Every child with type 1 diabetes (T1D) yearns for a life without limits. But managing their disease is complex, and consequences can be severe. We know this problem can be solved through research—with philanthropy, we can accelerate the pace to find those solutions.

The right people in the right place

The diabetes program at Stanford is ranked as one of the best in the country, where physician-scientists and clinicians are focused on making T1D forgettable. We’re working on detecting early T1D, delaying its onset, preventing—and eventually curing—this chronic condition. Our mission includes leveraging technology to enhance health outcomes, and leveling the playing field to help every patient, regardless of economic status.

“We envision a future where no child has to miss out on making meaningful memories or is held back because of their diabetes. We want all kids to thrive and have healthy childhoods.”

- David Maahs, MD, PhD
Opportunity for Impact

Philanthropy can make a difference by enabling us to reduce the burden on kids with T1D and their families. With your help we can:

- Advance science and clinical care through the study of genetics. Anna Gloyn, DPhil, is investigating human genetics to identify safe and effective drug targets, improve islet-cell replacement therapy, and develop more precise and individualized treatments. Philanthropy will allow Dr. Gloyn to recruit and build an exceptional team of postdoctoral researchers across a range of specialties to drive these lines of inquiry.

- Enhance quality of life through technology. Bruce Buckingham, MD, and Korey Hood, PhD, have made Stanford a world leader in creating artificial pancreas systems. Philanthropy can help fuel efforts to create new technologies and tools to make diabetes care automated, more user-friendly, and less invasive.

- Reduce disparities and broaden access to care. Technology like continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) can significantly improve quality of life and long-term outcomes. However, patients on public insurance face many barriers to access. Priya Prahalad, MD, leads a pilot program to reduce disparities in care and outcomes. Philanthropy can further broaden our digital health capacity to provide care for kids in rural or underserved communities who can’t easily see endocrinologists or other specialists.

- Make exercise easier and safer. Dessi Zaharieva, PhD, is one of the few PhDs in exercise science to focus on assisting children with diabetes. As someone with T1D, she knows firsthand how challenging it is simply to work out—a critical part of maintaining good health. Kids can learn the benefits of physical activity through diabetes technology she is developing. Philanthropy can make it easier for them to increase their overall activity.

MEET THE LEADER OF PEDIATRIC T1D RESEARCH AT STANFORD

David Maahs, MD, PhD
Lucile Salter Packard Professor of Pediatrics, Division Chief of Pediatric Endocrinology

Dr. David Maahs specializes in large epidemiologic studies to identify clinical problems and generate hypotheses for randomized clinical trials (RCT). The RCTs test interventions to improve care for children with T1D.

Recently, Dr. Maahs oversaw a revolutionary Stanford Medicine Children’s Health study on the early introduction of diabetes technology. Children with new-onset T1D were enrolled in the 4T program—Teamwork, Targets, Technology, and Tight Control. The results were dramatic: A majority of participants had significantly reduced their average blood sugar level 12 months after diagnosis.

Thanks to Stanford’s cutting-edge investigative infrastructure, important work like this is taking place every day, Dr. Maahs says. That’s hopeful news for kids and families dealing with T1D.

With philanthropy and our expertise in research and care, we can give every child a fighting chance against type 1 diabetes.