

PROFESSOR PETER COLMAN

Contribution to Diabetes-related Research

Professor Peter Colman MBBS, MD, FRACP is an Endocrinologist/Diabetologist, who undertook his clinical endocrinology training at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. He received a NHMRC Postgraduate Research Scholarship in 1983 and his MD (by thesis), under the supervision of Professor Len Harrison, was in the immunology of type 1 diabetes. After completing his MD studies, he was awarded a CJ Martin Fellowship by the NHMRC and worked as a research fellow in immunology at the Joslin Diabetes Center, Boston (USA) and as a research fellow in medicine at Harvard Medical School, Boston from 1986 to 1988. On his return to Australia in 1988, he was appointed Head of the Endocrine Laboratory at Royal Melbourne Hospital, a position still holds today. In 1993, he was appointed Director of the Department of Diabetes and Endocrinology, a position he also continues to hold. His major research interest has been autoimmune endocrine disease, in particular type 1 diabetes prediction and prevention.

Professor Peter Colman has published over 180 peer reviewed papers in the fields of T1D prediction and prevention, diabetes care and general endocrinology. He has been Chief Investigator on a number of important T1D studies and consortia (The Melbourne Prediabetes Family Study, Australian BabyDiab study, T1D DNA repository, International T1D Genetics Consortium and T1D TrialNet). These activities have been supported through either project grants with the NHMRC, JDRF or the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation. His clinical trial activities have included studies in new therapeutics for type 1 and type 2 diabetes, including pump and sensor studies in which a major focus has been hypoglycaemia management and prevention.

Professor Colman has established a number of large cohort studies, which have made major contributions to our knowledge of the natural history of type 1 diabetes: The Melbourne Prediabetes Family Study and The Australian Baby Diab Study. Professor Colman was Chair of the group that developed the National Evidence-Based Guidelines on Prevention, Identification and Management of Foot Complications in Diabetes (published in 2011) and was a member of the group that developed the first NHMRC Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Management of Diabetic Retinopathy.

Professor Colman was a foundation member of the Molecular Medicine Informatics Model, established by Bio21 and now functioning as Biogrid, which established a diabetes database now used across Australia and capable of federating data collected on patients with T1D over the last 17 years. This database is used to collect clinical data from clinic patients and has recently been used in a study assessing hypoglycaemia and hypoglycaemia awareness at Royal Melbourne Hospital. Research translation contributions have been in NHMRC guideline development for retinopathy and diabetes foot complications, as well as in other published guidelines for diagnostic testing for diabetes, use of HbA1c and diabetes foot care.

National and International Recognition as a Leader in Diabetes Research

Professor Colman is the Editor of the *Diabetes Management Journal*, which is distributed four times per year to all GPs, diabetes educators, dietitians and podiatrists throughout Australia. He is an external assessor for the NHMRC, the Diabetes Australia Research Trust and eight other granting bodies. He regularly reviews for over 20 journals.

Professor Colman is a Principal Investigator of the international collaboration T1D TrialNet, which aims to improve prediction and to prevent type 1 diabetes.

This has involved the setting up of a trial centre network in Australia and New Zealand, which is undertaking the Natural History and Oral Insulin Prevention Studies. He is also PI of the Australian INIT studies, which are attempting to prevent type 1 diabetes.

Professor Colman has been an invited speaker at the Diabetes/Endocrine Society in all states of Australia. He has also been an invited speaker on a number of occasions for the American Diabetes Association, International Diabetes Federation's World Diabetes Congress and Immunology of Diabetes Society scientific meetings. In 2013, he was awarded the Kellion Prize for Diabetes Research and Clinical Care in Australia by the Australian Diabetes Society.

Leadership in Diabetes-related Research

Professor Colman is a Chief Investigator on research attracting total funds exceeding AU\$2.2million since 2009. He has been CI on a number of important national and international type 1 diabetes studies and consortia (The Melbourne Prediabetes Family Study, Australian BabyDiab Study, T1D DNA Repository, International T1D Genetics Consortium, T1D TrialNet and INIT II). He has been a CI on 6 NH&MRC project grants and 4 JDRF Research Grants. He has also received funding from Diabetes Australia and the Royal Melbourne Research Foundation.

Professor Colman has continuously mentored advanced trainees in Endocrinology since 1990. He has also supervised 7 PhD and 10 AMS students.

Professor Colman is currently Chairman of the Australian Adult Insulin Pump Working Group, a member of the Type 1 Diabetes Network Expert Advisory Group and a member of the National Steering Committee of the JDRF Type 1 Diabetes Clinical Research Network. He has been a Committee Member, Treasurer and President of the Australian Diabetes Society and a Board Member of Diabetes Australia–Vic and Diabetes Australia. He has also served as a member of the College of Physicians Specialist Advisory Committee for Endocrinology.

Contribution to the Broader Diabetes Community

Professor Colman has contributed to Diabetes Australia activities as Chair: *Young Persons with Diabetes Group*.

Professor Colman participates in rural outreach diabetes care, covering western and central Victoria. He is a frequent and popular contributor to DA–Vic's community seminars and workshops, including: *Type 1 in the City* and *Stay Connected*. He regularly lectures groups of general practitioners, endocrine advanced trainees, endocrinologists and other medical, nursing and allied health specialty groups. He has served as Chairman of the National Ministerial Advisory Committee on Diabetes and as Chairman of the National Diabetes Strategies Group.

Craig Bennett
CEO: Diabetes Australia – Vic

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