**Type 1 diabetes**

Widely considered to be among the top five in the nation, scientists and physicians from UF’s Type 1 diabetes research program have proved that passion for discovery and clinical innovation leads to new research paradigms and improved patient care.

**Trailblazing discoveries**

- Using autoantibody markers to predict individuals at increased risk of Type 1.
- Identifying genes associated with genetic susceptibility.
- Defining the physiology of the immune response.
- Identifying agents suitable for the prevention of Type 1 diabetes in humans.

**Type 2 diabetes**

The UF Diabetes Institute is finding ways to prevent and treat the common complications of Type 2 diabetes, including fatty liver, kidney failure, heart and vascular disease and eye disease.

**Finding solutions**

- Discovering how to simplify the diagnosis of fatty liver — a common complication of Type 2 diabetes — and testing new drugs and treatments to eradicate it.
- Understanding the underlying mechanisms and the ethnic differences that make some patients with Type 2 diabetes more susceptible to fatty liver.
- Developing treatment plans for people with diabetes that are customized to a patient’s personality, habits and needs.
- Working to understand how glucose cell models are involved in kidney complications in diabetic patients.
- Defining the best regimen of blood-thinning medications for patients with Type 2 diabetes and heart disease, so they reduce their risk of having future heart attacks or needing heart surgery.
Meaningful impact

- As the primary coordinating center for the JDRF Network for Pancreatic Organ Donors with Diabetes, or nPOD, the UF Diabetes Institute leads a global network of more than 150 researchers where pancreas tissue is available for the first time to address how diabetes forms.

- Florida’s Camp for Children and Youth with Diabetes was started in 1970 as a fun-filled camping trip as well as an extension of the academic pediatric diabetes program.

- Today, the Florida Diabetes Camp is a model for providing a fun, safe, educational and diabetes-friendly camp environment.

- Dr. Janet Silverstein, chief of pediatric endocrinology, has influenced school training standards and standards of care for children with diabetes at the local, state and national level for decades.

- The UF Diabetes Institute, together with the UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, is working across all 67 Florida counties to provide education programs in diabetes prevention and management.

- Groundbreaking clinical trials use combination drug therapies that could one day prevent or reverse Type 1 diabetes.

- Researchers with UF IFAS use chemistry, genetics and taste tests to develop better-tasting fruits and vegetables that can inspire better diet choices.

- State-of-the-art genetics techniques are being applied to unravel the 20-plus forms of diabetes in different patient populations with the hope of developing personalized therapies.

“One day, a means for preventing as well as curing diabetes will be found, and when that occurs, I firmly believe the efforts of UF staff and faculty will be seen by many as key to its discovery.

Working together, my hope is that the UF Diabetes Institute will make that important event occur sooner.”

— Mark Atkinson, PhD
Director, UF Diabetes Institute