

## **Tilly Stimpson**



#### The Delegate's personal story about living with T1D

I was diagnosed at the age of two and a half meaning I have no recall of living a 'normal' life without T1D. Ever since I can remember, I have had to count carbs, test my blood, be poked and prodded several times a day. As I grew older I became more aware of the battles my self-employed family had to face against coverage to protect my dad and I as this is an expensive disease to live with. Not only have we had to deal with daily costs, we also had to put up with an unsupportive school system for many years which my mom had sleepless nights over and caused her a lot of stress. Educating and advocating is important for these reasons, and because of this I wanted and continue to want to make a difference.



## Why T1D research programs and advances in technology are important to the Delegate to help manage their T1D

Research is so important to me as how will we ever find a cure? I am always looking for new technology to help improve mine and the lives of others living with T1D. To be able to have new products come to market means we need people to participate in clinical trials which unfortunately many people are unaware of. Clinical trials are so important as they make the products safe, help doctors and patients get better data and deter long term complications. I have personally participated in 2 clinical trials as has my Dad. I feel we are helping to understand this disease even if they are unsuccessful. Many years ago at Kids for a Cure I was lucky enough to hold an encapsulation patch and 2 weeks ago I sat at the Canadian premiere of 'The Human Trial'. Without research, new technology, or clinical trials, there will be no cure.



# How the Delegate has promoted awareness of T1D in their local community or home country

Ever since I was diagnosed, raising awareness has been extremely important for me and my family. We have done countless events in the hope of raising awareness to people in my school, city and province. I've been lucky to attend Kids for a Cure three times, speaking events at CIHR, advocating provincially at Queens Park for Access for All (CGM/FGM coverage), federally for the Disability Tax Credit, and I have also done a few interviews locally. Some of my more creative projects include modeling for stock images showing my Omnipod and Libre (my latest image has been used for the T1D Index), 100 letters campaign celebrating 100 years of insulin, Let's make history again campaign, attending a CGMs for All protest, and a local Cuisine For a Cure Gala. I am super lucky to have experienced many incredible opportunities with JDRF, such as meeting Justin Trudeau!

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What it means to the Delegate to represent their home country at JDRF 2023 Children's Congress in Washington, D.C.

I am so honored to be representing Canada and I cannot believe I was chosen. It will be such an amazing experience and I am counting down the days. I am so excited to have a voice, meet other T1D's from around the world and advocate to create change.



### What the Delegate hopes to accomplish during their visit to the U.S

I hope to be able to make a difference. I want to educate members of the Government on this relentless disease and I hope to see a difference made in our advocacy work. I also really hope to make amazing connections and friendships with people from around the world who live with the same thing I do. We all have struggles and some are not the same. It will be interesting to listen to other people's stories and I hope collectively we can help each other and the T1D community.



Please tell us more about yourself (interests and hobbies) to aid us in selecting U.S. Delegate

I love Grey's Anatomy and Station 19! I enjoy horse riding, playing soccer for my school, baking, hiking and playing with my dog in my free time. I also love traveling and I really want to go to the Bahamas, Bora Bora, Puerto Rico, Italy, Spain, and Norway.