

# Sanofi Innovation Awards Europe (iAwards Europe) Call for Pre-Proposals

## iAwards Program Description and Objectives:

Sanofi is a global life sciences company committed to improving access to healthcare and supporting the people we serve throughout the continuum of care.

The Sanofi Innovation Awards (*iAwards*) program was created in the US, and is launched this year in Europe to:

- Identify and help develop innovative and translational research proposals that could lead to the development of effective and safer therapeutic solutions for patients.
- Provide one year seed funding of 100K€ to each selected proposal, a dedicated sanofi project champion, in-kind resources and expertise deemed necessary by Sanofi.
- Build strong relationships within each partner institution to identify early research projects aligned with Sanofi's strategic areas of interest.

Sanofi's main objective in creating the *iAwards* program is to convert successful and promising *iAwards* projects to sponsored research programs and subsequently create in-licensing and start-up opportunities with the potential to continuously enrich Sanofi's early stage portfolio. The funding level and duration for *iAwards* which are chosen for conversion into sponsored research projects will be based on the project needs.

Since 2015, 60 projects were awarded in the US by the Joint Scientific Steering Committee (JSSC). The Sanofi Innovation Awards Program is now launched in Europe for 3 years.

## Pre-Proposals:

Please find a copy of the pre-proposal template attached, as well as some guidance on therapeutic areas and technologies of interest, and general criteria for pre-proposals. Only select members of Sanofi and your Institution will have access to your pre-proposal which shall be considered as confidential.

However, we recommend that information in the pre-proposal should not contain any confidential information and therefore unpublished information should not be disclosed in the pre-proposal.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.

Please restrict your completed pre-proposal to two pages (excluding publications).

Please email your completed pre-proposal to:  
[sanofi-iawards2018@pasteur.fr](mailto:sanofi-iawards2018@pasteur.fr)

The deadline for submission of your pre-proposal is: **December 17, 2017**. The timeline of the *iAwards* Program is further described on Page 2.

## Therapeutic Areas of Interest and Pre-Proposal Criteria:

The first round of the *iAwards Europe* Program will focus on proposals within the following therapeutic areas - Cardiovascular Diseases, Diabetes / Cardiometabolic diseases, Neurosciences / Neurology, Oncology, Immune Oncology, Immunology Rare Diseases, Infectious Diseases, Biologics and Digital Technologies.

Proposals must provide objectives and work-plan achievable in 12 months and strong rationale for benefit to patients.

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

- 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
- Novel therapeutic modalities

## The Academic Partners Are:

For France: Inserm, Institut Curie, Institut Gustave Roussy, Institut Pasteur, Institut du Cerveau et de la Moelle Epinière and Institut Imagine.

For Germany: Berlin Institute of Health (BIH)\* and German Center for Diabetes Research (DZD)\*\*

\* For the BIH, scientists from Berlin Institute of Health, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin and Max Delbrück Center for molecular medicine – Member of the Helmholtz Association, can apply.

\*\* DZD Members that can apply are: the German Diabetes Center (DDZ) in Düsseldorf, German Institute of Human Nutrition (DIfE) in Potsdam-Rehbrücke, Helmholtz Zentrum München - German Research Center for Environmental Health, the Paul Langerhans Institute of the Helmholtz Zentrum München at University Medical Center Carl Gustav Carus of the TU Dresden and the Institute for Diabetes Research and Metabolic Diseases of the Helmholtz Zentrum München at the University of Tuebingen,

## Sanofi Therapeutic Areas of Interest for the First Round of iAwards Europe Program (including but not limited to):

### CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES

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

### DIABETES/CARDIOMETABOLIC

- 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)
- Type 1 diabetes (immunomodulation and tolerance induction)
- Insulin resistance

### NEUROSCIENCES/NEUROLOGY

- Neuroprotection and 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 A $\beta$ )
- 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

### ONCOLOGY

- Cancer Cell dependency
- Targeting Kras directly or Kras-dependent cancer cells
- Oncogenic pathways lacking therapies: MYC, Beta-cat...
- Codependency, Synthetic lethality, context-dependent genetic (eg. CRISPR) or chemical screens
- Lineage targeting (eg. ER, AR)
- Chromatin remodeling: Drugging SWI/SNF or BAF in cancers
- Opportunities within Breast, lung, prostate, gastro-intestinal, pancreas and colo-rectal cancers and multiple myeloma, as well as any well-molecularly defined medium prevalence indications with high unmet medical need
- Translational Medicine and biomarkers that support clinical development

### 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
- Immune profiling methodologies in preclinical and clinic
- Cell engagers and Immune-conjugates
- Immune profiling methodologies in preclinical and clinic
- Novel translational models in IO

### IMMUNOLOGY

- Dysregulated Type 2 immune responses
- Rheumatological disorders
- Autoimmune Diseases incl. inflammatory skin disease and Asthma
- Systems Immunology
- Single cell approaches
- Immunology model systems of diseases

### RARE DISEASES

- Inherited metabolic diseases
- Neuromuscular diseases
- Neurometabolic diseases
- Rare nephrological and bone diseases
- Rare pulmonary and hematological diseases

### 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

### BIOLOGICS

#### *Delivery technologies for 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

### DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

#### *in particular tools to*

- Advance our access and analysis of patient data
- Gain deeper insight in the underlying mechanisms of human disease biology and precision medicine

## Sanofi Innovation Awards Europe Timeline:

ACTION	Due Date
Issuance of Request for Pre-Proposal by institution	6 <sup>th</sup> November 2017
Submission of completed Pre-Proposals to Institution	17 <sup>th</sup> December 2017
Notification by Sanofi of pre-proposals chosen to be pursued as Detailed Proposals	16 <sup>th</sup> January 2018
Completion and submission of Detailed Proposals	27 <sup>th</sup> February 2018
JSSC meets to review Detailed Proposals	Late March 2018
Institution informed of JSSC funding decisions	By 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2018