



## AAFA WINS GRANT TO ADVANCE FOOD ALLERGY RESEARCH



The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) is pleased to announce that AAFA has been awarded a technology grant from Genetic Alliance and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. That grant will allow AAFA (and, in particular, AAFA's Kids With Food Allergies (KFA) division), to develop a deeper understanding about the issues that matter to families with food allergy, and the opportunities to improve their lives. The grant supports the incorporation of the Platform for Engaging Everyone Responsibly (PEER) registry from Genetic Alliance into AAFA's KFA online support community. "We have, through KFA, supported families of children with food allergy for more than a decade, with families indicating through periodic surveys that KFA is a valuable resource to them," said Dr. Cary Sennett, AAFA's President and CEO. "But, until now, we have not had the systematic window that we need to evaluate outcomes for these families, nor have we had a significant opportunity to involve families in supporting and having input into research that will keep their children safe and healthy. The PEER system will give families the ability to make an impact."

### What This Means for Families

"Patients play a bigger and more critical role in research now," said Lynda Mitchell, AAFA's Senior Vice President for Community Services, "and this PEER grant is an exciting step for AAFA to start building a system to engage food allergy families in the research process." By enabling families to share data that describe the quality of their lives, PEER will give patients a much more important role—and a much stronger voice—in research that can lead to improvements in their lives and the lives of their children. In addition, these data—when combined with data from other sources (for example, genomics data)—may help accelerate research that can eventually lead to a cure.

AAFA will be inviting families to participate in this research and, in fact, to participate in establishing some of the basic questions that are important for that research. According to Dr. Sennett, "There is great potential to use 'real world evidence' generated from this powerful registry, to drive new insights—and great potential for those insights to improve patients' lives. PEER will give us the ability to capture, organize and amplify the voices of the families of the 15 million Americans struggling with food allergy. We are very grateful to Genetic Alliance and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for their support."