

Elior UK supports the Natasha Allergy Research Foundation's first clinical trial

3 years ago



Contract caterer Elior UK is proud to support The Natasha Allergy Research Foundation's first clinical trial to help achieve its mission 'to make allergies history'.

If successful, this will empower the NHS to provide cost-effective treatments for people living with food allergies.

The three-year £2.2m oral immunotherapy trial will be the first major study funded by the Natasha Allergy Research Foundation which was set up by Nadim and Tanya Ednan-Laperouse, parents of Natasha who died, aged 15, from a severe food allergic reaction.

Children and young people with milk and peanut allergies will be recruited for the immunotherapy trial. The trial aims to show that everyday foods containing peanut or milk, which are taken carefully according to a standardised protocol under medication supervision, can be used as an alternative to expensive pharmaceutical drugs to desensitise patients.

Catherine Roe, CEO of Elior UK, said: "We are delighted to be a Founding Partner of the Natasha Allergy Research Foundation and to support Tanya and Nadim in their important work changing the way we manage allergies.

"At Elior UK we fully understand the challenges and complexities of catering for people with food allergies and are keen to do all we can to limit those risks. We recognise that to eliminate or reduce life threatening reactions would make life so much safer and easier for those who live with these daunting threats and this new immunotherapy trial could be positively life changing for millions of people in the future."

On the launch of the trial, Tanya said: “We have been determined that Natasha’s death should not be in vain. Following the successful implementation of Natasha’s Law, which has brought new ingredient and allergen labelling, we are delighted to announce the first Natasha clinical trial and we would like to thank Elior UK and our other founding partners for their support.”

Nadim added: “This is a major step in our mission to make food allergies history. The aim is to save lives and prevent serious hospitalisations by offering lifelong protection against severe allergic reactions to foods.

“The study aims to plug the current oral immunotherapy research gap by proving that everyday foods can be used as a practical treatment for children and young adults with allergies and at a fraction of a cost to the NHS.”

The trial will be funded by a gift to the University of Southampton from The Natasha Allergy Research Foundation. The trial is supported by Elior UK and other founding partners which include Sainsbury’s, Tesco, Co-op, Lidl, Morrisons, Greggs, Pret A Manger, Costa Coffee, Burger King, KFC, Just Eat, Bakkavor, Bidfood, Leon, Cooplands and Uber Eats.

The trial will be led by researchers at the University of Southampton and University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust partnering with Imperial College London, both World Allergy Organisation Centres of Excellence, together with University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, Newcastle University and Sheffield’s Children’s Hospital.