

Virginia Mason, Benaroya Research Institute Join Food Allergy Research & Education Network

SEATTLE – (July 12, 2016) – Virginia Mason Medical Center and Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason are among the newest members of the [Food Allergy Research & Education \(FARE\)](#) network, a leading nonprofit organization working on behalf of the 15 million Americans with food allergies.

FARE announced expansion of its clinical network today to include Virginia Mason and Benaroya Research Institute (BRI); Columbia University Medical Center and New York-Presbyterian/Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital in New York; Gores Family Allergy Center at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles; Specially for Children, an affiliate of Dell Children’s Medical Center of Central Texas, an Ascension hospital in Austin; and University of Utah Health Care/Primary Children’s Hospital in Salt Lake City.

[View the full list](#) of FARE Clinical Network centers of excellence.

“We’re honored to have been selected to participate in the important work the FARE network is leading to improve safety and quality of life for individuals coping with food allergies,” said David Jeong, MD, food allergy researcher and section head, allergy and immunology, Virginia Mason. “We are eager to collaborate with other centers of excellence across the nation to address this health issue through clinical research and discovery.”

“We’re delighted to join the FARE network to accelerate the development of lifesaving diagnosis and treatment for people suffering with food allergies,” said Jane Buckner, MD, president, BRI. “In partnership with Virginia Mason clinicians, we’re increasing scientific knowledge about how allergies occur and pioneering the development of biomarkers for diagnosis, patient monitoring and prognosis in allergies. We’re honored to be counted among leaders in food allergy research, translating research in the laboratory to the clinic and back again.”

Launched in 2015, the FARE Clinical Network strives to accelerate the development of drugs for patients with food allergies, as well as improve the quality of care for this serious illness. The network is made up of 28 leading research and care sites nationwide and represents an investment by FARE of approximately \$2.7 million annually. In approximately one year, FARE Clinical Network centers served more than 56,000 patients with food allergies, with more than one-third of those patients new to the centers, reinforcing the urgent need for initiatives such as the network. FARE Clinical Network, an initiative that aims to accelerate the development of drugs for patients with food allergies, as well as improve the quality of care for this serious illness.

“Accelerating the pace of research on food allergies and helping to ensure that we can expand access to clinical trials and high-quality medical care is one of FARE’s top priorities,” said James R. Baker, Jr., MD, CEO and chief medical officer, FARE. “The addition of five

exemplary institutions to the FARE Clinical Network enables FARE to significantly broaden the reach of this initiative.”

FARE Clinical Network centers serve as sites for clinical trials for development of therapeutics and best practices for the care of patients with food allergies. The FARE Clinical Network is a powerful driver of collaboration to advance the field of food allergy, with member centers contributing to the development of a national food allergy patient registry. FARE plans to further expand the network to 40 to 50 sites within the next three years.

Members of the FARE Clinical Network are selected through a comprehensive, rigorous application process. The centers of excellence selected as part of the FARE Clinical Network provide high-quality clinical and sub-specialty food allergy expertise and services, and are focused on applying new evidence-based knowledge to this important field. These centers also meet high standards for clinical care, teaching and clinical research.

Food allergy, the abnormal response to a food triggered by the body’s immune system, affects an estimated six to eight percent of children under age three and up to three percent of adults, according to The Mayo Clinic. In adults, foods that most often trigger allergic reactions include fish, shellfish, peanuts and tree nuts, such as walnuts. Problem foods for children can include eggs, milk, peanuts, tree nuts, soy and wheat, according to the National Institutes of Health. FARE recommends individuals managing food allergies meet with their physicians to discuss their needs and to inform their health care decisions.

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