

Letter

Status of Research Funded by the American Diabetes Association

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After much hard work on the part of members of the Professional Section, volunteers, and staff, the most recent Five-Year Plan of the American Diabetes Association (ADA) contained a research funding goal of allotting 1 in 3 dollars of total public support to research awards and grants. A model presented to the Board of Directors a few years ago proposed that this goal might be reached with gradual increases during the first 3 years and more steep increases during the final 2 years. In my presidential address in June 1998 (1), I asked that members of the Professional Section not only hold the ADA accountable, but work with the ADA to reach these research funding goals.

This letter is to apprise Professional Section members and other interested parties of our progress. During fiscal year 1998, the year before the current Five-Year Plan started, total public support was \$90.8 million, \$15.5 million of which was devoted to research awards and grants. Total public support

for fiscal year 1999 was \$101.5 million, of which \$18.2 million was slated for research awards and grants.

Although the ADA did follow its established research funding policies this first year of the plan, goals for subsequent years will be significantly more challenging to meet. A quick calculation of the amounts raised and the proportion devoted to research awards and grants in fiscal years 1998 and 1999 reveals the distance we have to go to meet the goal of 1 in 3 dollars for research in fiscal year 2003. To help meet this challenge, members of the Professional Section should not only remind ADA representatives of what still needs to be accomplished, but more importantly, devote some time and effort to help raise funds. This is especially important for the Research Foundation, where at least 80% of the monies go directly to research. Some of you see patients who have the means to help the ADA research mission; please consider engaging these individuals in that mission.

REFERENCES

1. Davidson MB: Diabetes research and diabetes care: where do we stand? (Presidential Address). *Diabetes Care* 21:2152-2160, 1998

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