Sanofi Innovation Awards Europe
(iAwards Europe)
Call for Pre-Proposals 2021

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 was launched in 2018 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.

In November 2017, Sanofi launched the *iAwards* program in Europe and a total of 48 projects were selected in 2018, 2019 & 2020. Based on this success, the EU *iAwards* program has been renewed to allow a new call for innovation projects in 2021.

Pre-Proposals:

Provided with this call is the pre-proposal submission template, as well as some guidance on areas of interest and general selection criteria.

Only selected 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 However, we recommend that information in the pre-proposal should not contain any confidential information or unpublished. Proposals should not include third parties except members from other Partner institutions also involved in the *iAwards* Program (listed on this page).
Please restrict your completed pre-proposal to two pages (excluding references) in alignment with the provided guidelines.
Please entitle your pre-proposal(s) file as followed:
Institution_2021_Sanofi_iAwards_Europe_pre-proposal_LAST NAME_first name
(For the institution's name, please use the same wording as proposed in the scrolling menu of the provided template)

Please email your completed pre-proposal(s) to:

sanofiiawards@pasteur.fr

All pre-proposals must be submitted by the partner to Sanofi by **May 23rd, 2021** at the latest. Pre-proposals that would not respect the guidelines (format, timelines, etc.) will not be evaluated.
The timelines of the *iAwards* Europe Program is further described on page 3.

Therapeutic Areas and topics of interest for Pre-Proposal submission:

The iAwards 2021 call for projects will focus following therapeutic areas: Molecular Oncology, Immuno-Oncology, Immunology & Inflammation, Rare and Neurological Diseases, Genomic Medicine and Vaccines.
Proposals must provide objectives and work-plan achievable in 12 months and strong rationale for benefit to patients.

Topics of interest 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
- Novel therapeutic modalities
- New models for validating disease-relevant targets
- Technology platforms with the potential to significantly improve drug discovery and development

Academic Partners involved in the call:

France
- Inserm
- Institut Pasteur
- Institut Curie
- Gustave Roussy
- Institut du Cerveau et de la Moelle (ICM)
- Institut Imagine
- Assistance Publique - Hôpitaux de Paris (AP-HP)

Germany
- Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin
- Max Delbrück - Centrum Berlin (MDC)
- Translationale Onkologie Mainz (TRON)
- Ludwig-Maximilians - Universität München (LMU)
- Klinikum der Universität München (KUM)

Israel
- The Weizmann Institute of Science

United-Kingdom
- The University of Cambridge
- The King's College London (KCL)

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Sanofi Therapeutic Areas of Interest for *iAwards* Europe 2021 (including but not limited to)

MOLECULAR ONCOLOGY

- Priority indications: primarily breast, lung, multiple myeloma and non-melanoma skin cancer but sound proposal in any other indications such as head and neck, gastro-intestinal, prostate, leukemia, pancreas, liver cancers, glioblastoma, mesothelioma… would also be considered
- Novel targets and/or early drug discovery projects in molecularly-defined cancer populations and/or specific lineage and/or immune system
- Small molecule or biologics targeted therapy programs
- Novel Targeted Therapies approaches
- Novel modalities such as Protein degraders (eg. PROTAC, Molecular Glue…) or innovative and effective biologics applicable to Molecular Oncology targeted therapies
- Tumors microenvironment targeting programs

IMMUNO-ONCOLOGY

- Mechanisms of innate and acquired resistance to checkpoint blockade
- Immuno-modulatory function of CD38
- Immuno-modulatory function of TGFb
- NK cell and T cell Engagers
- Immuno-conjugates
- Novel ADC targets
- Intra-tumoral Treg depletion, modulation of immunosuppressive myeloid lineages
- Immune profiling methodologies in preclinical and clinical setting
- Novel translational models in Immuno-Oncology
- Allogeneic cell therapy approaches

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-stimulatory and co-inhibitory pathways in autoimmune and allergic diseases
- Understanding immune conditions through Systems Immunology approaches, including computational biology, functional genomics and single-cell immune profiling
- Patient stratification in immune conditions
- Immuno-metabolism
- Complement diseases
- Type-1 diabetes

NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS

- Novel targets, assays, models and therapeutic concepts for proteinopathies, in particular for synucleinopathies, tauopathies and TDP-43 driven diseases
- Novel targets and mechanisms to achieve neuroprotection in neurodegenerative diseases including MS, PD and ALS
- Novel targets and therapeutic concepts, including gene therapy, for rare genetic diseases of the central nervous system and peripheral nervous system
- Biology, transport mechanisms and delivery across the blood brain barrier
- Biomarkers and imaging methodologies to facilitate disease diagnosis, progression and therapeutic efficacy, or patient stratification, for MS, PD and other neurodegenerative diseases

RARE DISEASES

- Novel targets, models and therapeutic concepts for rare renal and bone diseases
- Novel targets, models and therapeutic concepts for rare lysosomal storage and metabolic disorders
- Approaches towards improvement of delivery to muscle.
- Immunogenicity of FVIII and mechanisms of tolerance induction
- Detailed structural understanding of FIXa/FVIIIa/FX complex on phospholipid surfaces
- Better understanding of the relative contribution of FVIII v. VWF deficiency in causing different types of bleeds in various forms of von Willebrand Disease
- Role of different components of the complement cascade in the pathophysiology of rare blood disorders, and potential biomarkers

GENOMIC MEDICINE

- Gene therapy applied primarily to Rare Diseases, Rare Blood Disorders, CNS and musculoskeletal diseases
- In vivo gene delivery in liver, brain, muscle and eye
- CNS gene delivery and/or neuromuscular gene delivery technologies, such as AAV capsids that enable recombinant virus penetration of blood-brain barrier following intravenous, intracerebroventricular or intrathecal delivery approaches
- AAV platform and other gene delivery technology (non-AAV platform), such as virus-free gene delivery technology.
- Triple transfection technology (TTX) as complementary/alternative approach to a robust AAV production method
- Technologies that improve CMC processes and productivity

VACCINES

- Technology for studying B and T cell immunology and immuno-senescence
- AI, machine learning, machine vision to identify correlates of protection
- Genomics, proteomics, metabolomics and metagenomics technologies
- Enabling science/techniques to further characterize the mechanism of action of adjuvants and immunomodulators
- Epidemiological studies relevant to the use of vaccines and immuno-therapeutics
- Animal models of human diseases (i.e. Flu, Pertussis, RSV)
- In vitro models of human tissues/organs (Organ on a chip)
- Biological markers of immune protection and of reactogenicity
- mRNA production, formulation and thermostability
- Disease Targets: Flu, RSV, HSV, CMV, HPV, rotavirus, rhinovirus, COVID-19

The 4 major criteria to select a proposal are:

1) Unmet medical need and clear value proposition

2) Translatability (including patient selection and stratification valid hypothesis)

3) Technical feasibility (ie. druggability and freedom to operate)

4) Clinical developability (including rational and feasible clinical path with potential for Fast to Proof-of- Concept)

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Sanofi iAwards Europe 2021 Timelines

Action	Due Date
Issuance of Request for Pre-proposals by Institutions	12th April 2021
Submission of completed Pre-Proposals to Sanofi by Institutions	23rd May 2021
Notification by Sanofi of Pre-preproposals chosen to be pursued as Detailed Proposals	4th July 2021
Completion and submission of Detailed Proposals to Sanofi	29th August 2021
JSSC meets to review Detailed Proposals	28th September 2021
Institutions informed of JSSC funding decisions	15th October 2021

Should you have any further question, please contact your TTO and/or Sanofi *iAwards* Europe Program Team :

EMEA_IAWARDS-EUROPE@sanofi.com

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