



DiabDocs-K12 FAQs

1. What is a National Institutes of Health (NIH) K12 grant?

A K12 grant stands for Clinical Scientist Institutional Career Development Program Award. The purpose of this program is to support diverse early career physician-scientists in research-intensive settings, and to facilitate their transition to more advanced support mechanisms, e.g., K08, K23 or similar career development awards.¹

2. What is the eligibility criteria for a NIH K12 grant?

A K12 awardee must be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States of America with a clinical doctoral degree. (Note that this particular K12 award is only for physician scientists). Awardee must be an established investigator (Program Director/Principal Investigator), capable of providing scientific and administrative leadership at any eligible U.S. domestic institution.¹

3. What is the National NIH DiabDocs-K12 program?

The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) has funded a National K12 program for mentored early career physician research training in **type 1 or type 2 diabetes (T1D or T2D)**. The program is called **National NIH K12 “Diabetes-Docs: Physician-Scientist Career Development Program”** or **DiabDocs Program**.

4. Who are the leaders for the National NIH DiabDocs-K12 program?

The DiabDocs-K12 program has two co-program directors: **David Maahs, MD, PhD**, Professor and Chief, Pediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes at The Stanford University Medical Center, Palo Alto, California and **Linda DiMeglio, MD, MPH**, Professor and Chief, Division of Pediatric Endocrinology and Diabetology in the Department of Pediatrics at Riley Hospital for Children, Indianapolis, Indiana. More information on Dr. Maahs’ profile can be found at <https://profiles.stanford.edu/david-maahs> and more information on Dr. DiMeglio’s profile can be found at <https://medicine.iu.edu/faculty/1595/dimeglio-linda>

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5. What are the goals of the DiabDocs-K12 program?

The prime objective of the multi-center DiabDocs-K12 program is to support the research career development of the next generation of physician-scientists in basic and clinical diabetes for academic careers with a specific focus on T1D or T2D.²

The structured DiabDocs-K12 program will provide a mentored research experience and tailored career development training. Given the historically low rates of persons under-represented in medicine entering diabetes research careers, intentional evidence-based effort toward supporting and funding for these individuals is prioritized in the program.²

The goals of the program are²:

- a) Creating a national cohort of up-and-coming physician-scientist researchers, developing cohesion through shared programmatic training cohort experiences including an annual retreat,
- b) Expanding the geographical reach of the original institutional diabetes K12 programs (located at Joslin, Yale, Penn, Colorado, and Stanford) so that diverse K12 Scholar candidates can train at their home institutions while maintaining the historic strengths of the prior diabetes K12 programs,
- c) Developing an outstanding national mentor community to train diabetes physician-scientists and providing a more visible pathway to research careers for medical students/residents/fellows by active recruitment programs and inclusion in the DiabDocs retreat and educational programs
- d) Ensuring consistency and effectiveness of mentoring, including directed attention to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) across research centers through shared mentor training and resources.

6. What are the eligibility criteria for the DiabDocs-K12 program?

The eligibility criteria for the DiabDocs-K12 program include:

- a) Scholars must have full-time appointments at the grantee institution and be within the first five years of their faculty appointment as an Instructor or Assistant Professor (or equivalent) at the time of award (July 1, 2024).

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- b) Scholars must be physician scientists who have completed their adult or pediatric endocrinology fellowship training, or other specialty/training path and engaged in type 1 diabetes research.
- c) Scholars must be either board-certified or board eligible.
- d) Scholars must intend to continue in a dual research/clinical career, supported by an individual career-development or research award that they obtain as PD/PI.
- e) Scholars must devote a minimum of 9 person-months (75% of full-time professional effort) during the appointment on the DiabDocs-K12 award (Note: those in surgical specialties must commit 50 percent).
- f) Scholars must be citizens or noncitizen nationals of the United States or have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence at the time of appointment. Additional details on citizenship requirements are available in the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#).
- g) At the time of initial DiabDocs-K12 appointment, Scholars must have no more than six years of research or research training experience beyond their last doctoral degree. Time spent in clinical training is not considered postdoctoral research training. Scholars must have [Early-Stage Investigator Status](#) through the duration of their term as Scholar. Mid-career and senior faculty are not eligible to be appointed as Scholars.
- h) Individuals who are or were PD/PIs on NIH Small Research Grants (i.e., R03s) or Exploratory/Developmental Research Grants (i.e., R21s) are eligible for DiabDocs-K12 support. However, individuals who are or were PDs/PIs on NIH research projects grants (R01), Project Leads of program projects (P01) or Center grants (P50) or the equivalent, are not eligible for appointment under the DiabDocs-K12 program. Individuals who have been previously supported by NIH or non-NIH career development awards are not eligible (such as mentored career training awards identical or equivalent to the K01, K08, K23, or K99). Scholars must not concurrently hold any other PHS award that duplicates the provisions of this award.

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7. Is there any publicly available documentation or announcement available for the DiabDocs-K12 Program?

Yes! The Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for the NIH DiabDocs-K12 program is publicly available at the website here <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DK-21-019.html>

8. What is the anticipated amount of funding for DiabDocs-K12 Program Scholars?

Each Scholar is anticipated to receive \$100,000 in salary support/year and \$50,000 for research and development/year. In addition to this amount, fringe benefits negotiated at Stanford University rate and indirect costs at 8% federal approved rates will also be awarded.

The funds for research and development may include tuition and fees (e.g., Masters' Program at the University of Pennsylvania Center for Epidemiology and Biostatistics or a Masters in Translational Research), laboratory supplies and equipment, research technical personnel, travel to scientific meetings or training courses, and/or statistical/ computational services. All expenses will be directly related to the proposed research career development program, and under the scrutiny of the K12 Scholars' Oversight Committee.²

9. What is the negotiated amount of fringe benefits for DiabDocs-K12 Program Scholars?

Fringe benefits are awarded at a negotiated rate determined on an annual basis by Stanford University. Please contact [Komal Dasani](#) for more information.

10. What is the federally negotiated indirect cost rate for DiabDocs-K12 Program Scholars' Award?

The indirect cost rate for the DiabDocs Scholar Award has been federally negotiated at a rate of 8% per year. Indirect cost rates have been negotiated at a final rate with NIH and cannot be increased or decreased from the above-mentioned amount.²

11. What is the expected duration of funding in the DiabDocs-K12 program?

The Scholars may spend up to three years in the DiabDocs-K12 career development program and are strongly encouraged to apply for either an individual Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Award (K08) or an individual Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award (K23) after 1-2 years of support through the DiabDocs-

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K12 program. Through NIDDK, the physician scientist scholars may receive up to a total of 6 years of combined support through K12/KL2 and K08/K23 grant mechanisms. It is expected that most Scholars will receive 2 years of support on the DiabDocs-K12.

12. What is the application process for the DiabDocs-K12 program?

Each year the DiabDocs program will solicit letters of intent (LOIs) for applications for a mentored career development program from a diverse group of early career physician scientists engaged in research relevant to **type 1 or type 2 diabetes (T1D or T2D)** including basic, translational, clinical, epidemiology/biostatistics, informatics, health services or health policy projects. The deadline for LOI submission for the third recruitment cycle of the program will be announced in Fall 2023. LOIs are anticipated to be due in early Winter 2023.

After review of the LOIs, candidates will be invited to submit a full application proposal. The full application (**due Spring 2024**) must outline a clear research project, well-formulated career development plan including mentorship from an experienced scientific mentor, and strong departmental support to protect time for research.

Persons invited to submit full applications will also be invited to a full-day virtual program retreat in **Spring 2024**, that will include interviews. Full applications will be reviewed by the DiabDocs Executive Leadership Committee (ELC), National Advisory Council (NAC) and Scientific Review Committee (SRC) in a study section for funding anticipated **July 1, 2024**.

13. What materials should be included in the LOIs?

Letters of Intent (LOI) must include:

- a) One-page statement of intent to apply
- b) One-page preliminary, specific aims for the proposed research project
- c) **NIH-format Biographical sketches** from the candidate and proposed mentor(s)
- d) Proof of US citizenship or lawful permanent resident status (copy of passport/green card)

Note: Candidates re-submitting their applications are required to include revised specific aims demonstrating how they intend to improve upon their grant proposal from the previously submitted LOI.

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14. How do I submit a LOIs to the DiabDocs-K12 program?

Interested candidates should e-submit the materials for LOIs in PDF format in early Winter 2023 to:

DiabDocs Program

diabdocsk12@stanford.edu

15. What materials will be requested in the full application proposal?

Elements of the DiabDocs-K12 program full application proposal will include:

Abstract and maximum 7 pages total for elements 2-7. 11pt font.

1. **Abstract of the research proposal** – high level overview of your study, the design, needed sample type(s) and size, and any other key features (limit to 150 words).
2. **Research Plan** – briefly describe your proposed research plan and include your specific aims, hypotheses and approach (recommended length, 3 pages).
Note: If a candidate is re-submitting their full application in a given recruitment cycle, a 1-page response to comments provided by the review committee in the previous cycle is required with the research plan.
3. **Research Experience/Interests** – summarize your research experience/interests, including preliminary work accomplished to date and supporting this project (recommended length, ½-1 page).
4. **Training Plan** – what is your formal training plan to develop as a physician-scientist? Please also describe how you will specifically work and meet with your primary mentor and include a timeline for your training activities (recommended length, ½-1 page).
5. **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement** – describe your past experiences and commitment to diversity, inclusion and health equity and how you plan to incorporate those principles into your research methodologies, your own research and writing, and your mentoring activity (recommended length, ½-1 page).
6. **Why** are you applying for the DiabDocs Award? Describe your vision for a career in T1D or T2D research and care (recommended length, 1-2 paragraphs).

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7. **External Funding** – what type of grant do you intend to submit for extramural funding in the next 12-24 months? Preferences are for a K08, K23, JDRF, VA, foundation or other career development awards (recommended length, up to 1-3 sentences).
8. **Full CV (applicant)**
9. **Biosketch (primary mentor)**
10. **Two Letters of Recommendation (One from primary mentor)**
11. **Formal letter of support from Chair at current institution (must include statement of assurance of 75% protected time for K12 activity + a statement of how the other 25% FTE is allocated and describe the department's commitment to the long-term career development of the candidate to become an independent research scientist).**
12. **Bibliography/References**

16. Would a budget or budget justification be required with full application submission?

No. Budget and budget justification for the grant proposal will be required after a candidate is awarded the DiabDocs-K12 Scholar funding. Templates for both the budget, budget justification along with the Scope of Work and IRB documentation requirements will be emailed to Scholars by the Program Administrator after selection into the program.

17. If an applicant is at one institution and is planning to move to another institution, can the applicant submit from the second institution (assuming they have a mentor at the second institution)?

Yes, the applicant can submit from the second institution assuming they have a mentor assigned at the second institution.

18. Are current third-year fellows eligible to apply for the DiabDocs-K12 program?

Current third-year fellows would not be eligible for funding as the award requires the scholars must be within the first five years of their faculty appointment as an Instructor or Assistant Professor (or equivalent) by anticipated start date.

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19. If it has been 6+ years since an applicant has graduated from their fellowship training program, are they still eligible to apply to the DiabDocs Program?

Yes!

“K23 and K08 mechanisms at NIDDK do not have limits, but reviewers and NIH generally keep an eye on ESI status and consider the most opportunity for career enhancement is to award a regular K which will run within the ESI period. ESI status is 10 years from terminal doctoral degree less any clinical time and can be extended for other life events like childbirth.

Some ESI info:

<https://grants.nih.gov/policy/early-investigators/faqs.htm#5342>

How does NIH describe an Early-Stage Investigator (ESI)?

An ESI, or Early-Stage Investigator, is a Program Director / Principal Investigator (PD/PI) who has completed their terminal research degree or end of post-graduate clinical training, whichever date is later, within the past 10 years and who has not previously competed successfully as PD/PI for a substantial NIH independent research award. A list of NIH grants that a PD/PI can hold and still be considered an ESI can be found at <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/early-investigators/list-smaller-grants> ESIs are encouraged to enter the date of their terminal research degree or the end date of their post-graduate clinical training in their eRA Commons profile to ensure their correct identification.³”

20. When is the next expected opportunity to apply for this DiabDocs-K12 program?

The K12 program next accepts Letters of Intent (LOI) in early Winter 2023. Once the LOIs are reviewed, successful applicants will be invited to submit a full application by Spring 2024.

In the upcoming months, please continue to check [our website](#) for more information on application deadlines and specific due dates for the recruitment cycle.

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21. Have there been there any informational webinars available for the DiabDocs-K12 program?

Yes! We had two informational webinars in December 2022 to discuss the program, application process and eligibility criteria. The webinars were on Zoom and were recorded.

Thursday, December 8, 2022:

[Recording available here](#)

Friday, December 16, 2022

[Recording available here](#)

To view the webinar slides, please click here:

[Slides available here](#)

Webinars for the Spring 2024 hiring cycle will be held in Fall 2023. Please check [our website](#) for more details in the upcoming months.

22. Is the DiabDocs-K12 program on social media?

Yes!

We have created a website for DiabDocs-12 program

<https://med.stanford.edu/pedsendo/physician-scientist-diabdocs-k12-program.html>

Please visit our website for more information on the program.

DiabDocs-12 program is also on Twitter! Please feel free to follow us [@diabdocsk12](#) or visit our Twitter webpage here <https://twitter.com/diabdocsk12>

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23. Where should questions be sent for the DiabDocs-K12 program?

Please send any questions related to the DiabDocs-K12 program to Program Administrator, Komal Dasani, MPH at diabdocsk12@stanford.edu

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