

Member Review Panel

Introduction

Since 2005, we have committed around £3.0M to research into coeliac disease (CD) and the gluten free diet.

We will fund research that underpins and integrates with the needs of patients and those who care for them, through our Research Fund we will develop a long term research agenda to improve the understanding, diagnosis, treatment and management of coeliac disease and other gluten related immune conditions.

By including people with coeliac disease and other gluten related conditions, family members and carers, in the research funding decision process, we ensure the research we fund will be of potential benefit to the people we are trying to help.

Funding research is only one way we support research. Our membership is a valuable resource for the research community providing the largest register of patients with the condition in the UK.

Our vision

Our vision is to see no life limited by gluten.

Our mission

We will improve the lives of people living without gluten, by:

- providing the evidence based, independent, expert information and support people need
- being an expert voice for the gluten free community
- being a strong advocate for better diagnosis of coeliac disease, better care, and better access to gluten free food in and out of the home
- investing in research into the nature and effects of gluten – and one day overcoming coeliac disease.

The evidence that comes from research helps Coeliac UK, clinicians, dietitians and other professionals to convince commissioners and organisations to provide appropriate and effective services to help the 200,000 people in the UK who have coeliac disease and the approx. 500,000 who are yet to be diagnosed.

How are research funds awarded?

We aim to have a call for research projects at least once a year.

- Each application is reviewed by the Research Manager for its completeness
- Each application is peer reviewed by an expert in the field and our Research Awards Panel (RAP). Further information can be found in our 'Guide for peer reviewers'.
- Members of our Member Review Panel review all the research application lay summaries and complete an online questionnaire
- The ratings and comments from experts in the field and the Member Review Panel are collated and discussed at a meeting of the RAP
- A proposal for funding is prepared by the RAP for presentation to the Board of Governors for an ultimate decision on funding.
- Applicants are then informed of the outcome and approved projects are funded.

Our Research Strategy can be found at www.coeliac.org.uk/researchstrategy

The Member Review Panel

The Member Review panel helps us to ensure that the research we fund offers maximum potential benefit for people living with coeliac disease and is relevant and important to them.

Panel Members are asked to review funding applications, typically once or twice a year.

Members are emailed research project summaries (max. 400 words each, written in 'plain English') from the accepted research applications.

The Member Review Panel will usually receive applications to review in September/October. The number of applications emailed will vary according to the quantity of applications received.

After receiving the email of research project summaries you will typically have two to three weeks to think about the research before adding your reviews to the online questionnaire, to meet the requested deadline.

Panel Members are asked if they have understood the research summary and if the research proposal is likely to contribute to improving the lives of people living with coeliac disease. All research funded by Coeliac UK must aim to benefit people with coeliac disease. Researchers must understand and appreciate the importance of translating their research into practice for the benefit of people with coeliac disease.

As a panel member you are asked to rank the research applications and add your comments in an online questionnaire.

Your rankings and comments will be combined with those of the experts in the field and shared with our RAP who will select which projects will be funded.

The whole review process is completed electronically and you will not be required to travel to any meetings.

Membership of the Member Review Panel is voluntary, unpaid and no training is necessary. Membership of the panel is renewable annually for up to three years, after which a period of three years must lapse before membership may be renewed again.

Person Specification

We are looking for members of the charity, people with coeliac disease, family members and carers to join our Member Review Panel. Members must have a personal link to coeliac disease and an interest in research. You don't need to have a scientific or medical background to sit on the panel as all application summaries and documentation will be written in a 'plain English' format.

Member Review Panel criteria	Essential / Desirable
Member of Coeliac UK	Essential
Ability to maintain confidentiality	Essential
Time to read research application summaries and complete the online questionnaire	Essential
Interest in research	Essential
Have access to a computer and email	Essential
An understanding of research processes and procedures	Desirable