

## **Aaron J. Kowalski, Ph.D.**

President and CEO

As President and CEO of JDRF, a global leader in type 1 diabetes (T1D) research and advocacy, Dr. Kowalski drives strategies to accelerate progress toward cures and turn breakthroughs into technologies and therapies that help people stay healthy until then.

He has played a key role in the race towards T1D cures by outlining strategies to define JDRF's therapy pipeline and accelerate progress in each development stage so that advances in the lab can be turned into real solutions. He joined JDRF in 2004 and most recently served as Chief Mission Officer, leading research and advocacy strategy.

Dr. Kowalski's scientific expertise, his personal experience of living with T1D for over 35 years, and his ability to engage the T1D community enable him to advance JDRF's mission to cure, prevent, and treat T1D and its complications.

Dr. Kowalski is an internationally recognized scientific expert in the area of T1D research. He was pivotal in the transformation of JDRF's role as the leading global organization funding T1D research, from an organization funding primarily academic research to a highly engaged strategic funder influencing all stages of the research and development pipeline. Under his leadership, JDRF is well known for its collaboration across the global T1D community – working closely with senior industry executives and leaders in academia, clinical care and government.

Dr. Kowalski has authored numerous articles on T1D research that are improving standards of care, including his artificial pancreas roadmap that was adopted by the diabetes industry to significantly accelerate the delivery of the first commercial systems, and the landmark JDRF CGM Trial in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, which opened up access to continuous glucose monitoring through insurance coverage.

Dr. Kowalski has also served as a policy leader for JDRF, regularly advising Members of Congress and leaders of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Food and Drug Administration to ensure access to T1D therapies and regulatory frameworks that promote innovation. He is a champion for coverage, affordability and choice of therapies, advocating for life-saving treatment options and expanded access to help people with T1D stay healthy until we have a cure.

He has traveled and spoken globally about T1D, presenting at many national and international conferences, including ADA's Annual Scientific Sessions, EASD, ATTD, AACE, and AADE. Dr. Kowalski has lived with T1D since the age of 13 following a similar diagnosis for his younger brother Stephen at the age of 3. While living with T1D, he has completed 20 marathons and remains an avid golfer, ice hockey player and birdwatcher.

Dr. Kowalski has been married to his wife Michele, a high school biology teacher, for nearly 25 years and they have three children. He earned his doctorate in microbiology and molecular genetics from Rutgers University.