Astellas Pharma are an international pharmaceutical company seeking novel research programs targeting microglia biology for neuroinflammatory and/or neuroimmunological disorders. Astellas are interested in microglia biology with a focus on disease/pathophysiology-specific microglia. This could include aspects of the following, as well as other microglia-specific disease traits:

- Lysosomal function
- Pyroptosis
- Autoimmune/inflammatory diseases

**Target Diseases**

Diseases of particular interest are neuroinflammatory disorders which have a strong/clear relevance to a specific target. Research focused on the following areas is of highest interest:

- Synucleinopathies, such as Parkinson’s disease and Multiple System Atrophy
- Hearing loss
- Autoimmune/autoinflammatory diseases
- Pyroptosis-associated diseases
- Highly creative proposals focused on microglia biology in other diseases is also within scope
- Astellas are most interested in opportunities focused on small molecule or antibody therapeutic approaches, but are also open to other modalities, including cell therapy, and CAR-macrophage/microglia/Tregs for neuroinflammation

**Developmental Stage**

- Astellas are interested in opportunities from the target identification preclinical stage through to clinical phase 1
- Therapeutic targets where the mechanism of action is proven or well understood is of highest interest
- Preclinical proof of concept has ideally been evaluated in a clinically translatable study (e.g. *in vitro* patient-derived/human/mammalian cells/tissues assay, *in vivo* animal model study). Non-mammalian models are of less interest

**Out of Scope**

Opportunities focused on microglia in the context of the microbiome, well-known target approaches, steroids, natural products and drug repurposing are outside of Astellas’ research interests for this campaign.

**Incentives for Academics**

Submissions will be reviewed on a case by case basis, with outcomes potentially including research collaborations, licencing of assets and expansion of expertise in project infancy.

**Submissions**

Please submit relevant, non-confidential opportunities online via: [discover.in-part.com](http://discover.in-part.com)

Deadline: 15th March 2021 - 11:59 pm GMT

Have any questions? Contact our team at [discover@in-part.co.uk](mailto:discover@in-part.co.uk)

Astellas is a Japanese multinational pharmaceuticals company which combats diseases with a combination of ground-breaking technology and biology. The company has an extensive track record of academic collaboration.