



FARE

Innovation Award Diagnostic Challenge



Questions & Answers

Q: What is the FARE Innovation Award Diagnostic Challenge?

A: The Diagnostic Challenge is a multi-year global research competition created to motivate innovative researchers to develop and validate a safe, accurate, innovative and accessible diagnostic alternative to the oral food challenge (OFC) protocol.

Q: What problem is the Diagnostic Challenge going to solve?

A: The OFC is the current “gold standard” in diagnosing food allergies. It is a medical procedure where a food is eaten slowly, in gradually increasing amounts, under medical supervision, to accurately diagnose or rule out a true food allergy.

The OFC and related diagnostic tools, while generally safe, expose some patients to severe food allergy reactions. About two percent of patients in the U.S. experience anaphylaxis as a result of the test. Additionally, an OFC can also have long-lasting impact on patient anxiety and mental health due to the physical duress and health risks involved with its application.

The OFC stifles innovation and complicates care management because of the inability to accurately measure clinically relevant food allergy using an advanced, simple-to-administer test that is validated and regulatory agency-accepted. Clinical trials are limited or slowed, as are treatment plans for those impacted.

Q: Who is eligible for the to compete in the Diagnostic Challenge?

A: Researchers and innovators from diverse locations and disciplines are encouraged to join the search for the next-generation solution for food allergy testing. The Diagnostic Challenge seeks to bring together the world’s brightest minds in food allergy and immunology, biopharma and healthcare. FARE also encourages individuals working in other disease categories to join the Diagnostic Challenge.

Q: Is this a U.S.-only competition?

A: No. Research teams from around the world are eligible and encouraged to participate. FARE is launching an ambitious campaign to promote the Diagnostic Challenge and maximize the number of participating research teams. The campaign will include paid advertising, media relations outreach, paid and organic social media activity, and one-to-one outreach to qualified research organizations in North America, the United Kingdom, the European Union, Israel, Australia and New Zealand, Asia, and other markets.

Q: How long does the competition last?

A: The first three stages of the Diagnostic Challenge will entail a three-year competition that starts March 25, 2021, and will be completed in 2023.

Q: Who determines the winner? What will the winning team receive?

A: Research submissions will be reviewed, tracked and appraised by an expert panel of judges in the fields of food allergy and immunology from both academia and the private sector. A \$1 million cash prize will be awarded to the team – or teams – that successfully designs a new gold standard diagnostic tool for food allergies. Interim diagnostic advancements will also receive interim cash awards from a total Diagnostic Challenge funding pool of \$3 million. Those funds have been generously donated by individual and corporate benefactors, including the Naddisy Foundation, the Carter Family, Nestlé Health Science, the Trachte Family, the Hittman Family Foundation, Dr. Louise Matthews, Thomas Flickinger and an anonymous donor.

Q: Why now?

A: Consistent innovation and advancements in medical and healthcare research and diagnostics, genetic research and biomarkers, information technology, clinical research and biotechnology have provided hope that researchers can finally break through and find a new solution for diagnosing food allergies. This project takes advantage of that upward curve and presents an opportunity for diagnostic advancement that did not exist previously.

Q: What is the process for a research team to participate? Is there an application?

A: For more information on participating in the Diagnostic Challenge, contact Bruce Roberts, PhD, FARE Chief Research Strategy and Innovation Officer at innovation@foodallergy.org.