



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Implementation of Synthetic Biology Principles in Immunology RFA

What types of projects are out of scope?

Projects not responsive to this RFA include:

Biology-only approaches

- Comparative genomics, evolutionary biology, or phenotyping without implementation of circuits in immune cells
- Descriptive or observational immunology (e.g., signaling, enhancers) not applied in circuits
- Cytokine or protein engineering without incorporation into synthetic circuits in immune cells
- CRISPR screens or similar tools used only for discovery (acceptable only if used to guide circuit design)

Non-immune or non-mammalian systems

- Engineering bacteria, yeast, or viruses to modulate immunity, unless used as intracellular carriers delivering circuits into immune cells without eliciting immune responses
- Animal model studies without immune cell circuit design (use of mouse immune cells for proof of concept is acceptable)
- Engineering in plants, fungi, or invertebrates without direct application to mammalian immune cells

Technology and development outside scope

- Small molecule screening, drug discovery, or assay development without immune cell circuits
- Projects that are purely computational, with no experimental validation in immune cells
- Clinical trial-focused or therapeutic product development efforts
- Development of biomaterials, scaffolds, delivery systems, or general tools (e.g., imaging, sequencing, biosensors) not directly applied to immune cell circuits
- Non-biological engineering (e.g., microfluidics, devices) without linkage to immune cell circuits

RFA Contact

For administrative and programmatic inquiries or other questions pertaining to this RFA, please contact sciencegrants@chanzuckerberg.com.