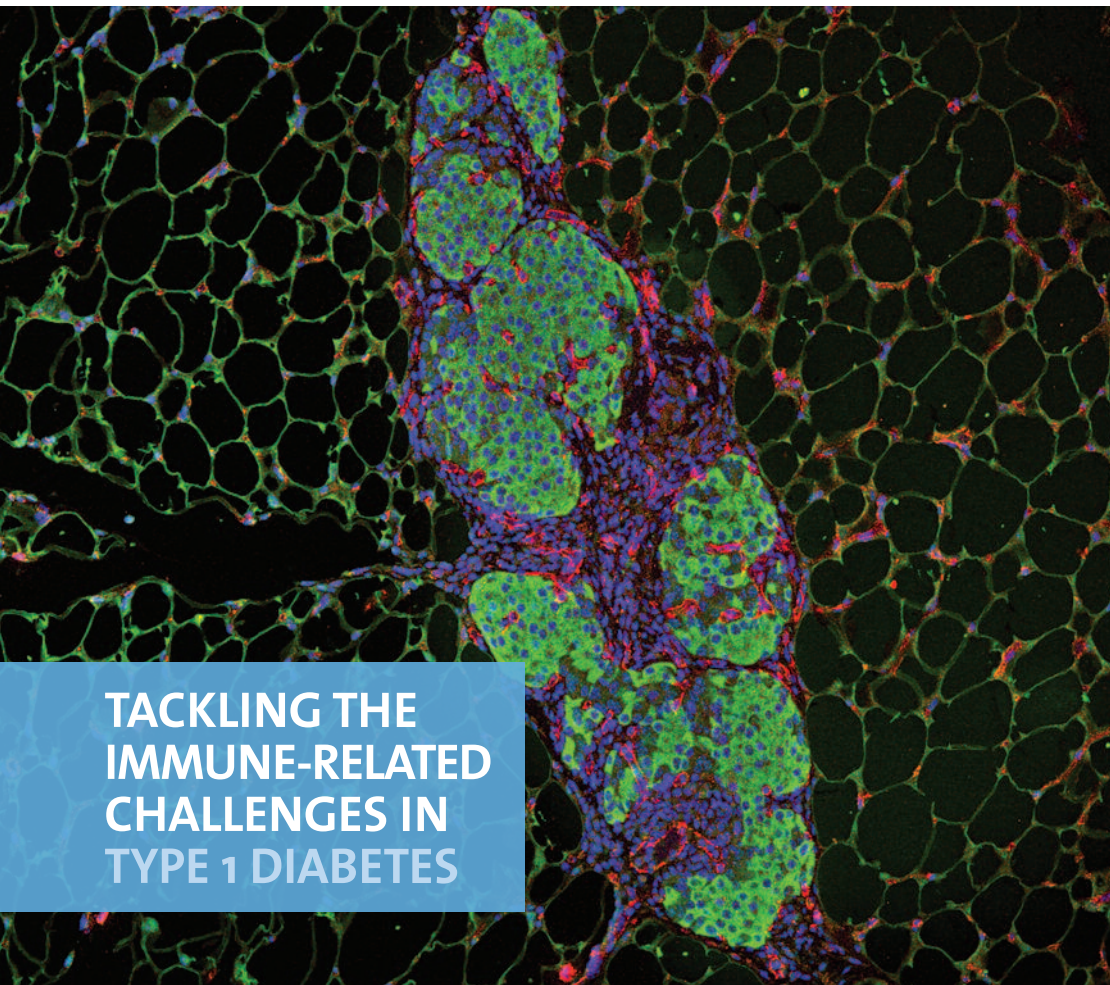


DRIFocus

Diabetes Research Institute Foundation
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TACKLING THE IMMUNE-RELATED CHALLENGES IN TYPE 1 DIABETES

For those with type 1 diabetes who meet strict selection criteria, islet transplantation has been a game changer. Not only has the procedure eliminated severe hypoglycemia (dangerously low blood sugar levels), many patients have been able to discontinue insulin injections altogether, some for more than a decade.

Islet transplantation, however, remains limited to a small percentage of people with type 1 diabetes (T1D) due to several obstacles. For one, patients who receive islet transplants require a life-long regimen of harsh drugs to prevent rejection of the donor cells and halt autoimmunity.

In fact, in type 1 diabetes, autoimmunity, which is the final killer of the insulin-producing cells at the onset of the disease, is the most important mechanism that must be targeted to avoid disease recurrence, even after successful transplantation. Recent findings have led to the development of several strategies to better regulate

the immune system using safer agents that stimulate the body's natural mechanisms. Building upon a number of exciting discoveries, the DRI has received approval from the Food and Drug Administration to proceed with new clinical trials in 2017 that are an important first step in tackling the immune system head-on.

"The DRI is uniting its many laboratories and directing its new clinical research efforts towards the challenge of immune tolerance and regeneration," says DRI Director Dr. **Camillo Ricordi**. "We've built a network of like-minded scientists committed to harnessing new discoveries in our field and eradicating T1D; we're focused more than ever on linking all these centers with us as we hone in on the immune system as a central player on that stage."

We look forward to keeping you updated on these exciting new initiatives. To stay informed, please sign up as a DRInsider at DiabetesResearch.org/Register or email us at info@drif.org.



"You can pay today as much as 35 cents in taxes on each dollar of gain if you sell the appreciated asset or give the assets to the DRIF after you die and pay no tax today," Bruce said. "It's being smart in addition to being good. With a cause as worthy as the DRIF, this was an easy decision."

BRUCE AND RACHEL SIEGEL PLANNING ON A CURE

Bruce and Rachel Siegel of New York City are both passionate about the Diabetes Research Institute — an organization they believe will discover the cure for diabetes. Their daughter, **Sara**, 32, was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 4.

"If I had been a doctor, I'd be trying to find a cure for Sara," said Bruce, who serves on the National Board, co-chairs the DRIF's Northeast Region Board, and has served on the DRIF's National Planned Giving Committee. Bruce and Rachel still remember an unforgettable tour of the DRI. "We were blown away by the dedication of these world-class researchers," Rachel said.

While the Siegels have participated in a number of the DRI Foundation's fundraising events in Florida and New York, they keep finding new ways to become even more engaged and to get others involved.

Bruce has given financial advice to his clients throughout his career as Executive Vice President and General Counsel of First Long Island Investors, LLC, a boutique wealth management firm and family office for high net worth individuals and families. He recently decided to take a bit of his own advice by creating a Charitable Remainder Unitrust (CRUT) to benefit the DRIF.

A CRUT combines a donation and an investment. The donor establishes a trust and contributes assets, which are then invested. It provides a lifetime income to the beneficiary (usually the donor), while the balance remaining in the trust after the beneficiary dies goes to a charity, such as DRIF. The income is a set percentage of the value of the trust assets, recalculated annually.

"I have recommended CRUTs to clients, and thought 'Hey, this would make sense for me!'" Bruce explained. "I get the diversification I want without having to pay a substantial tax today, and DRIF receives the assets remaining in the CRUT after my wife and I are no longer here. On top of that, we get a tax deduction, too."

A CRUT works best if you have a highly appreciated asset (and a charitable intent). "You can pay today as much as 35 cents in taxes on each dollar of gain if you sell the appreciated asset or give the assets to the DRIF after you die and pay no tax today," Bruce said. "It's being smart in addition to being good. With a cause as worthy as the DRIF, this was an easy decision."

Watching their daughter live with the challenges of type 1 diabetes is the only inspiration they need to continue their support.

"Nothing would make us happier than seeing the world-class team at the DRI cure type 1 diabetes and focus their efforts on another disease," Rachel said.

Benefits of a Charitable Remainder Unitrust

- Income for life which is often greater than the yield of the contributed assets
- A considerable tax deduction
- Avoid paying capital gains tax on long-term appreciated securities
- Make a significant gift to the DRI Foundation

Get more details by calling: 1 (800) 321-3437.

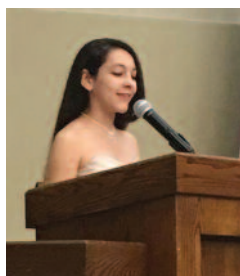
Did you know you could make a RECURRING GIFT?

A recurring gift can make a big impact. It's a great way to provide a significant contribution toward the DRI's cure-focused research through smaller installments that can be made on a monthly or quarterly basis, or whatever is most comfortable for you. To set this up, please call the DRI Foundation office at 1-800-321-3437.

DIABETES DIPLOMATS

Dancing for Diabetes

Dancing for Diabetes President and Founder **Elizabeth Stein** led another successful benefit show at Seminole High School in Sanford, FL, with the help of award-winning and nationally recognized performers. Due to the generous and loyal support of the community and those directly involved, the 16th annual Dancing for Diabetes event helped raise \$20,000 for the DRI's cure-focused work. Diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age 10, Elizabeth created Dancing for Diabetes to spread awareness through the art of dance, inspire those with diabetes to live healthy, active lives, and to raise funds to find a cure.



Heart of Gold Dinner

Richelleng Ramiriz-Pieruccini, 12, diagnosed with T1D at 8 years old, recently hosted the first-ever Heart of Gold Foundation dinner in Montgomery, AL, to benefit the DRI. She and her mom, **Mayerling**, organized the catered dinner with the help of friends and family at their church – raising \$1,300. Prior to hosting this dinner, Richelleng sent a heartwarming letter to DRI Director Dr. **Camillo Ricordi** about her efforts to help him and DRI scientists through her event. Dr. Ricordi and everyone at the DRI and Foundation were extremely touched by her passion to make a difference. The DRIF extends special thanks to Richelleng and all of her supporters!

WANT TO BE THE HERO?

As Diabetes Dad Tom Karlya always says, *“Just don’t do nothing.”* Email him at TomKarlya@drif.org today to get started!



Alex Elbaz and his daughter, Chiara, participate in the DRI Walk Presented by Walgreens as Team Chiarouna, which was the event's top fundraising team.

THE ELBAZ FAMILY: Making a Difference in the Search for a Cure

“That was the day our life changed,” **Florence Elbaz** said of August 18, 2016 – the day her youngest daughter was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes.

Originally from France, Florence, her husband, **Alex Elbaz**, and their two girls,

Tea, 15, and **Chiara**, 12, had just returned to their Miami Beach home after a summer vacation. But Florence knew something wasn't right. “She was skin and bones, drinking water all day, and very tired.”

Chiara's T1D diagnosis came as a shock. “It's a lot to learn, but Chiara is so brave and resilient.”

Luckily, they quickly found support at Chiara's school, where they met another family who had a daughter with type 1 and introduced them to the Diabetes Research Institute.

“After we found a little bit of normalcy, we knew we wanted to do something to make a difference. We took a tour of the Diabetes Research Institute and were so impressed. It's an amazing place!”

Florence and Alex decided to make a generous financial contribution toward the DRI's cure-focused research, but they didn't stop there.

“I have never asked my family and friends for money...not even when my girls were selling Girl Scout cookies. I bought all the cookies myself,” she said with a smile. “Shyness went out the door! For the first time in my life, I felt I was dealing with something bigger than me.”

The family got involved with the DRI Walk for Diabetes Presented by Walgreens and created a personal fundraising page online, then reached out to those closest to them for donations. They were surprised and thrilled by the flood of generosity.

“My friends were glad to give — and it was just out of love for Chiara. Now if I have to ask for money until the day I die, I will.” It's her hope, however, that it won't come to that.

“I hope someday, with everyone working together, the cure will be found.” Until then, the Elbaz family will do everything they personally can to help the DRI reach that goal — for Chiara and the millions like her living with diabetes.



UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

WITH KHEMRAJ HIRANI, PH.D.

Before any promising discovery can be tested in patients, researchers must obtain approval from various regulatory bodies, like the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), to ensure that the research plan (protocol) meets strict requirements for study design, safety, and integrity of data collection. Adequately addressing the multitude of regulatory questions can mean all the difference between getting a green light to proceed or facing continuous critique and rejection.

To help navigate the regulatory roadmap, DRI scientists turn to Dr. **Khemraj "Raj" Hirani**, Director of Regulatory Affairs and Quality Assurance, and his team. Dr. Hirani, who also serves as Associate Vice Provost for Human Subject Research at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, has an extensive background in all matters related to regulatory affairs, clinical trials, FDA submissions, research compliance and more. His guidance and expertise has become increasingly important as many of the DRI's research initiatives move into the clinical trial phase of testing.

Dr. Hirani's passion for advancing transformative therapies for the cure of type 1 diabetes is both professional and personal: he wants nothing more than to see a cure for his 7-year-old son and millions like him.

Q. What is your role at the DRI?

A. I represent the Regulatory Affairs and Quality Assurance unit where we provide strategic leadership, coordination, and support that will advance the DRI's ability to develop a cure for type 1 diabetes. My team's function is to provide regulatory support concerning FDA-regulated products. The area of our focus is large and includes helping to evaluate the quality, safety, and effectiveness of DRI's discoveries.

Specifically, in my role as director, I serve as the liaison between the DRI's multidisciplinary team of scientists and the regulatory agencies in moving through the clinical trial process. Regulatory Affairs is particularly enjoyable for me, as I find it very rewarding both professionally and personally in helping to bridge the gap between DRI's

pre-clinical scientists, surgeons, endocrinologists, immunologists, statisticians and other team members in developing protocols that advance knowledge toward a cure of T1D, but also respect the fundamental rights of our patients.

Q. What are the most exciting and challenging parts of your job?

A. For me, the most exciting part is that the science created at the DRI is progressing at the speed of light. There are so many new pathways and new mechanisms to explore on an almost daily basis. The biggest challenge we face is the complex scientific basis of this disease that makes it so hard to cure. We have to test many ideas in our work, and conducting clinical trials in the regulatory environment is very challenging. When I get discouraged, I just think of my son and it helps to renew my passion for my work.

Q. What makes working at the DRI special?

A. One of my goals is to see my son and the millions like him cured of this disease. When a disease hits home, it hits the hardest, and working at the DRI with those who have type 1 diabetes makes me constantly realize how hard we have to fight to cure it. The DRI is such a unique place in that its number one mission is to cure this disease and help those suffering from it. Its multidisciplinary research focus embraces openness and diversity of thought, bringing those living with the disease to the heart of its mission. This creates an unparalleled synergistic boost that binds the research team and its patients together. I have lived and worked in many professional organizations and in different countries, I am most happy though to now call the DRI my professional home.

DRI's Dr. Allison Bayer Awarded Two New Grants to Further Immune Tolerance Work Toward a Cure

Funding from two new grants will aid Dr. **Allison Bayer**, DRI's Research Assistant Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, and her team to advance their work in investigating ways to reset the immune system as a means of promoting immune tolerance and reversing autoimmunity in those living with diabetes.

Dr. Bayer received DRIF's 2017 Marc S. Goodman Prize for an Outstanding Young Scientist, which recognizes extraordinary talent and commitment to fulfilling the DRI's mission of discovering a biological cure. She also received a multi-year grant from the American Diabetes Association (ADA), *Interplay of innate and adaptive immunity in autoimmune diabetes*, to further investigate the relationship between key cell groups of the immune system that could enhance or hinder tolerance.

DRI Director Dr. Camillo Ricordi Receives World Stem Cell Summit's Advocacy Award

Camillo Ricordi, M.D., Director of the Diabetes Research Institute, received the World Stem Cell Summit's Advocacy Award for being "a path-finding diabetes researcher, motivating the biomedical community to take a stand for cures."

Held last December in Palm Beach County, FL, the annual World Stem Cell Summit is the largest interdisciplinary stem cell meeting in the world, featuring more than 250 prominent experts working in the field.

MASTERING YOUR DIABETES Courses Offered at the Diabetes Research Institute

Get empowered and take the lead in your diabetes management by attending a Mastering Your Diabetes course at the Diabetes Research Institute in Miami.

Developed by our team of expert diabetes educators, Mastering Your Diabetes uses a high-energy, interactive teaching approach that puts you at the center of your diabetes management. Offered four times a year, this four-day, intensive diabetes self-management program is specifically designed for those who inject insulin to control their blood sugars.

During the course, participants will learn both the fundamentals and advanced skills of diabetes. Additionally, the DRI's diabetes education team will give participants an evaluation including a comprehensive medical exam, diabetes plan of care, basic diabetes skills assessment and lifestyle questionnaires.

Specific courses are offered for adults, high schoolers going off to college, children and teens.

Upcoming classes:

June 23 - 26, 2017 (Only for Children and Teens)

August 11 - 14, 2017 (Only for Children and Teens)

October 20 - 23, 2017 (Adults)

For more information and to download the registration form go to DiabetesResearch.org/MYD or call 305-243-3696.



1. **Esther and Marc Goodman** present the Outstanding Young Scientist Award to Dr. Allison Bayer (center).
2. Dr. Camillo Ricordi with **Bernard Siegel**, of the Regenerative Medicine Foundation, receiving his award during the Gala Dinner of the Stem Cell Action Awards in December at the Palm Beach County Convention Center.
3. A family participates in summer's MYD class, which is just for kids and teenagers, and their parents. It's been described as "life-changing" by those who have completed the course.

“We need young and exciting people who believe in a cure. There is always a committee to join, an event to volunteer at...and no one should ever sell themselves short. Everyone has value to contribute.”



BOARD SPOTLIGHT Samantha Shanken Baker

Samantha Shanken Baker, a longtime supporter of the Diabetes Research Institute and Foundation, describes herself as the “luckiest girl in the world.”

And she just might be.

Samantha, living with type 1 diabetes for nearly 30 years, recently received a successful kidney transplant remarkably from her husband, **Michael Baker**.

Odds of that are slim to none.

“It was life changing,” she said. “I was in heart failure and kidney failure for a long time. After the transplant, my kidneys came to life, and my heart is better. I wish more people would become organ donors.”

Samantha, who has endured many health challenges due to diabetes, credits her family and friends for being a loving support system. Although it’s been a long road, she remains hopeful for the future.

“I do think if anyone is going to find a cure, it will be the Diabetes Research Institute.”

Samantha serves on the Northeast Region Board and is one of the founders of the annual DREAMS in the City event, which began in

2006 and has raised nearly \$6 million. She also helped create All In for a Cure, a Texas Hold’em tournament that has been extremely successful in Manhattan.

Beyond that, she is always encouraging and inspiring others to get involved. She was more than proud when her young nephew, **Jake Cohen**, decided to donate his Bar Mitzvah money to the DRI in honor of his beloved aunt. “That was really incredible!”

She also notes everyone has something to offer. “We need young and exciting people who believe in a cure. There is always a committee to join, an event to volunteer at...and no one should ever sell themselves short. Everyone has value to contribute.”

Believing in the DRI’s mission of finding a biological cure fuels Samantha’s passion and continued support.

“It’s about the research, the doctors, the facility...it’s all so meaningful. When you look around the room at events, and board or committee meetings, everyone involved is so dedicated to finding a cure.”

In addition to finding like-minded people, Samantha says that by getting involved she’s made many lasting friendships that she holds dear to her heart. “I wouldn’t trade my friends at the DRI for anything.”

And then she repeated, “I feel so lucky.”



North America’s Building Trades Unions’ Continued Support

The men and women of North America’s Building Trades Unions (NABTU) have always adhered to a code of excellence that centers on the concepts of pride, performance, and professionalism. They bring that level of quality to their workmanship – and to their partnership with the DRI Foundation. To date, the Building Trades have raised more than \$53 million for the DRI.

At their 2017 Legislative Conference on April 2, approximately 6,000 union members from all over the country came to Washington, D.C., for the annual event, where NABTU President **Sean McGarvey** reiterated their ongoing five-year commitment of raising \$6 million for the DRI.

*Pictured: **Brent Booker**, NABTU Secretary-Treasurer, DRIF’s **Tom Karlya**, Vice President, and **Joshua Rednik**, President, **Karl Pineo**, Ironworkers Local 118, **Cody Bik**, Cement Masons, Local 400, **John Tweedt**, Glaziers Local 767, **Kevin Ferreira**, Sacramento Sierra’s Building & Construction Trades Council, and **Sean McGarvey**, NABTU President and DRIF National Board Member.*



EVENTS

1. Event Chairs **Wendy Waller** and **Roberta Waller** with DRIF's **Lily Scarlett** at the inaugural, sold-out Card Party for a Cure at the Muttontown Country Club in East Norwich, Long Island, which helped raise more than \$51,000 for the DRI.
2. DRI Supporter **Andria Holtz**, Beyond Type 1 Co-Founder **Sara Lucas**, and **Shannon Allen** at the Beyond Basel cocktail party and art exhibit benefiting the DRI and Beyond Type 1 at the Soho Beach House during Miami's Art Basel – which featured art from three artists with type 1 diabetes.
3. Honorees **Bert Rahm**, Turner Construction Company (l), **Lucy G. Carter** (c), JLL, and **Paul J. Amrich**, CBRE, Inc. (2nd from right) with DRI Director Dr. **Camillio Ricordi** (2nd from left) and Emcee **Nicole Petallides**, Fox Business Network, at the 33rd annual Empire Ball at New York's Grand Hyatt Hotel, where \$1.25 million was raised for the DRI.
4. **Brittany Benavidez**, **Shannon Allen**, and **Nicole Otto** at the Kendra Scott grand opening party at the Brickell City Center in Miami, FL – where a portion of proceeds from jewelry sold that day was donated to support the DRI's work.
5. UM President Dr. **Julio Frenk**, honorees **Patrizia** and Dr. **Camillio Ricordi**, **Barbara Shapiro**, **Valerie** and Dr. **Marc Fishman**, Love and Hope Executive Chairman **Sandra Levy**, and event mistress of ceremonies CBS Miami Anchor **Rudabeh Shahbazi** at the Magical Mardi Gras gala at the Diplomat Beach Resort in Hollywood, FL.
6. Chairwomen **Renee Aronin**, **Natalie Olstein** and **Gloria Katz** at the 18th Annual A Gift of Love...A Gift of Hope Luncheon at the Polo Club of Boca Raton, which raised \$130,000 for the DRI.
7. Team Super O, led by the **Lamosa family**, was one of this year's top fundraisers at the DRI Walk for Diabetes and Family Fun Day Presented by Walgreens at Marlins Park.
8. Event co-chairs **Dara Melnick** with daughter, **Samara**, **Iris Feldman** and **Edra Tepper** with their certificates of appreciation at Kids' Carnival for a Cure 2017 on March 5 at Dave and Busters in Westbury.

There are additional photos and event recaps on our website. Please visit DiabetesResearch.org/Photo-Gallery

CALENDAR

For information on the events or to make reservations, visit
DiabetesResearch.org or call one of the DRI Foundation offices listed below.

Buy In for a Cure

June 22, 2017 / [LONG ISLAND](#)

Try your luck and skill at becoming the tournament champion! Players will enjoy fabulous food, cigars, fine wines and spirits at the beautiful Garden City Hotel.

Rod Gilbert DRI Golf Classic

August 7, 2017 / [LONG ISLAND](#)

To be held at the beautiful Pine Hollow Country Club, this fun day of golf will be followed by an awards dinner and silent auction.

Haute Tea

September 8, 2017 / [FLORIDA](#)

Now in its 6th year, this fabulous

luncheon hosted by the Young Society of Love and Hope will feature lunch, champagne, and silent auction, plus prizes for the finest hats.

Key West Poker Run

September 15-17, 2017 / [FLORIDA](#)

Join us for the 45th Annual Phil Peterson's Key West Poker Run, which starts in Miami and finishes in Key West for South Florida's biggest biker party weekend of the year.

Empire Ride for the DRI

September 24, 2017 / [LONG ISLAND](#)

It will be a gorgeous ride through Southampton, with rest stops, food and refreshments along the way.

Join our group as we ride at Tour of the Hamptons.

The Donaldson Organization Golf Outing

September 25, 2017 / [NEW YORK](#)

The Donaldson Organization will host a golf outing at a prestigious, private golf club in Westchester County, NY. Enjoy a full day of golf, plus a hearty breakfast and lunch, followed by a cocktail reception and dinner – a golf enthusiast's perfect day!

All In for a Cure

November 2017 / [NEW YORK](#)

To be held at the Grand Havana Room, the 10th annual Texas Hold'em

tournament will feature a silent auction, fine wines and spirits, exclusive cigars, hors d'oeuvres and a dinner buffet.

Empire Ball

December 13, 2017 / [NEW YORK](#)

NYC's Real Estate industry will come together at the Grand Hyatt for this black-tie affair that has raised millions for the DRI.

Ray Allen Golf Classic/Ray of Hope Luncheon

January 29, 2018 / [MIAMI BEACH](#)

Join Ray Allen at the La Gorce Country Club for a day of golf or a lovely luncheon. The simultaneous events will benefit the DRI.

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francdesign

The Diabetes Research Institute Foundation supports the Diabetes Research Institute at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. The Foundation's mission is to provide the Diabetes Research Institute with the funding necessary to cure diabetes now. To obtain additional information or request copies of *DRI Focus*, please call (800) 321-3437, e-mail lweintraub@drif.org, or visit DiabetesResearch.org.

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