

Gene modification of adult cells offers more hope for Type 1 diabetes than stem cells

By deleting a single gene in human gut endocrine progenitor and serotonin-producing cells, researchers reported that they were able convert them into cells that produce insulin.

As a result, the elusive goal of generating fully functional insulin-producing cells to free patients with type 1 diabetes from daily insulin injections may be closer to reality, with no stem cell transplantation involved.

The findings, reported online in [Nature Communications](#), may lead to novel type 1 diabetes treatments that involve coaxing existing gut cells in patients to produce insulin and release it when needed, according to [Domenico Accili, MD](#), of Columbia University Medical Center in New York City, and colleagues.

However, “we have tried to make insulin-producing cells from stem cells for a long time, and while there have been several incremental steps forward, I would say we are not much closer today than we were 3 or 4 years ago,” Accili told *MedPage Today*.

Read the full, original story: [GI Cells Remade to Produce Insulin](#)