



Sanofi Innovation Awards 2024-2025

Call for Pre-Proposals



April 22, 2024

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.

Sanofi iAwards initiative is a multi-institutional partnership program designed to support collaborations with academic investigators to accelerate innovative early stage, disease-relevant research towards the clinic. With this program, Sanofi aims to fund cutting-edge translational research that can contribute to our early-stage pipeline and ultimately benefit patients.

Award winning proposals will receive:

- \$150,000 research funding including institutional direct and indirect costs for 12 months.
- Sanofi R&D expertise and guidance.

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.

Pre-Proposal submission:

Provided with this call is the pre-proposal submission template, as well as the areas of interest on page 3.

Only selected members of Sanofi and your Institution will have access to your pre-proposal; however, we recommend that information in the pre-proposal should not contain any confidential information or unpublished results. Pre-proposals should not include third parties except members from other Partner institutions also involved in the iAwards Program (listed on page 4).

All pre-proposals must be submitted to the Stanford Medicine - Industry Relations team (point of contact: Nour Malek, nrmalek@stanford.edu) by **Friday, May 24th**. Their team shall review the submission with the Industry Contracting Office (ICO) and then formally submit the pre-proposal through the Sanofi portal.

The timelines of the iAwards North America Program 2024-2025 are further described on page 4. Pre-proposals that would not respect the guidelines (format, timelines, etc.) will not be evaluated.

Areas of Interest:

IMMUNOLOGY & INFLAMMATION

- Indications of interest: Dermatology, Gastroenterology, Rheumatology, Respiratory diseases.
- Novel targets and approaches in autoimmune diseases (e.g., Treg enhancement, tolerance induction, checkpoint modulators etc.) incl. development of complex cellular in vitro co-culture system(s) / organoids.
- Multi-specific biologics approaches to increase efficacy in treatment refractory patient populations.
- Tools/Biomarkers for patient stratification or responders / non-responder analysis.
- Transformational genomic medicine approaches in immunology with deep durable efficacy / remission potential in inflammation & immunology – e.g., novel approaches to in vivo immune cell engineering, including chimeric antigen receptors.

ONCOLOGY – Adult and childhood cancers

- New therapeutic targets and new cell surface markers for priority indications (Multiple Myeloma, Acute Myeloid Leukemia, gastrointestinal cancers, lung cancers, childhood cancers).
- New strategies of Immune Cell Engagers (engagers of NK cells, engagers of unconventional immune cells).
- Novel strategies for targeting tumor micro-environment (including myeloid / macrophages, fibroblast targets, vascular normalization, etc.)
- Novel in vivo delivery approaches.
- Novel translational models in Immuno-Oncology.

RARE & NEUROLOGICAL DISEASES

- Biology, transport mechanisms and delivery of therapeutics to muscle and/or CNS
- Novel targets and mechanisms for neuroinflammation and/or to achieve neuroprotection in neurodegenerative and neuropsychiatric diseases including MS, ALS, PD and AD
- Novel targets, models, and therapeutic concepts for genetically defined CNS or musculoskeletal diseases
- Novel targets, assays, models, biomarkers, and therapeutic concepts for proteinopathies (synuclein, tau, TDP-43, TMEM106B)

GENOMIC MEDICINE

- Non-viral delivery (i.e. LNP) approaches for delivery of nucleic acids to extra hepatic tissues including ocular tissue
- Approaches to obviate LNP immunogenicity including predictive in vitro models.
- Mechanisms of addressing AAV immunity, immunogenicity, or toxicity.
- Approaches to minimize AAV dorsal root gangliotoxicity.
- Predictive models for T and B cell antidrug immune responses.

PRECISION MEDICINE AND COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY

- Artificial intelligence algorithms to extract biological features from histopathology images of inflamed/disease tissues in immunology conditions.
- Computational methods for design and off-target analysis of anti-sense oligonucleotides.
- AI/ML Foundation models for multi-omics target biology and target identification.
- Tissue and disease-associated protein profiles applied to target identification and credentialing.
- Patient endotype and therapy response characterization in Inflammatory Bowel Disease and/or other immune conditions.
- Single cell and spatial characterization of respiratory and autoimmune diseases (i.e., HS, atopic dermatitis, SLE, asthma, COPD).
- Biofluid analyses to understand immune disease pathologies: etiology, severity, response to treatments.
- Characterizing disease heterogeneity through unsupervised embeddings of high dimensional multi-model data.

VACCINES

- Vaccines directed towards chronic diseases:
 - Tolerogenic vaccines to prevent or treat auto-immune diseases or allergy.
 - Strategies to potentiate immune system to eradicate chronic infection.
- Microbiome-based interventions:
 - Microbiome composition altering therapeutic strategies for infectious related diseases.
 - Microbiome based therapeutic delivery.
 - Genetically engineered phages delivering therapeutic cargo (skin, gut, oral).
- Immunology of infectious disease vaccines:
 - Antigen delivery strategies to elicit mucosal immune response.
 - Exploring existing human clinical or epi cohorts for vaccinology research.
 - Innovative approaches to support exploratory immunology (technology coming from neuroscience field, oncology, vision biology, live imaging solutions, etc).
 - Innovative immunological assays (low volume, mucosal immunology, rapid, vaccine efficacy assessment, using supportive artificial intelligence tools).
- Strategies targeting innate immune system and innate memory/trained immunity.
- Antigen design – new methods for antigen discovery, optimization and characterization, supportive artificial intelligence tools:
 - Rationale versus precision antigen design.
 - Native versus de novo antigen design.
 - Impact on glycosylation on antigen design for bacterial and viral targets.
 - New in silico tools for vaccine candidate selection and optimal antigen design/prediction value.
 - Build on “Smart RNA vaccines” with highly regulated & cell-specific expression.

Call timelines:

<i>Key steps</i>	<i>Due date</i>
Call for Pre-proposals	April 22 nd 2024
Submission to Stanford Medicine - Industry Relations team (nrmalek@stanford.edu); SM-IR to review with ICO and submit to Sanofi by 6/3	May 24 th 2024
Notification of Pre-proposals chosen to be pursued - Call for Full Proposals	July 11 th 2024
Submission of completed Full Proposals to Sanofi by Institutions	September 2 nd 2024
Institutions informed funding decisions	October 22 nd 2024