Revolutionizing Diabetes Healthcare with Organoid Technology

Jeffrey R. Millman, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Medicine and Biomedical Engineering Washington University School of Medicine



The Millman Lab Team

Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine

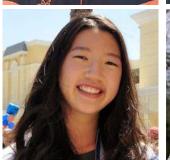








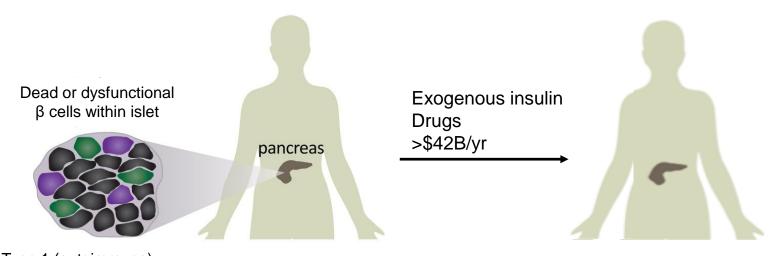




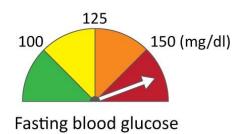


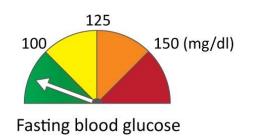


Current Problems With Diabetes Management



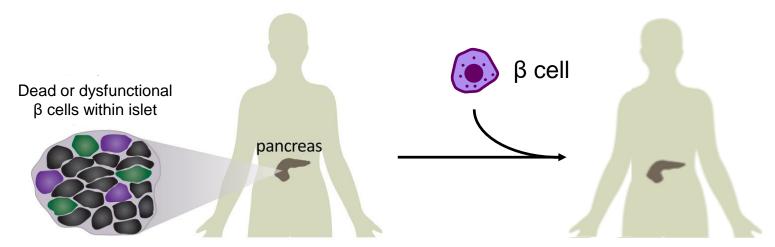
Type 1 (autoimmune)
Type 2 (insulin resistance)



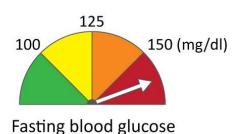


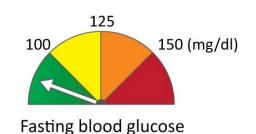
- Poor blood sugar control persists
- Requires multiple daily blood sugar measurements and insulin injections by the patient
- Many associated health problems
 - Eye, kidney, vascular, cardiac disease
 - · Coma, seizure, stroke

Long-Term Treatment



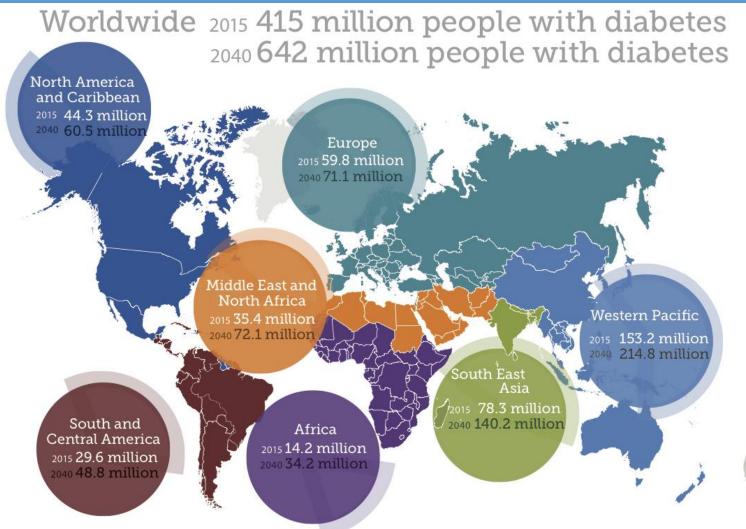
Type 1 (autoimmune)
Type 2 (insulin resistance)





Functional Cure

Target Population



Source: International Diabetes Federation

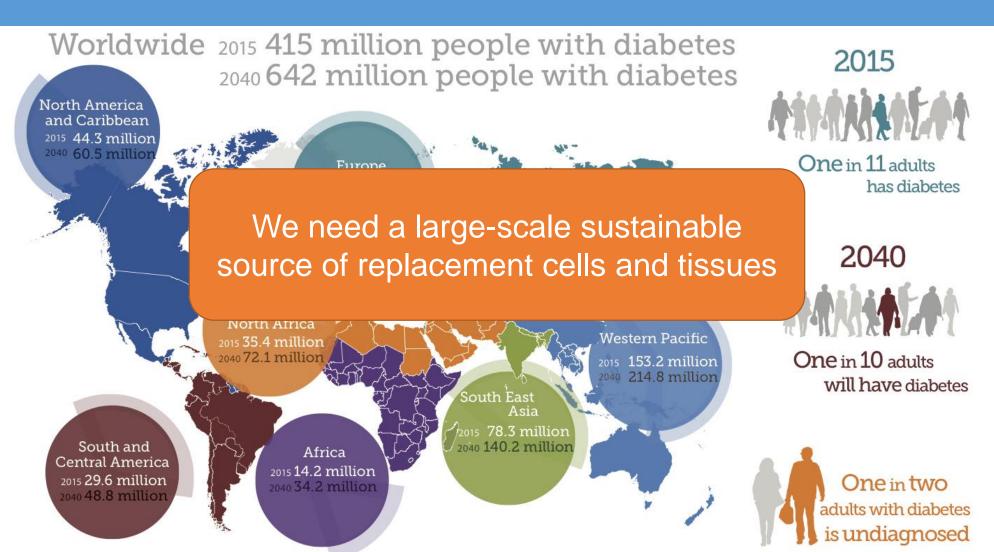
2015
One in 11 adults
has diabetes

2040
One in 10 adults

will have diabetes



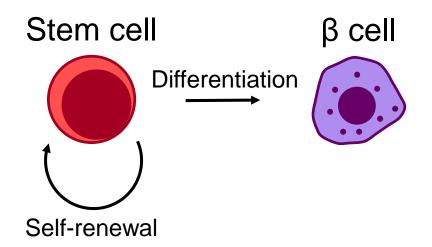
Target Population



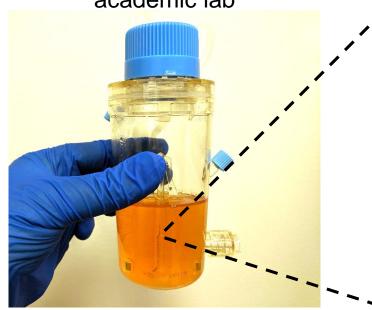
Source: International Diabetes Federation

Our Technological Solution

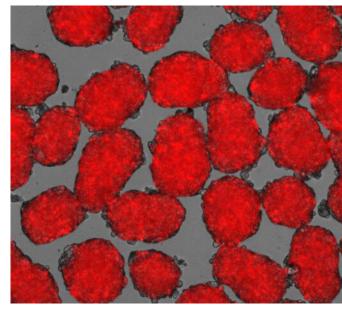
We recapitulate embryonic development to β cells in the lab



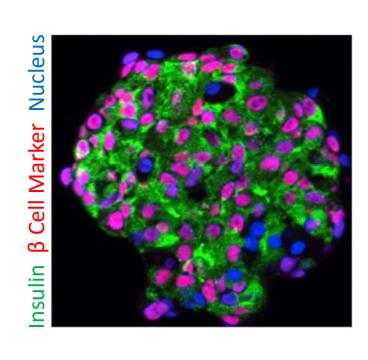
Bioreactors capable of producing >109 cells in an academic lab

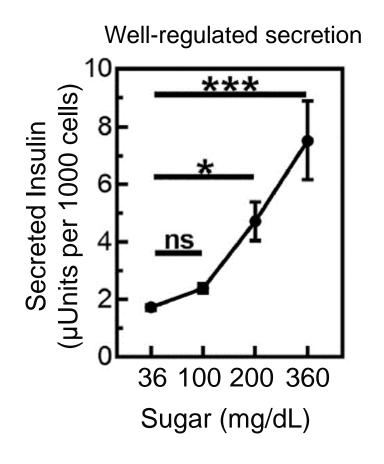


Clusters of ~2,000 β cells glowing **red** when they produce insulin



Our Organoids Produce and Secrete Insulin





Our Organoids Functionally Cure Diabetes in Mice

Redacted

Next Steps

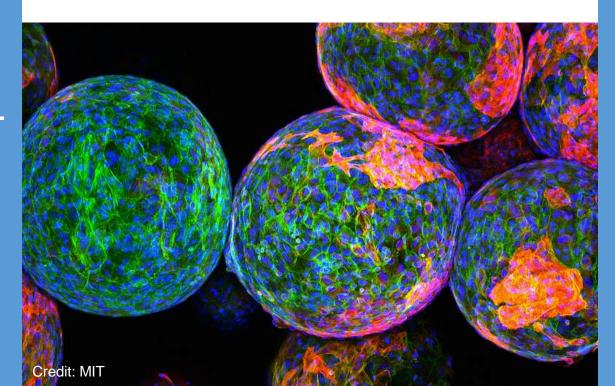
We have already successfully generated stem cell-derived β cells that secrete insulin

Better Engineer Organoids

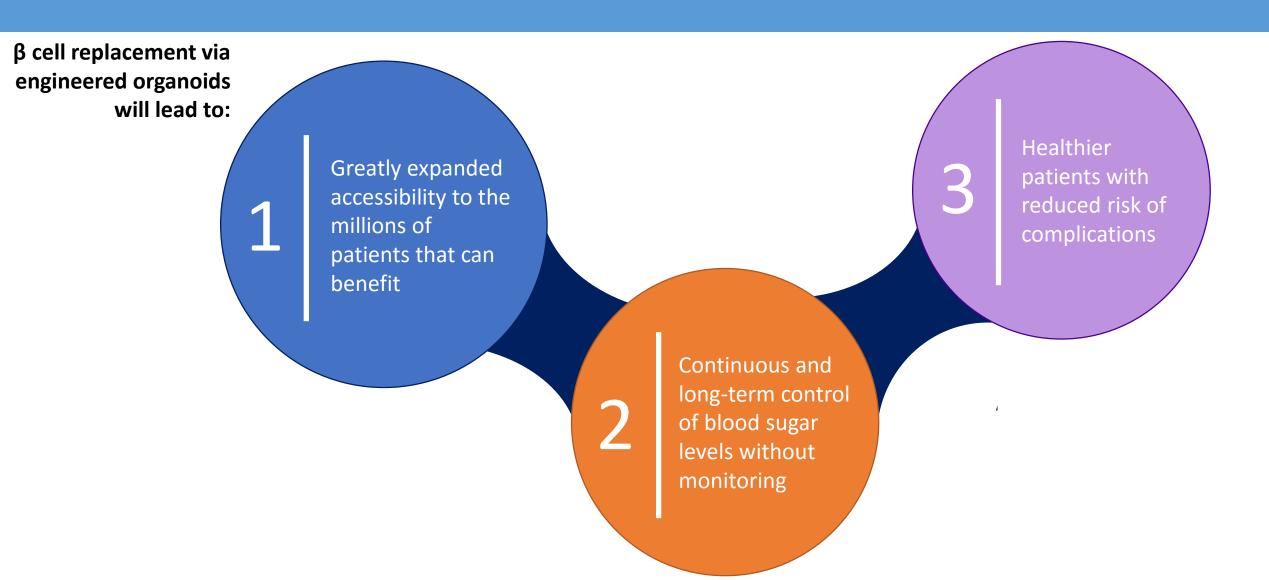
- Tissue contains other cells and proteins
- Important to ensure therapeutic outcomes

Therapeutic Delivery Into Patients

- Protect β cells from immune attack
- Ensure safety of patients



Future Impact



Acknowledgements and Thank You

Funding





Washington University in St.Louis
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Diabetes Research Center Center of Regenerative Medicine

Millman Lab

- Leonardo Velazco-Cruz (R25)
- Punn Augsornworawat
- Maddy Goedegebuure (Amgen)
- Anurima Sharma
- Michelle Kim
- Arvind Srivatsava
- Nathaniel Hogrebe (T32)
- Kristina Maxwell (T32)



Jeffrey R. Millman, Ph.D. jmillman@wustl.edu

@JeffreyRMillman