

## **THE IMMUNE TOLERANCE NETWORK (ITN)**

<http://www.immunetolerance.org/>

### **Description of Project**

- The Immune Tolerance Network (ITN) is an international consortium of scientists and physicians dedicated to the clinical evaluation of novel tolerogenic approaches for the treatment of autoimmune diseases, asthma and allergic diseases, and the prevention of graft rejection. Investigators within and outside of the ITN are invited to submit proposals for clinical trials, which are reviewed by the Scientific Review Committee. This committee is one of several standing subcommittees; others address policy (including ethics and conflict of interest); protocol development, monitoring, and analysis; publications; and industry liaison.
- All ITN clinical trials include mechanistic studies designed to uncover the basic biological features of clinical tolerance and are supported by a wide-range of scientific and technical expertise and facilities. These resources include over a dozen core facilities to assess immunocompetence, and monitor induction, maintenance, and loss of tolerance including high throughput genomics and proteomics cores.

### **Accomplishments**

- Currently, there are 24 ITN-sponsored clinical trials in allergy, transplantation, and autoimmune diseases (including MS, rheumatologic disorders, and type 1 diabetes) either ongoing or in development.
- Developed a robust specimen and clinical assay tracking system and bioinformatics tools for integrating complex clinical and mechanistic data across trials in multiple immune-mediated diseases.
- Established core laboratory facilities, including gene expression, ELISPOT, MHC-tetramers, flow cytometry, autoantibody, and a specimen repository.

### **Future Directions**

- Continue to support clinical trials and mechanistic studies for novel tolerance induction strategies.

### **Participants**

Sponsors:      National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
                      National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases  
                      Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International

### **Participating Institutions**

The ITN is composed of more than 80 basic and clinical scientists and physicians at over 40 institutions in the U.S., Canada, and Europe, and is supported by a seven-year contract with the University of California, San Francisco.

*Updated May 2004*