

USC and Pfizer's Center for Therapeutic Innovation (CTI) announce the inaugural CTI Request for Proposals

USC is excited to announce a Request for Proposals (RFP) for this year's round of funding from Pfizer's Center for Therapeutic Innovation (CTI). CTI is an innovative Pfizer program that partners with leading academic medical centers nationwide to accelerate the translation of novel biomedical insights to the clinic. CTI enables translational medicine by accelerating research and development of discoveries from target identification to proof of mechanism in a Phase 1 clinical trial. Core elements of the CTI partnership with USC include:

- ❖ Focus on protein therapeutics (e.g., monoclonal antibodies, antibody variants, recombinant proteins, Fc-fusion, pegylated proteins, antibody and protein conjugates, bi-specific antibodies and peptides)
- ❖ Focus on understanding patient heterogeneity and stratification
- ❖ Equitable IP and publication rights
- ❖ Joint Steering Committee governance with equal representation from USC and Pfizer
- ❖ Co-location of scientists, technology and drug development expertise
- ❖ Collaborative use of Pfizer's proprietary drug discovery tools and technologies
- ❖ Support for IND- & clinical-enabling functions (toxicology, regulatory, etc.)
- ❖ Success-based funding/financial incentives (milestone & royalty payments)

The goal of a funded CTI program is to establish proof of mechanism in the clinic for a new therapeutic that may be licensed to Pfizer and commercialized to treat patients with unmet medical needs.

A two-page, non-confidential pre-proposal in the required format must be submitted to the Office of Foundation Relations at the Keck School of Medicine of USC on or before July 22, 2013. USC scientists whose pre-proposals are selected for further consideration will be invited to submit a full proposal that may be written in collaboration with Pfizer scientists to be evaluated for funding by the CTI-USC Joint Steering Committee (JSC). Members of the JSC will include:

- **Dr. Stephen Gruber**, the Director of the USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, and the H. Leslie Hoffman and Elaine S. Hoffman Chair in Cancer Research
- **Dr. Thomas Buchanan**, the Interim Vice Dean for Research at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, and the Director of the USC Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CTSI)
- **Dr. Sarah Hamm-Alvarez**, the Gavin S. Herbert Professor and Executive Vice Dean; Vice Dean for Research and Graduate Affairs at the USC School of Pharmacy
- **Dr. Anthony Coyle**, the Vice President and Chief Scientific Office for Pfizer's Center for Therapeutic Innovation (CTI)
- **Dr. Torben Straight-Nissen**, Managing Director for Pfizer's Center for Therapeutic Innovation (CTI)
- **Dr. Richard Lindberg**, the California Site Head for Pfizer's Center for Therapeutic Innovation (CTI)

All researchers, clinicians and post-docs may apply. Interested scientists should contact the Office of Foundation Relations at the Keck School of Medicine of USC regarding any questions about the Pfizer CTI program. To learn more about the CTI program and obtain a copy of the pre-proposal submission form, please contact Kavita Munjal, Senior Executive Director of Foundation Relations at [munjal@med.usc.edu](mailto:munj@med.usc.edu).