

# SMAP – COELIAC ASSOCIATION OF CATALONIA

*Grant for research into conditions  
associated with the consumption of  
gluten and their treatment*

--- 2020 ---



**Associació Celíacs  
de Catalunya**



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## **I. SMAP - Coeliac Association of Catalonia**

*Coeliac Association of Catalonia Grant for research into conditions associated with the consumption of gluten and their treatment*

Note:

The SMAP -Coeliac Association of Catalonia presents the fourth annual **Coeliac Association of Catalonia Grant for a research project in the field of conditions associated with the consumption of gluten (coeliac disease, dermatitis herpetiformis and non-coeliac gluten/wheat sensitivity) and their treatment.**

According to experts, coeliac disease (CD) affects one in every hundred people, which would mean that **there are more than seven million sufferers in Europe. However, most of them (70%) do not have a diagnosis, with all the risk that that entails.** Undiagnosed coeliac disease can cause many health complications, such as growth disorders, anaemia, chronic fatigue, osteoporosis, nerve disorders, intestinal lymphoma and an increased risk of other autoimmune diseases. Although non-coeliac gluten/wheat sensitivity (NCGS/NCWS) is a recently identified condition about which there is still much to discover, it is estimated to affect around 6% of the population. Dermatitis Herpetiformis (DH) affects 5-15% of coeliacs. **The only treatment for those three conditions is a strict adherence to a gluten-free diet.**

The SMAP - Coeliac Association of Catalonia is acutely conscious of the need to promote research into coeliac disease, NCGS/NCWS and DH in Europe. That is why it wants to show its support and appreciation to people working to research into those conditions by launching the **fourth annual Coeliac Association of Catalonia Grants. €10,000 will be given to the best scientific research project into the conditions and their treatment. Eligible areas of research range from medical-scientific questions to food technology.** As in previous years, projects will be assessed by the Agency for Management of University and Research Grants of the Generalitat de Catalunya ([AGAUR](#)) which approach its task objectively and impartially and carry out high-quality assessments.

**The purpose of the grants is to promote scientific advances that can significantly improve the quality of life of people with coeliac disease, non-coeliac gluten/wheat sensitivity and dermatitis herpetiformis and promote our understanding of those conditions, improve methods of diagnosis, food safety for sufferers, enhance the nutritional value of gluten-free products and increase public awareness of the reality of the conditions.**

Entries can be made by submitting the documents specified in the terms of the award process to [recerca@celiacscatalunya.org](mailto:recerca@celiacscatalunya.org) before September 30, 2020 (extended deadline, the initial was until March 31, 2020, due to the situation that began in March 2020 due to the COVID-19, which has affected the workloads of the health care collective, main candidate for the grant). The jury's decision will be announced the first fortnight of December 2020.

## **II. TERMS**

### **Background:**

The SMAP - Coeliac Association of Catalonia announces the **Fourth Coeliac Association of Catalonia Grants for the best research project into coeliac disease, non-coeliac gluten/wheat sensitivity and dermatitis herpetiformis and their treatment.**

Coeliac disease affects 1% of the population and its incidence is growing at an annual rate of 15%. Non-coeliac gluten/wheat sensitivity on the other hand is estimated to affect at least 6% of the population.

Dermatitis Herpetiformis affects 5-15% of coeliacs.

The only treatment for these three conditions is a life-long strict gluten-free diet. On the basis of those figures, we are therefore talking about some 50 million people in Europe following a medically prescribed gluten-free diet. However, we must not forget that the biggest issue with coeliac disease is the high rate of non-diagnosis. In Europe, seven out of every ten coeliacs do not know that they are coeliacs and it takes on average seven years to diagnose an adult coeliac.

The SMAP - Coeliac Association of Catalonia is acutely aware of the need to promote research into conditions related to the consumption of gluten. That is why the Association wants to show its support and appreciation for people researching these conditions, by announcing the fourth Coeliac Association of Catalonia Grants which will be awarded to the best research project in the study of coeliac disease, non-coeliac gluten sensitivity and dermatitis herpetiformis.

The purpose of the grants is to boost scientific advances that can significantly improve the quality of life of people with coeliac disease, non-coeliac gluten/wheat sensitivity and dermatitis herpetiformis and **promote the development of understanding of those conditions, improve methods of diagnosis, food safety for sufferers, enhance the nutritional value of gluten-free products and increase public awareness of the reality of the conditions.**

### **Grant:**

**A grant of €10,000** will be awarded to the best research project into diseases associated with the consumption of gluten and their treatment. The Grant is taxable under current tax law.



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**Geographic scope:**

Europe

**Entrants:**

A Grant will be awarded to the best original project.

Any group carrying out or planning to carry out basic, applied and clinical research into any of the disorders associated with the consumption of gluten and their treatment from universities, hospitals, research centres and businesses, in the public or private sector in Europe.

Research priorities:

- Identifying new disease mechanisms and environmental factors
- Development of new treatments and possible cures
- Histology, immunology and genetics
- Gluten-free diets: quality, safety and consequences of one-off or on-going dietary lapses
- Monitoring of the coeliac patient: strategies to promote compliance - NCGS/NCWS: disease mechanism and factors involved

**Terms and submission.**

Applications may be submitted by 30 September 2020 by sending the required documentation by email to:

[recerca@celiacscatalunya.org](mailto:recerca@celiacscatalunya.org)

**Award**

The award decision will not be subject to appeal and will be published on the website of the Coeliac Association of Catalonia ( [www.celiacscatalunya.org](http://www.celiacscatalunya.org)) during the first fortnight of December 2020.

Projects will be assessed by the Agency for Management of University and Research Grants of the Generalitat de Catalunya ([AGAUR](http://AGAUR)) which will approach its task objectively and impartially, and carry out high-quality assessments. Members of candidate research groups may not act as members of the external assessment panel. Each project will be assessed by at least two external expert assessors. Each assessor will review all the candidate projects. Assessment will be made up of both qualitative and quantitative evaluation of applications. Quantitative evaluation will be on a 1-7 scale. The criteria to be assessed are:

- ✓ Interest and impact of the proposal
- ✓ Knowledge of background and current situation in the field
- ✓ Explanation of aims, workplan and methodological rigour



- ✓ Achievability of the scope in the time allowed and adequacy of the budget
- ✓ Impact and real-world application of the results
- ✓ C.V. Of the lead researcher in relation to the aims of the competition and the research topic

Once all the assessors have evaluated and scored all projects, the scores for each project will be averaged and the project with the highest average score will be awarded the Coeliac Association of Catalonia Grant.

The assessors will sign a confidentiality undertaking and make a declaration that they are not subject to any conflict of interests in assessing the projects.

### **Requirements.**

1. Projects must related to research (basic, applied or clinical) related to coeliac disease, non-coeliac gluten sensitivity or dermatitis herpetiformis.
2. Projects will last at least one and not more than two years and must commence between October 2020 and April 2021.
3. Entries may be made by any group carrying out or planning to carry out basic, applied or clinical research into one of the conditions caused by sensitivity to gluten from a university, hospital, research centre or business, in the public or private sector, based in Europe. Previous winners of a Grant for earlier phases of projects may not apply unless they have submitted the final Report on the project to the Association.
4. Each project will be led by a lead researcher attached to the research centre at which the work will be performed. Each researcher may submit only one project.

### **5. PROJECT SUBMISSION**

The following documents must be submitted for each project:

- a) Registration Form
- b) Research project (which must include at least the following sections):
  - Introduction.
  - Working Hypothesis.
  - Objectives.
  - Methodology and material resources available.
  - Timeline (timing of tasks and scheduling of personnel).
  - Total cost of the project and budget to be supported by the Grant (maximum: €10,000).



- c) Curriculum vitae of the lead researcher showing scientific publications and financed research projects in which he or she has been involved.
- d) Compliance letter signed and stamped by the Head of Research at the centre to which the lead researcher is attached (see form attached).

Candidates should send their documents to [recerca@celiacscatalunya.org](mailto:recerca@celiacscatalunya.org) by 30 September 2020 (the initial deadline was until March 31, 2020).

- 6. Application is deemed to denote acceptance of the terms of this Competition.
- 7. Assessment will be carried out by AGAUR and each project will be assessed by at least two independent experts. Members of candidate research groups may not act as members of the assessment panel.
- 8. In particular, the contribution of a project to knowledge of conditions associated with the consumption of gluten and the applicability of the results will be a particular assessment focus along with quality (presentation, explanation, suitability of method, etc.).
- 9. The panel's decision will be announced the first fortnight of December 2020.
- 10. Payment of the Grant: the Grant will be paid in two instalments: 50% at the start of the project and the other 50% when 50% or more of the project has been carried out. That payment requires the submission of a report on the status of the project, an explanation of any deviations against the workplan and documentary evidence of expenses incurred in the first period.
- 11. A monitoring committee for the grant will be set up and include members of the Association's research team. The committee will meet at least twice a year (in person or remotely).
- 12. The grant holder may not assign, transfer or subcontract any of their rights or obligations arising from the award of the grant to a third party.
- 13. At the conclusion of the project, the research team will present a report on the work carried out stating the objectives achieved and putting forward their conclusions. A detailed statement of expenses incurred must also be submitted. The report must be submitted within three months of the conclusion of the project.



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14. The research team commits to acknowledge the Coeliac Association of Catalonia's role as total or partial funder of the project in the publication of the results from their research in any medium or form. Each such publication will be copied to the Association.

15. The winning team will submit a summary of the project for publication on the website of the association at award of the grant, at the half-way stage in the project and at its conclusion.

16. Participation in conferences/symposia organised by the Coeliac Association of Catalonia. The winning project, so long as it has no subsequent phases, may be a candidate for training for patients and professional with the aim of raising awareness or training the group for whom the training is intended.

#### **CANDIDATES:**

Submission of an application implies full acceptance of the terms of the competition and the decision of the assessment panel. Only projects that meet the requirements set out in this document will be considered.

The submission of an application implies consent by the researchers to dissemination of the project by the Association in any media, subject to review and amendment by the authors/researchers.

#### **TIMING**

Applications may be submitted from 10/01/2020 until 18:00 on 30/09/2020.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

[www.celiacscatalunya.org](http://www.celiacscatalunya.org)

Telephone (+34) 934 121 789

[recerca@celiacscatalunya.org](mailto:recerca@celiacscatalunya.org)



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### **III. Registration form for the 2020 Coeliac Association of Catalonia Grant**

- ✓ Project Name:
- ✓ Type of Research:
  - basic, applied or clinical
- ✓ Lead Researcher:
- ✓ Name and surname(s)
- ✓ Tax ID
- ✓ Post
- ✓ Institution
- ✓ Location
- ✓ Department
- ✓ Address
- ✓ Telephone
- ✓ E-mail address
- ✓ Other members of the research team:
  - Name and surname(s)/Tax ID/Post/Email address





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#### **IV. FORM OF COMPLIANCE LETTER SIGNED BY LEAD RESEARCHER**

##### RESEARCH CENTRE COMPLIANCE LETTER

Dear ....., holder of Tax  
ID/Foreigner Registration Number....., as the personal with  
responsibility for research at the Centre

.....,  
formally accept the application submitted by the  
researcher.....,  
attached to this Centre for a Grant for Research into conditions associated with the  
consumption of Gluten to be awarded by the Coeliac Association of Catalonia

Date:

Signature and stamp