



WA'S Dr Mary Abraham named 2022 ADS Lindsey Baudinet Rising Star in type 1 diabetes research

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A diabetes researcher with the Rio Tinto Children's Diabetes Centre at the Telethon Kids Institute and Perth Children's Hospital has been awarded the prestigious Australian Diabetes Society (ADS) Lindsey Baudinet Rising Star Award in T1D Research.

Dr Mary Abraham was named winner of the award at the 2022 Australasian Diabetes Congress in Brisbane, which has brought together national and international experts to discuss the latest clinical practices and cutting-edge research into diabetes.

The award – designed to help eligible early career researchers pursue research into T1D and its complications – comes with \$20,000 in funding which Dr Abraham will put towards an innovative pilot study to be launched later this year.

The study will trial the use of oral insulin in type 1 diabetes – a medication intervention that could be a game-changer for those with the chronic condition.

Dr Abraham said oral insulin had so far predominantly been tested in those with type 2 diabetes.

“Insulin injections, or insulin pump therapy, are the cornerstone of type 1 diabetes treatment but still most people remain unable to achieve optimal blood glucose levels, so there's a very real need to improve on treatment,” she said.

“This raises the need to look for alternative modes of insulin delivery which are non-invasive, less challenging and more acceptable in the long-term.”

Dr Abraham said the 12-week study aimed to see if oral insulin could be used alongside injected insulin.

“The success of oral insulin has so far been limited due to absorption issues, but we'll be trialling an improved oral drug delivery system that has been designed to overcome this challenge,” she said.

“Even if it can be used to reduce the amount of insulin that needs to be injected by people with type 1 diabetes or mean they require less total insulin, these would be very welcome breakthroughs.”

~ENDS~

*Dr Abraham's \$20,000 funding from the ADS will be used alongside a \$60,000 Diabetes Research WA Grant she was awarded in December 2021.



About type 1 diabetes

Type one diabetes (T1D) is a chronic autoimmune disease that results from the immune system attacking the insulin-producing cells of the pancreas. Currently, T1D cannot be prevented but it can be managed by administering insulin, monitoring glucose levels, having a healthy, balanced diet, and getting regular physical activity. There are more than 125,000 Australians living with T1D, with 8 diagnosed each day. In WA, about 160 children are diagnosed with T1D diabetes every year

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