



## Kerri Sparling

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Kerri Sparling is a passionate advocate for all-things diabetes. She is the creator and author of Six Until Me, one of the first and most widely-read diabetes patient blogs, reaching a global audience of patients and caregivers. Her first book, *Balancing Diabetes* (Spry Publishing), looks at type 1 diabetes in the context of "real life." Kerri has lived with diabetes for 30 years. She has experienced a full childhood, the teen years, the college experience, and now pregnancy and parenting, with diabetes along for the ride. Kerri aims to spread a message of hope versus fear through the power of social media, advocacy, and storytelling.

Kerri's participation is part of Tandem Diabetes Care's Live Life in Full Color speaker series.

## Jaime A. Giraldo Ph.D.

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Jaime A. Giraldo Ph.D., is a scientist in the Discovery Research program at JDRF. He applies his background in biomedical engineering, encapsulation, immunology, stem cell biology and islet transplantation to support JDRF's work in beta cell replacement. In addition, Dr. Giraldo supports JDRF's efforts in the artificial pancreas program in the same capacity. Prior to joining JDRF in 2016, Dr. Giraldo worked at the Diabetes Research Institute. Dr. Giraldo obtained his B.S.E. and Ph.D. in biomedical engineering at Tulane University and the University of Miami, respectively.





## Mary Beth Cox MD

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Mary Beth Cox, MD is an endocrinologist based in Fort Worth with a special interest in diabetes. An almost-native Texan, she did her undergraduate work at Texas A&M, then her MD at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. She had a 6-year stay in North Carolina for Internal Medicine training at UNC, followed by Endocrinology fellowship and a Masters in Health Sciences at Duke. She and her family moved to Fort Worth in 2010. Here, she had a busy general endocrinology practice until 2015, when she took on a full time job as Medical Director for an international medical research company. She maintains a small diabetes clinic at Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth and also works as a lecturer for the medical education company Doctors in Training. She has been involved with JDRF for about five years, initially attending fundraising events, and in the last couple of years has become the research information volunteer with the board of directors at the Fort Worth chapter

## Bradford Gildon

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Bradford Gildon was diagnosed with T1D at age 11. Having grown up as an outdoor enthusiast prior to diagnosis, he continued to pursue his passions of camping, backpacking, and sports. In college, Gildon participated in a sprint distance triathlon, and never looked back. Now he serves as an athlete ambassador for Diabetes Sports Project, a team of individuals all living with T1D who race endurance events, showing that diabetes does not have to limit ones' passions in life.



## Anne Imber

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Anne Imber is a T1D advocate, blogger and mom to a College student with T1D. She is the Founder of Type 1 To Go Teen, a T1D educational seminar and website ([www.Type1Togo.com](http://www.Type1Togo.com)) for the non-medical issues teens with T1D and their families face in Middle School and High School. Focused on school advocacy, Anne is also the Co-Founder of Cy Fair Type One Connection, which represents students with T1D in Cy Fair ISD, a school district of 85 campuses and 115,000 students. Through these vehicles, Anne provides educational sessions on 504 Plans, Extracurricular Activities, T1 Teen issues and Preparing for College. Anne's passion for T1D advocacy started in 2009 when her son Tristan was diagnosed at the age of 12. Anne supports her local JDRF by heading up JDRF Kid's Walks in her community and providing various volunteer support for the JDRF Gulf Coast chapter.

# Chef Robert Lewis

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Chef Robert Lewis, The Happy Diabetic Chef, graduated from the Prestigious Culinary Institute of America in 1976. In 1998 he was diagnosed with diabetes. Thus began his motivation to create great tasting dishes that are easy to prepare. Chef Robert is a nationally recognized author, public speaker and spokesperson for all people affected with diabetes. Robert has collaborated with Lee Iacocca, and has worked with Al Roker, Ben Vereen, Richard Simmons, Ann Curry, Indy car racer Charlie Kimble, The Amazing Race Winner Nat Strand and many others. Chef Robert has spoken in hospitals and health fairs across the planet. Chef Robert has been featured in Diabetes Health Monitor, Diabetes Health magazine, USA Today, The Radish, Diabetic Living Magazine and is the author of 3 bestselling cookbooks. Check out the Chef's new podcast on itunes "The Happy Diabetic Kitchen" or visit his website [happydiabetic.com](http://happydiabetic.com)



# Shannon Marengo

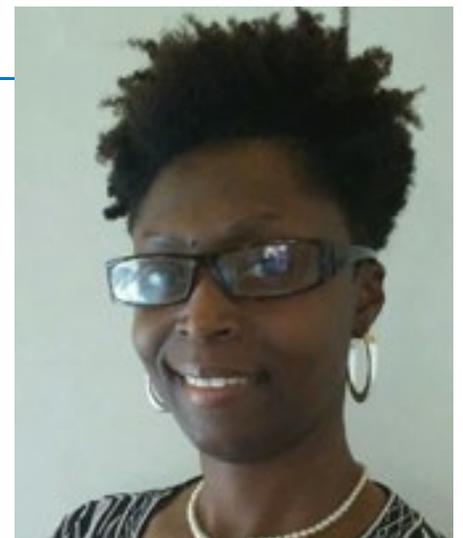
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Shannon Marengo was diagnosed with T1D in 1992. She is a wife, blogger, and boy mom of a 9 year-old and almost 4 year-old twins. She was told at her diagnosis that she would be unable to have children due to her diabetes, but thanks to advancements in research and technology, she was able to have two healthy, successful pregnancies. She is very active in the Diabetes Online Community, and in 2012 she started her own blog, "No More Shots for Shannon". She has volunteered with JDRF in many capacities for the past 24 years, including mentoring newly diagnosed families, leading the Logistics Team to coordinate the local JDRF chapter's Walk for a Cure, and in 2015, she was the focus of a national JDRF fundraising campaign. Shannon works diligently to keep her diabetes in check, and she looks forward to the day we can turn Type One into Type None!

# Chikeitha Owens M.A. LPC

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Chikeitha Owens M.A. LPC, is a Licensed Professional Counselor, has a Master of Arts in Professional Counseling and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. She specializes in Psychoeducation and Therapy for children and families diagnosed with T1D. Chikeitha is from Dallas, Texas and has worked in the social service/mental health field for the past 15 years. She comes to this session using creative interventions along with life experiences and education. She has two children that have been diagnosed with T1D, one at the age of 5 who is now 18 and the other diagnosed at the age of 1 who is now 2. She brings all of this to help families cope with this disease and bring peace within their family unit.





## Jim Penn RN, MSN, FNP-C, CDE

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Jim Penn RN, MSN, FNP-C, CDE has worked at Children's Health in various capacities for the past 15 years. The past 11 years have been spent in the Endocrinology Clinic, first as a certified diabetes educator and now an Advanced Practice Nurse. His passion for helping kids and families with T1D comes from his personal experience, having been diagnosed with T1D at age 6. He personally knows the frustrations that come with T1D, but also knows the right tools and attitude can lead to a long and healthy life.

## Dabney Poorter BSN, RN, CN

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Dabney Poorter BSN, RN, CN, graduated from Westmont College in 2005 with a Bachelor's of Science in Kinesiology. After working as a fitness trainer for two years, she pursued her dream of becoming a nurse and worked at the Cook Children's neonatal intensive care unit from 2008-2011. Dabney received her certification in nutrition in 2011, which she is using to educate and empower others as they take steps towards meeting life changing goals. Dabney lives with T1D herself.



## Amy Wehbe CDE

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Amy Wehbe CDE was diagnosed with T1D at the age of 13, Amy knew she wanted to pursue a career in helping individuals with diabetes. Amy earned her Master's in Nutrition from University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She currently works as a Certified Diabetes Educator for USMD where she enjoys working with Type 1, Type 2, and Gestational Diabetes. Amy has recently had a healthy son, and has learned firsthand about pregnancy with T1D.