



What is the purpose of the Bridge To The Cure campaign?

The Bridge to the Cure campaign will allow the Eagles to fund pilot studies for new drugs developed based on Fraternal Order of Eagles Diabetes Research Center research efforts. By funding the pilot studies ourselves, the Eagles will accelerate the process and ensure that the drug discoveries being made in the FOEDRC are brought closer to market.

Why is the Bridge to the Cure important?

Our goal when starting the DRC project was to find a cure for diabetes. In order to find that cure and make it available for millions, we must have the ability to fund studies based on our research discoveries. Because diabetes drugs have varying success rates, it is difficult to receive funding for discovery trials from pharmaceutical companies. Such tests must be funded independently, with the most effective studies being licensed by pharmaceutical companies for further study.

Funding these studies ourselves, instead of relying on outside sources, allows us to accelerate the testing process and provides the opportunity to potentially return an investment on our funding, which would allow for further studies and benefit the FOE Charity Foundation.

How does a new drug come to market?

Initial testing must be done to ensure that the potential drug is viable. This initial testing includes animal studies and if successful, would culminate in strategic planning and outreach to pitch the drug to pharmaceutical companies. From there, the companies would fund human studies and efforts to obtain FDA approval. If all steps are successful, the companies would then take the drug to market.

What's the average amount of time it takes a new drug to reach market?

The average time is from 4-8 years, depending on the regulatory process. In the past, diabetes medications simply had to lower blood sugar. Now, medications undergo much more rigorous testing to ensure that blood sugar isn't lowered at the sacrifice of other bodily organs or functions.

What happens if we don't fund studies through Bridge to the Cure?

Quite simply, much of our research efforts would be squandered. The research we've funded is vitally important to understanding diabetes and how we can combat this deadly disease. But research with no funding for experimental drug testing ultimately helps no one. Without the funding to complete initial testing, the countless projects being conducted at the DRC would inevitably reach a point where no additional progress can be made. Through the Bridge to the Cure, these projects can avoid such a plateau and continue to progress until they reach their full potential.

By funding these trials, we can ensure that our legacy lives on forever through the hard work done by our hundreds of researchers at the DRC. Our dream was to one day cure diabetes and the Bridge to the Cure is our pathway to making that dream a reality.