

FC Grants for the Scientific Research

An overlook of a 6-year period



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ufficioscientifico@celiachia.it



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1
RICCARDO TRONCONE
INVESTIGATOR GRANT
2013

2
ALBINO COGLIANESE
FELLOWSHIP GRANT
2018

3
GIUSEPPINA BOLOGNA
FELLOWSHIP GRANT
2016

4
MONIA PORPORA
FELLOWSHIP GRANT
2016

5
FEDERICA RICCI
FELLOWSHIP GRANT
2016

6
SERENA VITALE
FELLOWSHIP GRANT
2016

7
MARZIA CAPRONI
INVESTIGATOR GRANT
2014

8
ANTONIO CARROCCIO
INVESTIGATOR GRANT
2014

9
GIOVANNA DEL POZZO
INVESTIGATOR GRANT
2014

10
LUCIA SACCHETTI
INVESTIGATOR GRANT
2014

FC Fellowship Grants: a first three-year period closes with three rounds from 2016 to 2018

The Grant funds Triennial Fellowship Programmes on celiac disease and dermatitis herpetiformis. Each programme is funded with:

€ 85.000 Including:



€ 75.000

over 3 years for the salary
of the young researcher

€ 10.000

as a contribution to be used during the Triennial
Project for reagents and consumables

The FC Fellowship Grant is a co-funding programme to sustain both the scientific research and the training of young researchers: the other costs involved in the achievement of the project are covered by the funds of the Head Laboratory/Institute.

Selection process

THE PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS AND THE
SCIENTIFIC EVALUATION R-REVIEW:
OBJECTIVITY AND TRANSPARENCY

The Peer Reviewers

THE PROPOSALS COMPLYING WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FC CALL ARE SENT TO THE **INTERNATIONAL REVIEWERS** (PEER REVIEWERS), **NOTED AND COMPETENT RESEARCHERS** IN THE FIELD OF CELIAC DISEASE AND DERMATITIS HERPETIFORMIS.

3 Reviewers

EACH PROPOSAL IS **EVALUATED BY THREE REVIEWERS INDIVIDUALLY**, ACCORDING TO COMPETENCE AND IN THE ABSENCE OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS.

To provide young people with a tool **for starting their scientific career in celiac disease**, through a Triennial Programme agreed with a tutor (The Head of the Laboratory) in a public or private non-profit Research Institute. The Programme must include:

OBJECTIVES

- Triennial scientific study focused on celiac disease or dermatitis herpetiformis.
 - A training plan of the young researcher (technical and scientific skills, meetings, seminars, national and international conferences).
-

To encourage the growth of tomorrow's doctors and researchers who will treat celiac patients and will be part of the Italian scientific and medical community of the future.

The main evaluation criteria

- Proximity to cure and quality of life.
- Scientific value and feasibility.
- Clearness of the proposal's purposes
- Impact on improvement and understanding of the disease and its treatment.
- Innovation and originality.



Elegibility Criteria

- Graduates and Doctorates.
 - Long-cycle degree (5–6 years) or Master's Degree in a scientific discipline.
-

Research topics

THE RESEARCH TOPICS ADMITTED TO THE FC FELLOWSHIP CALL OF PROPOSALS ARE **CELIAC DISEASE AND DERMATITIS HERPETIFORMIS**, THE RESEARCH AREAS RANGE **FROM MEDICAL-SCIENTIFIC ISSUES TO FOOD TECHNOLOGY**.

FC social commitment with the 2016–2018 triennium of Fellowship Grants.

The objective, diffused through both the call for proposals and the social networks is to provide young researchers with a tool for starting their scientific career in the field of celiac disease and to bring new generations of doctors and researchers closer to the Association and the Foundation. Some stories from the candidates to the 2016–2018 FC Fellowship Calls for Proposals:

The FC Fellowship Grant is often the first opportunity for a job and scientific career for young graduates:

«To date I have received a two-month contract for occasional services and a contract for independent coordinated and continuous collaboration».

«After graduating in medical biotechnology, I conducted research as a volunteer at my institute. So this Grant is my first research contract».

«To date I've had a six-month scholarship».

The FC Fellowship Grant is considered by candidates as a concrete and useful opportunity to enter the national and international community, also thanks to the scientific and technological training plan that the Institute must guarantee to the Candidate during the Triennial Fellowship Programme:

«I believe the Three-year FC Grant will give me the opportunity to specialise further from an immunological point of view in the study of the pathogenesis of coeliac disease. Carrying out the project itself will provide me with new experiences in laboratories both in Italy and abroad, leading me to expand my wealth of scientific knowledge. I also believe that such an experience will positively affect the construction of a brilliant professional career in the field of research».

«It will certainly be a useful experience. As a coeliac myself, I would like to continue research in the field of coeliac disease and gastrointestinal diseases. I hope that this Grant is just the start of a scientific career in this field, and that in future a period of research abroad could be very educational. However, I would still like to work in Italy in the hope that the levels of scientific research always remain high».

«Participation in the three-year FC Grant is certainly a necessary experience for the development of a future career in both a university and an industrial setting. In particular, my objective would be to be able to continue my research in this field, possibly by obtaining a Phi at my Institute, as well as experience abroad».

«I believe that the experience of the FC Grant allows the candidate to deepen their research on coeliac disease, leading to increasingly specialised individuals in the sector. The results produced will be the subject of publications in international scientific journals and will constitute the basis for the construction of a project to be present in a national or international context».

«I find the FC Grant to be a good starting point for work in the field of coeliac disease. I expect that on conclusion of this project, I will be able to continue research in this sector, perhaps making use of national and international connections that I will hopefully have a chance to make in these three years».

FC investment on the scientific research is aimed on the benefit of patients both today and in the future.

Understanding the immune response mechanisms in patients with celiac disease or dermatitis herpetiformis, discovering which genes are most involved in the disease, identifying new therapeutic targets or biomarkers for monitoring the state of health of celiac patients, developing nutritional science and food technology to improve the quality of life of patients: these are the research issues undertaken by the 12 researchers funded with the FC Fellowship Grants.

12 youngs

researchers funded with the **FC Fellowship Grants** in the three-year period 2016–2018.

Celiac disease is the main area of funded projects, followed by 20% projects on dermatitis herpetiformis.

Since 2013, AIC and FC have been investing in supporting the improvement of scientific research, **through the impartial evaluation of the international researchers**. This is a commitment that has grown over the years and reflects what we believe in: **providing a constant and international-quality contribution towards improving the health and quality of life of patients**, circulating the results of the studies as much as possible towards the Italian and international scientific community, the medical class and public opinion, through a series of initiatives and communication channels, from the **AIC Scientific Congress** held yearly, to Celiac News Magazine, from the AIC website to social media, and finally the direct involvement of the **AIC Associates** in the regional areas.

Online



The Fellowship Grants and the funded projects are online at www.celiachia.it

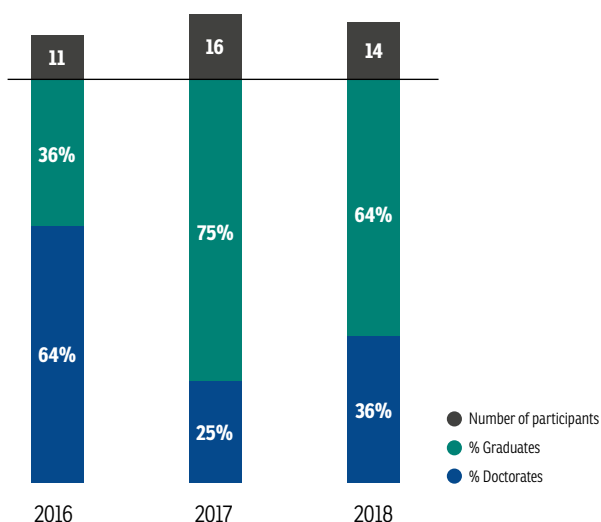
Research priorities

- Identification of new pathogenic mechanisms
- Development of new treatments and improvement of existing cures
- Biological and pathophysiological mechanisms of the disease
- Interaction between environmental risk factors, genetic profiles and biomarkers, including studies on the toxic components of gluten
- Innovation of clinical methodologies
- Improvement of quality of life and diagnostic and therapeutic efficiency, including innovation of dietary products for celiacs and improvement of the quality and safety of gluten-free foods

The statistics of the first three-year period of the FC Fellowship Grants: 3 rounds, from 2016 to 2018

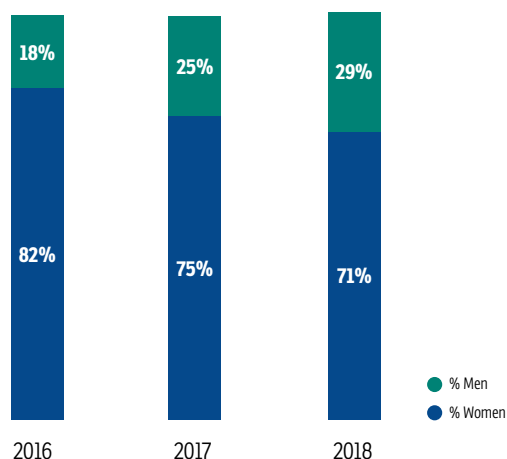
The FC Fellowship Grant is the only gived call in Italy for funding Triennial Programmes on Celiac Disease and Dermatitis Herpetiformis carried out by young graduates and doctorates in the areas of science, medicine and food technology.

THE SUBMISSIONS TO THE FC FELLOWSHIP GRANTS 2016–2018



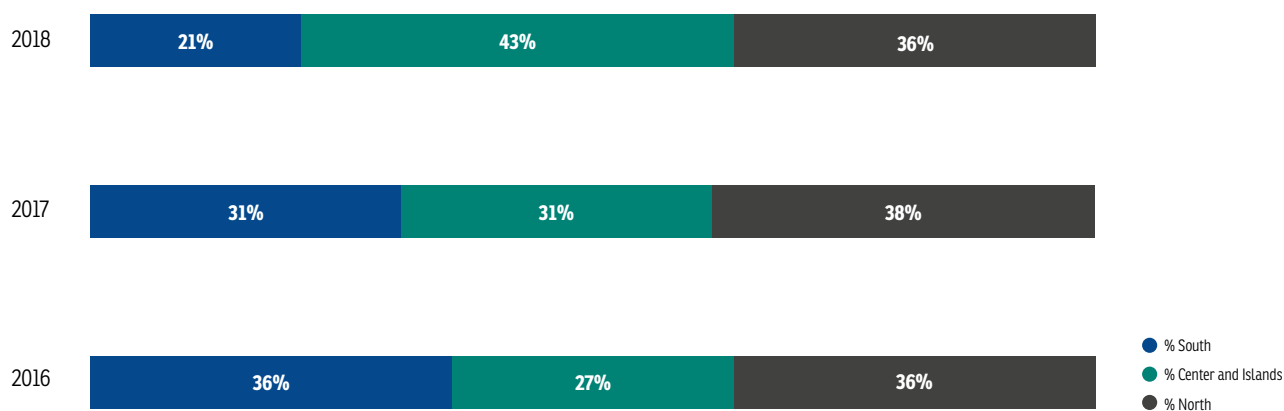
In the three-year period, the **number of participants** remained substantially unchanged. There was a reversal in the trend of the ratio between **graduates** and **doctorates**, the latter decreasing.

THE MEN/WOMEN RATIO AMONG PARTICIPANTS TO THE FC FELLOWSHIP GRANTS 2016–2018



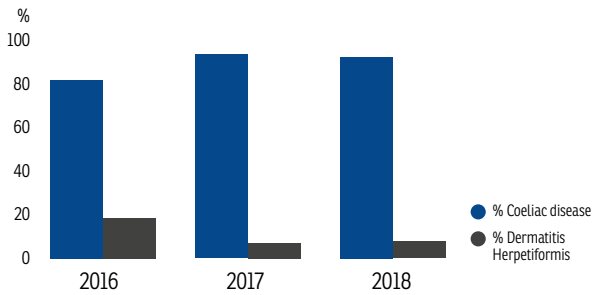
Although increasing over the three-year period, the percentage of **male** candidates is in the minority compared to **females**.

GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS OF ORIGIN OF THE PARTICIPANTS



While the number of participants from the **North** remained unchanged, there was a clear progressive increase in the number of candidates from the **Centre** and a decrease in participation from **South** institutes.

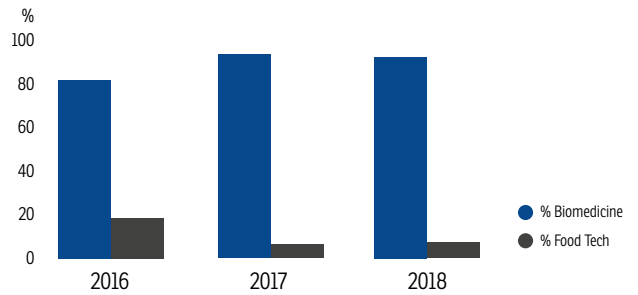
THE RESEARCH AREAS OF PROJECTS SUBMITTED TO THE FC FELLOWSHIP GRANTS 2016–2018



Topics

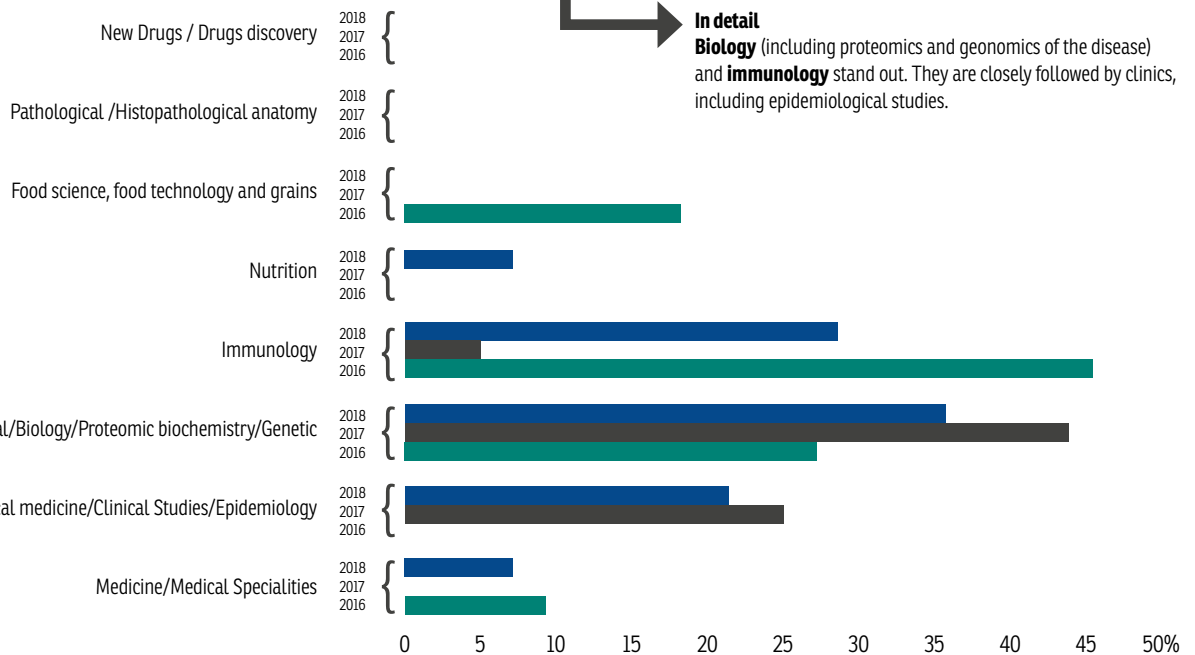
Celiac disease, dermatitis herpetiformis.

Celiac disease remains the predominant topic, and **dermatitis herpetiformis** also recorded a decline over the three-year period.



Research areas

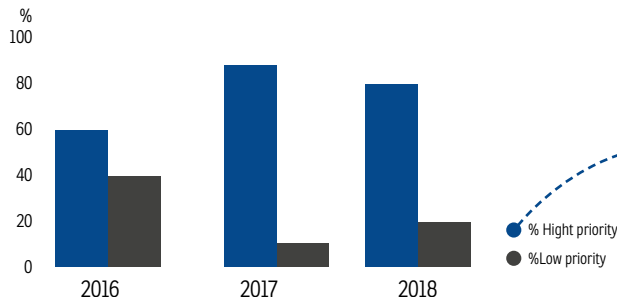
The **medicine and biology** research areas (clinical medicine and clinical, preclinical, genetic, genomic, proteomic studies) were those most selected by young researchers. **Food technology** was scarcely handled and recorded a decline in the two years following the first round of the FC Fellowship Grants.



In detail

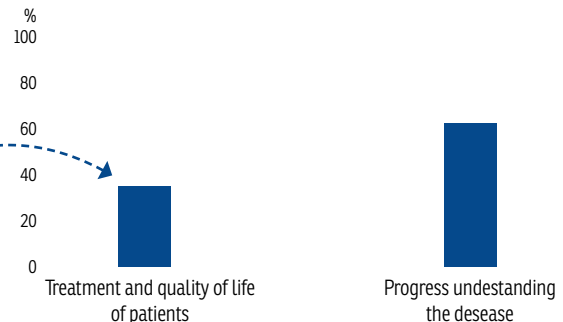
Biology (including proteomics and geonomics of the disease) and **immunology** stand out. They are closely followed by clinics, including epidemiological studies.

THE RESEARCH PRIORITIES OF THE PROJECTS SUBMITTED TO THE FC FELLOWSHIP GRANTS 2016 – 2018



The Fellowship Grants require that the submitted Projects have Objectives compatible with the Priorities defined by FC (HIGH Priority Objectives)

Projects with Objectives distant from those set by FC are evaluated by the Reviewers as LOW Priority Projects and receive a negative evaluation, actually precluding funding. In the course of the 2016 - 2018 period, LOW Priority Projects have decreased sharply: a sign of a better understanding of the aims of the FC Fellowship Grants by the scientific community.



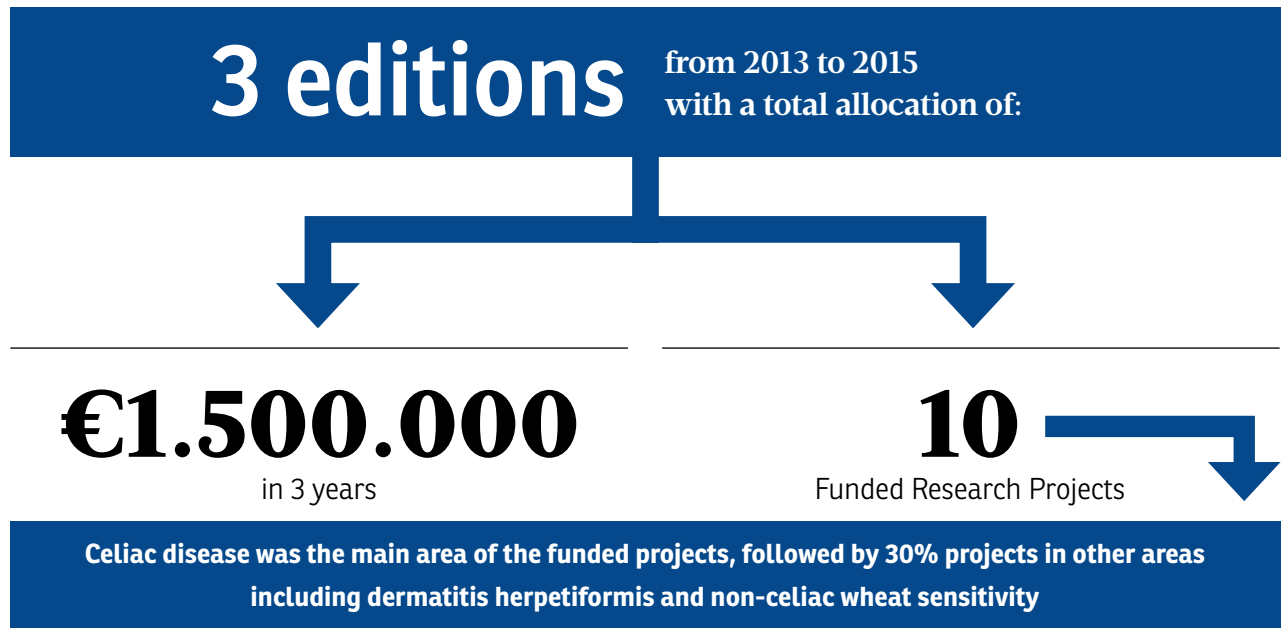
In detail

The HIGH Priority Objectives set by the FC Fellowship Grants may be grouped into 2 important areas: the treatment and quality of life of patients, and the progress in the understanding of the disease.

This latter represents the dominant issue of high priority prospects in the 2016 – 2018 period.

FC Investigator Grants

In the 2013 - 2015 three-year period, Fondazione Celiacha [The Celiac Foundation] was committed to funding scientific research conducted by the Italian “senior researcher” community. The FC Investigator Grants were launched for:



THE RESEARCH TOPICS ADMITTED TO THE INVESTIGATOR GRANTS ARE CELIAC DISEASE, DERMATITIS HERPETIFORMIS AND OTHER GLUTEN -RELATED DISEASES, THE RESEARCH AREAS RANGE FROM BIOMEDICAL TO FOOD TECHNOLOGY.

Selection process

THE PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS AND THE PEER REVIEW EVALUATION: OBJECTIVITY AND TRANSPARENCY

The Peer Reviewers

THE PROPOSALS COMPLYING WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FC CALL ARE SENT TO THE **INTERNATIONAL REVIEWERS** (PEER REVIEWERS), **NOTED AND COMPETENT RESEARCHERS** IN THE FIELD OF CELIAC DISEASE AND DERMATITIS HERPETIFORMIS.

3 Revisori

EACH PROPOSAL **IS EVALUATED BY THREE REVIEWERS INDIVIDUALLY**, ACCORDING TO COMPETENCE AND IN THE ABSENCE OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS.

The purpose of the FC Investigator Grants is funding the best Italian research on celiac disease, dermatitis herpetiformis and other gluten-related diseases, carried out by **senior researchers with proven experience**. The Research Projects may have **1 year, 2 or 3 years** duration, and are completely funded by FC, including consumables and reagents, the circulation of the results by the Principal Investigator (PI) at national and international conferences, the salary of auxiliary staff. **Most of the founded projects have now been completed**, leading to the publication in international scientific journals and in the proceedings of national and international conferences.

OBJECTIVES

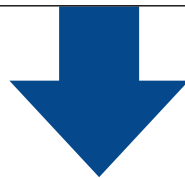
Research priorities

- Identification of new pathogenic mechanisms.
- Development of new treatments, and the improvement of existing cures.
- Biological and pathophysiological mechanisms of the disease.
- Interaction between environmental risk factors, genetic profiles and biomarkers, including studies on the toxic components of gluten.
- Innovation of clinical methodologies.
- Improvement in quality of life and diagnostic and therapeutic efficiency, including the innovation of food products
- for celiacs and improvement in the quality and safety of gluten-free food.

The main evaluation criteria

- Proximity to cure and patient quality of life
- Scientific value and feasibility
- Clearness of the Proposal's purposes
- Impact on improvement and understanding of the disease and its treatment
- Innovation and originality

Online

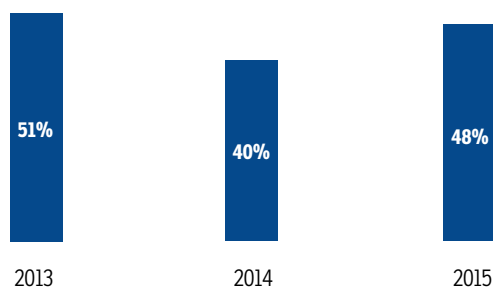


The Investigator Grants
and the funded Projects are online at
www.celiachia.it

The statistics on the first three-year period of the FC Investigator Grants: 3 rounds, from 2013 to 2015

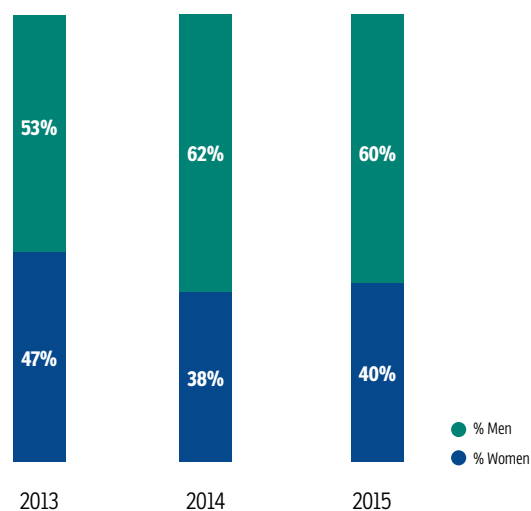
Like the FC Fellowship Grant for young researchers, the FC Investigator Grant is the only aimed call in Italy for funding Projects on Celiac Disease and Dermatitis Herpetiformis.

THE SUBMISSIONS TO THE FC INVESTIGATOR GRANTS 2013–2015



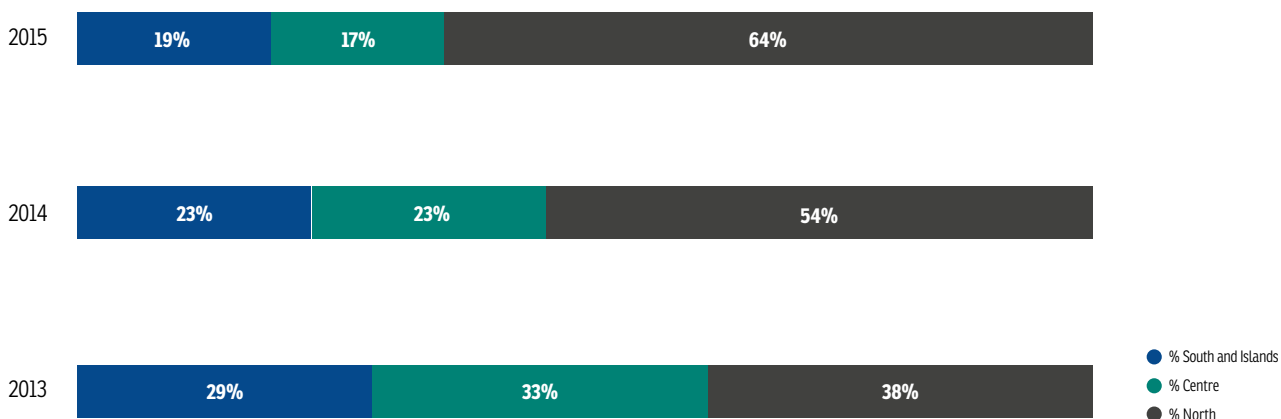
In the three-year period, the **number of participants** remained substantially unchanged. Participation was greater than FC Fellowship Grants, probably due to the different type of funding, which is sustained 100% by FC in the Investigator Grant.

THE MEN/WOMEN RATIO AMONG PARTICIPANTS TO THE FC INVESTIGATOR GRANTS 2013–2015



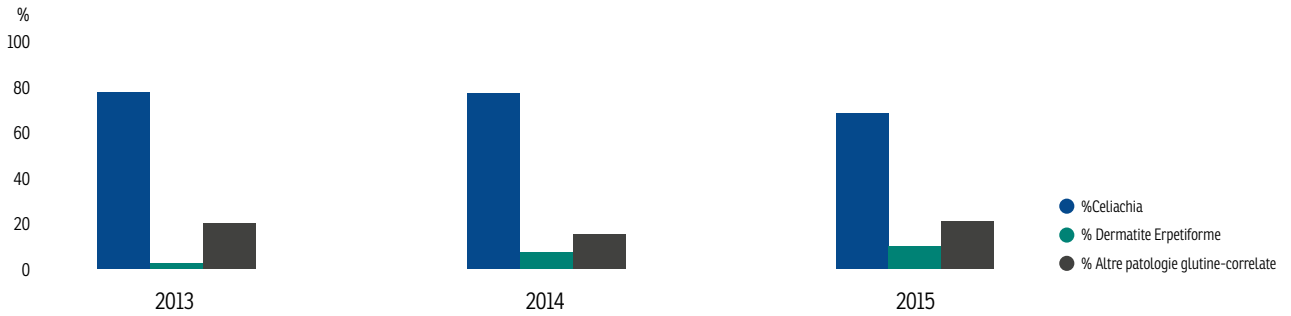
Unlike the Grant aimed at young researchers, the FC Grants for senior researchers recorded a consistently higher **participation of men than women**.

GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS OF ORIGIN OF THE PARTICIPANTS



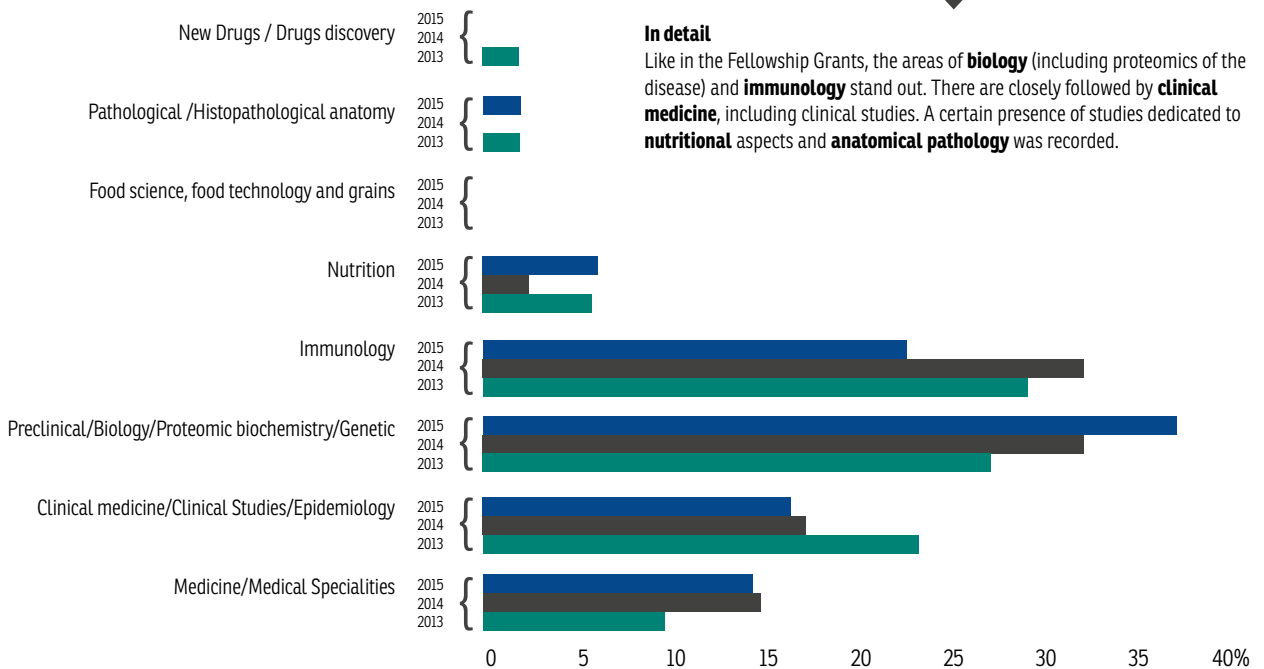
While participation from the **North** progressively increased during the three-year period, participation from the **Centre** and the **South** decreased proportionally.

THE RESEARCH AREAS OF PROJECTS SUBMITTED TO THE FC INVESTIGATOR GRANTS 2013–2015



Topics

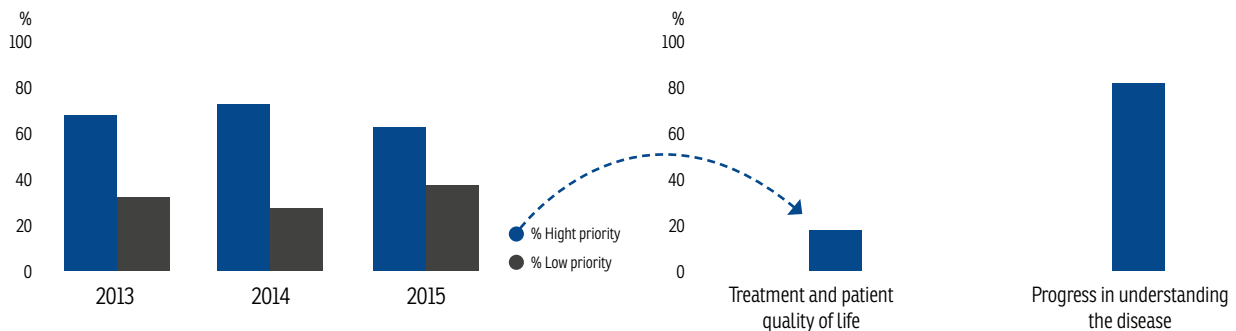
While **celiac disease** remains the predominant topic, **dermatitis herpetiformis** recorded a significant increase in the three-year period. The other gluten-related diseases remained fairly constant, variously including **gluten sensitivity and wheat allergy**.



In detail

Like in the Fellowship Grants, the areas of **biology** (including proteomics of the disease) and **immunology** stand out. There are closely followed by **clinical medicine**, including clinical studies. A certain presence of studies dedicated to **nutritional** aspects and **anatomical pathology** was recorded.

RESEARCH PRIORITIES OF THE PROJECTS SUBMITTED TO THE FC INVESTIGATOR GRANTS 2013–2015



The Investigator Grants require that the submitted Projects have Objectives compatible with the Priorities defined by FC (HIGH Priority Objectives). Projects with Objectives distant from those set by FC are evaluated by the Reviewers as LOW Priority Projects and receive a negative evaluation, in effect precluding funding. Over the course of the 2013–2015 period, the percentage of HIGH Priority Projects remained constant.

In detail

The HIGH Priority Objectives set by the FC Fellowship Grants can be grouped into 2 important areas: **the treatment and quality of life of patients, and the progress in the understanding of the disease**. In relation to the total number of HIGH Priority Projects submitted in the three-year period 2013–2015, Projects focused on progress in understanding the disease formed the clear majority, even more substantially than in the FC Fellowship Grants.

11
DONATELLA CIELO
FELLOWSHIP GRANT
2017

12
ANTONIO FRANCAVILLA
FELLOWSHIP GRANT
2017

13
VERA ROTONDI AUFIERO
FELLOWSHIP GRANT
2017

14
CHIARA TORTORA
FELLOWSHIP GRANT
2017

15
CAROLINA CIACCI
INVESTIGATOR GRANT
2015

16
RACHELE CICCOCIOPPO
INVESTIGATOR GRANT
2015

17
GIOVANNI MONTELEONE
INVESTIGATOR GRANT
2015

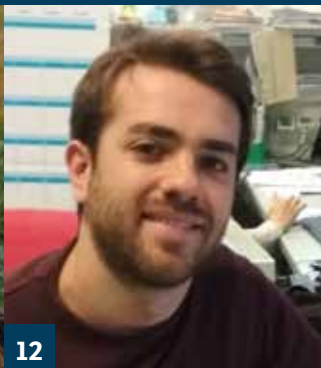
18
MICHELE SALLESE
INVESTIGATOR GRANT
2013

19
FEDERICO MANAI
FELLOWSHIP GRANT
2018

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GIORGIA RENGA
FELLOWSHIP GRANT
2018



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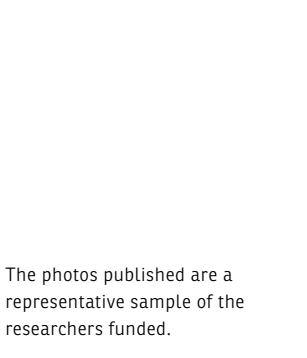
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The photos published are a representative sample of the researchers funded.

IO STO CON AIC.

PERCHÉ OGNI 5X1000 CI RENDE PIÙ FORTI.

Con il 5x1000 finanzia la ricerca sulla celiachia, promuovi la corretta informazione e sostieni i diritti dei celiaci di oggi e di domani.

Unirti a noi non costa nulla e rende la nostra voce più chiara.

Firma anche tu e inserisci il codice fiscale AIC nella casella dedicata al Sostegno delle organizzazioni non lucrative di utilità sociale:

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Marco Moraglio, alpinista, celiaco.

11
DONATELLA CIELO
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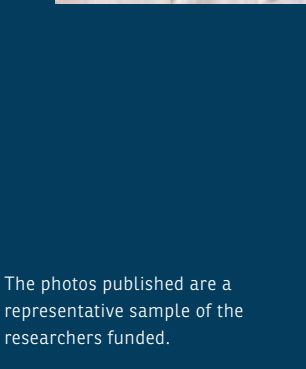
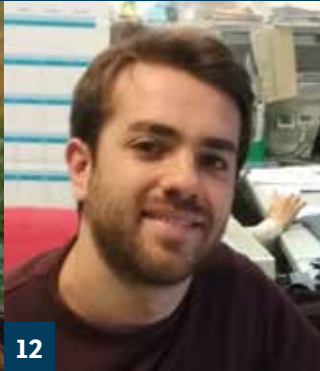
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