



**FARE**  
Innovation Award  
Diagnostic Challenge

## FACT SHEET



**The FARE Innovation Award Diagnostic Challenge is a global research competition to develop and validate a safe, accurate, innovative and accessible diagnostic alternative to the oral food challenge (OFC).**

- An estimated half a billion people suffer from food allergies worldwide. Globally, the foods causing [most of the significant allergic reactions](#) include peanut, tree nuts, finned fish, shellfish, milk, egg, wheat, soy and sesame.
- Food allergy reactions can vary unpredictably from [mild to severe](#). Mild food allergy reactions may involve only a few hives or minor abdominal pain, though some food allergy reactions progress to severe [anaphylaxis](#) with low blood pressure and loss of consciousness.
- The OFC, when done in a double-blind and placebo-controlled fashion, is the current “[gold standard](#)” in diagnosing food allergies. It is a medical procedure in which 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. In addition, 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. There needs to be a better, simpler way to test for food allergies.
- FARE created the Diagnostic Challenge to motivate the brightest research minds in the world to develop and validate a safe, accurate, innovative and accessible next-generation alternative to the OFC.

# ABOUT THE DIAGNOSTIC CHALLENGE

- 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.
- The Diagnostic Challenge seeks to bring together the world's most insightful and creative researchers from food allergy and immunology, biopharma and healthcare. FARE also encourages others in adjacent disease research categories to join the Diagnostic Challenge.
- Research submissions will be reviewed, tracked and appraised by a panel of judges comprising experts in the fields of food allergy and immunology from both academia and the private sector.
- Diagnostic Challenge participation is not limited to U.S. investigators. Individuals and teams around the world are encouraged to form research consortia and compete for the awards.
- The FARE Innovation Award Diagnostic Challenge began in 2021, and the competition continues through 2023.

## For more information:

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