

Conquering Diabetic Neuropathy



Nigel Calcutt
Professor, Pathology

CURRENT RESEARCH

Ending nerve damage caused by diabetes

There are 350 million people worldwide that suffer from diabetes, and over half of all diabetic patients will develop nerve damage. Patients suffering from nerve damage can experience untreatable pain or, most commonly, numbness of limbs that lead to unintended limb damage, infection and amputation. Diabetic neuropathy is therefore a huge clinical, economic and societal problem for which there is no FDA-approved treatment or cure. Dr. Nigel Calcutt of University of California, San Diego is working to eradicate diabetic neuropathy - and is on the verge of finding the first cure.

- Currently we do not have a FDA-approved treatment or cure for diabetic neuropathy, a condition that leads to symptoms such as numbness of limbs and intense pain. Dr. Calcutt is developing what could become the first treatment solution.
- With over 350 million people worldwide suffering from diabetes and over half of those likely to develop nerve damage, there is an urgent need for a cure to this illness.
- Dr. Calcutt and his team hope to find the first cure for this untreatable disease by conducting clinical trials to analyze beneficial - but originally unintended - healing properties of an established and FDA-approved drug. This means they have the opportunity to leapfrog over 5-15 years' worth of drug development programs and test efficacy now.
- Through his research Nigel has found a drug that works to control the initiation and cessation of nerve growth. This controlling mechanism could greatly minimize the effects of neuropathy.
- After finding the cure for diabetic neuropathy, Dr. Calcutt anticipates that this treatment can also be...

AFFILIATION

 University of California, San Diego

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in Physiology and Pharmacology 1988, Nottingham University
- B.Sc. in Zoology 1985, Nottingham University

AWARDS

- Mary Jane Kugel Award

RESEARCH AREAS

Life Science, Metabolic / Diabetes

FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will allow Dr. Calcutt to test his discovery that an existing drug already used to treat another disease can prevent or reverse nerve damage in diabetic patients. Early hypothesis testing has been extremely successful - he needs your help to conduct clinical trials.

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