The Harold Schnitzer Diabetes Health Center

Investing in the future of diabetes care and support for our region
Diabetes: A Growing Public Health Challenge

• Today more than 21 million Americans have diabetes.
• The incidence of diabetes in the United States is escalating at a rate of 7 percent per year.
• Over the past decade, the number of diabetes cases in Oregon has increased by 85 percent.
• During the same period, diabetes grew by 92 percent among Oregonians under age 45.
• Diabetes costs our society more than $100 billion per year. The personal costs – emotional, physical and financial – to patients and their families are incalculable.
• Diabetes is linked to high rates of kidney disease, nerve damage, eye damage, and cardiovascular disease.
• Diabetes doubles a person’s overall risk of death because it increases the risk of other serious disorders and complications.
• Diabetes cases now make up a significant percentage of OHSU’s total outpatient volume.
• Insurance reimbursements have not kept pace with the real cost of providing children and adults with recommended diabetes care.
• More than 200 million people worldwide are living with diabetes, a number growing by 6 million people each year.
• Diabetes threatens to overwhelm healthcare resources in every nation.
• Diabetes is disabling or killing more and more people of working age around the world.

Be a Part of the Future

The Harold Schnitzer Diabetes Health Center is a visionary, interdisciplinary approach to combating the ravages of diabetes, made possible by bringing together Doernbecher Children’s Hospital pediatric care services; the OHSU Diabetes Center; significant financial investment from OHSU and its philanthropic foundations; and a generous gift from the Harold and Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation. This partnership has created new hope for the region’s families affected by diabetes. The partnerships behind the center also reflect a new self-sustaining model for the delivery of healthcare in the years ahead. But further private investment is needed to realize the full potential of this vital resource. Your gifts to the Harold Schnitzer Diabetes Health Center will support the people and programs that will establish OHSU as the West Coast’s premier center for pediatric and adult diabetes care and professional education. As this disease strikes more and more people of all ages at an evermore alarming rate, now is the time to follow Harold and Arlene Schnitzer’s lead. Now is the time to help make a difference in the lives of our region’s diabetes patients.

For further information or to make a gift, contact Julie Fitzgerald, director of development, OHSU School of Medicine, at 503 494-0104 or fitzgeju@ohsu.edu.
Training Tomorrow’s Diabetes Care Providers

Our society currently lacks enough diabetes specialists to meet the growing demand. At the same time, practitioners in the field require ongoing education, training and support to help them offer the most advanced care protocols possible. As part of Oregon's only academic health center, the Harold Schnitzer Diabetes Health Center will address both challenges. It will build upon OHSU's established strength as a training site for the next generation of diabetes experts through the fellowship program of the OHSU School of Medicine's Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Clinical Nutrition. The center will also help train nurses, pharmacists and dietitians, while serving as a major resource for diabetes consultation and education for health professionals within and beyond the OHSU system. OHSU will work through established networks to share expertise with rural physicians and nursing professionals to treat people in their own communities. In the years ahead, the center will help accelerate the translation of OHSU scientific discoveries into new treatments and care strategies, fostering progress in diabetes care and treatment. Another important educational focus of the center is raising diabetes awareness among policy decision-makers in Oregon. By contributing to the necessary public dialog about the disease, the center will heighten public recognition of the human, social and economic burdens of diabetes.

The Harold Schnitzer Diabetes Health Center

The Harold Schnitzer Diabetes Health Center at Oregon Health & Science University is the region's only clinic that brings pediatric and adult diabetes care together in one state-of-the-art facility. Patients receive all the expertise and support they need to manage their lifelong relationship with diabetes under one roof.

Patients meet regularly with their endocrinologist, a nurse and a dietician, as well as other members of the multidisciplinary support team. Depending on their condition, this could include an exercise physiologist, a counselor, a podiatrist, or an OHSU specialist in a wide range of health disciplines associated with diabetes. This team works with patients to formulate a more holistic treatment plan, including support and tools needed to control their disease.

With the rampant increase in diabetes patients and the exciting new breakthroughs in technology and treatments, it’s time for a new approach to diabetes care. Made possible by a unique and powerful partnership between OHSU, Doernbecher Children's Hospital and the Harold and Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation, the Harold Schnitzer Diabetes Health Center is leading the way.
When the diagnosis is diabetes, the rhythms of life change forever.

From that point on, a patient’s wellness depends on a burdensome schedule of testing, medication, diet, and exercise – all under the direction of expert healthcare providers. Consistency and continuity are the keys to managing this chronic condition effectively and to maximize a patient’s quality of life.

With more and more children and young adults diagnosed each year, continuity in diabetes care takes on a whole new meaning. Managing diabetes over many years – and especially through the difficult transition from childhood to adulthood – would be much easier if patients could remain under the care of the same medical practice. But too often in this country, it means young patients must start all over with a new provider as they grow older.

The Harold Schnitzer Diabetes Health Center is committed to becoming the region’s premier provider of family-oriented care for diabetes in both adults and children. By bringing pediatric diabetes experts from Doernbecher Children’s Hospital together with OHSU’s adult-care specialists, the Harold Schnitzer Diabetes Health Center is poised to make profound improvements in the health of our region.

When young patients are ready to move up to adult-oriented care, their pediatric specialists partner with their new providers to ensure a seamless transition. Age-appropriate support and educational services are integral at every step of the way.
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