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Announcing Finalists in \$250K Alexa Diabetes Challenge

Today, the [Alexa Diabetes Challenge](#) announced its five finalists. This multi-stage prize competition will award \$250,000 for ideas for voice-enabled solutions to improve the lives of those with type 2 diabetes. The Challenge is sponsored by [Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, New Jersey, U.S.A.](#), powered by [Luminary Labs](#), and supported by [Amazon Web Services \(AWS\)](#).

In April, the Challenge launched with an open call for concepts that demonstrate the future potential of voice technologies and supporting Amazon Web Services to improve the experience of those who have been newly diagnosed with type 2 diabetes. The Challenge received 96 submissions from across the healthcare landscape, including research institutions, software companies, startups, and healthcare providers. The [panel of judges](#), independent from Merck, narrowed the field down to five finalists, whose concepts range from an artificial intelligence-powered technology that detects at-risk behaviors and abnormalities to a virtual coach that responds to a patient's mood.

"We are extremely impressed with the novel thinking brought forth in the finalist submissions. These five concepts help us envision how voice technology can help improve health and quality of life for patients with chronic diseases such as type 2 diabetes," said Kimberly Park, Vice President, Customer Strategy & Innovation, Global Human Health, Merck.

The five finalists are:

- **DiaBetty**, [University of Illinois](#): A virtual diabetes educator and at-home coach that is sensitive and responsive to the patient's mood, enhancing patient skills for self-management.
- **My GluCoach**, [HCL America, Inc.](#): A holistic management solution that blends the roles of voice-based diabetes teacher, lifestyle coach, and personal assistant to serve the individual and specific needs of the patient.
- **PIA: Personal intelligent agents for type 2 diabetes**, [Ejenta](#): A connected care intelligent agent that uses NASA-licensed AI technology integrated with IoT device data to encourage healthy habits, detect at-risk behaviors and abnormalities, and alert care teams.
- **Sugarpod**, [Wellpepper](#): A multimodal solution, including a smart foot scanner, that provides specialized voice, mobile, video, and web interactions based on the task and patient preferences to support patient adherence to comprehensive care plans.
- **T2D2: Taming type 2 diabetes, together**, [Elliot Mitchell, Biomedical Informatics PhD Student at Columbia University, and team](#): A virtual nutrition assistant that uses machine learning to provide in-the-moment personalized education and recommendations as well as meal planning, and food and glucose logging.

“Voice technology like Amazon Alexa can dramatically improve user experience by providing the ability for people to interact with devices at a more personal level. These finalists showcase how one day people may use Alexa skills and fully integrated AWS services to create new healthcare scenarios. We are excited to support the finalists in helping people better manage their own health through voice-enabled technology,” said Steve Halliwell, Director of Healthcare and Life Sciences at Amazon Web Services, Inc.

Each finalist will receive [\\$25,000 and 10,000 AWS promotional credits](#), and advance to the Virtual Accelerator, during which they will receive expert mentorship as they continue to develop their proposals. In addition, Luminary Labs will host an Innovators’ Boot Camp for the finalists at Amazon’s Seattle headquarters.

At the end of the Virtual Accelerator, finalists will present their solutions in-person to the judges at Demo Day at the AWS Pop-up loft in NYC. The [judging panel](#), which hails from organizations such as Boston Children’s Hospital, Amazon Web Services, Inc., and Harvard University, will select a winner to receive the \$125,000 grand prize.

Learn more at alexadiabeteschallenge.com and follow the Challenge at [@ADchallenge](https://twitter.com/ADchallenge).

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