EASD**EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF DIABETES**

ASSOCIATION EUROPEENNE POUR L'ETUDE DU DIABETE · EUROPÄISCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR DIABETOLOGIE

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E-mail: secretariat@easd.org · Homepage: <http://www.easd.org>**EASD****News Section
3/2005****JOSEPH HOET RESEARCH AWARD – 2005**

The DPSG (Diabetic Pregnancy Study Group, EASD) announces the **Third Joseph Hoet Research Award (JHRA)** to be given on the occasion of the Annual Meeting of the Study Group (Mykonos, Greece), 15–18 September, 2005.

The award will consist of a commemorative plaque and a diploma-certificate, travel expenses and Euro 7.000 for the awardee, with the support of HemoCue AB. The call for nominations is open, on a competitive basis, for excellence of research in the field of Diabetes and Pregnancy, under the following conditions:

1. The candidate must be younger than 45 years on 1 January of the year of the award.
2. There is no restriction concerning the nationality of candidates.
3. The JHRA will be given in relation to research of excellence in the field of Diabetes and Pregnancy (Basic or Clinical) manifested by publications with important contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the field.
4. **Before 23 April 2005**, the Chairman of the DPSG should receive all documents for nomination as attachments to an e-mail. This shall include the candidate's Curriculum Vitae with complete bibliography, the most relevant publications (not more than 6; as .pdf-files) and a statement by the candidate, explaining the manner in which the research and the publications have contributed to the advancement of knowledge in the area of Diabetes and Pregnancy. Such a statement should not exceed 1.000 words. Additional letters of support of relevant authorities in the field of Diabetes and Pregnancy may also be enclosed (.pdf-files). **Renewal of application** is possible.
5. The jury to decide on the award will consist of the four active members of the DPSG Board plus another member, chosen by the official representatives of HemoCue AB from among ordinary/hon-

orary DPSG members or, if not European, an ordinary/honorary member of the International Association of Diabetic and Pregnancy Study Groups (IADPSG). Only in exceptional cases, if the jury cannot make a final choice between 2 final candidates, with almost identical evaluation, the DPSG Chair's vote will be decisive.

6. The recipient of the prize is expected to give the **Joseph Hoet Lecture** during the annual DPSG meeting, describing his/her most important scientific achievements, and is also expected to write a respective review article for publication in *Diabetologia* (if this is accepted by the Editorial office of the journal).
7. Applications should be addressed to the Chairman of DPSG:

Christos Zoupas, MD

"HYGEIA" Hospital

4, Er. Stavrou Str.

15123 Maroussi

Greece

E-mail: x.zoupas@hygeia.gr

Phone: +210 68 67 456

Fax: +210 68 67 552

Executive Board Members:**Chairman:**

Christos Zoupas, Athens, Greece

Treasurers:

Kari Teramo, Helsinki, Finland,

Peter Damm, Copenhagen, Denmark,

Sylvie Haugel -DeMouzon, Paris, France

EASD News Section 3/2005
DOI 10.1007/s00125-005-1699-1

European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes

The Research Foundation of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes

Invitation to submit Letters of Intent (LOIs)

European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes (EFSD)
and
Pfizer Inc.

ANNOUNCING UP TO EURO 200,000 FOR THE CREATION OF ONE OR MORE RESOURCES TO FACILITATE DIABETES RESEARCH IN EUROPE

Background

The European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) was founded in Montecatini, Italy in 1965. In 1999, the Association created the *European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes (EFSD)*. The aims of EFSD are to encourage and support research in the field of diabetes, to rapidly diffuse acquired knowledge and to facilitate its application.

Pfizer is one of the world's leading healthcare companies, providing human and animal pharmaceuticals, as well as consumer products. With a portfolio that includes five of the world's 20 top-selling medicines, Pfizer is helping to improve the lives of people the world over.

Plan and goals

EFSD and Pfizer have established a partnership, with a view to funding in 2005 one or more *EFSD/Pfizer Resource Awards for European Diabetes Research*. The total amount available will be Euro 200,000. The aim of the(se) award(s) is to allow for development of a *resource for diabetes research*, which will be available on an open-access basis or at nominal cost to all researchers in the field in Europe. Examples might be products for research (e.g. gene microarrays), biological material (e.g. cell lines), a database or co-ordination and integration of samples/data from ongoing multi-centre endeavours (e.g. genetic screening). This

list is *not intended to be complete* and other proposals will be welcome as long as any proposed resource is evidently relevant to the study of diabetes and its complications.

Letter of Intent procedure

In order to identify projects suitable for funding, the partnership is inviting interested individuals, groups of individuals or institutions to submit a **LETTER OF INTENT** describing in *not more than 2 pages* the features of the proposed resource, its potential importance in facilitating diabetes research in Europe and an outline budget.

Letters of Intent will be reviewed by an independent *ad hoc panel of experts*.

Upon invitation only, those deemed of particular interest will be considered for funding further to submission of a **full application for competitive review**. Details of the procedure will be made available to those receiving this specific invitation to submit a full application.

Electronic submission of Letters of Intent

Letters of Intent will only be considered if submitted electronically.

Letters of Intent should be submitted by **3 May 2005** as a *Word file attached to an e-mail*. The e-mail should be addressed to: foundation@easd.org

Please mention “EFSD/Pfizer LOI” in the subject box.

Enquiries

All written enquiries should be addressed to: foundation@easd.org. Please put “EFSD/Pfizer Enquiry” in the subject box.

Telephone enquiries may be made to: Dr Viktor Jörgens, Executive Director of EFSD on:
+ 49 211 75 84 69 0

Schedule

Announcement:

March 2005 issue of *Diabetologia*

Deadline for Letters of Intent (LOIs):

3 May 2005

Invitations to submit full application:

20 May 2005

Deadline for full applications:

1 August 2005

Anticipated award:

September 2005

European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes (EFSD) and LifeScan European Studies on Glucose Monitoring Request for Applications

EFSD and LifeScan announce 2 Grants of Euro 100,000 in 2005

Background

The European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) was founded in Montecatini, Italy, in 1965. In 1999, the Association created the **European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes (EFSD)**. The aims of EFSD are to encourage and support research in the field of diabetes, to rapidly diffuse acquired knowledge and to facilitate its application.

For more than two decades LifeScan has been committed to improving the quality of life for people with diabetes. LifeScan pioneered the modern era of blood glucose monitoring, and helped bring blood glucose testing out of the laboratory and into the hands of patients. That change significantly empowered people with diabetes to manage their condition and live more normal lives. In 1986 Johnson & Johnson acquired LifeScan. Today, headquartered in Milpitas, California, LifeScan has manufacturing facilities in Milpitas, Puerto Rico and Inverness Scotland, and employs more than 2500 employees worldwide.

Plan

EFSD and LifeScan have established a new **Partnership for European Studies on Glucose Monitoring** to encourage new projects aimed at advancing current knowledge in this domain. The Programme invites applications from non-profit organisations.

To achieve the goals and objectives of this Programme, EFSD and LifeScan invite applications by issuing this "Request for Applications" (RFA), which

indicates joint funding as well as areas of research emphasis.

The EFSD/LifeScan Study Programme Awards are intended to stimulate and accelerate European research aimed at improved understanding of the optimal use of glucose monitoring tools both in type 1 and type 2 diabetes, with particular focus on the following:

- impact of glucose monitoring on diabetes outcomes (specifically in type 2 diabetes) and/or diabetes therapy (including but not limited to: compliance, quality of life);
- optimal/appropriate frequency of testing in different target populations (and the value of preprandial versus postprandial testing);
- new technologies in glucose monitoring (including but not limited to: continuous monitoring, minimal and non-invasive monitoring) and their clinical interest in diabetes practice;
- impact of glucose monitoring on health economics;
- physiology of alternative site testing (including but not limited to: differences in glucose concentration between different capillary beds of finger and alternative sites, differences between glucose concentration in blood, interstitial fluid and other compartments) and its impact on the use of glucose monitoring systems;
- informatics systems in support of glucose monitoring tools (including but not limited to: role of software, telemedicine, algorithms);
- glucose monitoring in children

Funding

In 2005 two grants each of Euro 100,000 are available.

Mechanism of Support and Review

Research will be supported through the award of fixed sum grants, each of Euro 100,000. The duration of each award may be one year or longer, depending upon the needs of the project and as justified in the application, so long as the total budget does not exceed the fixed sum of Euro 100,000. The Programme Board, on advisement from the Review Committee, may on occasion and at its discretion recommend an award in a lesser amount considered more appropriate for the proposed studies.

Applications for an EFSD/LifeScan Programme Award are invited from single non-profit institutions or groups of affiliated institutions from Europe and associated countries. Applications will be subject to scientific review by a specialised ad hoc committee. Funding will require approval by a joint EFSD and LifeScan board convened for this purpose. It is anticipated that applications for the grant year 2005 will be received, reviewed and approved for funding by June 2005.

Research Grant Applications

Applications for research grants may be subjected to pre-review (or triage) procedures. In this event, any application rejected at pre-review will not be subject to a complete scientific review. The deadline for receipt of research grant applications for funding in 2005 is 25 April 2005.

Research grants for the purposes of this Programme are limited to **Euro 100,000**. All budgets are to be prepared in Euro. For countries in which the Euro is not yet the common currency, the exchange rate (between the Euro and the local currency in the country where the work is to be performed) used for calculating the Euro budget must be mentioned under "Budget Justification". EFSD and LifeScan reserve the right to increase or decrease approved funding in Euro amounts to compensate for any significant change in the exchange rate.

Application forms may be requested from:

Foundation@easd.org

All applications must be prepared on the official forms and completed in strict accordance with the detailed instructions to be found on these forms. In particular, applicants are reminded that any pages in addition to the maximum of 10 allowed for the scientific

section of the application will be deleted prior to review. Similarly, no applications using a font or line-spacing smaller than that defined in the instructions will be considered for review. Additional material (in the form of an appendix, attachment, reprints, etc.) is not receivable and will not be sent to reviewers.

Applications should be submitted by 25 April 2005 (date of receipt) to:

Viktor Jörgens, M.D., Executive Director
European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes
 Rheindorfer Weg 3
 D-40591 Düsseldorf, Germany

Review Considerations

Completed applications will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria stated below for scientific/technical merit by an appropriate scientific committee convened by EFSD.

Review criteria are as follows:

- Significance: Does the study address an important problem in keeping with the goals and focus areas of this EFSD/LifeScan partnership programme? If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge be advanced? What will be the effect of the proposed studies on the concepts or methods that drive this field?
- Approach: Are the conceptual framework, design, methods and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics?
- Innovation: Does the project employ novel concepts, approaches or methods? Are the aims original and innovative? Does the project challenge existing paradigms or develop new methodologies or technologies?
- Investigator: Is the investigator appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the principal investigator and other researchers (if any)?
- Environment: Does the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Do the proposed experiments take advantage of unique features of the scientific environment or employ useful collaborative arrangements? Is there evidence of institutional support?
- Relevance: A brief statement of the impact of the proposed study on glucose monitoring

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Reporting Requirements

All investigators funded by this Programme are required to submit a scientific report at the end of the funding period.

Schedule

Announcement:
March 2005

Application Deadline:
25 April 2005

Anticipated Award:
June 2005

Enquiries should be directed to:

Viktor Jörgens, M.D., Executive Director
European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes
Rheindorfer Weg 3
D-40591 Düsseldorf, Germany
Tel: + 49-211-75 84 69-0
Fax: + 49-211-75 84 69 29
E-mail: Foundation@easd.org

EFSD/AstraZeneca Clinical Travel Fellowships

Clinical Travel Fellowships

The EFSD/AstraZeneca Clinical Travel Fellowships will enable young clinicians from Europe and associated states to travel and stay at other laboratories in order to learn new clinical skills or techniques in clinical diabetes research. The duration of the stay should be suited to the training purpose and must not exceed two months. Each Fellowship will be in the amount of up to Euro 5,000 (five thousand) dependent on the length of stay, local costs and costs of travel. This money will be paid into the account of the home institution where the Fellow is normally employed.

Defrayment of costs at host institution

An additional Euro 1,000 (one thousand) will be made available to the host institution to defray costs of training (to include supplies, sample analysis, access to specialised equipment, etc). This sum will be paid into the account of the host institution where the work will be performed.

Supplementary Transfer of Technology Award

Under special circumstances, at the specifically justified request of the home institution, an additional sum of up to Euro 10,000 (ten thousand) may be awarded to facilitate transfer to the home institution by the Fellow of the newly acquired skills/technique. Examples might include costs of setting up the new technique or purchasing/upgrading equipment related to that technique. The money awarded will be paid into the account of the home institution where the work will be performed by the Fellow on his/her return.

An initial total sum of Euro 50,000 (fifty thousand) has been made available to this Fellowship scheme. The number of Fellowships awarded will be dependent on their individual cost and the combined costs of any Supplementary Transfer of Technology Awards.

Please note

No overheads will be payable to either the host or the home institution on this Fellowship Award.

The following regulations will apply:

Applications may be made by any paid-up member of EASD under the age of 40 years on 1 January in the year of the Award. The applicant must be a clinician in an institution with an active clinical research programme. The application should include:

1. Full name, address, date of birth and brief curriculum vitae of the applicant (with list of publications).
2. Proof of current EASD Membership.
3. Statement of how the visit will benefit the applicant and his/her home department (1 side A4 maximum).

4. Date and nature of present appointment held by the applicant.
5. Letter of recommendation by the Head of the home department including a brief explanation of how the Fellow will use the new skills/techniques after returning to the home institution (1 side A4 maximum).
6. Letter from the host institution (where the visit will be made) describing the training objectives and how the Euro 1,000 costs award will be spent (1 side A4 maximum).
7. Budget details to include: costs of cheapest return travel between home and host institution; duration of stay and estimated living expenses (room, food, local transport).

Supplementary Transfer of Technology Award

Note: Application for a supplementary award must be in combination with that for a Clinical Travel Fellowship. Supplementary awards will only be made under exceptional circumstances: the Review Committee will be looking for clear justification of the special needs/financial hardship of the home institution that would otherwise prevent transfer of the newly acquired technology by the Fellow to this institution.

The application should include the following documents signed jointly by the Fellow and Head of the home department:

1. List of current institutional and non-institutional clinical research support, and an explanation of why it will not be possible, from these or other funds, to cover the costs of introduction of the newly acquired skills/techniques by the Fellow upon his/her return to the home institution.
2. Confirmation that in the event of this award being made, the Fellow, having received training, will be responsible for introduction of the newly learned skills/techniques at the home institution as part of his/her normal employment.
3. Budget (with justification) of the proposed use of funds, not to exceed Euro 10,000 (ten thousand).

Three copies of the application should be sent to:
European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes
Rheindorfer Weg 3
D-40591 Düsseldorf
Germany

These Fellowships are available throughout the whole year. There is no deadline for submission and applicants may expect a decision within 3 weeks.

Awards will be announced by the President of the EASD during the Annual Meeting of the EASD.

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EFSD/AstraZeneca Research Fellowship in Islet Biology

The objective of the EFSD/AstraZeneca Research Fellowship is to encourage research in the broad field of islet biology. Applications from candidates seeking to understand better the mechanism of beta cell gluco/lipotoxicity or the link between obesity, type 2 diabetes and islet function are particularly encouraged.

One Fellowship will be awarded in the sum of Euro 50,000 (fifty thousand); the money awarded will be paid into the account of the host institution where the work will be performed. This sum is intended to cover the Fellow's salary for at least one year according to the local scale. Remaining funds may be used to cover the Fellow's salary for an additional period of time or for supplies used in the context of the project.

Please note: No overheads will be payable on this Fellowship Award.

The following regulations shall apply:

Application may be made by any paid-up member of EASD under the age of 40 years on 1 January in the year of the award and holding a PhD, MD or equivalent degree. The application shall consist of:

1. Full name, address, date of birth and brief curriculum vitae of the applicant.
2. Proof of current EASD Membership.
3. List of publications by applicant as first or co-author (published or "In Press" articles only; no papers "submitted for publication" and no abstracts).
4. List of abstracts presented (oral or poster) at EASD or ADA meetings only.
5. Date and nature of appointment held by applicant, with brief resumé of work on which currently employed.
6. Budget outlining costs and duration of salary and (if any) supplies.
7. A proposal (not more than 3 pages) providing full details of the project for which the Fellowship is required. This should cover the aims, background, methodology and hoped-for results of the project.
8. Letter of commitment from the host institution where the work will be performed.

Four copies of the application should be sent to:

European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes
Rheindorfer Weg 3
D-40591 Düsseldorf
Germany

to arrive no later than 15 May 2005.

The EFSD/AstraZeneca Fellowship will be announced by the President during the Annual Meeting of the EASD.

Report on an EFSD/MSD Travel Fellowship for Young Scientists 2005

ffolliott M. Fisher

Unit for Diabetes and Metabolism,
Warwick Medical School, UK.

Measurements of Total versus Higher Molecular Weight Adiponectin.

The EFSD/MSD Travel Fellowship award enabled me to visit Professor Philipp Scherers' group in the department of Cell Biology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York. For the duration of my stay, my experiments were conducted under the expert supervision of Dr. Maria Trujillo. These final experiments were vital to the completion of my PhD which I have been undertaking for the past three years. My research so far has been concerned with adipocyte derived factors which mediate whole body glucose metabolism. Within this remit my research has centred around the novel protein, adiponectin. Adiponectin was isolated in 1995 by Scherer *et al* during a differential analysis of mRNAs expressed throughout adipogenesis. Adiponectin is now recognised as a good correlate of insulin sensitivity, representing an important link between adiposity and type 2 diabetes.

The structural biochemistry of this protein however is not simple. Adiponectin consists of a globular head domain and collagenous tail. Bonding between single units of the protein at a critical cysteine residue, results in the formation of large complexes, consisting of up to 18 molecules. These high molecular weight (HMW) forms of the protein are synthesised within the adipocyte and secreted without any further interactions. Former studies have observed that the most abundant forms of adiponectin in circulating serum are either a hexamer which represents the lower molecular weight (LMW) fraction and a 18mer or HMW adiponectin.

The Scherer group have developed a method of measuring the ratio of HMW to LMW adiponectin in serum. With the use of this technique they have noted that the percentage of HMW adiponectin or S_A appeared to be severely reduced in murine models of insulin resistance and obesity. Furthermore S_A levels were determined to be a much better correlate of improved insulin sensitivity in TZD treated patients than measurements of total levels of the protein. Since former studies have been mainly concerned with measuring total levels of the protein in human serum, I wanted to look at S_A levels in serum from obese and diabetic subjects. In particular, how these levels compared with total measurements determined by a commercially available ELISA. Other proteins implicated in adiponectin biology such as leptin, IL6 and insulin were also to be determined.

Analysis of HMW adiponectin required initial size fractionation of serum with sucrose density gradients. The resultant fractions were then individually loaded onto a reducing SDS-PAGE gel before western blotting. Interestingly S_A levels in the cohort of male south-Asian subjects were found to be reduced in those that were obese and/or diabetic. Further analysis established that S_A levels were an extremely good negative correlate of 2hr glucose levels in these individuals. Fasting levels of insulin appeared to negatively correlate with S_A , however no relationship was found between S_A and IL6 or leptin.

These results support former evidence that adiponectin represents an important candidate molecule linking adiposity and insulin sensitivity. Although both total and S_A measurements appeared to correlate well with glucose tolerance, a much tighter relationship was observed with S_A . This suggests that HMW adiponectin represents a critical intermediate stage in the insulin sensitising action of this protein.

The analysis of S_A levels in human serum was carried out during my stay in New York. The study has now been completed as an original paper and submitted for publication. I have also been able to use the results in the final chapter of my thesis bringing a logical conclusion to my work. I am very thankful to Philipp Scherer and his group for the invaluable knowledge and experience I gained from my visit to their lab. I am especially indebted to the EFSD and MSD for awarding me the travel fellowship making the visit possible. The experience was an important and memorable stage in my endeavour to be a successful research scientist.