



# Sanofi Innovation Awards (iAwards)

**Sanofi, a global leader in healthcare is pleased to launch the call for iAward pre-proposals**

**Collaborate with us and receive seed funding to progress your promising human disease relevant research to the clinic to benefit patients**

## **Sanofi Innovation Awards (iAwards)**

Sanofi is a leading global healthcare company engaged in bringing innovative therapeutic solutions to meet the needs of patients.

Sanofi iAwards program is a multi-institutional academic partnership program designed to collaborate with academic investigators to quickly move promising early stage, disease relevant, innovative research towards the clinic. Seventeen premier academic institutions across North America are currently participating in this program. The academic partners are: Brigham and Women's Hospital, Columbia University, Johns Hopkins University, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston Children's Hospital, University of Pennsylvania, Weill Cornell Medical Center, Stanford University, UCLA, UCSF, New York University, Northeastern university, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Dana Farber Cancer Center, Sinai Health (Toronto), Sunnybrook Health (Toronto) and University Health Network (Toronto).

**Through this program, Sanofi aims to fund innovative and translational research ideas that can contribute to our early stage pipeline and ultimately benefit patients. The selected proposals will receive:**

- **\$125,000 research funding (including institutional indirect costs) for 12 months**
- **Sanofi scientific expertise and guidance**
- **In-kind resources such as reagents, tool compounds, etc. may be provided**
- **Successful projects could be converted to SRAs and receive additional funding for 2-3 years**



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## **Call for pre-proposals:**

Sanofi is requesting pre-proposals from academic investigators in the participating institutions in multiple therapeutic areas including, immune-oncology, molecular oncology, immunology & inflammation, rare diseases, neurosciences, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. In addition, pre-proposals in technology areas including gene therapy, single-cell analysis and biologics development will also be considered.

A copy of the pre-proposal template is attached and additional information on therapeutic areas of interest is provided below. Only the JSSC and select members of Sanofi and your Institution will have access to your pre-proposal. However, information in the pre-proposal is **NOT** considered confidential and therefore unpublished information should not be disclosed in the pre-proposal. Proposals with third party collaborators other than those from partner institutions within the iAwards Program will not be considered.

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

**Please email your completed pre-proposal to: [martinv@upenn.edu](mailto:martinv@upenn.edu)**

**[The deadline for submission of your pre-proposal is 15th, September, 2018.](#)**



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## Areas of Interest:

Sanofi is seeking the following type of opportunities in the therapeutic areas provided below -

- New and actionable knowledge about disease relevant targets, pathways and mechanisms
- 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 (examples – gene therapy, biologics development)
- Novel therapeutic modalities

## **IMMUNOLOGY & INFLAMMATION**

- Diseases associated with dysregulated Type 2 immune responses including Atopic Dermatitis and Asthma
- Rheumatological disorders including Lupus Erythematosus, Rheumatoid Arthritis, psoriatic arthritis and Ankylosing spondylitis
- Autoimmune sequelae of checkpoint inhibition
- Co-stimulation pathways in autoimmune and allergic diseases
- Systems Immunology and single (immune) cell analysis
- Immuno-metabolism

## **RARE DISEASES**

- Gene Therapy
- Inherited metabolic diseases
- Rare neuromuscular, neurometabolic, nephrological, bone and hematological diseases

## **CARDIOVASCULAR**

Cardiomyopathies

- HCM, DCM and other cardiomyopathies

Heart Failure

- HF-preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF) and HF-reduced EF (HFrEF)
- Acute HF

Atherosclerotic Vascular Disease

- Microvascular disease
- Peripheral artery disease
- Coronary artery disease



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## NEUROSCIENCES

- Novel targets / assays for proteinopathies, in particular for tau- opaties, but also a-synuclein,TDP-43
- Remyelination targets and assays, including human iPSC based assays
- Neuroprotection in neurodegenerative diseases including MS, PD, ALS
- Novel targets / models for rare genetic diseases of the central nervous system and peripheral nervous system, including gene therapy approaches
- Microglial biology, in particular in inflammatory milieu
- Blood brain barrier biology, transport mechanisms and neurovascular unit biology
- Biomarkers and imaging methodologies to facilitate disease diagnosis, progression and therapeutic efficacy, or patient stratification, for MS, PD and other neuro- degenerative diseases
- Novel targets to preserve synapse number and function in neurodegenerative diseases, including MS
- Novel targets for CNS insulin resistance, cholesterol homeostasis, and ApoE4 correction

## IMMUNO-ONCOLOGY (IO)

- Systemic oncolytic viruses
- Immune cell engagers
- Immuno-conjugates
- Novel ADC targets
- Intra-tumoral Treg depletion, modulation of immunosuppressive myeloid lineages
- DC maturation, improved cross-presentation
- Immune profiling methodologies in preclinical and clinical setting
- Novel translational models in IO

## MOLECULAR ONCOLOGY

Sanofi priority indications are breast, lung, head and neck, gastro-intestinal, prostate, leukemia, multiple myeloma.. Pancreas and liver cancers

- Novel targets and/or early drug discovery projects in molecularly-defined cancer populations and/or lineage
- Small molecule or biologics targeted therapy programs
- Novel Targeted therapy approaches
- Tumor microenvironment targeting programs



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## 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)
- Insulin resistance

## BIOLOGICS RESEARCH

- Specific tissue delivery of biologics
- In silico design / Computational biologics
- Intracellular biologics
- Multi specific protein formats

### Sanofi iAwards General Timeline

Action	Due Date
Issuance of Request for Pre-Proposal by Institution	<b>1st August</b>
Submission of completed Pre-Proposals to Institution	<b>15th September</b>
Notification by Sanofi of pre-proposals chosen to be pursued as Detailed Proposals	<b>15th October</b>
Completion and submission of Detailed Proposals	<b>5th November</b>
JSSC meets to review Detailed Proposals	<b>Late November</b>
Institution informed of JSSC funding decisions	<b>Early December</b>



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## Pre-proposal Template

<b>Principal Investigator:</b>	<b>Department:</b>	
<b>Institution Affiliation:</b>	<b>Project Title:</b>	
<b>Email address of Principal Investigator:</b>		
Therapeutic Area(s): Please list all the TAs that the proposal addresses		
<input type="checkbox"/> Immunology & Inflammation	<input type="checkbox"/> Neurosciences	<input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes
<input type="checkbox"/> Rare Diseases	<input type="checkbox"/> Immuno-Oncology	<input type="checkbox"/> Biologics
<input type="checkbox"/> Cardiovascular	<input type="checkbox"/> Molecular Oncology	
<b>PLEASE LIMIT YOUR PRE-PROPOSAL (Sect. 1 &amp; 2) TO <b>TWO PAGES</b>, EXCLUDING PUBLICATIONS NON-CONFIDENTIAL SUMMARY</b>		
<p><b>Section 1: Need and Significance:</b> Please provide a brief description of the research proposal and link to human disease and disease mechanism(s).</p> <p>Please specifically address the following in your description.  <b>1.</b> What is/are the <u>unmet medical need</u>(s) this research could address? <b>2.</b> What are the envisioned products / applications of this research? <b>3.</b> Why is the proposed research novel and translational in nature? <b>4.</b> How is the envisioned product/application better than existing therapies? <b>5.</b> Is it feasible to do the envisioned project within one year?</p>		



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## Pre-proposal Template

### **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.



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## Pre-proposal Template

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:**

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