The Emory Global Diabetes Research Center (EGDRC) is working to lessen the burden of diabetes through research, education, and outreach. EGDRC houses 7 core and over 25 affiliated faculty plus 9 fellows and staff at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. EGDRC has over 30 projects (totaling over 40 million USD in grants). Some of the EGDRC’s major projects and contributions include:

Global Partnerships: The EGDRC has established long-term partnerships with the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Madras Diabetes Research Foundation, Aga Khan University, the National Public Health Institute, and several other network partners across India, US, and Mexico. The formation of the Centre for Control of Chronic Conditions (4C) formalizes a partnership among PHFI, AIIMS, Emory, and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, creating a world-class research, bio-banking, data coordinating, and training center. The EGDRC also leads the NIDDK-funded Georgia Diabetes Translation Research Center, a partnership between Emory, the Georgia Institute of Technology, and Morehouse School of Medicine and has active partnerships on projects with the CDC’s Division of Diabetes Translation.

Policy Studies: Taking an innovative look at global health policy to confront contemporary NCDs, EGDRC researchers have contributed to advocacy and policy research related to: macro-level factors and country diabetes prevalence; global shortage of fruits and vegetables; subsidies and cardiometabolic health; disease control priorities; and advocacy.

Training and Capacity Building: Using a philosophy of bidirectional training between the US and low and middle income countries (LMICs), EGDRC has trained a total of >200 investigators. Training programs include: a public health leadership training program (PH-LEADER) and pre- and post-doctoral training programs for diabetes researchers (Global Health Fellows and Scholars, India NCD Research Fellows).

Implementation Trials: A key aspect of EGDRC’s focus has been major, well-designed implementation trials. Trials include: D-CLIP, a randomized trial of lifestyle advice plus metformin when needed for diabetes prevention; CARRS and INDEPENDENT, pragmatic, multi-center trials of care delivery models to improve outcomes for people with diabetes and comorbid diabetes-depression, respectively; and INDIA-WORKS, a diabetes prevention and management program at eight diverse worksites in India.

Pathophysiology: EGDRC investigators and international partners have generated novel insights into variations in disease pathophysiology, for example: hypothesizing the role of early beta cell dysfunction on diabetes incidence in Asian Indians; contributing to exploration of the South Asian phenotype; and early determinants of childhood obesity risk.

Epidemiology: Creation of the CARRS bio-banked longitudinal cohort of 30,000 people representative of Delhi, Chennai, and Karachi (and affiliated cohorts in India amounting to an additional >20,000 people), which continues to yield important data on: chronic kidney disease and diabetes prevalence; cardiometabolic health; and US-India comparisons.