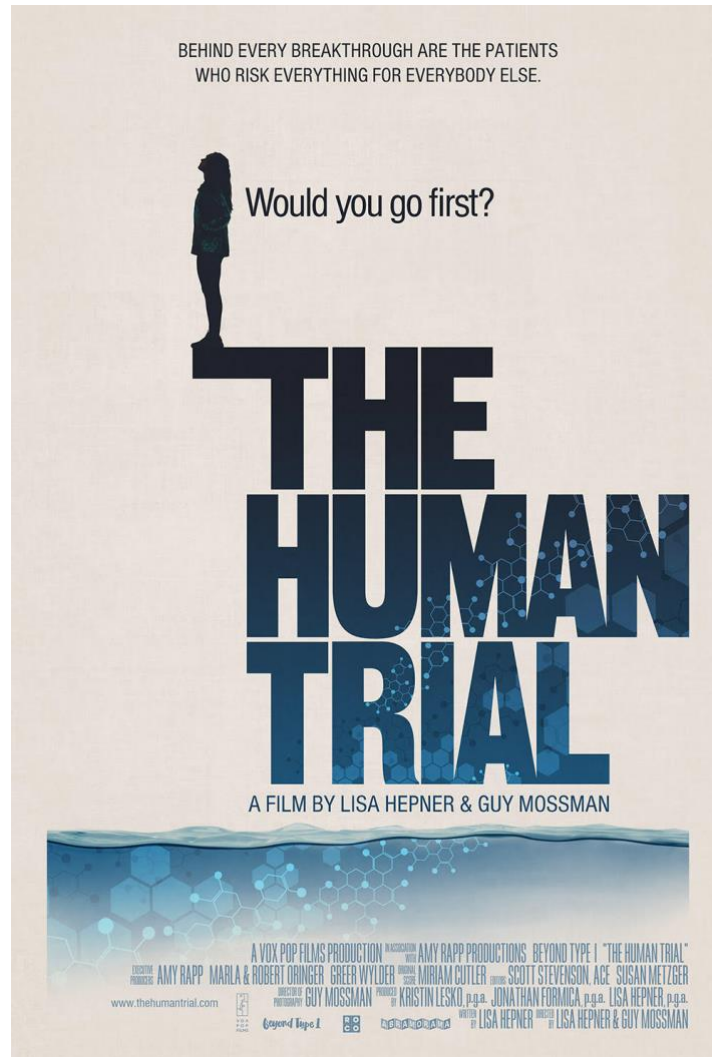


ABRAMORAMA

PRESENTS



Directed by **Lisa Hepner and Guy Mossman**

Written by **Lisa Hepner**

Executive Producers **Amy Rapp, Marla & Robert Oringer**

Produced by **Lisa Hepner p.g.a., Jonathan Formica p.g.a., and Kristin Lesko p.g.a.**

Original Score by **Miriam Cutler**

Presenting Sponsor: **Beyond Type 1**

TRT: 91 minutes

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LOGLINE

In 2011, Lisa Hepner and her husband Guy Mossman heard about a radical stem cell treatment for diabetes, a disease that, shockingly, kills more than five million people each year. Driven by a desire to cure Lisa of her own type 1 diabetes (T1D), the filmmakers were given unprecedented, real-time access to a clinical trial -- only the sixth-ever embryonic stem cell trial in the world. What follows is an intimate journey with the patients and scientists who risk everything to be first.

SYNOPSIS

The Human Trial interweaves the stories of the patients who have borne the physical and financial burdens of type 1 diabetes (T1D) — with the researchers who epitomize the struggle of innovating cures. Director Lisa Hepner — whose own T1D fuels her search for a cure — becomes the bridge between these two worlds, painting an emotional portrait of what it takes to push medical innovation forward. The narrative arc of *The Human Trial* is the clinical trial itself.

For seven years, Lisa and Guy embedded themselves with a biotech company in San Diego. They filmed the researchers' triumphs and failures in the lab, following them around the globe as they raised money to keep their trial going. In parallel, the filmmaking team followed two patients, the self-described "guinea pigs" at the University of Minnesota.

More than a decade in the making, the first-person, verité film is about science, but it's also an emotional, multilayered quest that transcends the genre. It's about believing that the good of the many outweigh the good of the few. It's about innovating in ways we didn't think possible.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

When we began making *The Human Trial*, we had no idea that our film would mirror the headlines of a breakthrough vaccine ten years later. Unwittingly, our first-person narrative captured the zeitgeist of how cure research should be conducted. The swift rollout of a vaccine for Covid-19 showed us that we are capable of innovating in ways we didn't think possible. It showed us how critical clinical trials are to support breakthrough research. It showed us what's possible when the public and private sector collaborate, and when funding isn't an issue. In a post-pandemic world, how do we apply these hard-won lessons to curing other diseases and chronic illness? How do we un-glue ourselves from an outdated model of biomedical research?

When I was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at 21, I was told the cure was five years away: "Stay strong, the cure is on the horizon." But thirty years later, I'm still waiting. While I was busy trying to outrun my disease, it was wreaking havoc on my organs. Now I'm dealing with the complications of hiding behind the façade of normalcy. *In 2021 alone, 6.7 million people died from diabetes. When we started making this film, one person every eight seconds died from the disease. Now it's one person every four seconds.*

As our film shows, it doesn't have to be this way. The cure for type 1 diabetes is no longer an empty promise that's "five years away." There's reason to be hopeful if we support pioneering research in a meaningful way. Guy and I are lucky that our messaging has found a following -- from major non-profits to celebrities struggling with the same disease.

Our film's presenting sponsor is Beyond Type 1 (BT1) that was co-founded by Nick Jonas in 2015. It has the largest digital footprint of any diabetes organization in the world, reaching tens of millions every month across the globe through its online platforms. BT1 has the support of many celebrities, including Este Haim and artist/DJ Shepard Fairey, both of whom have T1D and are passionate about our film. Haim has donated a song to our end credits, and Shepard Fairey designed our movie poster.

- Lisa Hepner

BEYOND TYPE 1

Description of BT1

Beyond Type 1 is a nonprofit organization changing what it means to live with diabetes. By leveraging the power of social media and technology, Beyond Type 1 empowers people to both live well today and support a better tomorrow. Through peer support programs, global campaigns, and digital platforms, Beyond Type 1 is uniting the global diabetes community across both type 1 and type 2 diabetes, helping to change what it means to live with chronic illness.

Digital reach:

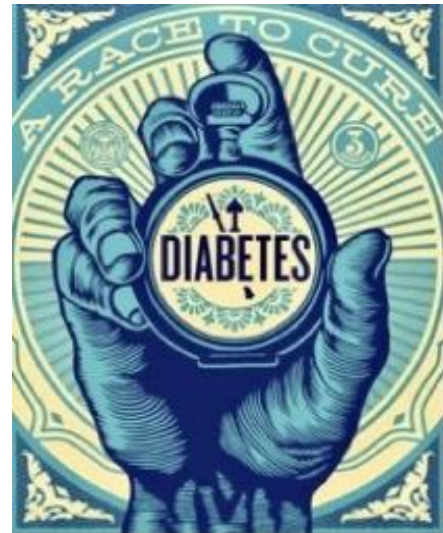
Beyond Type 1 has the largest digital footprint of any diabetes nonprofit. Through their network of websites, social media channels and apps, they serve tens of thousands of people impacted by diabetes around the globe every day and millions of people every month. They have 2MM+ followers on social media alone.

BT1 Contacts:

- Jordan Jendricks, VP of Mission & Programs
- Christel Marchand-Aprigliano, Chief Advocacy Officer
- Tracey McCarter, Interim CEO and Member of Board of Directors

Assorted **celebrities** who work with Beyond Type 1:

- Co-Founder [Nick Jonas](#) + [Priyanka Chopra](#)
- [Shepard Fairey](#) (aka DJ Diabetic)
- [Este Haim](#)
- [Victor Garber](#)
- [Gavin Lewis](#)
- [Elizabeth Perkins](#)
- [Bambi Northwood Blyth](#)
- [Jennifer Stone](#)
- [Christopher French](#)
- [Crystal Bowersox](#)



The Human Trial limited edition print by Shepard Fairey

STORY ANGLES

The Human Trial reveals the emotional and physical rollercoaster that scientists and patients experience as they travel along the road to a cure for disease. While character-driven and poignant, the film also highlights key themes that can help audiences better understand cure research. In particular, the stories traced in *The Human Trial* underscore:

1. **The Importance of Clinical Trials**

Clinical trials undergird every step of medical discovery, from the testing of new medical devices to drug treatment trials, to the development of vaccines. But many Americans don't well understand the significance of clinical trials to medical research, nor the toll such trials can take on the brave individuals who volunteer to undergo them.

The Human Trial puts a complex, human face on the clinical trial process. Documenting two patients as they undergo the first year of a Phase 1-2 clinical trial, the film offers audiences a concrete and nuanced portrait of what scientists and patients alike undergo as they work together to test a possible cure for diabetes--and the critical importance of that collaboration.

2. **The Cost of Cure Research**

The average cost of bringing a new drug to market is just under three billion dollars--a cost that requires not only governmental and charitable financing, but sizable investment from venture capitalists and corporate pharmaceutical giants. As we enter an inflection point in cure research--a moment of acceleration that allows scientists to develop in one year what used to take ten--funding research and development of medical cures is more costly than ever.

The Human Trial charts the precarious and incremental nature of cure funding, and the high-stakes financial risks that go along with the development of novel cures.

3. **The Promise of Stem Cell Research**

Human embryonic stem cells (hESC) are the cells from which all other cells are generated--and research into their potential uses for medical treatments is an exciting and rapidly evolving area of biomedical innovation.

Without wading into the ethical considerations and debates that have often surrounded discussion of stem cell research in popular media, *The Human Trial* documents the promise of fetal stem cell research for the development of a new cure for diabetes. Tracking the practical application of stem cell research to cure research, the film makes approachable and accessible an area of scientific discovery that is often obscured by politicized jargon.

4. **The Toll of Diabetes**

Life with diabetes--both Type 1 and Type 2--can take an enormous physical and emotional toll on patients and their families. Not only is disease management an omnipresent set of physical tasks; it is taxing on mental health as well.

Tracing the paths of two patients with diabetes as they participate in a Phase 1-2 clinical trial--as well as the personal diabetes journey of Director Lisa Hepner--*The Human Trial* chronicles the physical and financial demands of diabetes management--and the impacts of the disease on a patient's caregivers, spouses, children, and extended community.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

LISA HEPNER | DIRECTOR, PRODUCER & WRITER

Lisa and her partner Guy Mossman run LA-based Vox Pop Films, a production company specializing in non-fiction content and commercials. For the last 25 years, Lisa has produced a variety of films and programs for Sony Pictures Classics, HBO, A&E, PBS, Lifetime, Discovery, MTV, TLC, and the CBC. She has produced for acclaimed directors Jonathan Demme, Michael Apted, Julie Taymor, and Lisa F. Jackson, among others. When she wasn't in the field, Lisa worked at the PBS station, 13-WNET, producing a variety of programs, including the Emmy Award winning series, AIR: AMERICA'S INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS. In 2003, she co-directed the feature doc, WOMEN ON THE FRONTLINES. Shot in Afghanistan, Argentina, Burundi, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the US, the film premiered at the UN in 2003 and aired on PBS in 2004. She has lived with type 1 diabetes for 30 years, for about as long as she's worked in film and TV. This is Lisa's feature directorial debut.

GUY MOSSMAN | DIRECTOR & DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Guy Mossman is a cinematographer who made his first short film in 2000 in Paraguay. Since then, Guy has lensed many notable documentaries, including FEELS GOOD MAN (Dir: Arthur Jones, Sundance 2020); BENDING THE ARC (Dir: Kief Davidson & Pedro Kos, Sundance 2018); UNDIAGNOSED (EP GERALYN DREYFOUS); BUCK (Dir: Cindy Meehl, Sundance Audience Award 2011); JOAN RIVERS: A PIECE OF WORK (Dir: Ricki Stern & Annie Sundberg, Sundance 2010). He most recently shot LOST LINCOLN EP'd by Mark Wahlberg.

SCOTT STEVENSON, ACE | EDITOR

Scott Stevenson, a native of Los Angeles and a graduate of the UCLA Film and Television School, is a Franco-American film editor based in both Paris and Los Angeles. He works in both narrative and unscripted, in French and in English; films he has cut have been to Sundance, Tribeca, Hot Docs and Cannes. In addition to editorial nominations and awards, several of the films he collaborated on have received major recognition: *La Haine* won both the Best Director award in Cannes and the César (the French Oscar) for best film; *Very Semi-Serious* received the News and Doc Emmy for Outstanding Arts and Culture Programming; *The Staircase* was given a Peabody, a Columbia/DuPont and an IDA award, and *Sin City Law* also took home the IDA award for Best Documentary Series. Most recently, *LA 92* was honored by an Emmy for Exceptional Merit in Documentary Filmmaking, as well as the Television Academy's Honors award, recognizing programs that have inspired social change, and the Netflix series *Flint Town* received multiple "Best Doc Series" nominations.

JONATHAN FORMICA | PRODUCER

Jonathan Formica is a Los Angeles based independent documentary filmmaker and producer whose work is dedicated to telling nuanced stories that engage, educate, and challenge audience perspectives. With a strong passion for scientific advancement and social justice, he has filmed across four continents and produced over eighty shoots. Jonathan has worked with Vox Pop Films for the past decade where he oversaw a diverse slate of commercial and branded-film work while producing the feature documentary, *The Human Trial* (2022). He is currently working with Academy Award® Winning Tremolo Productions on an untitled feature documentary slated for 2023 release.

KRISTIN LESKO | PRODUCER

Kristin Lesko is a creative producer with nearly two decades of experience producing documentary films and non-fiction content. In that time, she has contributed to many award-winning documentary projects by some of the industry's premiere directors. Her credits include co-producer on Ezra Edelman's Oscar-winning film *OJ: MADE IN AMERICA* (2016) for ESPN 30 for 30, the Oscar-nominated film *OPERATION HOMECOMING: WRITING THE WARTIME EXPERIENCE* (2008) for WETA, as well as *MAKERS: WOMEN IN POLITICS* (2014) directed by Grace Lee and produced by Rory Kennedy. Kristin began her film career working with veteran documentary filmmaker, Stanley Nelson, on a variety of films for public television including *JONESTOWN: THE LIFE AND DEATH OF PEOPLES TEMPLE* (2006) for American Experience and *SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK: RAISE YOUR VOICE* (2005) for American Masters.

AMY RAPP | EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Amy Rapp is an Emmy-winning creative producer, developing and producing narrative and documentary films and television. She launched and has run Meredith Vieira Productions for the past 12 years and recently launched her own production company, Amy Rapp Productions, in which she continues to develop and produce narrative and documentary projects, often based on, or inspired by true stories or real people. Her credits include *RETURN*, *THE WOMAN WHO WASN'T THERE*, *TOWER*, and *AFTER THE MURDER OF ALBERT LIMA*. Her films have premiered and won top awards at festivals including Cannes, SXSW, and DOCNYC, and have won and been nominated for awards including the Emmy, Critics Choice, and Producers Guild Awards. She is Executive Producer of *THE HUMAN TRIAL*, which will be released in 2022, and is about to begin her next feature doc about the death of Freddie Gray in police custody for MRC Studios. Amy was born, raised, and resides in New York City.

MARLA ORINGER | EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Marla had been a passionate T1D advocate ever since her two sons were diagnosed as children. Over the past 25 years, she has invested in and helped nurture companies and organizations centered around improving the lives of those living with diabetes both T1D/T2D. Her involvement includes angel investing, forging strategic partnerships, advising on how to maximize marketing initiatives and garner awareness for the cause and the supporting organizations. Board Observer for Beyond Type 1 and a volunteer for the JDRF.

ABOUT ABRAMORAMA

Abramorama is the preeminent global media distribution and marketing company for nonfiction and music films. An innovator in the focused, personalized form of film distribution, marketing, promotion, and live and event cinema, Abramorama provides customized services to filmmakers, networks, digital services, and IP owners, across all platforms and in all territories. In its over 20 years of operation, Abramorama has been the trusted film partner to many of the most respected global brands in entertainment, including The Beatles, Dolly Parton, Metallica, Pearl Jam, Stevie Nicks, Neil Young, Laurie Anderson, Jimi Hendrix, Green Day, National Geographic, Discovery, AARP, MSNBC, Apple, Amazon, Netflix, HBO, Showtime, Hulu, Universal Music Group, Atlantic Records, Warner Music Group, Sony, Concord Music Group, and many others. Through a powerful global network of cinemas, digital media outlets, and affinity marketing partners, Abramorama strategically implements a unified distribution and audience activation plan for each title. Abramorama is expert at maximizing reach, engagement, marketing spends, and the ROI for content created for target audiences. For more information, visit abramorama.com.

ABOUT ROCO FILM

Founded in 2000, ROCO has distributed exceptional documentaries to the global and educational markets including eighteen Oscar-nominated feature documentaries and festival award-winners, such as *Born Into Brothels*, *Hoop Dreams*, *Jesus Camp*, *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*, *Gunner Place*, *The Weather Underground*, *promises*, *Street Fight*, *No End in Sight*, *The devil Came on Horseback*, *How to Survive a Plague*, *The Invisible War*, *Blood Brother*, *Particle fever*, *After Tiller*, *The Internet's Own Boy*, *E-Team*, *The Case Against 8*, *Inequality for All*, *Girl Rising*, *Miss Representation*, *Going Clear: Scientology and the Prison of Belief*, *Cartel Land*, *The Hunting Ground*, *Life Animated*, *DOLORES*, *Knife Skills*, *Human Flow*, *An Inconvenient Sequel*, *The Fourth Estate*, *Angels Are Made of Light* and *RBG*.

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FEATURE CREDITS

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Produced by JONATHAN FORMICA, p.g.a.

Produced by KRISTIN LESKO, p.g.a.

Executive Producers AMY RAPP, MARLA & ROBERT ORINGER, GREER WYLDER,
BETH & CHRIS DAX, THOM SCHER

Director of Photography GUY MOSSMAN

Editors SUSAN METZGER and SCOTT STEVENSON, ACE

Original Score Composed and Produced by MIRIAM CUTLER

Producers

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BRYAN STAMP

Consulting Producer

SIMON KILMURRY

Co-Producers

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ANGEL CASTILLO

SARA TERRY

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Motion Graphics

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Additional Editing

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PHILIP OWENS

CHRISTOPH BAADEN

ONDINE RAREY

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