**..... **March 1, 2020**
- **Earliest Anticipated Start Date**..... **May 1, 2020**

SCIENTIFIC REVIEW CRITERIA

Applications will be subjected to confidential external scientific review and evaluated on the following:

- Significance
- Relevance
- Approach
- Innovation
- Investigator Experience
- Environment
- Resource sharing plan

Significance: Does the proposal address an important aspect of the RFA?

Relevance: Is the proposed research relevant to the objectives of this RFA?

Approach: Are the conceptual framework, design, methods and analyses adequately developed, well integrated and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics? Is the proposed research feasible within the term of the award? Are resources and knowledge based on prior experience and know-how?

Innovation: Does the project challenge existing paradigms or address an innovative hypothesis, novel target or critical barrier to progress in the field? Does the project develop or employ novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, tools or technologies for this area?

Investigator Experience: Are the lead investigator and collaborators qualified and well-suited to carry out the proposed research?

Environment: Is the research environment appropriate and likely to contribute to the success of the proposed research? Does the environment fosters collaborative arrangements that may support the



proposed research activities? Is the research environment compliant with appropriate rules and regulations for study conduct?

Resource Sharing Plan: Does the application make adequate provisions for sharing resource (data and/or samples), stemming from this project, with the wider research community?

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Scientific Inquiries may be addressed to:

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Administrative Inquiries may be addressed to:

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If you have any grant-specific questions as you work within [RMS360](#), please contact the administrative contact listed above.

For any non-grant-specific inquiries or issues, please contact SmartSimple Support Services via email support@smartsimple.com or phone (866) 239 - 0991. Support hours are Monday through Friday between 5:00am and 9:00pm US Eastern Standard Time

ABOUT JDRF INTERNATIONAL:

JDRF is the leading global organization focused on type 1 diabetes (T1D) research. Driven by passionate, grassroots volunteers connected to children, adolescents, and adults with this disease, JDRF is now the largest charitable supporter of T1D research. The goal of JDRF research is to improve the lives of all people affected by T1D by accelerating progress on the most promising opportunities for curing, better treating, and preventing T1D. JDRF collaborates with a wide spectrum of partners who share this goal. For more information, visit www.jdrf.org.