

Support development of safe food choices for allergic patients

Do you want to collaborate with us to ensure the safety of labeling choices for food allergens? TNO is now offering different partnering options to enable any company, that has interests in the development of guidance for Precautionary Allergen Labeling and/or in specific tools to support their allergen management programs, to join and benefit from our Shared Research Program.

Food allergic patients need to avoid allergens in their diet. For pre-packed food products they have to rely on the allergen information present on the labels of food products. However, current warning practices for potential unintentional presence of allergens in food products are not transparent, not harmonized and often do not correlate with actual risks of products. This is leading to unexpected allergic reactions that can be potentially life-threatening.



A proper harmonized labeling guidance would contribute to a safer world for food allergic consumers, as well as to clear criteria for food business operators, analytical companies, food safety authorities and other stakeholders. Recent advances allow for allergen management based on reference doses such as derived by TNO and FARRP¹ and implemented in the VITAL[®] program of the Allergen Bureau of Australia/New-Zealand². This approach is increasingly being used worldwide by companies as well as authorities in making decisions for action levels that demand Precautionary Allergen Labeling and required allergen analytical specifications. However, acceptance and implementation of such approach is still not general.

TNO Shared Research Program Food Allergy

TNO has a strong track record in innovating allergen risk assessment and risk management approaches. In 2016, the TNO Shared Research Program (SRP) Food Allergy was initiated. Together with partners we aim to accelerate several innovations supporting a safer and healthier world for food allergic people and people susceptible to the development of food allergy. Program Line 1 of this Public Private Partnership aims to support the development and implementation of a harmonized guidance for Precautionary Allergen Labeling by solving some major hurdles currently hampering this, and to develop specific tools to support companies in their allergen management.

TNO is now offering different partnering options to enable companies, that have interests in the development of a harmonized guidance for Precautionary Allergen Labeling and/or in specific results of the program line, to join and benefit from this program line. It allows you to participate in program planning and to implement and use the results. It also offers you the opportunity to externally express your involvement in the program and your support in this societal important process.

Interested? Contact us for more information and to discuss the partnering options.

¹ Taylor et al 2014, Food Chemical Toxicology 63, p 9-17

² <http://allergenbureau.net/vital/>

PROGRAM LINE 1 OF THE TNO SHARED RESEARCH PROGRAM FOOD ALLERGY

SRP Program Line 1 aims to support the development and implementation of a harmonized guidance for Precautionary Allergen Labeling by solving some major hurdles currently hampering this, and to develop specific tools to support companies in their allergen management development. Activities currently planned for the years 2019-2021 aim to:

- **Increase stakeholder confidence in the safety and acceptance of reference doses through:**
 - Characterization of residual risks associated with the use of action levels based on reference doses

Using in-depth knowledge and the worldwide largest database on sensitivities of food allergic patients available at TNO, we characterize the nature and severity of allergic symptoms that may occur with small incidences at dose ranges around the RDs
 - Interact with stakeholder groups to support the understanding and acceptance of quantitative risk-based allergen management and reference doses

Activities comprise stakeholder group and expert panel participation, education and communication to a broad range of stakeholders (e.g. food producers, retail, regulators, analytical community, patients/general public).

- **Develop guidance and a tool for the selection of appropriate food intake figures for the calculation of action levels and required analytical sensitivities**
 - Development of a generic food intake table, with figures attuned to food allergen risk assessment

Based on food consumption databases from various countries and continents available at TNO, a generic food intake table will be generated that will allow the selection of appropriate food intake figures for the calculation of action levels and required analytical sensitivities to comply with reference doses and accounting for possible difference in food intake among countries/continents
 - Development of an on-line tool for the calculation of action levels and required analytical sensitivities

Based on the generic food intake table an on-line tool will be developed for automated calculation of action levels and required analytical sensitivities

With increasing number of partners, additional activities may be agreed upon and initiated.

**THE SRP FOOD ALLERGY STRENGTHENS THE
INNOVATIVE POWER OF INDUSTRY AND
CONTRIBUTES TO THE PROTECTION OF THE
CONSUMER**

PARTNERING OPTIONS AND BENEFITS

SRP Food Allergy Program Line 1 partnering benefits	Partnering options	
	Full Participants	Sponsors
Participation benefits on program planning and results		
Input on research topics, priorities and annual workplan	✓	✓
Seats in Steering Committee* (decides on program topics, priorities, and annual workplan)	1 seat for each Participant	1 joint seat** for each 45k€ jointly contributed, with a minimum of 1
Free early insight in and access to Results of the Program Line	✓	✓
Free access to insights from meetings and stakeholder activities in which TNO is involved in the domain of the Program Line	✓	✓
Free participation in annual Participant meetings (to discuss program topics, priorities, and annual workplan) and work progress meetings of the Program Line	✓	✓
Free access to annual workshops on implementation of Results of the Program Line	✓	✓
Right of free use of scientific knowledge and results of the Program Line, with exception of use of Tools delivered by the Program Line and hosted and maintained by TNO (see next topic)	✓	✓
Right of Use of Tools delivered by the Program Line and hosted and maintained by TNO	At Use and Maintenance costs; no commercial addition***	50% reduction on commercial addition to Use and Maintenance costs***
Participation benefits regarding PR and communication		
Participant company logo and participation acknowledgement on SRP website	✓	✓
Participation acknowledgement on SRP presentations of the Program Line	✓	✓
Permission of use of TNO logo and SRP logo on your website and other company information	✓	✓
Allowance of active communication on participation in the TNO SRP Program	✓	✓
Co-authorship of publications of the Program Line (depending on scientific contribution)	✓	✓
Acknowledgement of Company participation in publications of the Program Line	✓	✓
Annual fee (€)	45,000	Depending on company size ****

* Besides seats for Participants and Sponsors, TNO also holds 1 seat

** Representatives annually appointed through voting with 1 representative per sponsor having voting right

*** For 5 years after partnership of 3 years or more

**** 3 Sponsor Categories : based on total global company turnover and employee number the annual fee is ranging from 5,000 € to 20,000 €

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS AN SRP?

A TNO Shared Research Program (SRP) is a non-profit program, based on the open innovation model, that aims to build knowledge, technology and tools in specified research areas and enables its partners to apply the knowledge in the company specific application area. TNO orchestrates the program and allows new partners to enter, under agreed conditions.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS FOR YOU AS A PARTNER?

SRPs offer the opportunity to participate in long-term strategic research that would not or could not be carried out by individual companies alone. Together with TNO and other partners, you will share skills, resources and risks. Participation in an SRP allows you to accelerate your R&D, improve your quality and safety management and contribute to achieving societal impact.

WHAT DO WE EXPECT FROM YOU?

From all partners TNO expects an active contribution to the program, in terms of discussions on the research content and priorities and guidance of the annual program. Academic partners that join as a knowledge partner are anticipated to actively deliver added value to the scientific content of the program. Contract details will be discussed per partner.

HOW IS IT ORGANIZED?

The SRP Food Allergy will be divided into several Program Lines, each focused on research and technologies relevant to specific areas. It is possible to participate in one or multiple program lines. Within each program line it is anticipated that the participants actively engage to define the program plan, content and time-frame.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Each partner pays an annual participation fee to the program line. The fee will mainly depend on the Program Line(s) in which is participated and will be formalized via individual contracts. Special arrangements are available for the participation of Knowledge Partners and SME's. The participation fees are leveraged by TNO's knowledge-investment budgets which guarantees long-term commitment from the Dutch government and Topsectors³. At any time, SRP's are open for new participants to join. Participants joining after a program line has begun may have to pay an entrance fee to permit access to results and IP obtained earlier in the program line(s) of the SRP.

CAN PARTNERS USE ALL RESULTS?

It is the aim of the SRP to create generic knowledge and enable its partners to apply this. The Intellectual Property rights will remain with inventors, but all partners will have a non-exclusive, non-transferable right to use the acquired results and IP of the program line(s) in which they participate. It is clear that company specific information will remain confidential, which will be agreed in the SRP contract.

MORE INFORMATION

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For further details on the SRP Food Allergy find us on www.srpfoodallergy.com

³ The Dutch Top Sectors were established in 2010 by the Dutch Government to further strengthen its important societal and economic role. It does this by promoting innovation together with government, companies and research institutions