

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

The Bridge to the Cure campaign allows 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?**

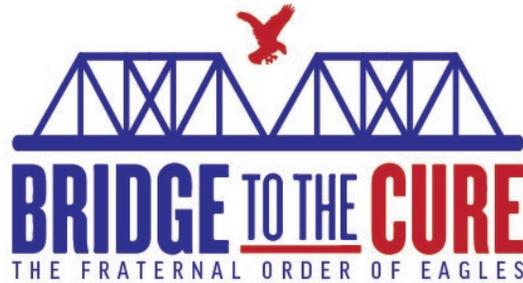
The average time is from 4-8 years, depending on the regulatory process. In the past, diabetes medications simply had to lower blood sugar. Now, medications undergo much more rigorous testing to ensure that blood sugar isn't lowered at the sacrifice of other bodily organs or functions.

### **How much money do we need to raise?**

While there are no commitments in place like with our initial \$25 million pledge, we need to raise \$2 million in order to kickstart our drug research efforts. This money would allow us to begin the process in full force and fully explore our options.

### **How does the process work?**

The University of Iowa has put together an advisory committee to determine the projects most qualified to begin testing. Those projects are then be presented to the FOE's Grand Board of Trustees to decide whether or not to release the money from the Bridge to the Cure to fund the study.



### **What is our initial \$25 million doing?**

Our initial funding was placed in a series of endowments and is used to provide funding for base research each year. This initial research is funded in hopes of landing additional research dollars from the National Institute of Health and other grant-awarding research bodies. To date, our \$25 million in research endowments has generated more than \$400 million in additional research dollars.

The current studies being done are across a variety of fields including the heart, the brain, the kidneys, the pancreas, gene studies and more. All of these various fields play a different role in the regulation of the body to help prevent or fight the effects of diabetes.

In July, a report was released about Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology created by researchers at the DRC which can help preserve vision for diabetic patients. The technology is the only of its kind authorized by the FDA. The device can automatically detect diabetic retinopathy, allowing the effect to be identified sooner than it often is through screening by eye specialists. This early detection can help many patients have a better likelihood of retaining their vision long term.

One of the most underrated aspects of our research efforts is how they can uncover affect's unrelated to diabetes. Recently, a study exploring how diabetes is affected by food and diet choices uncovered a possible link between food allergies and autism-related behaviors.

Another study related to the human genome uncovered a gene that regulates mitochondria that may be able to provide help in battling diabetes, heart disease and/or Parkinson's.

Research efforts are primarily centered around stopping the effects of diabetes and in most cases would be applicable to both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes patients.

### **Have we funded any trials yet?**

To date, the Board of Grand Trustees has approved funding for four different trials. The first two trials were approved in November 2020, while the second pair were approved in February 2023.