

## Program Description and Objectives:

### About Boehringer Ingelheim:

Improving human health is the goal of the research-driven pharmaceutical company Boehringer Ingelheim. The focus in doing so is on diseases for which no satisfactory treatment option exists to date. The company therefore concentrates on developing innovative therapies that can extend patients' lives.

The **Boehringer Ingelheim-BIH** program was launched in 2019 to:

- Identify and help develop innovative and translational research proposals that could lead to the development of effective and safer therapeutic solutions for patients.
- Provide one-year funding of €100,000 to each selected proposal, a dedicated **Boehringer Ingelheim** project champion, in-kind resources and expertise deemed necessary by the applicant and respective **Boehringer Ingelheim** project champion.
- Build strong relationships within each partner institution to identify early research projects aligned with **Boehringer Ingelheim's** strategic areas of interest.

### Proposals:

Only select members of **Boehringer Ingelheim** and your Institution will have access to your proposal which shall be considered as confidential. However, we recommend that information in the proposal, should not contain any confidential information and therefore unpublished information should not be disclosed in the proposal. Proposals may not include third party collaborators.

Please only use the provided proposal template for submission. **Please save your proposal as following:**  
BI\_Proposal2019\_\*Name\*.pdf

Please email your completed proposal to:

[researchcalls-bih@bihealth.de](mailto:researchcalls-bih@bihealth.de)

The **deadline** for submission of your proposal is **Sept. 2, 2019**. Proposals that do not respect the guidelines (format, timelines, etc.) will not be evaluated.

### Timeline:

Action	Due Date
Call for Proposals	July 22, 2019
Submission of completed Proposals	September 02, 2019, 11:59 pm
Notification of Selection for Short List Invite Day	September 20, 2019
Short List Invite Day	September 30, 2019, 2-6 pm
Notification of Selection for Funding	October 14, 2019

## Therapeutic Areas of Interest and Proposal Criteria:

The program will focus on proposals within the following therapeutic areas (details can be found on the second page):

- Gene therapy
- Regenerative medicine
- Infectious diseases
- Lung repair
- NASH/Fibrosis
- Retinal diseases (AMD, glaucoma, diabetic eye disease)
- Neuropsychiatric diseases
- Myeloid biology
- Specialty medicines

Proposals must provide objectives and work-plans achievable in 12 months and a strong rationale for benefit to patients.

### Criteria for Proposals within these therapeutics areas include:

- Highly innovative therapeutic concepts
- Clear link between therapeutic concept and human disease
- Potential for enabling break-through treatments in indications with significant unmet medical need
- Potential for First-in-class/First-in-Indication; black-and-white differentiation from standard-of-care
- Good technical feasibility and predictable translation to the clinic

### Short List Invite Day:

All applicants must **hold the date** and be available to attend the Short List Invite Day on **Sept. 30, 2019** if your project is short listed. You will be notified of your selection for Short List Invite Day by Sept. 20, 2019.

This is a special face-to-face meeting day where the project teams will meet the Boehringer Ingelheim scientists and therapeutic leaders to discuss in detail your proposal. At the end of the Short List Invite Day, the Boehringer Ingelheim and BIH committee will decide on the projects that will receive funding.

### Project Selection:

Projects that receive funding will need to sign a funding agreement with BI and BIH, the terms of which have been pre-negotiated. For more information, please ask for the FAQs document.

The primary goal of this call is the identification of highly innovative therapeutic concepts enabling break-through treatments for indications with significant unmet medical need across multiple diseases areas.

### What We Are Looking For:

We are searching for scientific collaboration opportunities across a range of indication areas that can complement the expertise and activities with our in-house laboratories. Opportunities could include a range of aspects, with a focus on novel target ideas, but also extending to novel assay systems and translational models or biomarkers. We are particularly interested in the following areas:

- **Gene Therapy:** Tissue selective AAV capsid variants; Technology and/or AAV capsid variants which evade pre-existing immunity; Expression control systems with ligands suitable for chronic administration; Research and early development gene therapy projects with in-vivo pre-clinical proof of concept.
- **Regenerative Medicine:** Drug-based modulation of pathways/targets involved in the stimulation of human endogenous cells for tissues regeneration to ultimately restore organ physiological functions (i.e.: beta cell regeneration for T2D; hair cell regeneration for Age Related Hearing Loss; Other diseases of interest include Sarcopenia, dry AMD and OsteoArthritis).
- **Infectious Diseases:** Novel approaches addressing antimicrobial resistance in bacterial and invasive fungal infections (i.e. *S. aureus*, *A. baumannii*, *P. aeruginosa*, *M. tuberculosis* and *Candida spp.*); Viral diseases currently lacking cure (i.e. Chronic Hepatitis B).
- **Lung repair:** Repairing diseased lung tissue in progressive fibrosing interstitial lung diseases. Novel multicellular in vitro systems to explore the biology of fibroblast:epithelial:macrophage interactions within the small airways and alveoli.
- **NASH/Fibrosis:** Novel targets and innovative therapeutic approaches for treating of non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH) with first translational data towards patients (human disease link). Project proposals with early chemical or biological matter are preferred.
- **Retinal diseases (AMD, Glaucoma, Diabetic Eye Disease):** Novel targets and innovative therapeutic approaches for treatment of retinal diseases (Age-related macular degeneration, Glaucoma, Diabetic Eye Disease) with first translational data towards patients (human disease link). Project proposals with early chemical or biological matter are preferred.
- **Obesity:** Novel targets and innovative therapeutic approaches for treatment of obesity with first translational data towards patients (human disease link). Project proposals with early chemical or biological matter are preferred.
- **Neuropsychiatric Diseases:** Novel targets and innovative therapeutic approaches to modulate maladaptive neurocircuits and neural network activity with the goal to improve motivation or cognitive performance of neuropsychiatric patients as well as approaches for early intervention in schizophrenia.
- **Myeloid Biology:** Targeting signaling pathways to modulate plasticity of the myeloid/ dendritic cell compartment as a novel approach for cancer therapies.
- **Specialty Medicines:** Innovative approaches for any severe diseases with a high medical need. Projects with a novel therapeutic concept and early chemical or biological matter are preferred. Important is to be first-in-class and a clear differentiation to the standard-of-care, with a translational path to patients.