



# Sanofi Innovation Awards (*iAwards*)

## Call for Pre-proposals

The Sanofi Innovation Awards (*iAwards*) program is designed to support early stage innovative and translational research proposals from participating academic institutions. The main objective of the program is to convert successful and promising projects to sponsored research programs and subsequently create in-licensing and start-up opportunities. The academic institutions currently participating in this program are: Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston Children's Hospital, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Columbia University, Johns Hopkins University, Massachusetts General Hospital, University of Pennsylvania, University of California San Francisco, University of Texas system and Weill Cornell Medical College.

Sanofi strives to build strong collaborative relationships within each partner institution through this program and continue to be actively engaged in accelerating the conversion of innovative ideas into effective and safer therapeutic solutions for patients.

The program provides one year seed funding of \$125,000 (includes institutional overhead costs) to each selected proposal, a dedicated Sanofi project champion, in-kind resources and expertise deemed necessary by Sanofi.

### Highlights:

- For the 2016 program year, twenty-four proposals were awarded of which 4-5 projects will advance to sponsored research programs
- For 2017, twenty proposals were selected for funding and are currently ongoing
- For the 2018 award cycle, up to 25 proposals will be selected to receive the *iAward*.

### Call for Pre-proposals

The details of the general criteria for pre-proposals and guidance on therapeutic areas of interest are given below. Only the Joint Steering Committee and select members of Sanofi and your Institution will have access to your pre-proposal. However, information contained in the pre-proposal is **NOT** considered confidential and therefore unpublished information should not be disclosed in the pre-proposal. Proposals may not include third party collaborators other than those from partner institutions within the *iAwards* Program.

Proposals must provide objectives and work-plan achievable within 12 months and strong rationale for benefit to patients. Applicants must use the accompanying pre-proposal template to submit their pre-proposals. Please restrict your completed pre-proposal to two pages (excluding publications). The completed pre-proposals should be submitted to:

**Meghan.Zubradt@ucsf.edu**

The deadline for submission of your pre-proposal is: **June 16, 2017**. The timeline of the *iAwards* Program is further described on Page 2.

### Therapeutic Areas of Interest and Pre-proposal criteria:

Proposals are invited for the following therapeutic areas: Cardiovascular Diseases, Diabetes, Immune diseases, Infectious Diseases, Neurology/Neurosciences, Oncology and Rare Genetic Diseases.

### Criteria for Pre-proposals within these therapeutic areas include:

- Early stage compounds or biologics targeting novel disease mechanisms
- New models for validating disease relevant targets
- Technology platforms with the potential to significantly improve drug discovery and development
- Novel therapeutic modalities

### Sanofi Therapeutic Areas of Interest (including but not limited to):

#### CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES

- Heart Failures
- HFpEF
- Hyperlipidemia
- Microvascular diseases
- Peripheral Artery disease

#### DIABETES

- Glucose responsive insulins
- Obesity; NAFLD & NASH
- Diabetic Kidney disease
- Beta cell protection &/or regeneration
- Diabetic heart failure & cardiomyocyte fuel utilization
- Novel delivery technologies of large molecule drugs (preferably oral)

#### ONCOLOGY

- Cancer Cell dependency
  - Targeting Kras directly or Kras-dependent cancer cells
  - Oncogenic pathways lacking therapies: MYC, Beta-cat.
  - Codependency, Synthetic lethality
  - Lineage targeting
- Opportunities within Breast cancer, lung cancers, prostate cancers, gastro-intestinal cancers and multiple myeloma



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- Translational Medicine and biomarkers that support clinical development
- Novel translational models in IO

## IMMUNE-ONCOLOGY

- Overcoming Immunosuppression
  - Intra-tumor Treg depletion, modulation of immunosuppressive myeloid lineages
  - DC maturation, improved cross-presentation
- Active Immunization and Antigen-directed tumor targeting
  - Cell engagers and Immune-conjugates
- Immune profiling methodologies in preclinical and clinic

## IMMUNOLOGY

- Dysregulated Type 2 immune responses
- Rheumatological disorders
- Autoimmune Diseases incl. inflammatory skin disease and Asthma
- Systems Immunology

## NEUROLOGY/NEUROSCIENCES

- Neuroprotection & Novel targets to preserve synapse number and function in neurodegenerative diseases including MS, PD, ALS; Biomarkers and imaging methodologies
- Novel targets / models for rare genetic diseases of CNS & PNS
- Novel targets / assays for proteinopathies, esp. tau-opathies, including  $\alpha$ -synuclein, TDP-43 (not Abeta)
- Remyelination targets and assays, including human iPSC based assays

- Microglial biology in inflammatory milieu
- Blood brain barrier biology, transport mechanisms and neurovascular biology
- Novel targets for CNS insulin resistance, cholesterol homeostasis, and ApoE4 correction

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

- Chronic/emerging Viral Infections incl. HBV, influenza, HIV & Chikungunya
- Severe Bacterial Infections esp. Gram(-) infections
- Tuberculosis, Malaria
- Adjunct therapies: immuno-modulation, anti-virulence

## RARE DISEASES

- Inherited Metabolic diseases
- Neuromuscular diseases
- Neurometabolic diseases
- Nephrological diseases
- Bone & Hematological diseases

## BIOLOGICS

- Tissue specific delivery of nucleic acids to organs other than the liver
- Alternatives to Gal-Nac ligands
- Delivery technologies for mAB and proteins into cells, particularly for cancer
- Protein biologics, typically antibodies, delivery across blood brain barrier, GI epithelial barrier and other organs (skin, pulmonary, oral)
- Mammalian cell technologies for improved recombinant protein expression
- Microfluidic technologies for single cell isolation, manipulation and characterization

## Sanofi iAwards Timeline

Action	Due Date
Issuance of Request for Pre-Proposal by Institution	Week of May 1st
Submission of completed Pre-Proposals to Institution	June 16th
Notification by Sanofi of pre-proposals chosen to be pursued as Detailed Proposals	August 1st
Completion and submission of Detailed Proposals	August 28th
JSSC meets to review Detailed Proposals	Late October
Institution informed of JSSC funding decisions	By November 20th



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## Pre-proposal Template

<b>Researcher Name:</b>	<b>Department:</b>
<b>Institution Name:</b>	<b>Project Title:</b>

**Email address of Principal Investigator:**

**Therapeutic Area(s):** Please list all the TAs that the proposal addresses

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Biologics</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Immunology</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Immune-Oncology</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Cardiovascular Diseases</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Infectious Diseases</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Oncology</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Diabetes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Neurology /Neurosciences</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Rare Diseases</b>

**PLEASE LIMIT YOUR PRE-PROPOSAL TO TWO PAGES, EXCLUDING PUBLICATIONS**

**NON-CONFIDENTIAL SUMMARY:**

**Section 1: Need and Significance:**

Please provide a brief description of the research proposal and link to human disease and disease mechanism(s).

Please specifically address the following in your description.

1. What is/are the unmet medical need(s) this research could address?
2. What are the envisioned products / applications of this research?
3. Why is the proposed research novel and translational in nature?
4. How is the envisioned product/application better than existing therapies?
5. Is it feasible to do the envisioned project within one year?



## Pre-proposal Template

Please limit your pre-proposal to two pages, excluding publications

### **NON-CONFIDENTIAL SUMMARY:**

#### **Section 2: Research Description:**

Provide a brief description of research plan to be carried out. Please include objectives, specific aims. The research plan should provide clear deliverables, go/no-go decision points and timelines for a one year research period.

### **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:**

Please provide a brief bio-sketch of the PI and key publications. (NIH Biosketch is acceptable)



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## Pre-proposal Template