



## Building Trades Surpass \$50 Million Raised for Diabetes Research

07/08/2014 [Kenneth Quinnell](#)



In 2014, North America's Building Trades Unions will raise some \$1.3 million for diabetes research, bringing their total to more than \$50 million since they became involved in the effort in 1986. The money goes to the Diabetes Research Institute (DRI) at the University of Miami, which recently announced the development of the "BioHub," which mimics the pancreas, producing insulin for patients with diabetes who can't produce the necessary levels of insulin for themselves.

Building Trades President Sean McGarvey lauded the efforts:

We are proud of what we have achieved in helping the Diabetes Research Institute conduct groundbreaking research. Our hope is that the efforts put forth every year by our unions and our rank-and-file members will result in a cure being found very soon for the millions of Americans living with diabetes. Today, DRI's BioHub brings that promise one step closer to reality, and we are so pleased to be a part of helping to achieve that milestone.

McGarvey explained that the diabetes effort is only a small part of a larger effort by labor unions to assist their communities:

"All too often, American unions are unfairly being portrayed as selfish. Americans need to understand that every year in this nation, union members are collectively contributing hundreds of millions of dollars of their hard-earned pay to organizations that are providing much-needed benefits and services in communities large and small."