Common Fund Concept Clearance: Somatic Cell Genome Editing Program – Phase 2 (Vote)

Philip J. Brooks, Ph.D.
Program Coordinator, Office of Rare Diseases
National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences
Common Fund Proposal for Translating *in vivo* Genome Editing Therapies to the Clinic

**Concept Clearance:** Phase 2 Common Fund Program

**TITLE:** Somatic Cell Genome Editing Program (SCGE), Phase 2

**Objective:** To accelerate the development of genome-editing therapeutic agents by facilitating IND-enabling studies, establishing pathways to regulatory approval, and disseminating successful strategies for initiating first in human clinical trials.

1. Improve assays to determine quality, safety and efficacy of editing reagents
2. Optimize in vivo candidate genome editing therapeutic candidates toward IND applications
3. Demonstrate first in human basket trials for *in vivo* genome editing therapeutics
4. Foster collaboration and disseminate new technologies and protocols to the community

**Funds Available** ~$45M per year for 16 awards

**Program Duration:** 5 years, FY23-27 (Phase 2)

**Council Action:** Vote on support of Program

commonfund.nih.gov
Genome editing allows precise corrections to make in patients’ DNA and RNA. CRISPR-cas9 catalyzed development of experimental genome editing therapeutics. Thousands of genetic diseases are amenable to targeted in vivo genome editing approaches.

**Gaps and Opportunities from 2017 Common Fund Planning Workshop**

- Improved animal models to detect editing
- Human cell systems for measuring adverse events
- Delivery systems for in vivo targeting
- Methods to track edited cells in vivo
- Safer and more effective editors

SCGE Phase 1 addressed these gaps.
SCGE Phase 2 Planning Activities

Workshop with:
20 subject matter experts from academic, government and industry - April 20, 2021 -
https://commonfund.nih.gov/editing/meetings

Consultations with:
SCGE Phase 1 Program Consultants (Drs. Paula Cannon, Kathy High, Vic Myers and Fyodor Urnov)
FDA Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research staff (Drs. Ying Huang, Anna Kwilas, and Peter Marks)
NIH Leaders of translational programs for genome-based therapies (Drs. Chris Boshoff, NINDS’s CREATE-Bio and URGenT; Mike Pieck, NHLBI’s Catalyze)
DARPA Program Manager for PREPARE (Dr. Amy Jenkins)

Environmental scan of:
In vivo genome editing therapeutics in clinical trials
Industry genome editing pipelines
NIH genome editing therapeutics portfolio
The Future of *in vivo* Genome Editing is Here

With first-in-human trial results, Intellia shows the world that gene editing has arrived

by Annalee Armstrong | Jun 26, 2021 11:15am

NTLA-2001 for ATTR

Editas Medicine Announces Enrollment of the First Pediatric Cohort in the BRILLIANCE Clinical Trial of EDIT-101 for the Treatment of LCA10 Following IDMC Endorsement

June 23, 2021 07:00 ET | Source: Editas Medicine, Inc.
SCGE Phase 2: Translating *in vivo* Genome Editing Therapies into the Clinic More Broadly & Efficiently

Consensus needs:
- Improved assays for assessment of quality, safety and efficacy of editing reagents
- Support for development and optimization of technologies for candidate genome editing therapeutics
- Tests of efficient regulatory pathways and *in vivo* genome editing clinical trials

Technology development

Pre-clinical, IND-enabling studies

Clinical trials

SCGE Phase 2 In. 1
Assay Development

SCGE Phase 2 In. 2
IND Enabling Studies

SCGE Phase 2 In. 3
Clinical Trial Efficiency
Initiative 1. (U01) Genome Editing Assay Development
Deliverable: Multiple improved assays for preclinical studies
Impact: Facilitate IND submissions for genome editing

Will support optimization and validation of broadly applicable, IND-enabling assays for experimental genome editing therapeutics
- 3-year technology development phase (U01)
- Includes:
  - Assays for pharm/tox, CMC, on/off-target effects, immune response, cell tracking, etc.
Initiative 2. (U19) Research Programs for Genome Editing Therapeutic Development
Deliverable: Multiple approaches to developing genome editing therapeutics for different disease scenarios
Impact: IND packages ready for future gene editing clinical trials

Will support the optimization and characterization of experimental in vivo genome editing therapeutics through IND-enabling studies

- 5-year awards
- Broad-based, multidisciplinary approach to genome editing therapy development
- Each research program targeting multiple diseases in same tissue or cell type
- Activities to support IND submissions of multiple projects as needed, e.g., pharm tox, CMC, off-target assays
Initiative 3. (UG3/UH3) Demonstrate Efficient Clinical Trial Strategy for Platform Genome Editing Clinical Trials
Deliverable: Demonstration of streamlined regulatory pathway toward IND approval for *in vivo* genome editing trials of >1 disease at a time
Impact: Efficiencies in preclinical data generation, regulatory submissions, and clinical trial design

Will support IND-enabling studies and basket clinical trials demonstrating the platform nature of genome editing technologies

- 3-year preclinical phase (UG3) and 2-year clinical stage (UH3)
- Same delivery vehicle, same editor, multiple guides and diseases
- Required consultations with FDA thru INTERACT and pre-IND meetings
- Activities include pharm/tox, CMC, clinical trial planning, clinical trials
SCGE Phase 2 Proposed In. 4

Initiative 4. (U24) Dissemination and Coordinating Center
Deliverable: Broad dissemination of strategies for regulatory submissions
Impact: Accelerate and improve IND submissions for genome editing

Will support data sharing, technical, and regulatory support in therapeutic development
- Semi-annual meetings
- Data and protocol sharing within the consortium and broader community
SCGE Phase 2 supports the NIH mission and meets the CF criteria

**Transformative:** Must have high potential to dramatically affect biomedical and/or behavioral research over the next decade

SCGE Phase 2 will de-risk multiple approaches to developing *in vivo* genome editing therapeutics, and make these approaches widely and publicly available, thereby accelerating clinical trials of therapies for new disease indications.

**Catalytic:** Must achieve a defined set of high impact goals within a defined period of time

SCGE Phase 2 will establish Proof of Concept and support platform tools and experiences that will be broadly shared.

**Synergistic:** Outcomes must synergistically promote and advance individual missions of NIH ICs to benefit health

SCGE Phase 2 will synergize with and build upon ongoing studies supported by NIH, as well as industry

**Cross-cutting:** Program areas must cut across missions of multiple NIH ICs, be relevant to multiple diseases or conditions, and be sufficiently complex to require a coordinated, trans-NIH approach

The deliverables from this program can be applied to a variety of genetic diseases, spanning multiple NIH ICs.

**Unique:** Must be something no other entity is likely or able to do

High-risk and highly impactful projects will be de-risked within the program infrastructure. SCGE Phase 2 is designed to support multidisciplinary teams, stakeholder engagement and delivery of publicly available tools.
Key Deliverables

Facilitating Clinical Trials of Genome Editing for Multiple Diseases

In. 1: Fit for regulatory purpose assays for e.g., pharm/tox, CMC, on/off-target effects, immune response, and in vivo tracking of edited cells.

In. 2: Datasets to support multiple gene editing INDs targeting different diseases in different cell types

In. 3: A template for obtaining an IND and running a clinical genome editing trial of more than one disease at a time, which explicitly leverages the inherent platform capacity of genome editors

In. 4: Identification and dissemination of best practices and the most successful approaches from the projects supported by SCGE Phase 2.
# SCGE Phase 2 Proposed Budget

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**Total:** $222M
**SCGE Phase 2 Planning Committee**

**Program Chair:** Joni Rutter, PhD, Acting Director, NCATS  
**Common Fund Program Leader:** Mary Ellen Perry, PhD, OSC/DPCPSI/OD  
**Working Group Coordinator:** PJ Brooks, PhD, NCATS  
**Working Group Program Analyst:** Deanna Portero, NCATS  
**Project Team Leads:** PJ Brooks, PhD, NCATS  
  - Colin Fletcher, PhD, NHGRI  
  - Oleg Mirochnitchenko, PhD, ORIP/DPCPSI/OD  
  - Betty Poon, PhD, NIAID  
  - Tatjana Atanasijevic, PhD, NIBIB  

### SCGE Working Group and Phase 2 Planning Committee Members

| Olivier Blondel, PhD, NIDDK | Subhashini Jagu, PhD, NCI | Sonynka Ngosso, MS, MBA, OSC/DPCPSI/OD |
| Eric Brunskill, PhD, NIDDK | Chameli Jhappan, PhD, NCI | Lisa Neuhold, PhD, NEI |
| Bonnie Burgess-Beusse, PhD, NIDDK | Marrah Lachowicz-Scroggins, PhD, NHLBI | Margaret Ochocinska, PhD, NHLBI |
| Emily Carifi, PhD, NIAMS | Tim LaVaute, PhD, NINDS | David Panchision, PhD, NIMH |
| Tom Cheever, PhD, NINDS | Nicholas Leake, MS, OSC/DPCPSI/OD | Aaron Pawlyk, PhD, NICHD |
| Sean Garin, NHGRI | J. Jerry Li, MD, PhD, NCI | Pankaj Qasba, PhD, NHLBI |
| Allison Gillaspy, PhD, NHLBI | Guoying Liu, PhD, NIBIB | David Rampulla, PhD, NIBIB |
| Daniel Gossett, PhD, NIDDK | Nicole Lockhart, PhD, NHGRI | Les Reinlib, PhD, NIEHS |
| Patricia Greenwel, PhD, NIDDK | James Luo, PhD, NHLBI | John Satterlee, PhD, NIDA |
| Linda Griffith, MD, PhD, NIAID | Martha Lundberg, PhD, NHLBI | Grace Shen, PhD, NEI |
| Min He, PhD, NCI | Kyung Moon, PhD, NHLBI | Wendy Wang, PhD, NCI |
| W. Keith Hoots, MD, NHLBI | Nasrin Nabavi, PhD, NIAID | George Zubal, PhD, NIBIB |