



## ***Guidelines and Policies for Associate Membership***

The goal of the Human Islet Research Network (HIRN), supported by the NIH NIDDK, is to better understand how the loss of functional beta cell mass occurs in type 1 diabetes, and to identify therapeutic strategies to protect and restore islet function. The HIRN Associate membership has been established to offer investigators who are without HIRN funding, yet engaged in synergistic scientific pursuits, the opportunity to participate in collaborative research while pursuing their independent research goals.

### **HIRN ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP**

To expand support for Investigators and enhance the human islet research community, HIRN has created a new level of participation—*HIRN Associate Membership*. This participation category is designed to integrate talented investigators into the collaborative HIRN ecosystem, providing them with a structured and enriching environment for scientific and professional growth.

The HIRN Associate Membership was designed to promote the advancement of type 1 diabetes research by integrating additional contributors into the scientific landscape of diabetes and islet biology. The Associate Member track is intended to foster leaders in islet biology and diabetes research by offering unique opportunities for mentorship, collaboration, and visibility within the network. Associate Members will play a critical role in driving innovation and ensuring the future success of type 1 diabetes research.

### **Goals of the HIRN Associate Membership**

- Foster innovation to augment scientific knowledge through the expansion of access and contribution to emerging ideas and approaches
- Expand expertise in key areas essential to the HIRN's mission that may be currently underrepresented
- Support scientific excellence through integration and collaborations with HIRN members
- Cultivate interdisciplinary engagement of other research networks (e.g. TEDDY, TrialNet) to expand research frontiers through integration within HIRN
- Promote professional development and leadership opportunities for early-career investigators, and collaborative opportunities for more senior investigators

## Benefits of Associate Membership

- *Collaborative Research Opportunities:* Engage in interdisciplinary and cross-consortia initiatives alongside HIRN investigators, contributing to ongoing projects and emerging scientific priorities
- *Scientific Visibility:* Present research findings at HIRN Annual Investigator Meetings, and contribute to working groups and discussions, increasing exposure within the broader scientific community
- *Network Integration:* Build professional relationships with a national network of investigators across multiple disciplines, expanding professional relationships and fostering potential future collaborations
- *Mentoring and Career Development:* For early-career investigators, establish mentoring relationships that support scientific and leadership growth

## Membership Requirements

Individuals seeking to join the HIRN as an *Associate Member* must meet the following requirements:

1. *Active Funding*  
An applicant must be a Principal Investigator on an active, extramurally funded, peer-reviewed research grant (e.g. NIH R00, R01, or other peer-reviewed grants). Researchers named as co-investigators or collaborators on grants do not qualify.
2. *Relevance to HIRN Mission*  
The scope of the funded grant must align with the scientific mission of HIRN, which includes advancing understanding of islet biology and mechanisms contributing to beta cell loss and diabetes progression.
3. *Scientific Goals and Research Gaps*  
The funded grant should align with HIRN ongoing projects and contribute novel perspectives, science, or technologies.
4. *Investigator Participation*  
Applicants are expected to actively participate in the collaborative culture of HIRN. This participation includes:
  - Attendance at the Annual HIRN Investigator Meeting (date and location TBD)
  - Participation in HIRN Consortia Calls (monthly or bi-monthly depending on the consortium)
  - Presentation of their research during a HIRN Consortium Call within membership period
5. Completion of a HIRN Confidentiality Agreement, agreeing to all terms of confidentiality

## 6. Other Considerations

- Duration of HIRN Associate Membership will coincide with the timing of the funded award and not exceed the duration of that award
- Investigators may reapply for Associate Membership based on subsequent grant awards and be reviewed accordingly
- Prior HIRN membership is not required (former HIRN members welcome to apply)
- Membership will be reviewed annually with the option to renew for a subsequent year
- No additional funds will be provided by HIRN with Associate membership
- Associate Members will participate as non-voting members of the relevant HIRN Consortia and are not eligible to serve on the Trans-Network Committee (TNC)

### **Application and Approval Process**

Interested investigators will submit an application that includes a brief research summary consisting of the abstract and specific aims of their funded grant, addressing how their funded project aligns with HIRN's goals and fills a research gap, and acknowledging a commitment to the participation requirements listed above. (Summarized in Appendix 1 for reference; applicants will complete the application online).

Applications will be reviewed and approved by the HIRN Trans-Network Committee (TNC) and relevant Consortium Chair if applicable. Priority will be given to early-career investigators during the review process. The TNC reserves the right to determine compatibility of the Associate Member's funded grant, and to approve or decline annual renewal based on the member's participation in HIRN scientific activities.

### **Membership Terms and Renewal**

Once membership is approved, status will be reviewed on an annual basis to determine level of active engagement and continued alignment with HIRN's mission. The TNC reserves the right to decline renewal based on these determinations.

### **Timeline:**

Application Due Date:	October 15, 2025 (5:00 pm Pacific)
Start Date:	December 1, 2025

For questions contact the HIRN Administrative Hub at [hirec@coh.org](mailto:hirec@coh.org).

Approved by: HIRN Trans-Network Committee on 08/15/2025

## Appendix 1.

### Summary of Information Requirements for Submission via the REDCap Online Application System

#### ▪ Applicant Information

- Name, Degree, Email, Faculty level, Affiliation (Institution & Department)
- eRA ID, OrcID
- NIH Biosketch (upload)
- Are you an early-stage or mid-career investigator\*?(Y/N)

\*Defined as:

- Post-doctoral fellows or full-time faculty members (tenure or non-tenure track Assistant or Associate Professors) with PhD and/or MD degrees, or hold an equivalent position at non-academic institutions.
- Within 10 years of completion of a PhD/MD, excluding parental, military, or medical leaves of absence.

#### ▪ Grant Information (Information on funded Grant(s) to qualify for HIRN Associate Membership )

- Grant Title
- Grant Number
- Funding Timeline (funding start date/end date)
- Grant Abstract/Summary
- Funding Agency
- Country of Origin (USA, foreign)

#### ▪ HIRN Significance

- Relevant HIRN Consortia: CBDS, CMAD, HPAC, PanKbase (multi-select)
- Statement of Relevance and Anticipated Benefit: File upload 3-page max that includes:
  1. Grant Abstract
  2. Grant Specific Aims
  3. Statement of relevance to one or more HIRN consortia
  4. Description of how participation in HIRN will benefit the network and your research (maximum 1 page)

#### ▪ Commitment Checklist (Agree/Disagree)

- Attend HIRN Annual Investigator Meeting
- Regularly participate in HIRN Consortia Calls
- Present research on HIRN Consortia Calls
- Complete HIRN Confidentiality Agreement