



**For immediate release**

## **AllerGen-Stanford collaboration advances food allergy research**

**HAMILTON, ON (17 June 2014)** – The Allergy, Genes and Environment Network (AllerGen NCE), a national research network, is pleased to announce the launch of a new collaboration with the Stanford Alliance for Food Allergy Research (SAFAR). The *SAFAR/AllerGen Research Fellowship Award* allows young Canadian investigators (PhD or MD) with an interest in the prevention and treatment of severe food allergies to pursue academic research training at Stanford University under the supervision of Dr. Kari Nadeau, MD, PhD.

The fellowship provides a salary/stipend of up to \$50,000 US for one year, with the possibility for renewal based on performance and available funding. Eligible applicants must be Canadian citizens or hold Canadian permanent resident status, and must have completed clinical training or a doctoral degree no more than three years prior to the application deadline. **The deadline for applications is September 12, 2014.**

Food allergy and anaphylaxis are growing concerns for Canadians. In 2010, a nationwide, AllerGen-supported study revealed that approximately 2.6 million Canadians, or 7.5% of the population, suffer from a self-reported food allergy.<sup>1</sup> The *SAFAR/AllerGen Research Fellowship Award* is aligned with AllerGen's strategic goal to contribute to an understanding of the origins, causes, prevalence and treatment of food allergy and to inform the development of improved clinical management strategies and public health measures.

“AllerGen is delighted that this award will allow a young Canadian scientist with an interest in developing new and safe therapies for food allergies to work with Dr. Nadeau at Stanford University,” said Dr. Judah Denburg, Scientific Director and CEO of AllerGen. “Food allergy is the next, rising wave of the allergy epidemic. Research in this area is a priority for both organizations, given the rising prevalence and accompanying risk of life-threatening anaphylaxis, including the many challenges which food allergic patients face in everyday settings such as schools, public venues and restaurants.”

Dr. Kari Nadeau, one of North America's foremost experts in adult and pediatric allergy, leads translational research and clinical studies at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford and the Stanford University School of Medicine and directs the SAFAR program. Her work studies the causes of food allergies, oral immunotherapy for multiple food allergies, and eosinophilic esophagitis.

“This is a perfect example of two organizations coming together to help mentor future scientists and physicians in the field of allergy and immunology,” says Dr. Nadeau. “We are very excited about our work with AllerGen now and in the future.”

### **About the Allergy, Genes and Environment Network (AllerGen NCE)**

AllerGen NCE (est. 2004), is a national research network dedicated to improving the quality of life for people suffering from allergic and related immune diseases. Funded by Industry Canada through the federal Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) Program, the Network is hosted at McMaster University in Hamilton. Visit [www.allergen-nce.ca](http://www.allergen-nce.ca) for more information.

### **About the Stanford Alliance for Food Allergy Research (SAFAR)**

SAFAR is a worldwide leader in therapies and prevention for severe food allergies. The SAFAR program is focused on four main areas of activity:

- providing world-class clinical food allergy care;
- conducting basic research into the molecular and genetic underpinnings of the immune response that directs food allergy;
- conducting clinical and social research to examine trends in the development and progression of food allergies, and the ways in which such allergies are affecting the lives of food allergic individuals; and
- training allergy fellows to become future clinical and research leaders in the field of food allergy.

Visit [www.foodallergies.stanford.edu/](http://www.foodallergies.stanford.edu/) for more information.

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To arrange an interview or for more information, please contact:

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1. Ben-Shoshan M *et al.*, "A population-based study on peanut, tree nut, fish, shellfish, and sesame allergy prevalence in Canada" in *The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*, 2010; 125(6): 1327-35.