

March 20,2025

Restore Funding for the Diabetes Prevention Program Outcomes Study

To Whom It May Concern:


We write with serious concern over the immediate termination on March 10th, 2025 of funding for the nationwide [Diabetes Prevention Program Outcomes Study](#) (DPPOS; [NIH Grant U19AG078558](#))¹ by the National Institutes of Health.

The landmark Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) study established for the first time that type 2 diabetes can be *prevented*. The results from this 3200-person study were announced in 2001 at a press conference led by Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Tommy Thompson and led to the Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program (MDPP). The MDPP offers older Americans preventative interventions to avoid the medical complications and costs of a diabetes diagnosis at no cost sharing to the beneficiaries – truly preventive medicine.

The DPPOS is a continuation of the DPP study and has followed 1700 of the original participants for now almost 30 years. This type of longitudinal study is rare, but it is the only study design that can determine the impact of preventative interventions and root causes of chronic diseases. DPPOS addresses two key research priorities – the long-term prevention of diabetes and the prevention of dementia. Both aims were highlighted as priorities by HHS Secretary Kennedy in his nomination hearings before the Senate. It also addresses the National Alzheimer’s Project Act goal to “prevent, halt, or reverse Alzheimer’s disease” in the high-risk group of persons with pre-diabetes or type 2 diabetes, representing over half of the population aged 60 years and older in the US. This risk group has generally not been considered in clinical trials of Alzheimer’s disease that have led to FDA approved treatments and has therefore not been included in recent advances made in the treatment of Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias.

It is our understanding that the termination of funding for DPPOS had nothing to do with the study itself, its safety, or conduct. Although Columbia University is the primary recipient of this grant due to recent NIH requirements that only one center administer multi-institution grants (the “U19” funding mechanism), **90% of funds are directed to 30 other institutions across 21 states**. Unless the funding decision is immediately reversed, the DPPOS infrastructure for this important project will collapse and the connection with the over 1700 older adults who are enrolled in this study across America will be lost.

Any continued interruption threatens the stability of the staff, the connection to the participants who have been a part of this work for more than 30 years, and the potential to salvage the scientific integrity of the study. If this decision is not reversed, it will undermine our nation’s best opportunity to uncover the root cause of Alzheimer’s and Dementia, waste taxpayer’s investments, and work against the Administration’s stated goal of Making America Healthy Again. We urge you to take immediate action to call for reinstatement of this funding to the study sites across the country through whatever means necessary.



David M. Nathan, MD
Chair, DPPOS Research Group

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