



# ITN FACT SHEET

Immune tolerance therapies - often referred to as the "holy grail" of immunology - are highly targeted, immune-based interventions that very specifically suppress an offending immune response, while leaving the disease-fighting immune responses intact.

For decades, these therapies have promised a revolution in the treatment of autoimmune diseases such as diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, and multiple sclerosis; they have promised a safer and more effective solution to the problem of organ transplant rejection; and they have promised lasting relief from allergic and asthmatic diseases.

The Immune Tolerance Network is working to turn the promise of tolerance into reality.

## Background and Mission

The Immune Tolerance Network (or ITN) was founded in 1999 as a research contract funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

The mission of the ITN is to accelerate the clinical development of new immune tolerance therapeutics in human disease – therapies that seek to replace current immunosuppressive drugs that are limited in their effectiveness and are associated with serious side effects.

The ITN is a collaboration of some of the world's foremost authorities on immune tolerance – physicians, basic and clinical researchers and technology professionals from academia, government and industry.

In a unique approach to clinical research, each ITN trial includes a comprehensive study of the genetic, cellular and immunological mechanisms behind the therapy. In many cases, these data represent our first glimpse of the mechanisms of immune tolerance therapies in the human clinical setting.

The ITN conducts clinical trials and biological assay studies based upon proposals submitted by the research community in:

- ❖ Autoimmune diseases
- ❖ Islet Transplantation
- ❖ Kidney and Liver Transplantation
- ❖ Allergy & Asthma

## Organization

- ❖ Led by over 80 world leaders immune tolerance research from over 40 institutions, in 9 countries
- ❖ Headquartered at the University California at San Francisco with additional offices in Bethesda, Maryland
- ❖ Funded by a seven-year \$160 million dollar contract from the NIAID, NIDDK and JDRF
- ❖ Research projects arise through a year-round, public call for applications from academic and industry investigators worldwide
- ❖ Partners with government, biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies to foster novel research

## Research

- ❖ Currently funding, developing and supporting over 16 different clinical trials in all phases of development
- ❖ Operates a dozen core facilities that perform highly standardized, quality controlled bioassays to support each clinical trial
- ❖ In-house "Clinical Trials Group" provides investigators with industry-modeled CRO support for trial development, monitoring, data & statistical analysis
- ❖ Supporting several studies supporting the development of bioassays to detect the genetic, cellular and immunologic markers of tolerance

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For more information, visit our website at [www.immunetolerance.org](http://www.immunetolerance.org)  
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