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**American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation Peers for Progress Program  
Awards Grants on Six Continents to Support Diabetes Peer Support Research**

*\$7 million to enable researchers to develop an evidence-based  
peer support model for diabetes educators worldwide*

Leawood, Kan. – Peers for Progress, a program of the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation, today announced grants totaling \$7 million to be awarded to diabetes researchers on six continents. The grants, distributed over 12 to 32 months, will fund 14 research projects to document the contributions of peer support to diabetes management and demonstrate models for peer support programs around the world.

The grants were made available through a gift from the Eli Lilly and Company Foundation, Inc. to help the diabetes community establish a new, evidence-based model of peer education for people with diabetes. The model builds on peer support's core functions, such as assistance with daily management tasks, social and emotional encouragement to stay motivated and deal with the stress chronic disease often brings, and help in staying connected to clinical care.

“Diabetes threatens the health of more than 230 million people worldwide, many of whom receive health coverage through their employers,” said Craig Doane, Vice President of Development for the American Academy of Family Physicians and Executive Director of the AAFP Foundation. “It is our hope that companies worldwide will recognize the critical need and value of funding diabetes research and education initiatives such as Peers for Progress.”

The projects will range from clinic- to community-based, and are expected to impact people with diabetes at all socio-economic levels in urban, suburban and rural areas. Some of the methods to be evaluated include face-to-face interaction, text messaging and online support. Through these means, people with diabetes can help one another manage their disease by sharing knowledge and offering emotional support.

“There are few things with as much potential as peer and social support to help people live healthier lives,” said Edwin B. Fisher, Ph.D., Global Director of Peers for Progress and professor in the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North

Carolina at Chapel Hill. “At the same time, differences in cultures and health care systems complicate how to promote peer support.” He continued, “That’s why Peers for Progress is working to develop research and program models around the world – so wherever they are, program developers can find and develop an evidence-based model that works in their setting.”

“We recognize that there is no ‘silver bullet’ to improve the trends we are seeing in diabetes,” said Robert L. Smith, president of the Eli Lilly and Company Foundation, Inc. “But we believe Peers for Progress has the potential to make a meaningful difference in the lives of individual patients, as well as play an important role in reducing the massive burden diabetes places on health care systems worldwide.”

To view a list of grant recipients, please scroll to the bottom of this message. For more information about the Peers for Progress program, visit [www.peersforprogress.org](http://www.peersforprogress.org).

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### **About Diabetes**

Diabetes currently affects 246 million people worldwide and is expected to affect 380 million by 2025. It is the fourth leading cause of global death by disease. The humanitarian, economic and social costs of diabetes are immense: Some 3 million people die annually from diabetes-related causes — one death every 10 seconds. In the same 10 seconds, two people develop the disease, according to the International Diabetes Federation.

### **About Peers for Progress**

Peers for Progress demonstrates the value of peer support in diabetes management, extends the evidence base for peer support interventions, works to establish peer support as an accepted, core component of diabetes care, and promotes peer support programs and networks around the world. For more information, visit [www.peersforprogress.org](http://www.peersforprogress.org).

### **About the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation**

The Foundation serves as the philanthropic arm of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Its primary goal is to enhance health care delivered to the American people by developing and providing philanthropic resources for the promotion and support of family medicine. For more information, please visit [www.aafpfoundation.org](http://www.aafpfoundation.org).

**Research evaluation grant recipients will receive up to \$805,000 per site for 32 months. Grant recipients include:**

- The American Academy of Family Physicians National Research Network (with Latino Health Access, LA Net, and WellMed Medical Group) (United States)  
*Principal Investigator: Lyndee Knox, PhD (LA Net, a Project of Community Partners)*
- Asia Diabetes Foundation and Hong Kong Institute of Diabetes and Obesity, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR (China)  
*Principal Investigator: Juliana C. N. Chan, MD, FRCP*
- Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Institute of Metabolic Science (England)  
*Principal Investigator: David Simmons, MD*
- Monash University, School of Public Health & Preventive Medicine (Australia)  
*Principal Investigator: Brian Oldenburg, PhD*
- San Diego State University, Graduate School of Public Health, Center for Behavioral and Community Health Studies and Clínicas de Salud del Pueblo (United States)  
*Principal Investigator: Guadalupe X. Ayala, PhD, MPH*
- University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Medicine (United States)  
*Principal Investigator: Monika M. Safford, MD*
- University of California at San Francisco, School of Medicine, Department of Family and Community Medicine (United States)  
*Principal Investigator: Thomas Bodenheimer, MD, MPH*
- University of Michigan Medical School, Department of Medical Education and Department of Internal Medicine, and the University of Michigan School of Public Health, Department of Health Behavior and Health Education, (United States)  
*Principal Investigator: Tricia S. Tang, PhD*  
*Co-Principal Investigator: Michele Heisler, MD, MPA*

**Pilot evaluation grant recipients will receive up to \$100,000 per site for 12 to 24 months. Grant recipients include:**

- Centre for Population Studies and Health Promotion (Cameroon)  
*Principal Investigator: Paschal Kum Awah, PhD*
- Health of Population in Transition Research Group (Cameroon)  
*Principal Investigator: Jean Claude Mbanya, MD, PhD*
- Mahidol University, Faculty of Public Health, Department of Health Education and Behavioral Science (Thailand)

*Principal Investigator: Boosaba Sanguanprasit, PhD, MPH*

- National Research Council of Argentina (CONICET) with the Centre of Experimental and Applied Endocrinology (CENEXA) and WHO Collaborative Centre for Diabetes (Argentina)

*Principal Investigator: Juan Jose Gagliardino, MD*

- University of California Los Angeles, Global Center for Children and Families with the University of Western Cape and Women for Peace (United States with Cape Town, South Africa)

*Principal Investigator: Mary Jane Rotheram-Borus, PhD*

- University of Wisconsin - Madison School of Nursing with Mulago Hospital, Department of Medicine (United States with Uganda)

*Principal Investigator: Linda Baumann, PhD, APRN, BC, FAAN*