



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Clinical Trials of Immune Tolerance in Solid Organ Transplantation

The Immune Tolerance Network (ITN) is an international clinical research consortium founded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease of the National Institutes of Health, with the mission to accelerate clinical development of immune tolerance therapies through a unique collaborative model.

The ITN develops, implements, and conducts trials of novel immune tolerance therapeutics in transplantation, autoimmune diseases, and allergy and asthma. ITN trials look beyond the traditional endpoints of safety and efficacy, actively investigating the mechanisms of tolerance induction and maintenance by integrating hypothesis-driven, mechanism-based research into all its clinical trials. The goal is to improve our understanding of tolerance in the human clinical setting and to establish new biomarkers of tolerance in human disease. Supported by an unprecedented array of core facilities offering state-of-the-art genetic, cellular and immunologic assays, the ITN is generating some of the first combined clinical and mechanistic data on immune tolerance induction in humans.

The ITN is currently seeking proposals for clinical tolerance trials in solid organ transplantation. We are interested in trials using cell therapy for solid organ (liver and kidney) transplant, although responses need not be limited to this area and other approaches are welcome as well. Proposals should meet the following criteria:

- 1. Trials must have tolerance as a clinical endpoint and thus phase 1 dose escalation studies will not be considered;**
- 2. For cell therapy trials, the cellular component must be production ready (i.e. have a drug master file, be produced under GMP) and ideally have safety data from prior human studies;**
- 3. When biologic or pharmacologic agents are to be used, they must be either FDA approved, or have a clear safety record and developmental pathway;**
- 4. For any solid organ transplant tolerance trial (whether or not incorporating a cellular therapy), a single center study or consortium approach (e.g. using a common protocol and different regulatory cells) is welcome;**
- 5. Registry trials, or biomarker guided withdrawal studies will not be considered. At this time we are seeking novel interventional approaches.**

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The ideal proposal should have a testable mechanism of tolerance induction and a strategy for assays to investigate this mechanism. The ITN is particularly interested in proposals for phase II studies (with approximately 5-30 patients). The ITN does not support larger phase 3 trials (questions regarding size and scope are welcome and should be addressed to Philip Bernstein, email below). The proposal review process will focus on evaluating the conceptual framework of the proposed trial and its significance and suitability for further development; it does not require submission of a detailed clinical protocol.

Proposals are welcome from academic, government and industry-based investigators throughout the year. Funding will vary based on the type and scope of the trial. The proposal should be no longer than 5 pages and should include:

- Name, title, and institution of principal investigator, co-investigator and/or key collaborator(s);
- Brief description of the proposed clinical trial, including the scientific basis and rationale, evidence for tolerance induction, and potential mechanistic studies and tolerance assays that will accompany the trial;
- References to published or preliminary (preclinical and pilot human study) data.

Responses are due **January 29th, 2016**. Please direct all proposal submissions and any questions concerning this RFP to:

Philip Bernstein, PhD

Executive Director of Strategic Review and Planning

Tel: (240) 235-6132

Email: pbernstein@immunetolerance.org.

About the Immune Tolerance Network

The Immune Tolerance Network is a clinical research consortium dedicated to the development of immune tolerance therapies for transplantation, autoimmune diseases, and asthma and allergy. The ITN currently supports over 20 clinical trials, each with integrated investigations of the clinical mechanisms of tolerance. The ITN consortium is led by several institutions, including the Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason, Seattle; University of California, San Francisco; and the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston and is sponsored by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, with support from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

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