



News Release

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Application deadline approaches for new £750k research fund into coeliac disease diagnostics, self-care and gluten free food production

Businesses and researchers only have until 3 September to apply for a new £750,000 fund from Coeliac UK, the UK charity for people who need to live gluten free, and Innovate UK, the UK's innovation agency.

With only two months to go until deadline, researchers and businesses need to hurry and apply for a share of the funding through three priority themes – digital self-care tools, healthcare diagnostics and better gluten free food production, with the grants ranging up to £250k. For more information and details of each theme, please see www.coeliac.org.uk/innovateuk.

Sarah Sleet, chief executive of Coeliac UK said: "We have had a number of interested parties contact us keen to get involved in the funding opportunities and we encourage more applications. This is a fantastic opportunity for businesses and researchers to develop competitive advantages which will be of benefit to a badly under served patient group. We are delighted to be working with Innovate UK to promote more innovation in these areas."

Kathryn Miller, Innovation Lead for Food and Nutrition at Innovate UK, said: "This is a new partnership for Innovate UK, working with high profile 3rd sector organisations such as Coeliac UK, so it's great to see good levels of interest in this competition. I would encourage others who may be thinking of applying not to miss out on such an exciting opportunity."

Earlier in the year, as part of the charity's 50th Anniversary activities, Coeliac UK launched a Research Fund and accompanying fundraising appeal, aiming to raise £5 million to change the future for people with coeliac disease and gluten related autoimmune conditions. More information see: www.coeliac.org.uk/researchfund.

The Fund has already received an injection of £500k from Innovate UK which in addition to £250k from the charity, will support this new research competition. Together with match funding from industry total spend on new research for a growing global market will be nearer £1m.

Find out more about this competition and to apply: www.coeliac.org.uk/innovateuk.
Deadline 3 September 2018.

Ends

Notes to Editors

- Coeliac UK is the national charity for people who need to live without gluten, whether due to coeliac disease or another medical condition requiring a gluten free diet.
- The charity was launched in 1968 and is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year
- Coeliac UK has already committed over £2 million to research projects since 2005 including ground breaking discoveries such as identifying genes associated with coeliac disease and other autoimmune conditions related to gluten. And, has also funded research towards a vaccine to restore immune tolerance to eating gluten.
- Coeliac disease is a serious illness where the body's immune system reacts to gluten found in food, making the body attack itself.
- Symptoms include diarrhoea, vomiting, stomach cramps, mouth ulcers, fatigue and anaemia.
- In undiagnosed, untreated coeliac disease there is a greater risk of complications including anaemia, osteoporosis, neurological conditions such as gluten ataxia and neuropathy, and although rare there's an increased risk of small bowel cancer and intestinal lymphoma.
- 1 in 100 people in the UK has coeliac disease
- Average time to diagnosis is 13 years.
- 1 in 4 people diagnosed with coeliac disease had previously been diagnosed with IBS.
- Gluten is a protein found in wheat (including spelt), rye and barley. Some people are also sensitive to oats. Obvious sources of gluten include breads, pastas, flours, cereals, cakes and biscuits. It is often used as an ingredient in many favourite foods such as fish fingers, sausages, gravies, sauces and soy sauce.
- Coeliac UK has a Helpline on 0333 332 2033 and further information can be found at www.coeliac.org.uk