# POLICY PRIORITIES AGA ACTION FUND





# **DRUGS AND MEDICAL DEVICES**

#### Goal: Ensure that people with alpha-gal syndrome (AGS) have access to safe drugs and medical devices

- **Priority 1**: Label drugs and select medical devices that contain alpha-gal.
- Priority 2: Accelerate the development and approval of alpha-gal-friendly drug and medical device alternatives e.g. heparin and bioprosthetic heart valves made from alpha-gal knockout pigs.
- Priority 3: Determine the risks associated with drugs and medical products that contain or potentially contain alpha-gal.



#### **FOOD**

### Goal: Ensure that people affected by alpha-gal syndrome (AGS) have equitable access to safe food options

• **Priority 1:** Formally recognize alpha-gal as a major food allergen.



#### **EDUCATION**

### Advance awareness and understanding of alpha-gal syndrome (AGS) within key groups

- Priority 1: Raise awareness among decision-makers about the needs and policy priorities of the alpha-gal syndrome community.
- Priority 2: Educate healthcare providers (HCP) to improve timely diagnosis and management of alpha-gal syndrome (AGS).
- Priority 3: Include information about AGS in community outreach efforts regarding tick-borne disease prevention.
- Priority 4: Raise awareness about alpha-gal syndrome among disproportionately impacted communities.
- Priority 5: Reduce health disparities by raising awareness about AGS among underserved and underdiagnosed populations.



## **RESEARCH AND EPIDEMIOLOGY**

#### Goal: Advance alpha-gal syndrome (AGS) research and surveillance

- Priority 1: Improve surveillance of alpha-gal syndrome to aid public health decision-making.
- Priority 2: Deepen our understanding of the immunological mechanisms and natural history of alpha-gal syndrome.
- Priority 3: Develop, improve, and evaluate tools and protocols for the diagnosis of alpha-gal syndrome.
- Priority 4: Evaluate and optimize existing treatment protocols and therapies and develop new protocols, therapies, and other tools for the management of AGS.
- **Priority 5:** Determine the economic burden of AGS in high-incidence areas.



#### **PREVENTION**

#### Goal: Reduce the incidence of alpha-gal syndrome

- **Priority 1:** Address white-tailed deer overpopulation.
- Priority 2: Accelerate the development, improvement, and evaluation of tick control and tick bite prevention tools and strategies effective against lone star ticks.
- Priority 3: Ensure that states, tribes, and territories disproportionately impacted by AGS have sufficient support and technical assistance to implement tick bite prevention programs...
- Priority 4: Understand and address the impact of climate change on lone star tick populations and alpha-gal syndrome

