

DIABETES WELLNESS NETWORK SVERIGE

RESEARCH STRATEGY

Insamlingsstiftelsen Diabetes Wellness Network Sverige DWNS (org. nr. 802425-2218) är en insamlingsstiftelse startad 2006 som står under tillsyn av Länsstyrelsen i Stockholms län samt under tillsyn enligt avtal mellan Stiftelsen för insamlingskontroll SFI och insamlingsstiftelsen.

Insamlingsstiftelsen har tillkommit i syfte att öka allmänhetens kunskaper om förekomster av, orsaker till och behandlingen av diabetes och därmed liknande samt närbesläktade sjukdomar. Vidare syftar stiftelsen till att stödja forskningen kring och behandlingen av diabetes.

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PURPOSE

The aim of DWNS's Research Strategy is to clearly set out the charity's objectives and priorities for research funding and outline a plan for achieving them.

The strategy will demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the role the charity plays in consideration of the needs and requirements of its members and the wider community. It will provide a clear focus for stakeholders, illustrating the charity's commitment to its aims and plans for achieving its goals. In turn, this will build a clear picture and understanding of the role of research within the charity's wider objectives.

The provision of a clear research strategy will allow researchers to determine whether their research falls within the charity's funding remit. Furthermore, it will enable DWNS's Research Advisory Board to make recommendations for funding in-line with the charity's aims and objectives, whilst assisting the Trustees to assess the effectiveness and impact of the charity's activities.

Although DWNS will set the basis of the Research Strategy in place for a period of 5 years, it will be reviewed on an annual basis, when aspects of which may need to be amended or updated. This could be for a number of reasons, not least when the need to rethink mechanisms of funding, arise. Likewise, as the needs of the charity's members and the wider community change, the charity's research funding programmes will adapt and evolve in consideration of those requirements.

ROLE OF THE CHARITY

Since becoming fully operational in 2008, thanks to an extremely successful fundraising programme, DWNS have been able to commit nearly 8 million SEK to diabetes research.

DWNS's aim, through its research strategy, is to fund research projects focused on the

- prevention, complications and treatment of diabetes
- causes
- cure

Each year our goal becomes more important as the number of people diagnosed continues to rise. Today more than 200 million people worldwide are living with diabetes and, by 2025, this total is expected to increase to around 333 million people. Currently, about 6 million people develop diabetes each year.

Research with a strong relevance to diabetes and patient benefit is paramount. This reflects the views and wishes of our network members and donors, with whom we have a close connection, and reinforces DWNS's charitable objectives.

Our ultimate goal is to discover a cure for diabetes. We know that this is a long road but are intent on maximising the potential by funding the highest quality clinical and scientific research at the very best research institutions and supporting innovative projects.

Through fundraising, donations and legacies and in line with the charity's mission of relieving the suffering of people with diabetes, each year DRWF offers financial support for a selected number of proposals and projects connected with diabetes research.

As a patient focused charity with a close relationship with our network members, in addition to the responsibility we have to our donors, DWNS are committed to investing in research projects with tangibly beneficial/practical outcomes. Our networks research funding programme and successes are proof of this.

RESEARCH FUNDING PROGRAMME

The DWNS research programme is designed to support bright young researchers, as well as established institutions, as they strive to make the kind of life-changing break-through our members and supporters are hoping for.

Since inception, DWNS has funded numerous innovative research projects in Sweden, UK and in the US (focused on diabetes; its causes, treatment and cure) based at recognised institutions or within credible research groups.

DRWF Research Fellowships are given for research related to causes, cures or complications of diabetes. Clinical applications are invited from medically qualified doctors working towards a higher degree (up to 3 years) and non-clinical from post-doctoral scientists at fellowship level (3 years) and are alternated between clinical and non-clinical, year-by-year. When we are awarding a DRWF Fellowship, we are also intent on rewarding determined and committed individuals who have a proven track record in diabetes research and can display an intention to continue working in the field. It is our hope that a DRWF Fellowship can serve as a significant and fruitful step in the career of a bright, young and ambitious researcher.

The DRWF Open Funding programme supports smaller projects offering hope of improving and enhancing the lives of those living and coping with diabetes on a daily basis. Most likely they will be centred on advancement or exploration of treatments, services or products. The charity favours original clinical or scientific projects and selects on original clinical or scientific merit. Exchange fellowships will also be considered, especially between the UK and the USA. These grants may also be used to top-up a shortfall in funding of a larger, more ambitious project. Duration 1 year (although extensions may be considered).

When funds allow, the DRWF calls for PhD Studentship applications – these awards are intended for a PhD clinical or non-clinical student researcher working in the field of diabetes (duration 3 years).

DWNS STRUCTURE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A Board of Trustees governs Insamlingsstiftelsen Diabetes Wellness Network Sverige – the trustees' role is to guide, advise and support the Executive Director as he and his team implement the vision of the charity.

It is imperative that the DWNS's research portfolio facilitates first class research into the cause, care and advances in the treatment of diabetes. With the guidance and recommendation of our Research Advisory Board, the charity Trustees make funding decisions with these priorities in mind.

DWNS RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD

The DWNS Research Advisory Board comprises experts in a wide variety of research disciplines to ensure that all applications are assessed knowledgeably and fairly.

The Advisory Board oversees our Open Funding Programme and biennial Clinical and Non-Clinical Fellowships (alternating) and currently meet twice a year.

While there is no set upward limit on tenure, board members are not expected to remain on the board for longer than three years.

We endeavour to minimise as far as possible the workload generated by these applications but, as a charity, we consider it vital that we operate a rigorous assessment procedure and we are greatly indebted to our board members for their commitment to our work. We do not pay an honorarium, but all expenses are reimbursed.

EVIDENCE OF TRANSPARENCY

DWNS Website (www.diabeteswellness.se):

- Details of members of the DWNS Research Advisory Board
- Board of Trustees
- Annual Reports
- DRWF research funding available
- DRWF funded research (lay summaries, researchers and institutions)

DWNS Annual Report: (available on request)

- Contains details of grants awarded within the financial year with total commitment to-date.

SFI Report (www.insamlingskontroll.se):

- Contains key ratios of funded research and costs.

AN EFFECTIVE RESEARCH STRATEGY

Research is key to the aims of Insamlingsstiftelsen Diabetes Wellness Network Sverige.

Investing in the most committed diabetes researchers is fundamental to the DWNS strategy. Groundbreaking research has been funded by the Diabetes Wellness Network and has produced significant results. These results will, we hope, assist in the prevention and treatment of people with diabetes and improve their lives - enabling them to stay well until a cure is found.

STRATEGIC AIMS AND PRIORITIES

DWNS will endeavour to adhere to its Research Strategy whilst continuing to look at ways in which it can improve as outlined below:

Transparency

- Publish DWNS research strategy and processes on website
- Lay summaries of **outcomes** of research completed to be made available in the public domain via DRWF

Peer Review processes

- Evaluate and implement revisions

Measuring research outcomes

- Evaluation
- Review
- Methodology

Research Priorities

- Continue to identify priorities with DWNS aims in mind
- Adjust when necessary
- Define methodology

Funding research

- Review fundraising schemes
- Assess effectiveness and ongoing achievement levels
- Review values and terms of awards at the recommendation of the Research Advisory Board

Collaboration

- Explore prospect of partnerships to further enhance the strength and financial viability of the charity

Review

- DWNS are conscious of the need to review its research objectives and priorities on a regular basis thereby meeting the needs and objectives of the charity, its members and supporters in an ever-changing environment.
- Assess DRWF effectiveness
- Define and implement improvement as, when and where required
- Assess whether DRWF's ongoing fundraising programme will meet its research funding commitments