

Hi, my name is Judith (Judy) Seberger. I was born with Type 1 Brittle Diabetes, but I wasn't diagnosed until my first birthday when I almost died. On my first birthday, my Mom went into my room to wake me up and couldn't believe what she saw. My mattress was soaking wet and I was turning blue. My parents raced me to the ER. One of the lab techs came to my Mom and said that she remembered me. She said I had a lot of tests run but the doctor wouldn't order one for diabetes. He didn't believe babies got diabetes.

She told my parents to take me to Michael Reese Hospital to get the care I needed. I was diagnosed with Type 1 Brittle Diabetes. I spent a long time in the Hospital so my parents could learn how to take care of me, tie me down & give me shots without hurting me.

A few years ago, I was at the dietician's office to lose weight. She told me about a website that had a clinical trial for islet cell transplants. She said it might get rid of my diabetes all together. I went on line as soon as I got home and looked it up and called right away.

I got a call back from Lindsay Schenck, RN, the Nurse Coordinator at the University of Chicago Hospital, who explained the procedure and scheduled my first appointment about the procedure. Lindsay also told me what I needed to do to be accepted into the study, and I started to work on things immediately after and I was accepted, although it does take a while to finish all of the pre-tests and paperwork.

On my first appointment, I was introduced to Dr. Piotr Witkowski. Dr. Witkowski is in charge of the Islet Cell Clinical Trial, and Lindsay is his assistant. They decide the medicines, the doses to be used, etc., and

Lindsay usually comes back to me with the decisions that they came up with, so I talk and text more with her. They're both friendly and fantastic! They are the perfect team.

I knew that with the three chances I am getting, I would definitely be cured because God wouldn't tell me to ask those questions and look up the website if He wasn't telling me that it's time to answer my longest-said prayer, to be cured of diabetes, which was being answered in this way. He wouldn't let me know of a free Clinical Trial to get me off of insulin just to tease me.

Considering that this is a clinical trial, I have had a few setbacks, but I am still closer to being free of diabetes than before and most of the islet cells are still working. My last islet cell transplant will be done at the University of Chicago Hospital within the next few months. Please pray for me and I'll pray for you.

I wholeheartedly thank everyone involved with the study and who have played or will play a part in my transplants. I'm ready for my next one.