

# **ARLA FOOD FOR HEALTH - 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

**7<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

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### **1. Introduction**

The Arla Food for Health (AFH) Centre is pleased to launch the 4<sup>th</sup> call for 'Expressions of Interest', EOI, for research projects to be funded in 2018.

AFH is a long-term strategic public-private co-operation between Arla Foods, Aarhus University, the University of Copenhagen and connected research affiliates worldwide. The Centre aims to stimulate world class scientific research on dairy, dairy ingredients & health in areas of strategic importance to partner Universities and Arla, linking research to value creation.

All partners in the Centre seek to better understand the role of dairy foods in healthy, sustainable eating patterns. In particular, AFH is interested in promoting advanced research methodologies related to the milk value chain i.e., identification/characterization of active milk components, isolation and scaling up of these, in vitro and in vivo documentation of health effects. Validation of these effects in high quality human intervention studies (RCTs or Prospective Observational Studies) are of special interest – as is the delivery of evidence-based benefit claims for the development of new products.

Within this fourth call, the overall theme is: 'dairy through life'. Milk, and dairy-derived ingredients, contain a variety of important nutrients including protein, calcium, potassium, phosphorous and iodine, as well as vitamins B2 and B12. Despite its beneficial effects, there is a clear need to unlock knowledge about key pathways for the absorption of milk nutrients as the human body changes from childhood to the elderly years – taking also into consideration dairy as a whole food or as part of a diet, with a special focus on the food matrix on health outcomes and mechanisms of action. More details of the topics and type of applications sought are provided below.

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***Deadline for submission  
of Expressions of Interest:  
Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017***

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### **2. Topics for EOI in the 4<sup>th</sup> call**

The overall theme for this fourth call is 'dairy through life' and we welcome applications with a focus on:

- **Dairy through life – Childhood (2 – 10 years):** Bone mass attained during early childhood and adolescence is thought to be the most important modifiable risk factor for future bone health. During childhood, muscles as well as bones continue to grow and develop, and it is important that children have the right nutrients to build strong and healthy bones, and to lay the foundations for lifelong bone health.

Topics of interest:

- (i) Studies showing the interrelation between dairy consumption and overall growth in children – preferably via mechanistic and/or human intervention studies. Optimal amount of protein (e.g., overall Nitrogen-input v. output) is of special interest.
- (ii) Related studies on synergistic effects of dairy with other food components and vitamins (e.g., vitamin D) on bone mass, calcium uptake/balance and mineralisation mechanisms.

- **Dairy through life – Adolescence (11 – 18 years):** During adolescence requirements for protein and other nutrients, including calcium, are increased. The reason for the increased calcium need is that adolescents will experience rapid growth as bones begin to grow in length and strengthen. It is estimated for example, that almost 90% of a person's bone strength will have been achieved by the age of 18.

Topics of interest:

- (iii) The effect of dietary patterns, dairy v. flexitarian and/or vegetarian diets, on metabolic health and musculoskeletal development
- (iv) Synergistic effects of dairy with other food components and vitamins (e.g., vitamin D) on bone mass, calcium uptake/balance and mineralisation mechanisms.

- **Dairy through life – Adults (19+ years):** Following the mid-thirties it is normal for a person's body to slowly begin to lose bone and muscle mass. Bone loss can eventually contribute towards making bones more brittle and easily fractured. For women, there is a marked increase in bone loss around the time of the menopause. Adults, however, consume less fluid milk over time.

Topics of interest:

- (v) Human studies to show possible synergistic effects of dairy with other food components and vitamins (e.g., vitamin D) to best protect against the onset of bone loss in post-menopausal women, as measured by key musculoskeletal indicators (e.g., bone density/strength, mobility improvement, etc.)

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*“Diet and lifestyle choices are the largest risks for loss - and potential gain - of health and quality of life worldwide. In this context, how can we best leverage the unique nutritional properties of dairy products and ingredients in a healthy diet?”*

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- (vi) Randomised Control Trials (RCTs) aimed at demonstrating the mechanisms of fermented dairy (e.g., yogurt) on end points of importance for the risk of type 2 diabetes (T2D).

➤ **Dairy through life – Elderly (65+ years):** *As we age, food texture and other sensory properties (e.g., taste) play a significant role in the type of food we consume and relative amounts ingested. In addition, the body's ability to absorb some nutrients becomes less efficient, so it can be harder to get all the necessary nutrients for good health.*

Topics of interest:

- (vii) Human intervention studies to elucidate the physiological mechanisms that explain potential differences and effects of proteins with different characteristics (e.g., native, hydrolysed, heat-treated, particulates, etc.) and from different matrices/sources (e.g., dairy v. plants) in relation to musculoskeletal, or gastrointestinal health (e.g., intestinal inflammation and bloating) in elderly individuals;
- (viii) The interplay of proteins (milk v. plants), calcium (milk v. Ca-citrate) and vitamin D absorption in maintaining bone health (e.g., bone density/strength and muscle strength) in elderly individuals.

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*"Please ensure that all appropriate fields in the Expression of Interest are included."*

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### 3. The application process and important dates

#### Application

AFH follows a one-stage application process based on submission of expressions of interest (EOI). Project activities in EOIs could comprise proof of concept studies or additional activities to ongoing projects, where these specifically address the topics of interest of this call. Interactions within and between Centre members and (inter)national partners are welcomed and encouraged.

#### Submission

The submission deadline for online EOIs is **27<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 17:00 CET**

- Expressions of Interest must be submitted via email to [anmor@arlafoods.com](mailto:anmor@arlafoods.com) following all instructions detailed at: <https://www.arla.com/company/arla-food-for-health/active-call/submit-an-expression-of-interest/>
- If you are experiencing any technical problems or your query is not answered in the information provided in the website, please contact [anmor@arlafoods.com](mailto:anmor@arlafoods.com). An information session on Arla's business and health strategy will take place on **2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017**. Meeting details will be sent to all parties registering interest to attend
- Please read carefully the **Guideline for Expressions of Interest** before completing an application form.

**Review process**

- EOIs will be reviewed, in first instance, by external science advisors and ranked according to science quality
- The AFH Steering Committee (SC) conducts an internal review to assess: (i) strategic fit (Arla and University perspective), (ii) business relevance (Arla perspective) and (iii) the science quality as ranked by external science advisors. Projects with a high science quality rating but low business relevance, or low strategic fit, will not be selected
- AFH SC approves final selection of projects to be funded for the call
- The Head of AFH communicates decision to principal investigators (PIs) for selected projects, including any requirement for amendments to EOI.

**Important dates**

Key timelines for the AFH 4<sup>th</sup> Call for Expressions of Interest:

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*“The Expression of Interest should not exceed 5 A4 pages (excl. CVs) and must be written in English”*

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07/07/2017

**Launch of 4<sup>th</sup> Call for EOI**

27/10/2017

**Last date to submit EOI**

15/12/2017

**Decision on funding**

31/01/2018

**Final project approval and contractual****4. Guideline for Expressions of Interest**

**The Expression of Interest should not exceed 5 A4 pages, is to be written in English and should include the following elements (in this order):**

- Project title - As concise as possible. Add project acronym
- Research area: which of the topics of interest the project relates to
- The project's main objective (max 3 lines)
- Project summary (max 20 lines).
- Project duration - Expected start and end

- Estimate of the project's total budget: attach a completed budget template to the EoI (template available on website)
- Applicant(s)/PI's:
  - Name and contact details of the Principal Investigator (mail, phone, address)
  - Name (s) and address of the project manager - title, name, address, phone and e-mail
- Bank details and accounting contact:
  - Banks - name and registration and account number
  - Accounting Contact - name, address, phone, e-mail
- Project description (max 1 page):
  - The hypotheses for the project and a brief description of the relevant state-of-the-art - Concise and broken down into sub-goals.
  - Project content - Concise description of the project content, milestones, and requirements for equipment and research facilities.
  - Foreseen Project Outcome, including:
    - Why is it relevant for the dairy industry? Short description of the innovative aspects, scientific and commercial perspectives (include: what news would the proposed research add to existing knowledge; what difference the project could make to people's health?)
    - How far the project outcomes can be used directly for initiatives that beneficially affect the target group's health; how could this be achieved?
    - Assessment of the risk of project failure
- Summary of Experiments and Work Packages (max 1 page, preferably less)
- Contribution to education - short description of the project's educational contributions
- Plans for publication
- Description of the main CVs in appendix (not included in the 5 pages): attach an appendix with names and CVs, role in project and man months committed to the project during the lifetime of the project:
  - A 2-page CV of the main applicant/PI (incl. project management experience)
  - A 1-page CV from leading co-applicant(s) from (other) participating institutions/companies
  - A maximum of 5 CVs should be provided
  - Commitment from all participants in the project.