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The NCI Requests Your Advice on Developing a List of Agents with the Highest Potential to Serve as Immunotherapeutic Drugs

There is an ongoing explosion of knowledge in the immunological sciences with the discovery of many agents with the potential to serve as immunotherapeutic drugs. For a variety of reasons, few of these agents are being tested in humans.

The NCI is compiling a list of agents with substantial potential as immunotherapeutic drugs. The subsequent next step will be to convene an NCI sponsored workshop to develop a priority ranking of the agents on the list, based on submitted evidence of potential for use in cancer therapy. Development of a well-vetted priority ranking based on the likelihood for efficacy in cancer therapy will facilitate subsequent NCI discussions to address the availability of clinical grade immunotherapeutic drugs for human trials.

Please submit suggestions online to:

<https://webapps4.nci.nih.gov/immuno/SubmissionForm.do>

Please include (1) Agent Name, (2) Preclinical Summary, (3) Clinical Summary, if the agent has been in humans, and, (4) Contemplated Usage.

The most valuable additions to the list will be agents with known substantial immunologic or physiologic activity that have not been tested or have not been adequately tested in cancer patients.

The definition of "Immunotherapeutic Drug," for the purpose of inclusion on this list, is an agent that requires participation of or modifies the host immune system for efficacy, e.g., cells, antibodies and other specific targeting agents, vaccines, cytokines, and PAMP (Pathogen-Associated Molecular Pattern) agonists. Many are expected to work by synergizing with or having an additive effect with other immunotherapeutic or small molecule drugs. Some are expected to be very effective in activating or otherwise substantially modifying immune responses with little expectation that the drugs can be efficacious when used alone as monotherapy.

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