

CHOC Research, a part of Rady Children's Health, Partners with ScaleHealth to Accelerate Diabetes Breakthroughs Through Mentorship Program

With over 38 million Americans living with diabetes and it imposing health, emotional, and financial burdens on families nationwide, partnerships are essential to accelerate breakthrough discoveries that can transform lives. In partnership with ScaleHealth and the American Diabetes Association®'s (ADA) Innovation Challenge, CHOC Research, now part of Rady Children's Health, designed a four-part mentor series program to provide Challenge winners with feedback on business development and research and development plans. This collaboration aims to support and guide teams and companies to be better positioned scientifically, technically, clinically, and financially to accelerate growth.

"ScaleHealth is an ecosystem that accelerates the impact of health innovation on a global scale. We have partnered with the American Diabetes Association to create a collaborative network to address diabetes's most challenging questions by connecting researchers through personalized mentorship and building a collective expertise hub in diabetes research," stated Kat Karimi, Vice President of Healthcare Innovation at ScaleHealth.

"Partnerships like this create a comprehensive research environment for tackling complex pediatric diabetes questions. These collaborations generate data and statistics that help us understand disease patterns, treatment effectiveness, and resource needs across diverse patient populations," said Nadine Afari, Manager of Research Programs at CHOC, now part of Rady Children's Health, which also serves clinicians and innovators at the University of California, Irvine.

Lois Sayrs, PhD, a research executive with over three decades of expertise in Applied Research Design and Methods, notes: "Accurate statistics inform governments, hospitals, startups, patients, and advocates about the scope and burden of diabetes, helping allocate appropriate funding for research, treatment programs, specialized pediatric endocrinology services, and support systems for families. These data are essential for making evidence-based decisions about where to invest resources most effectively."

The ADA's Innovation Challenge invites emerging companies in the field of diabetes research and care to pitch novel ideas tackling everyday problems. The initiative has a revolutionary goal: to identify scientists at the peak of their creativity and provide them with the flexibility and resources they need to achieve breakthrough discoveries. The initiative's three areas of focus include awarding research grants, providing access to scientific and career mentoring from leading diabetes researchers, and creating a diabetes think tank to cultivate the next generation of leaders whose discoveries will end diabetes and its burdens once and for all. The 2025 winners represent groundbreaking innovation in diabetes care. [Mynerva](#) is reducing diabetes-related neuropathic pain and falls through pleasant, non-invasive nerve stimulation. [Kihealth](#) detects disease earlier with the first portfolio of preventive diagnostics. [Kayothera](#), a startup based on technology developed at Princeton University, is developing first-in-class therapies targeting the retinoid nuclear receptor pathway for the treatment of diabetes and other metabolic diseases.

"We remain committed to expanding our pediatric research community to address the most critical challenges in diabetes through strategic mentorship initiatives and expert consortia. After a highly competitive review of over 50 applications, these finalists emerged as leaders, bringing innovations that reimagine diabetes care and technology. We congratulate the 2025 American Diabetes Association Innovation Challenge Winners: Mynerva, Kihealth, and Kayothera," said Terence Sanger, MD, PhD, Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer at CHOC Children's Hospital, now part of Rady Children's Health, and Vice Chair for Research at UCI School of Medicine.

More information about Scale Health: <https://scalehealth.com/>

More information about the 2025 American Diabetes Association Innovation Challenge Winners: <https://professional.diabetes.org/scientific-sessions/innovation-challenge>