

The National Disease Research Interchange

Ten years after the establishment of JDRF, Lee Ducat, one of JDRF's founding mothers, felt there was a piece of the research puzzle missing. There were diabetes researchers, and JDRF was funding some of the most cutting edge research in the area of diabetes of the time, but there was still something more that could be done. Lee determined there was a gap between researchers and their ability to secure biomaterials such as human

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Lee Ducat, one of JDRF's founding mothers and founder and president of the NDRI

cells, tissues and organs required to investigate how human diseases progress, and to develop new drugs and therapies for treatments and cures. Researchers were being forced to rely on their own local contacts for biomaterials, and this caused inefficiency in their work. So, in 1980, Lee, with the guidance of scientists who felt the same frustrations, founded and became president of the National Disease Research Interchange (NDRI). NDRI was established with the goal of creating a national human tissue and organ retrieval and delivery system. NDRI is a non-profit, federally-funded organization which seeks to help scientists studying diabetes and other diseases and conditions find a cure.

Today, researchers from universities, medical centers and hospitals in just about every major U.S. city rely on NDRI to deliver the biomaterial specimens they need to advance their studies.

NDRI has developed systems to distribute more than 17,000 biomaterials, tissues and organs annually to 300 to 400 researchers. Researchers continue to recognize NDRI as an invaluable partner as the need for human biomaterials grows. In response, NDRI has developed specialized programs targeted to increase the supply of human tissues and organs for specific areas of research with the highest demand for more resources. NDRI has established a network of human tissue collection sites throughout the country and is making it easier than ever for researchers to get the human tissues and organs they need, prepared, preserved and shipped precisely according to their specific scientific protocols, as quickly as possible, and in the largest available quantities. NDRI works diligently to ensure that tissues and organs donated for medical research are shipped to the nation's top scientific laboratories for study, and that those tissues and organs donated for research are never wasted.

To learn how to donate cells, tissue or organs to enable biomedical research, or to learn more about NDRI's fascinating work, please visit www.ndriresource.org.