

Pembrolizumab (Drug Only)

We are currently accepting proposals for the Pembrolizumab Investigator Initiated Studies Program (IISP). Please be aware that this is a highly competitive process.

To help to prepare a successful proposal, we are providing the following guidance:

- Please contact your local Regional Medical Scientific Director (RMSD, US only) or country specific liaison for any guidance pertaining to your specific concept prior to its submission, to ensure that it falls within the scope and interest of the Investigator Initiated Studies Program (IISP).
- Carefully review the Areas of Interest (AOI) below. Proposals that are not within the scope of these AOIs may be rejected without further review. Occasionally, we receive proposals out of the AOIs that represent "out of the box" thinking and are ultimately of great interest. If you believe this may apply for your proposal, please review with your RMSD or appropriate liaison prior to submission.
- Please include documentary evidence of successful and timely accrual and publication of investigators' studies in similar indications where possible. Feasibility is carefully considered in our assessment process.
- Combinations with non-MSD agents may be considered. In such cases, it is the responsibility of the investigator to procure approval for supply of third-party agents, which should be demonstrated with a letter of support.
- The Program encourages less experienced investigators to seek guidance from a mentor prior to submitting IISP proposals. If working with a mentor please also provide their CV where possible, along with a detailed letter from the mentor describing the mentoring plan.
- Proposals with safety as a sole primary endpoint are out of scope.
- Proposals for which the primary objectives are translational should be directed to our Oncology Translational Studies Program (OTSP). New as of December 2024, preclinical proposals should also be directed to the OTSP.
- The Program requests that investigators specify how they will support diversity in enrollment, including but not restricted to traditionally underrepresented minorities/ethnic groups.

Please note that IISP proposals competing with or duplicating any registration trial for Pembrolizumab will not be supported.

The IISP review is a competitive process. Decisions will be made on the basis of scientific/clinical merit and strategic fit, as well as feasibility.

Please be sure to abide by the timelines for this process as outlined below when submitting applications.

Special Note: Diversity & Inclusion and Patient Engagement

We seek to foster diverse and inclusive representation and patient engagement within the individual Areas of Interest for each tumor type. We encourage study proposals across our

Program which, in addition to demonstrating scientific merit, also take into consideration the following:

- Outcome disparities in underrepresented populations
- Inclusion of non-academic programs/institutions
- Involvement of under-represented regions or countries

Pembrolizumab Drug Only Clinical AOs for 2025:

Home Administration

- Novel approaches for the administration of IV pembrolizumab in the home setting

Melanoma

- In patients with rarer melanoma subtypes such as mucosal, uveal melanoma: Novel combinations in any line of therapy i.e. neoadjuvant, peri-operative (excluding adjuvant-only treatments), advanced disease- 1L+

Bladder

- Novel combinations with pembrolizumab for the management of MIBC and upper tract tumors, including both perioperative and risk-adapted organ-preserving strategies

Note: Non-MIBC is not of interest at this time.

Note: Potential combination partners for clinical trials should have published toxicity data that can be used to guide trial design and potentially predict expected toxicities. Consideration should be given on whether to include an appropriate safety run-in component.