



ARLA FOOD FOR HEALTH

2021 call for applications

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1. Introduction

Arla Food for Health (AFH) is pleased to announce the call for research applications to be funded in 2021.

AFH is a public-private research partnership between top ranked universities and the food industry, all of them engaged within food and health sciences: University of Copenhagen, Aarhus University, Arla Foods amba and Arla Foods Ingredients. The common vision is to **Discover health effects of dairy and dairy ingredients**.

The partnership is based on the conviction that collaboration through independent research activities, both nationally and internationally, is crucial to address global health challenges.

The ambition is to push boundaries and foster world-class dairy science that subsequently can be translated into new nutritional solutions with positive impact on global health, thereby benefiting both individuals societies and the collaborating partners.

The partners are committed to create impact and disseminate the scientific insights acquired through AFH projects. Moreover, the partnership includes a targeted and coordinated public outreach that can serve as basis for a science-based nutrition and health dialogue with external stakeholders, including authorities, NGOs, universities and other industries.

To achieve this, AFH grants 10 mill. DKK every year to support research projects within the research strategy. AFH emphasizes the scientific quality of the proposed research projects. Typically one to two projects receive funding every year. These funds can be seed money that enable initiation of projects that aim for additional funding from public or private foundations. Thus, the content of the applications can be described as an element in a larger and more ambitious research project. It is important to highlight if funding has been obtained from other parties and whether it is planned to apply for additional funding.

Previously AFH funded projects can be seen at <https://arlafoodforhealth.com/funded-research/>



2. Topics for 2021 call for applications

Research applications must be aligned with the overall AFH research strategy, as specified at the webpage: <https://arlafoodforhealth.com>.

In 2021, AFH will prioritize projects that bring together food and health sciences. The nutrient content of foods alone does not necessarily predict its health effects. Therefore, there is a need to understand the interaction between the physicochemical properties of dairy products and components on health.

Within this frame, the following research questions are provided as inspiration for this year's call for applications:

- How are nutrients from dairy delivered and absorbed and how is this affected by processing and formulation? Is the nutritional value of dairy products and components dependent on processing and/or formulation and the matrix in which they are provided? How do these factors affect human health, growth and development?
- How can intake of dairy products and components (e.g. calcium, lactose, fermented products) affect metabolites produced by the intestinal microbiota, and how do these metabolites influence inflammatory processes in the gastrointestinal tract, epithelial morphology and function, gut interaction with other organs and visceral pain?
Note: we encourage that studies aimed at understanding the microbiome are designed to address causality between the microbiome and host metabolism and health.
- What role does dairy products and components play in regulation of satiety and caloric intake during the day and the development of obesity in children? Does the matrix in which the different nutrients from dairy are delivered affect obesogenic properties?



3. The application process and important dates

Like previous years, the 2021 call includes an optional consultancy based on a one-page research proposal. This is an opportunity for guidance and discussion of the research projects, that serves to improve the quality of the applications. The experience from previous years is that the external Scientific Advisory Board scores the scientific quality of the applications that take advantage of this opportunity higher compared to applications that do not. This highlights the value of the consultancy process in terms of refining and improving scientific quality of the applications.

Guideline for a one-page research proposal:

The one-page research proposal must be submitted via email to anmor@arlafoods.com. Deadline for submission is 11th of June 2021. Maximum submission of 1 one-page research proposal per principal investigator. Feedback will be received 18th of June 2021. **Disclaimer:** *Submitting the one-page research proposal and aligning the application after the feedback is not a guarantee for funding. The feedback should be seen as a consultation and feedback at an early stage in the application process strengthening the further work with the project proposal.*

The one-page research proposal must contain:

1. Project title: As concise as possible.
2. Research area: In overall terms.
3. Project description: Conception and design of the studies, including research questions, hypotheses and methodological approach. References and preliminary results attached as appendix.
4. Information on principal investigator and additional applicant(s): Name, University and field of expertise.
5. A suggested research collaboration between Aarhus University and University of Copenhagen.
6. A clear description on how the research brings new knowledge within the field.

Submission of applications:

The AFH call is a one-stage application process (with an optional one-page research proposal consultancy, as described above). The applications can comprise proof-of-concept studies or additional activities to ongoing projects, where these specifically address the topics highlighted in the call. Collaboration between AFH partners is important to cover different aspects of foods and health sciences. Finally, it is a prerequisite that the principal investigator is affiliated to one of the AFH partner universities. International partners can be included in the research projects to bring expertise and opportunities to the projects.

The submission deadline for the application is the 18th of October 2021 at 16:00 CET.

The application must be submitted via email to Anne Louise Mørkbak at anmor@arlafoods.com.

If you are experiencing any technical problems or your query is not answered, please contact Anne Louise Mørkbak at anmor@arlafoods.com or at mobile +45 41607119.

Please read the guidelines for the application before submitting your proposal.



Review process

First, the applications will be reviewed by the external independent Scientific Advisory Board and ranked according to scientific quality and relevance.

Hereafter, the Steering Committee conducts an internal review to assess if the application: i) is within the scope of the call, (ii) has a strategic fit to AFH, (iii) has business relevance (Projects with a high science quality rating but low business relevance, or low strategic fit, will not be selected), (iv) includes a partnership (projects including three or more of the AFH partners will gain priority), (v) includes a high-quality communication plan. The Steering Committee takes the final decision on projects to be funded.

The director of AFH communicates the funding decision to the principal investigators, including any requirement for amendments to the selected applications before end of 2021.

Key timelines for the Arla Food for Health 2021 applications:

• May 5 th	Announcement of 2021 call for applications
• June 11 th	Deadline <u>optional</u> one-page research proposal
• June 18 th	Feedback on optional the one-page research proposal
• October 18 th	Application deadline
• December	Decision on funding communicated
• Q1, 2022	Finish research project agreement

4. Guidelines for applications

The application should be written in English and not exceed 5 A4 pages. The application must include the following elements (in this order):

- 1) Project title - As concise as possible. Add project acronym.
- 2) The project's main objective (max 3 lines).
- 3) Project summary (max 20 lines).
- 4) Project duration - Expected start and end dates.
- 5) An estimate of the project's total budget and the amount AFH is applied for: attach a completed budget template to the application (template available on website). Considering that AFH granting is seen as seed money, please indicate other funding opportunities from public or private foundations that will be, or already are, applied for to fully finance the project.
- 6) Information on principal investigator and applicant(s):
 - i) Details of the principal investigator and project manager (name, title, email, phone, address).
 - ii) If the project, as recommended, has been discussed with Arla scientists, you are welcome to state their names. However, they are not regarded as applicants.
- 7) Bank details and accounting contact:
 - i) Bank - name and registration and account number.
 - ii) Accounting contact (name, address, phone, e-mail).
- 8) Project description (max 1 page):
 - i) The hypotheses of the project.
 - ii) Project content - concise description of the project content, milestones, and requirements for equipment and research facilities.
- 9) Foreseen project outcome, including:



- i) Why is it relevant for the dairy industry?
 - ii) Short description of the innovation aspects, innovation potential, scientific and commercial perspectives. What new knowledge will the proposed research provide?
 - iii) What difference can the project make to people's health?
- 10) Assessment of the risk of project failure and mitigating procedures.
 - 11) Summary of experiments and work packages (max 1 page, preferably less).
 - 12) Contribution to education - short description of the project's educational elements.
 - 13) Publication plan.
 - 14) Communication plan. Short description of potential messages, target audiences, relevant platforms and channels to be used. Furthermore, where appropriate, describe communication and interaction with wider policy and health authorities to facilitate that new research findings are included in decision-making processes and practices. Please contact your local communication expert for help and guidance*.
 - 15) Include main CVs in appendix (not included in the 5 pages). Please specify role in project and man months committed during the lifetime of the project:
 - i) A 2-page CV of the principal investigator (incl. project management experience)
 - ii) A 1-page CV from leading co-applicant(s) from (other) participating institutions
 - iii) A maximum of 5 CVs should be provided
 - 16) Commitment from all participants in the project. There is no need for a letter of interest from Arla.

* If AFH decides to fund the proposed project, the communication plan will be further developed. In this process the principal investigator should seek further guidance and support from the local communication experts of Aarhus University and University of Copenhagen:

Claus Bo Andreasen
DCA – Nationalt Center for Fødevarer og Jordbrug
Aarhus Universitet
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University of Copenhagen
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5. Further Information

Interested applicants are welcome to consult AFH director Anne Louise Mørkbak regarding application topics, test products, and business relevance on mail anmor@arlafoods.com or mobile 416077119. Already established contacts to Arla can also be used for the purpose.

Templates for budget and communication plans can be found [here](#).