

Subject: Pfizer CTI Call for Pre-Proposals, Deadline April 23, 2018

Date: March 19, 2018
To: USC Faculty and Researchers
From: USC Stevens Center for Innovation

Purpose: Pfizer Centers for Therapeutic Innovation (CTI) requests pre-proposals for biotherapeutic targets.

IMPORTANT: Interested researchers must contact Mina Zion (mzion@usc.edu) with availability for a brief phone call with the Pfizer CTI Director to discuss proposed concepts prior to submissions.

No proposal shall be submitted without prior discussion with researcher, USC Stevens, and Pfizer CTI.

Proposal Submission Deadline: April 23, 2018

Pfizer CTI Seeks Projects Relating to the Following Modalities:

- Antibodies
- Proteins
- Fusion Proteins
- Antibody Conjugates

Pfizer CTI Seeks Projects Relating to the Following Therapeutic Areas:

- Oncology: Targets/Pathways that:
 - Enhance anti-tumor immune responses alone or in combination with Standard of Care
 - Enhance immune surveillance (e.g., tumor neoAg recognition)
 - Target unique aspects of tumor or TME metabolic activity
 - Exploit vulnerabilities in tumor heterogeneity, senescence, plasticity
 - Promote or enable tumor selective/specific drug delivery or targeting
- Inflammation and Immunology: Targets/Pathways that:
 - Regulate tissue-specific immune cell activation or function
 - Exploit immune cell or lineage specific metabolic pathways
 - Modulate inflammation and/or tissue remodelling and repair in the context of liver fibrosis (NAFLD/NASH)
 - Promote gut epithelial barrier health and integrity
 - Regulate antigen-specific tolerance induction and/or modulate T regulatory cells
- Cardiovascular and Metabolic Diseases: Targets/Pathways that:
 - Reverse hepatic steatosis associated with NAFLD/NASH
 - Inhibit lipolysis to treat NAFLD/NASH
 - Reverse cachexia experienced by patients with cancer or chronic diseases such as heart failure, chronic kidney disease and COPD
 - Reverse muscle insulin resistance in patients with T2DM
 - Improve heart failure by specifically correcting defects in cardiac metabolism
- Rare Diseases: Targets/Pathways that:
 - Represent novel targets for non-malignant hematologic indications (including sickle cell disease and complement mediated diseases)
 - Address skeletal and cardiac muscle diseases (including Duchenne or Becker muscular dystrophies)
 - Treat repeat expansion diseases including Huntington's disease, ALS/FTD and myotonic dystrophy



Applicants: This call seeks to provide research funding to promising biotherapeutic targets in the modalities and areas described above.

Proposal Submission Process: Submission entails a non-confidential 2-3 page overview of the target, mechanism, evidence for disease linkage, and the proposed therapeutic drug. At a high level, the pre-proposal should suggest how the therapeutic hypothesis could be tested in the clinic.

How to Submit: Please fill out the [CTI Pre Proposal Template](#) and return to Mina Zion via email, mzion@usc.edu.

Amount of Funding: The funding opportunity be specified on a project-by-project basis.

USC Stevens and Pfizer CTI will be available for specific questions or comments. For more information, please contact Mina Zion at mzion@usc.edu or 213-821-6068.

Best Regards,

Mina Zion
Associate Director, Corporate Collaborations & Strategic Alliances
USC Stevens Center for Innovation