



FARE

FAITH Challenge

Developing an Innovative & Compassionate Food Allergy Diagnosis

Questions & Answers



Q: What is the FAITH Challenge?

A: FAITH is a multi-year global research competition created to motivate innovative researchers to develop a new, safe and compassionate food allergy diagnostic test for children and adults that will replace the existing oral food challenge (OFC) protocol.

Q: What problem is the FAITH 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, illness and even death. 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 FAITH Challenge?

A: FARE’s FAITH Challenge is a blank canvas that places no boundaries on the location nor discipline of researchers and innovators who can search for the next-generation solution for food allergy testing. FAITH 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 FAITH 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 FAITH 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 FAITH Challenge will entail a three-year competition that starts March 25, 2021, and will be completed in 2024.

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 and 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 FAITH funding pool of \$3 million. Those funds have been generously donated by individual and corporate benefactors, including FARE, Nestlé Health Science, the Carter Family, the Naddisy Foundation, 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 FAITH Challenge, contact Bruce Roberts, PhD, FARE Chief Research Strategy and Innovation Officer at FAITH@foodallergy.org.