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## **Presenteeism and Absenteeism in Coeliac Disease: A Multicentre European Study**

Dear ISSCD Community,

Dear Colleagues,

Coeliac disease (CD) in Europe has been reported to have a pooled prevalence of 0.8%, with over 5 million Europeans affected. **Presenteeism** refers to the phenomenon of individuals attending work despite facing health-related issues, resulting in decreased productivity in the workplace. It represents a significant but often inconspicuous challenge to organizational efficiency. The medical conditions that contribute to presenteeism are usually mild or moderate in severity, as individuals dealing with more serious illnesses tend to stay home. As a result, research on presenteeism often focuses on chronic or episodic health conditions. Unlike absenteeism, where employees are absent from the workplace, presenteeism involves individuals physically attending work but with diminished focus and effectiveness. Emerging evidence suggests that the prevalence and economic burden of presenteeism surpass those of absenteeism. However, its investigation presents significant challenges.

This project aims to investigate the **impact of CD on patients' workplace productivity**. Despite increasing awareness of CD the real-life functional burden on working adults remains underexplored. This study seeks to address that gap through a structured, multicentre data collection effort. Examining presenteeism is essential, as it may reveal persistent challenges affecting workplace productivity, despite optimal management of CD. Furthermore, these findings could provide clinicians with a framework for evaluating treatment outcomes, emphasizing not only symptom control but also the broader functional and occupational well-being of patients. This shift in perspective may inform more comprehensive standards of care.



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### Who can collaborate?

I am writing to formally invite you and your institution to participate in our collaborative European research study. Each participating centre will be asked to:

- Recruit a **minimum of 100 adult patients** with biopsy-confirmed Coeliac Disease, diagnosed for over one year to answer a questionnaire
- Participating centres must obtain **ethical approval** and ensure **compliance with local data protection regulations** in their respective countries

If you and your centre are interested in participating in this study, please contact us on [yvette.a.farrugia@gov.mt](mailto:yvette.a.farrugia@gov.mt) or [martina.sciberras.2@gov.mt](mailto:martina.sciberras.2@gov.mt) .

We will aim for the submission of a full manuscript after data analysis. One collaborator from each centre would be on the author list and order will depend on the number of patients included in the study from each centre, as specified in the study protocol.

Looking forward to your collaboration,

Dr. Yvette Gatt, Mater Dei Hospital Malta, coordinator

Dr. Martina Sciberras, Mater Dei Hospital Malta, principal investigator

Prof. Carolina Ciacci, University of Salerno Italy, principal investigator