Industry Opportunities

news & updates

Seeking:
Novel Technologies to Determine Oil and Water Composition in Heavy Oil Streams

Cenovus Energy, a leading Canadian energy producer, is seeking innovative technologies to analyze the composition of heavy oil streams. They are interested in approaches that offer advantages over current methods in terms of cost, accuracy, reliability, or analysis time.

Approaches of interest:

- Novel analysis methods for monitoring oil and water composition in heavy oil streams
- Real-time monitoring solutions (preferred) and benchtop analyzers
- Cost-efficient and/or time-saving solutions compared to current methods
- Repurposed analyzers from other industries applicable to heavy oil streams

Out of scope:

- Analyzers unsuitable for heavy oil streams or methods without clear advantages over current techniques.

Cenovus Energy is open to opportunities at all stages of development, provided they demonstrate clear benefits over existing technologies. Early-stage opportunities should present novel approaches.

The deadline for submission is November 18th, 2024

Seeking:
Bitumen Beyond Combustion: Seeking Non-combustion Uses for Asphaltenes Derived from Bitumen

An integrated energy company is seeking innovative approaches to utilize asphaltenes derived from bitumen. They are interested in solutions that provide valuable end products and have clear potential for large-scale application.

Approaches of interest:

- Novel non-combustion uses for asphaltenes
- Improvements on existing uses (e.g., carbon fiber, asphalt binder, waterproof concrete)
- Simpler processes with fewer steps are preferred, but all processes will be considered
- Approaches with potential for large-scale application

Out of scope:

• Applications without distinct advantages over existing technologies

• Opportunities that are not cost-effective or lack a clear path to scale

The company is open to opportunities at all stages of development, including theoretical applications with a clear path to scale

The deadline for this submission is November 25, 2024.

Seeking:

Novel, Effective, and Differentiated Solutions for Skin Allergy Sufferers

Kenvue, the world's largest pure-play consumer health company, is seeking innovative over-the-counter solutions for atopic dermatitis, allergic/contact dermatitis, and urticaria. They aim to develop treatments that are more efficacious, faster-acting, or easier to use compared to existing products.

Approaches of interest:

• Novel methods to relieve symptoms, prevent, and treat skin allergies

• New combinations or methods with known ingredients

• Repurposing existing treatments and Rx-to-OTC switch

• Improvements to existing therapies for faster or better relief

• Solutions targeting skin barrier, inflammatory response, microbiome modulation, or immune modulation

Out of scope:

• Treatments for non-allergic skin conditions, angioedema, and polymorphic light eruptions

• Prescription-only treatments, including antibiotics

• Diagnostic medical devices

Kenvue is primarily interested in opportunities from Phase 2 onwards, with priority given to those with a quicker route to market. However, Phase 1 opportunities will also be considered.

The deadline for submission is November 25, 2024.

Daiichi-Sankyo

Seeking:

Gene Therapy for Chromosomal Abnormalities

Daiichi Sankyo is seeking a partnership with a capable collaborator who can evaluate the efficacy of gene therapies targeting specific genes in chromosomal abnormalities. The primary interest is in research focused on Down syndrome (trisomy 21), but other conditions such as trisomy 13, trisomy 18, as well as 5p- and 4p- syndromes are also within the scope. Daiichi Sankyo is also interested in research focused on identifying key target genes involved in these abnormalities.

What we're looking for: The ideal partner would possess unique ideas of target genes supported by scientific data (clinical or nonclinical) or animal/organ/cell models related to a certain chromosomal abnormality. The target gene is expected to improve a wide range of clinical manifestations related to the chromosomal abnormality and/or

significantly address a single life-threatening symptom, and show pharmacological effects in tissues and cell types where the gene can be delivered by current gene therapy.

Must-have requirements are:

- Proposals must include a unique idea of target genes supported by any scientific data (clinical or nonclinical) or animal/organ/cell models related to a certain chromosomal abnormality.
- The target gene is expected to improve a wide range of clinical manifestations related to the chromosomal abnormality and/or significantly address a single life-threatening symptom.
- The target gene is expected to show pharmacological effects in tissues and cell types where the gene can be delivered by current gene therapy (liver, muscle, CNS, eyes, etc.).

Nice-to-have's are:

Research proposals that present both unique target gene ideas and disease models

The deadline for submission is November 30, 2024.

Seeking:

Exploratory Research for Novel Gene Therapy Targets

Daiichi-Sankyo

Daiichi Sankyo is seeking a partnership with a capable collaborator who can identify and explore novel targets for gene therapy, particularly in CNS (central nervous system) and CVM (cardiovascular and metabolism) related diseases. Daiichi Sankyo is interested in proposals that explore therapeutic effects through gene supplementation, knockdown, or a combination of both. The targets should be delivered by Adeno-Associated Virus (AAV) to the relevant tissues and cell types and should be distinguishable from existing therapies.

What they're looking for: The ideal partner would possess innovative research projects that can identify and explore novel targets for gene therapy. This includes investigation of novel disease mechanisms, identification of gene targets, and the use of novel CRISPR variants or alternative gene-editing technologies.

Must-have requirements are:

- The target must exhibit therapeutic effects in tissues and cell types that are accessible through AAV delivery, such as liver, muscle, or the central nervous system.
- For a novel target of single gene knockdown, the target should be limited to those that can be differentiated by gene therapy from existing therapies against the same target.

Nice-to-have requirements are:

- An exploratory study of novel targets with clinical translatability using patient cells and tissues that allow for omics data analysis or genomic analysis.
- Genome editing technologies that offer higher selectivity for target sequences, ensuring high efficacy and safety.

The deadline for submission is October 21, 2024.

Seeking:

Exploring Protease Inhibitors as Therapeutic Agents

Daiichi-Sankyo

Daiichi Sankyo is seeking a partnership with a capable collaborator who can advance the understanding of protease involvement in disease pathology and evaluate the therapeutic potential of protease inhibition. Daiichi Sankyo has established a proprietary platform for creating potent and specific protease inhibitors.

What they're looking for: The ideal partner would possess expertise in protease-related diseases, particularly those lacking effective treatments. The research should have identified key proteases and needs inhibitors with high specificity to demonstrate the potential of the protease(s) as a therapeutic target, as well as protease inhibitors with good pharmacokinetics that can be used in animal studies.

Must-have requirements are:

- Reasonable expectation of dramatic improvement by single or dual protease inhibition.
- Unlikely to cause harmful effects when inhibited, based on knockout animal studies and available literature.
- Data from animal studies or cell experiments supporting the validity of targeting the protease(s).

Nice-to-have requirements are:

- Animal model of the target disease is available.

The deadline for submission is November 30, 2024.

Seeking:

Gene Therapy for Normalizing Repeat Sequences in Repeat Expansion Disorders

Daiichi Sankyo is seeking a partnership with a capable collaborator who can develop novel gene therapeutic technologies to selectively normalize or reduce the expression of abnormal repeat expansions. This includes approaches that utilize Adeno-Associated Virus (AAV)-derived nucleic acids, proteins (peptides), and regulatory factors to inhibit transcription or promote the degradation of repeat sequences, as well as AAV-derived genome editing technologies that have unique features regarding editing efficiency, versatility, and safety for normalizing repeat sequences.

Daiichi-Sankyo

What they're looking for: The ideal partner would possess solutions that can selectively target and modify abnormal repeat expansions, minimizing the risk of off-target effects. Daiichi Sankyo is particularly interested in technologies that are easy to incorporate into AAV for gene therapy applications and have the potential to be applicable to multiple trinucleotide repeat disorders.

Must-have requirements are:

- The technology should be easy to incorporate into AAV for gene therapy applications.
- The approach should be designed to specifically target and modify abnormal repeat expansions, minimizing the risk of off-target effects.
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Nice-to-have requirements are:

- The technology should ideally be unique and applicable to multiple trinucleotide repeat disorders.
- Animal or in vivo data available.
- Data showing low risk of immunogenicity and genetic variation.
- In vitro data should demonstrate the effect of shortening (repairing) elongation repeats in cultured cells.

The deadline for submission is November 30, 2024.

Contact CTTC for more information at swapneeta.date@vanderbilt.edu or cameron.sargent@vanderbilt.edu