

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation



£50,000 to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation in 2011

In June 2011, it was announced that the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation have been awarded a £50,000 major grant from The Freemasons' Grand Charity. The money is helping to fund research to prevent complications from diabetes, specifically neuropathy or nerve damage. The research project is being led by Professor Rayaz Malik at the University of Manchester.

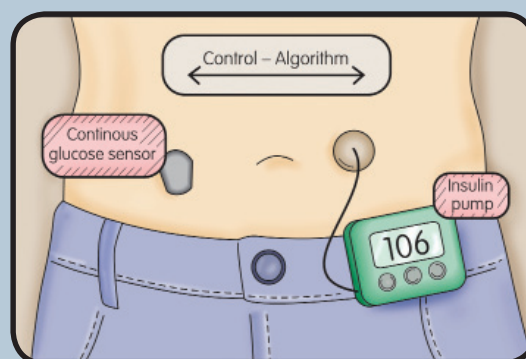
Type 1 diabetes is a chronic, life threatening condition in which the pancreas does not produce insulin. Insulin is a hormone that controls blood glucose levels and enables the body to store energy from food: without it we would die. The current method of control is via daily insulin injections or pump infusions. There is no cure. If blood glucose levels become too low hypoglycaemia occurs, which can lead to a variety of symptoms ranging from disorientation, loss of consciousness, coma, seizures and occasionally, death.

*For more information on the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation please visit:
www.jdrf.org.uk*

BREAKTHROUGH FOR DIABETES

Occasionally we are fortunate enough to receive news that research we have donated money towards has gained positive results. In 2007 we granted the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation £50,000 towards research at the University of Cambridge into diabetes treatment.

The research team at the University of Cambridge created an artificial pancreas for children, to be used overnight to monitor blood glucose levels and administer insulin automatically. The team measured how well their artificial pancreas system controlled glucose levels overnight compared with a regular insulin pump. Insulin pumps deliver insulin at preselected rates, whilst the artificial pancreas system can change how much insulin it delivers in response to changing glucose readings detected by a continuous glucose monitor.



Depiction of artificial pancreas © JDRF

In 2010, it was announced this research has been successful, reducing the devastating complications of the disease for millions of people. Further trials are commencing to test the use of the artificial pancreas in a home environment and it is anticipated that the results will contribute to the medical and regulatory acceptance of the device, and for the eventual use for Adults as well.