2026 Areas of Interest for Immunology

(Gastroenterology, Rheumatology, Dermatology, or Other AOI)

Immunology Areas of Interest

Effective January 2026, the Investigator Studies Program Review Committee (MISP-RC) will accept protocols within our current Areas of Interest (AoIs).

- There will be 3 competitive reviews in 2026 by the MISP Review Committee to determine approvals.
    - We are requesting full protocols unless discussed beforehand with the MISP chair if acceptable to provide an abbreviated protocol.
- Submissions will be evaluated, and decisions made based on the scientific merit of the protocols and their strategic alignment with AOIs.
- We will only be considering translational studies that are non-interventional and there is no use of study product or drug supply.

We kindly request that you carefully review the guidance and adhere to the specified submission dates noted below.

The following areas are of interest to the Investigator Studies Program Committee:

The AOIs are the following:

Immunology AOIs

1. Further characterization of the role of TL1a, CD30L pathways, role of T and/or B cells in rheumatologic, dermatologic, and GI immune-mediated diseases
    a. Ex vivo models to explore the role of the TL1A pathway in diseases of interest, including but not limited to Crohn's disease (CD), ulcerative colitis (UC), systemic sclerosis (SSc), hidradenitis suppurativa (HS), rheumatoid arthritis (RA), axial spondyloarthritis (axSpA)
    b. Characterization of the role of TL1A and the DR3 receptor in inflammation and fibrosis in human tissue

    c. Plausibility of TL1A and other non-redundant pathways to consider for multi-targeted therapy for UC, CD, other immune-mediated inflammatory diseases using ex vivo methods or suitable animal models.
    d. Role of CD30L in immune-mediated diseases using in vitro, ex vivo, or animal models.
    e. Characterization of response to B cell depletion therapies, with key areas of focus on (1) tissue level characterization of clinical response / non-response, (2) peripheral biomarkers associated with tissue depletion, and (3) characterization of shared response biomarkers across different rheumatic diseases
2. Novel approaches (including imaging, machine learning (ML) and artificial intelligence (AI) based methods) to inform endpoints in clinical trials, identify predictive biomarkers and/or characterize disease endotypes in immune-mediated diseases of interest including but are not limited to UC, CD, HS, RA, axSpA.
    a. Application of AI/ML based approaches to enable novel histopathologic assessments and identification of clinically relevant biomarkers (e.g. digital pathology)
    b. Novel molecular and biochemical approaches for identifying predictive biomarkers
    c. Systematic approach to characterize disease endotypes to uncover underlying biological mechanisms, enable precision diagnostics, and inform targeted therapeutic strategies
3. Characterization of novel blood or tissue-based biomarkers in fibro-stenotic Crohn's disease (FSCD) that correlate with the clinical course of disease (pre/post-surgery, and/or effect of advanced therapies)
4. Novel approaches to define, diagnose and characterize intestinal fibrosis in ulcerative colitis