

Request for Applications (RFA)

Advancing Prevention of Diabetic Foot Ulcers

Overview

Orpyx invites applications to support research advancing the prevention of diabetic foot ulcers (DFU) through innovative sensory technologies and remote patient monitoring approaches.

This funding opportunity is intended to generate high-quality clinical and real-world evidence to support earlier detection of tissue damage, improve patient outcomes, and inform scalable models of care for individuals at risk of DFU.

Background and Rationale

Diabetic foot ulcers (DFUs) are among the most serious and costly complications of diabetes, contributing significantly to hospitalizations, amputations, reduced mobility, and mortality. Beyond their clinical impact, DFUs place a substantial burden on healthcare systems due to frequent hospitalizations, prolonged treatment courses, and high rates of recurrence. Recurrence rates remain alarmingly high, with many individuals experiencing repeat ulceration within the first year of healing.

A fundamental challenge in DFU prevention is the ability to detect risk early. Signs of tissue stress, inflammation, or injury often develop beneath the surface and are difficult to identify before visible skin breakdown occurs.

Emerging technologies, including sensor-based insoles and remote patient monitoring platforms, offer a promising solution to this challenge. These approaches enable continuous, non-invasive monitoring of physiological markers such as plantar pressure, temperature, and activity, creating the potential to detect early warning signs of tissue damage and enabling intervention before complications worsen.

This RFA seeks to support rigorous, clinically meaningful research that advances DFU prevention strategies through innovative technologies.

Research Objectives

Research proposals should focus on the prevention of diabetic foot ulcers through sensory technology and/or remote monitoring. Applications must address one or more of the following priority areas:

- Clinical Effectiveness: Reduction in DFU incidence or recurrence
- Remote Patient Pedal Monitoring (RPPM)
- Patient Behavior and Adherence
- Health Economics and Policy

Funding Details

Orpyx will commit to providing up to \$600,000 (plus facilities and administrative fees up to 35%) over the course of 4 years to fund this research. Salaries will be paid to the NIH cap. The total project period may not exceed 4 years.

- Total funding available: **\$600,000**
- Number of awards: **1**
- Project duration: **4 years**
- Earliest anticipated start date: **September 15, 2026**

Funding will be distributed based on achievement of predefined milestones and deliverables. The funding may be distributed across multiple organizations. Orpyx will pay facilities and administrative rates up to a maximum of 35%.

Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- U.S. based academic institutions, healthcare systems, or qualified research organizations
- Multidisciplinary research teams strongly encouraged (e.g., podiatry, vascular, data science)
- Demonstrated experience in diabetic foot care and/or remote monitoring preferred
- Prior experience conducting clinical or real-world studies required
- Experience with medical device studies considered an asset

Competitive applicants should utilize robust study designs (e.g., randomized controlled trials) and clearly define primary and secondary endpoints aligned with DFU prevention. Inclusion of diverse and representative patient populations should be considered, where feasible.

Application and Submission Information

Prospective applications are encouraged to submit a letter of intent (LOI) that includes the following information:

- Descriptive title of proposed research
- Name of the PI and other key personnel (a general CV or NIH style bio sketch is acceptable)
- Participating institutions
- Brief summary of study objectives and design (maximum of 2 pages)
- Timeline
- Budget

Applications may be submitted on or after the opening date and are due by **August 28, 2026**. Applications should be submitted via email to research@orpyx.com. Upon receipt, applications will be reviewed and evaluated. An acknowledgement of application receipt will be provided.

- Application opening date: **June 8, 2026**
- Application deadline: **August 28, 2026**
- Notification of award: **September 14, 2026**

Contact Information

For questions regarding this RFA, please contact:

Emily Bray
Director, Clinical Affairs
emily.bray@orpyx.com