

December 18, 2019

Anna Abram

Deputy Commissioner for Policy, Legislation, and International Affairs
Food & Drug Administration
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
10903 New Hampshire Avenue, WO1/2335
Silver Spring, Maryland 20993-0002

Dear Ms. Abram:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, thank you for your remarks at the Food Allergy Fund Summit. Our organizations represent the millions of adults and children with food allergies whose wellbeing and safety is dependent upon accurate food labeling.

We were particularly interested in your remarks about the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) request for information on the prevalence and severity of sesame allergies in the United States and the efforts the agency has made to inform future actions regarding sesame as an allergen, including possible labeling on packaged foods. Our organizations have urged the FDA on numerous occasions to proceed with regulatory action to require the clear labeling of sesame products and products containing sesame seeds, and to regulate such products in a manner similar to the eight currently labeled major allergens. Recent evidence confirms the high prevalence of sesame allergy in the U.S. and its severe impact.^{1,2,3}

As you noted in your comments, FDA has initiated action regarding sesame allergy, requesting information to inform potential labeling requirements. The entire food allergy community is grateful for these initial steps. Uniform and easily understandable labels will help Americans with sesame allergies and their families safely navigate their food choices and avoid preventable reactions.

We would like to request a meeting with you to discuss the status of the agency's efforts in this area and to explore how our organizations might be helpful. Please contact Jenna

¹ Gupta R, Warren C, Blumenstock J, Kotowska J, Mittal K, Smith B. The prevalence of childhood food allergy in the United States: An update. *Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol* (2017).

² Warren CM, Chadha AS, Sicherer SH, Jiang J, Gupta RS. Prevalence and Severity of Sesame Allergy in the United States. *JAMA Netw Open*. Published online August 02, 2019;2(8):e199144. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2019.9144

³ K Sokol et al. Prevalence and diagnosis of sesame allergy in children with IgE-mediated food allergy. *Pediatric Allergy and Immunology* DOI: 10.1111/pai.13143 (2019)

Riemenschneider at jennar@aafa.org with your availability. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Allergy & Asthma Network
American Partnership for Eosinophilic Disorders
Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America
Campaign Urging Research for Eosinophilic Disease (CURED)
Center for Science in the Public Interest
Food Allergy Research & Education
The FPIES Foundation