The Accelerating Medicines Partnership (AMP) is a consortium of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), 10 biopharmaceutical companies, and several nonprofit organizations. The AMP autoimmune diseases project will investigate promising new biological targets for drug development and identify differences between patients who respond and do not respond to therapies over the course of five years.

**Mission**

AMP brings together government, industry, and nonprofit organizations to identify and validate the most promising biological targets of disease for new diagnostic and drug development. The AMP autoimmune diseases project, focused on rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and systemic lupus erythematosus, seeks to identify common flaws in inflammation, particularly those that are shared with a larger number of autoimmune disorders that can cause severe disability, greatly affect quality of life, and are
associated with an increased risk of death. This project aims to reveal biomarkers and biological targets for drug development, matching existing drugs to patients with specific molecular profiles who are most likely to benefit.

**Consortium History**

The AMP autoimmune diseases project began in late 2014 and will be a five-year endeavor.

**Structure & Governance**

The AMP autoimmune diseases project is managed by a Steering Committee consisting of representatives from NIH, the Foundation for the NIH (FNIH), and participating companies and patient advocacy organizations. After research grants are awarded, investigators are added to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee is responsible for defining the research agenda and project plans, reviewing ongoing projects, and assessing milestones. The Steering Committee operates under the direction of the overall AMP Executive Committee, which consists of representatives from NIH, FNIH, participating companies, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and patient advocacy organizations.

The National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), as participating members of the AMP autoimmune diseases project, intend to promote these objectives by publishing two Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) for the development of a Leadership Center and Research Sites. Awardees will work collaboratively within a network structure to implement the AMP autoimmune diseases project. The resulting network will be developed by the NIH in collaboration with industry partners that will co-fund and actively participate in the scientific direction of the project.

**Financing**

The total project will receive $41.6 million over five years. The NIH will provide $20.9 million, and industry partners will provide $20.7 million.
Intellectual Property

AMP is designed to be precompetitive and will neither make use of preexisting intellectual property nor produce patentable findings.

Patent Engagement

The AMP autoimmune diseases project will be supported by several patient organizations including the Arthritis Foundation, the Lupus Foundation of America, the Lupus Research Institute/Alliance for Lupus Research, and the Rheumatology Research Foundation.

Data Sharing

AMP will deposit all data in a repository that will be accessible for use by the biomedical community and all qualified investigators, consistent with applicable laws, regulations, and policies, and unencumbered by any intellectual property claims.

Impact/Accomplishment

The research plan proposes a five-year process with goals and processes for each year. Year 1 will include startup activities such as validation of tissue acquisition processes and analytic technologies, and the development of operating procedures. Year 2 will focus on identification of disease-specific pathways by comparing data from patients and healthy individuals. Years 3-5 will expand the scale to include comparisons of different subsets of patients with RA or lupus to allow molecularly based patient stratification for precise treatment. The final 12 months (2019) will also include preliminary target validation. The data will be made publicly available through an internet-based information portal.

Homepage
Homepage
http://niams.nih.gov/Funding/Funded_Research/AMP_RA_Lupus/default.asp

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