

NEW for the 17th Annual nPOD Meeting

The “nPOD Innovation Award”

A Live Grant Challenge for Early-Stage Investigators



Four years ago, nPOD hosted its first “Shark Tank” competition, inspired by the premise of the long-running television show of the same name ([Wikipedia](#)). Each year, a single question is posed to a pre-selected group of contestants (typically 4-5), who present their case to argue why their answer is the best in a very limited amount of time. Evaluation and voting for the winning presentation are conducted by four “Sharks,” the winner having survived an episode in the Tank. This competition has become widely popular—so much so that this year, with support from Breakthrough T1D, nPOD will introduce a new and exciting element to the Tank:

A \$100,000 Grant Award

Rules and Instructions

- **Eligibility:** The competition is open to Post-doctoral Fellows (MD and/or PhD) and recent Assistant Professors (<2-year years from faculty appointment) who registered for the nPOD Annual Meeting *before* January 15, 2025.
 - **Submission Requirements:** Contestants must submit a one-page, open-format proposal addressing the question: *“What do you believe is the most innovative and impactful study in type 1 diabetes that would utilize nPOD tissues?”* Proposals must focus on human disease and utilize nPOD tissues, samples, or data. Preference in review will be given to applications addressing an existing nPOD Key Question, though this is not mandatory. Preliminary data from the applicant is not necessary, but if it is unavailable, evidence of feasibility for the proposal must be provided. A detailed budget is not required at the submission stage.
 - **Submission Deadline:** All proposal submissions must be sent to Brittany Pratt at Brittany.pratts@ufl.edu by **February 12, 2025, at 5:00 PM EST (22:00 GMT)**. Brittany will also address any questions before this deadline.
 - **Selection Process:** An expert review committee will evaluate the submissions and select the top four proposals from those submitted. All applicants will be notified of the results by **February 17, 2025**, giving selected contestants two weeks to prepare for their time in the Shark Tank at the nPOD annual meeting.
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Competition Format

- **Presentations:** The four selected contestants will deliver a strictly timed five-minute PowerPoint presentation of their proposals to the Sharks and meeting attendees. Each presentation will be followed by up to 10 minutes of evaluation and questions from the Sharks (15 minutes total time per contestant).
 - **Voting:** After completing presentations, the Sharks will announce their votes for the best idea. Audience members can also vote via a mobile platform, collectively serving as the “fifth Shark.” The applicant with the most votes will win the challenge and considered for funding from Breakthrough T1D (see below*).
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Award and Administration

- Using the SRA format, the \$100,000 grant award will occur following standard submission and approval processes through Breakthrough T1D’s (RMS 360) portal. *Funding awards will be provided to the winning presenter’s institution and activated according to Breakthrough T1D guidelines.

Submission Format Guidelines

Attention Young Investigators!

Are you ready to pitch your innovative research idea at the 2025 nPOD Annual Meeting Shark Tank session? The rules and formatting guidelines for proposal submissions are now available on our website! Make sure to review them carefully as you prepare your pitch.

- **Length:** 1 page
- **Margins:** 0.5 inches
- **Font:** Arial, 11-point
- **Format:** Specific Aims page
- **Figures & Data:** Encouraged! They do not count toward the 1-page limit.

 **Submission Deadline: Wednesday, February 12, 2025.**

 Submit your proposals via email to [Brittany Pratt](mailto:Brittany.Pratt@nPOD.org).