

Dr. Elif Arioglu Oral, M.D., is a Professor in the Division of Metabolism, Endocrinology and Diabetes (MEND) at the University of Michigan. She completed her medical education in her home country of Turkey at the University of Istanbul in 1992 and came to the US for Residency training.

In 1996, she completed her residency in Internal Medicine at Sinai Hospital of Detroit (Michigan). She then completed a Fellowship in Endocrinology, Metabolism and Diabetes at the National Institutes of Health, where she also chose to stay as a Senior Fellow under the mentorship of Drs. Simeon Taylor and Phillip Gorden in the Diabetes Branch of NIDDK. Since joining The University of Michigan in 2002 as an Assistant Professor of Medicine, along with her regular faculty responsibilities, Dr. Oral also completed a Masters of Science Degree in Clinical Research Design and Biostatistics at the School of Public Health. She got her tenure at Michigan in 2011. Her clinical interests are in insulin resistance, obesity, lipid disorders, and diabetes. Dr. Oral's research focuses on the importance of adipocytes in human metabolism and adipocyte hormones such as leptin. She is best known for her work showing the remarkable efficacy of leptin in rare Lipodystrophy syndromes which is now an approved therapy in the US and Europe for this indication. She has authored more than 110 unique research papers and directed numerous NIDDK funded projects and industry sponsored or investigator initiated trials.

In addition to her roles as physician, educator, and researcher, Dr. Oral is also the director of three unique clinical programs in MEND: Post Bariatric Surgery, Atypical Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolic Disorders Programs. With all of these, she is highly sought after as a lecturer, author and a reviewer for scientific papers and grants. She has trained over 30 unique trainees in her research group and continues to do so. In 2019, she was inducted to the American Society of Clinical Investigation and Global Genes Awarded her with the Champion of Hope Award for Clinical Care in 2016, an award she was nominated by her patients with Lipodystrophy.