The CTI 2020 Call for Proposals (CFP) is focused on identifying novel therapeutic opportunities in the areas outlined below with application in Pfizer’s core research focus areas: oncology, inflammation & immunology, internal medicine and rare diseases.

**Areas of Interest and Targets/Pathways of Focus:**

1. **Opportunities related to DNA Damage Response and Replicative Stress** such as:
   - Chromatin and DNA damage response modulators in the context of nuclear or spatial organization (e.g. biochemical condensates)
   - Novel targets identified via synthetic lethal, chemical biology or other approaches, including DNA repair enzymes (esp. nucleases), scaffolding factors and nucleic acid targets (R-loops, G-quadruplexes)
   - DNA damage proteins associated with diseases such as cancer and repeat expansion diseases
   
   *Out-of-scope: cell therapies, antibody-drug conjugates, nucleic acid therapeutics*

2. **Opportunities that address the cause or treatment of Repeat Expansion Diseases**, such as:
   - Therapeutic targeting of the mutant gene
   - Interventions that halt or reverse the somatic expansion of the repeating DNA sequences
   - Novel mechanisms that modulate or regulate the pathological repeat
   - Genetic modifiers of repeat instability or repeat contraction

   *Out-of-scope: therapeutic approaches that target/clear protein aggregates*

3. **Opportunities to target Cellular Senescence**, including senolytic and senomomorphic approaches such as:
   - Induction or targeting of senescent-like arrest of tumor cells to overcome drug resistance and/or improve immune response to solid tumors
   - Novel senescence targets related to fibrosis, specifically mechanisms responsible for modulating fibroblasts/myofibroblasts function and tissue remodeling by stem/tissue progenitor cells
   - Targeting of senescence pathways in tissue resident immune cells in the liver, lung, skin, joints, and gastrointestinal tract that contribute to disease

   *Out-of-scope: telomeres/telomerase targeting approaches, age-related dysfunction*

4. **Opportunities related to Tissue-Immune System Crosstalk** in disease pathology including:
   - Targets/pathways that induce immune tolerance by modulation of unique or accessory regulatory cells including macrophages (Mregs), B cells (Bregs), and tolerogenic dendritic cells (tolDCs)
   - Novel inflammatory pathways/targets in tissue-resident innate, parenchymal, and stromal cell populations including fibroblasts, stem/tissue progenitors, neutrophils and macrophages

   *Out-of-scope: cell and gene therapies*