



Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis

WHEREAS, food allergy is a growing national health care issue;

WHEREAS, the estimated number of Americans with food allergy has increased from 6 million to over 11 million; many of them are children. The most common allergy-causing foods are peanuts, tree nuts (walnuts, pecans and other nuts), cow's milk, eggs, fish, shellfish, wheat and soy. A recent study showed that over 3 million Americans are allergic to peanuts and tree nuts; approximately 6.5 million Americans report seafood allergy which includes fish and shellfish;

WHEREAS, it is estimated that food allergy occurs in 8% of children age 6 or younger;

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 100–200 individuals per year die from food-induced anaphylaxis which is a sudden, severe, potentially fatal, systemic allergic reaction that can involve various areas of the body such as the skin, respiratory tract, gastrointestinal tract, and cardiovascular system;

WHEREAS, currently there is no cure for food allergies and no treatment except for avoidance of food that trigger reactions. Individuals with food allergies and their families face tremendous barriers in their every day lives and must drastically limit their activities, exercise caution traveling and visiting public places, and live in constant fear of a mislabeled or misread food product that could create a life-threatening allergic reaction;

WHEREAS, research should be done to find a cure for food allergies. Improving the tracking of food allergies is an essential step in researching the causes of food allergies and developing treatment and cures. Potential areas of investigation include elucidating genetic, nutritional and other environmental risk factors for the development of food allergy; learning which factors are associated with a favorable prognosis, including outgrowing food allergy; and participating in clinical trials of novel treatments for food allergy,

LET IT THEREFORE BE RESOLVED:

That Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago engage in policy, research and program initiatives that improve the lives of children whose lives are affected by food allergy and anaphylaxis.