

The Sardinian Way to Type 1 Diabetes

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Abstract

Sardinia and Finland are the “hottest” areas for type 1 diabetes mellitus (T1DM) worldwide. Its genetic and epidemiological background make Sardinia an ideal region for investigating environmental, immunological, and genetic factors related to the etiopathogenesis of T1DM. Consequently, in 1990, the Insulin-Dependent Diabetes Mellitus Sardinia Project was launched in order to map the geographical distribution of T1DM in the island and to investigate preclinical phases of T1DM in a large cohort of people genetically at risk.

The final goal would be to design models of prediction and to formulate safe preventive measures, especially addressed to the general population living in areas at high risk.

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Abbreviations: (CI) confidence interval, (EURODIAB) Europe Diabetes Epidemiology and Prevention of Diabetes, (GADA) glutamic acid decarboxylase autoantibodies, (IA-2) autoantibodies to tyrosine phosphatase-like protein, (ICA) islet-cell autoantibodies, (NSIS) Newborns Sardinia Insulin-Dependent Diabetes Mellitus Study, (SSIS) Sardinia Schoolchildren Insulin-Dependent Diabetes Mellitus Study, (T1DM) type 1 diabetes mellitus, (TRIGR) Trial to Reduce Insulin-Dependent Diabetes in Genetically At-Risk

Keywords: diabetes registries, Sardinian epidemiology, type 1 diabetes mellitus

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