



OUR RESEARCHERS | DR. JONATHAN SCHERTZER

Thank you for your generosity. Diabetes Canada is grateful to our donors for supporting critical research that will end diabetes.

Through your support, Dr. Jonathan Schertzer, an associate professor in Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences at McMaster University, who holds a Canada Research Chair in Metabolic Inflammation, is bringing us one step closer to better health outcomes for people living with diabetes.

Many people are at risk for both diabetes and heart attacks. Millions of people take statin drugs to lower bad cholesterol and reduce the risk of heart attacks. The government recently changed the warning label for all statins, however, to include an increased risk of diabetes, as statins can increase blood sugar levels.

Many doctors believe that the benefits of statins outweigh the risks. Dr. Jonathan Schertzer agrees. His research aims to improve the safety and effectiveness of statins, and stop the diabetes-related side-effects of these drugs.

Dr. Schertzer discovered that statins activate inflammation, which can be targeted without interfering with the cholesterol-lowering benefits of statins. Targeting inflammation can prevent diabetes-related side effects and enhance the lowering of cholesterol. He and his team will test if blocking certain specific causes of inflammation are the best targets to improve cholesterol-lowering and prevent diabetes-related side effects.

Preventing even a small increase in blood sugar levels would have a significant benefit given the large number of patients taking a statin who are also at risk for diabetes.

Thank you for giving hope for a healthier future to people with diabetes.