

# DIABETES CANADA



## OUR RESEARCHERS | DR. JOHN EDWARD USSHER

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

**Through your support, Dr. John Ussher, professor with the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at University of Alberta, is bringing us one step closer improved treatments for people with diabetic heart disease.**

People with diabetes have a much higher risk of developing heart disease.

Through Diabetes Canada's funding, Dr. Ussher is learning how diabetes impacts the heart's ability to function, with the aim of developing new drugs to treat diabetic heart disease.

The ability of the heart to produce energy from the fuel we eat is extremely important for its proper function. If the heart is not able to produce enough energy, it cannot pump blood to the rest of the body, or relax properly between pumping, which can increase the risk for heart failure. For people with diabetes, the heart cannot produce energy as well as in healthy individuals. Dr. Ussher has identified proteins in the heart that regulates these processes, and will test how manipulating these proteins will impact how the heart relaxes during diabetic heart disease.

This research will provide key information on whether our proteins are good targets for pharmaceutical companies to develop drugs for improving diabetic heart disease.

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