

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 diabetes (T1D)**. 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>

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.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

¹National Institutes of Health: Research Training and Career Development. “K12: Clinical Scientist Institutional Career Development Program Award.” <https://researchtraining.nih.gov/programs/career-development/K12> Accessed July 15 2022.

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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 (January 1, 2023).
- 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

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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.

7. 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.²

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

8. 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-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.

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

Each year the DiabDocs program will be soliciting 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 diabetes (T1D)** including basic, translational, clinical, epidemiology/biostatistics, informatics, health services or health policy projects. The 2022 deadline for LOI submission is **August 1, 2022**.

After review of the LOIs, candidates will be invited to submit a full application proposal. The full application (**due September 30, 2022 for funding January 2023**) must outline a clear research project, well-formulated career development plan including mentorship from an

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experienced scientific mentor, and strong departmental support to protect time for research.

Persons invited to submit full applications will also be invited to a program retreat on **October 26-28, 2022** for 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 **January 1, 2023**.

10. 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)

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

Interested candidates should e-submit the materials for LOIs in PDF format by **August 1, 2022**, to:

David Maahs, MD, PhD
Professor of Pediatrics
Stanford University School of Medicine
Department of Pediatrics
diabdocsk12@stanford.edu

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

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

- a) **Abstract** (150 words).
- b) **Research Plan** – Briefly describe the proposed research plan (recommended length, 3 pages).
- c) **Relevance of the research to Type 1 Diabetes.**
- d) **Research Experience/Interests** – Summarize the research experience/interests, including preliminary work accomplished to date, including those experiences supporting this project (recommended length, ½-1 page).
- e) **Mentoring Plan** – Describe the mentoring plan and how it will specifically work and meet with the primary mentor.
- f) **External Funding** – What type of grant do is intended to be submitted for extramural funding in the next 12 months? Preferences are for a K08, K23, JDRF, VA, foundation, or other career development awards.
- g) **Training Plan** – What is the formal training plan to develop as a physician-scientist?
- h) **Why** is the candidate applying for the DiabDocs Award? (recommended length, 1-2 paragraphs). What is their your vision for a career in T1D research and care.

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- i) **Diversity, Inclusion, And Mentoring Statement.**
- j) **Candidate's CV.**
- k) **Mentors' biosketches and letter of support.**
- l) **Department Chair letter of support** assuring 75% protected research time and a statement on how the other 25% FTE would be defined.
 - i. The institution will be expected to guarantee a minimum of 50% protected time for research after the end of the 3 years of DiabDocs-K12 funding, sufficient for the scholar to submit an initial application for a K08 or K23 award and, if needed, to revise and resubmit.

13. 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.

14. 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.

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

The K12 program next accepts Letters of Intent (LOI) on **August 1, 2022**. Once the LOIs are reviewed, successful applicants will be invited to submit a full application by **September 30, 2022**.

The dates for any future application cycles are TBD and may start either June 2023 or Jan 2024. The first round of applications must be reviewed and scholars need to be hired before next hiring cycles are discussed based on feedback received from all involved partners and stakeholders.

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

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

Monday, July 11, 2022:

[Recording available here](#)

Wednesday, July 13, 2022:

[Recording available here](#)

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

Yes!

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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](https://twitter.com/diabdocsk12) or visit our Twitter webpage here <https://twitter.com/diabdocsk12>

18. 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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