Team Celiac is dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with gluten-related disorders through supporting research, which leads to increased diagnosis, expert treatment, development of therapies and, eventually, a cure for those with the disease as well as prevention of the disease in future generations. All major goals of the Center.

Team Celiac is a major community fundraising program for the Celiac Disease Center at Columbia University. All funds raised from Team Celiac Teammates and Friends go directly toward the Center’s research program.

Our official event is the TCS New York City Marathon. You can participate by running in the marathon, by getting your company or organization involved, or making a gift to support Team Celiac and the individual runners.

In addition, if you have been accepted into the TCS New York City Marathon and are unaffiliated, we’d like to speak with you!

Email celiac@columbia.edu or call (212) 342-4529.
The Celiac Disease Center at Columbia University Medical Center is one of a few centers in the United States that provide comprehensive medical care, including nutritional counseling, for adult and pediatric patients with celiac disease. The Center diagnoses and treats thousands of patients annually from around the world.

Ranked #1 in the world for celiac disease research by expertscape.com, with more than 500 peer-reviewed research publications, the Center’s core of researchers are leaders of the most important science in the field, through studies an immunology, epidemiology, neurological and psychiatric disorders, pediatrics issues, and nutrition, among other areas.

Visit www.celiacdiseasecenter.org for more information.

**Meet Team Celiac...**

**Debbie Bennis**

I’m running for my daughter Giana [Gigi], the only person able to get me to dust off my running shoes and end my 10-year marathon hiatus. Gigi has suffered for most of her life managing with celiac disease, multiple doctors, many tests and no answers, we saw Dr. Norelle Reilly, at the Center. She was amazing–she handed Gigi a sharpe when she timidly entered the endoscopy suite and said “come help me decorate my gown!” referring to her blue paper surgical scrubs! Under the care of Dr. Norelle Reilly and Dr. Anna Lee, Giana is full of energy, and GROWING! Research is changing the lives of individuals with celiac disease and the Center is leading the way! Giana talks about the day that she can eat everything again without fear of getting sick. So, this is why I’m running. Please let me know if you can help.

**Chris Brewer**

Our journey with Celiac Disease began three years ago when our oldest daughter, Emory now 11, was diagnosed – it was a life changing event and the Center has been a godsend. Today Emory is thriving. Our family hopes that one day there will be a cure for those with celiac disease as well as prevention of it. With your help and the continued dedication of the amazing team at the Center, this will one day be a reality. I’m thankful for the opportunity to be a part of this effort and raise funds for the Center’s research program.

**Claire Costello**

This is my fourth year working for the Center. I am running my first marathon as part of Team Celiac to help raise money for the Center’s research program! I started running three years ago and have completed five half marathons. Gifts of any amount are greatly appreciated, please be generous!

**Dyana Decker**

Three years ago I couldn’t understand why I was slowly losing more and more weight while my husband tried to reverse the trend with super-caloric and American blueberry pancakes. I was referred to the Celiac Disease Center at Columbia University and was diagnosed with celiac disease. Dr. Suzanne Lewis and Dr. Anna Lee have been amazing! AWARENESS is key! Researchers are getting closer to discovering new options for patients with celiac disease, and the Center is leading the way! I hope that one day I can eat anything again without fear of getting sick, and for the day that my 4-year old daughter doesn’t have to ask me whether she has ‘gluten lips’ before she takes a sip of my water. This is why I am running. Be generous, the Center needs your help!

**Toddy Donohue**

My name is Toddy Donohue and my story is probably a bit different. I am 54 years old and have never run a marathon. I could not accurately be described as a runner and this will clearly be a challenge. But I would not bet against me for a few reasons. I feel a visceral connection to Team Celiac as I have been intimately aware of Celiac Disease since my daughter Alanah was diagnosed at age 8. When my friend Dan Ziluca told me that his daughter Zoe had just been diagnosed, I knew from my experience so many of the emotions he was feeling and the road that lay ahead. There is so much to do to ultimately find a cure. I am honored to be a part of the journey and look forward to sharing this challenge with the team. I run for Alanah and Zoe.

**Bruce Fuchs**

Running the NYC Marathon has been a goal of mine since I was a kid. The problem was I never liked to run. This is an obstacle that becomes more difficult than it is today, especially for a 5 year old boy surrounded by friends eating pizza and chicken nuggets. It was scary and the obstacles faced seemed enormous, even when I ran the marathon.

Today, we have amazing support and love from friends and family. With the Center’s research, we are hopeful that there will be a treatment for celiac disease.

**Gabriel Kupchik**

I’m running for Team Celiac in honor of my son Ian who has celiac disease. Your support through Team Celiac enables the Center to continue its groundbreaking research and improve the lives of individuals with celiac disease around the world. Thank you for your kind support.

**Julianne LeMieux**

I was honored to not only compete in my first marathon last fall, but to be part of the first Team Celiac to support the Center. The opportunity came up to run the NYC marathon again with Team Celiac, I thought “Well Gabriel still has celiac disease and there is still no cure, so.” I cannot wait to put on my running shoes again and run through this city that I love this fall. More importantly, I cannot wait to raise awareness of celiac disease and raise money for the Center that has supported Gabriel since his diagnosis at age three years old. Please help me along this journey and donate whatever you can. I am so grateful for every dollar. Thank you and see you on Nov. 4th! I’m proud to run for Team Celiac! Help Spread the Word!!

**Jonas Ludvigsson**

Living in Sweden and feeling like a New Yorker when I’m here leads me to be part of Team Celiac. It has been one of my dreams to run the New York City Marathon – why I don’t think of a better way to raise funds for the Celiac Disease Center at Columbia University’s research in which I am intimately involved.

I’m thrilled to be running for Team Celiac.

**Mike Petersen**

I’m running for Team Celiac to raise awareness about celiac disease and to help fund the Celiac Disease Center’s research program. It is only through groundbreaking research that medical and scientific advances are made. I’m proud to run for Team Celiac!

**Jay Waldhauser**

Please join me in support of the Center and its important mission to stop the spread of Celiac Disease! I will be running on November 4th, in honor of my son, Chize, who was diagnosed with celiac disease at 13 months old. There is currently no cure for Celiac Disease which affects 1% of the population worldwide.

The Center’s research and clinical care is unparalleled. Please partner with me as I run to bring awareness and raise funds for the Center so they can continue their dedicated work to improve the lives of those suffering from this disease and perhaps one day, finding a cure. Any donation, big or small, will be greatly appreciated.

**Dan Ziluca**

Zoe was diagnosed with celiac disease just before her 2nd birthday. I know how lucky we were to work with such amazing doctors, who in a very short time, were able to confirm that Zoe did indeed have celiac disease. From the day we changed her diet, we knew how much better she felt – the sparkle had returned to our little girl. The journey has just begun for our family and there is so much more for us to learn. As Zoë starts school in September, we realize we will be faced with new challenges and difficulties in the future, but there will be questions to answer and times where she will feel excluded from group activities.

We are so thankful that we were connected to the Center because we now have a resource upon which we can rely and an organization which we can support.

The Center is focused on research that will lead to increased diagnosis, treatments and ultimately a cure for the disease, as well as prevention of the disease in the future. Our #1 hope and dream is that there will be a cure one day soon – so that Zoe, and all the children with celiac disease, can live healthy lives.

When this opportunity came up, I knew I had to run for Zoe.

**Ralph Ortolani**

Sylvia Ichikawa had joined my back yard with Team Celiac because her daughter, Madeline, was diagnosed with celiac disease at age 8. All funds raised go directly toward the Center’s research program. Research is the only way to improve the lives of individuals with celiac disease. On behalf of the entire team at Barclays, Ralph Ortolani, MD will run the 2018 TCS New York City Marathon in support of Team Celiac!