IMI JU Draft Scientific Priorities 2009

DISCLAIMER:
Please note that the Draft Scientific Priorities set forth hereunder should not, in any case, be regarded as the topics for the 2nd Call of the IMI JU.

The Draft Scientific Priorities 2009 have been adopted by the IMI Governing Board at its meeting on 20th March 2009 to set the frame for the development of call topics, which will be published later this year (presumably September). However, as this is still a draft, there might be changes, drops or additions to the fields mentioned.

In the **Efficacy Pillar** the areas of cancer, infectious diseases and inflammation are seen as priorities for this year.
In **Cancer** the focus is foreseen on the following fields:
The development, evaluation and qualification of imaging biomarkers of tumor cell proliferation and death, and of the invasive phenotype is one area with the focus to create a network of imaging centres allowing clinical validation of imaging biomarkers across multiple sites.
Another field in the area of cancer is the search for new tools for target validation to improve drug efficacy, including improved models and integrated bioinformatics to generate testable hypotheses (systems biology).
A third field are molecular biomarkers for the acceleration of cancer therapy development and refining of patient care focusing on the characterisation of predictive, prognostic and pharmacodynamic biomarkers and the standardisation of analytical methods and data retention and sharing.

In **Infectious Diseases** IMI sees a strong need in the identification and development of rapid point of care diagnostic tests for bacterial diagnosis to facilitate conduct of clinical trials and clinical practice with focus on respiratory tract infections (pneumonia, bronchitis etc).

In **Inflammation** chronic immune mediated diseases (IMDs) are the focus for 2009. The goal is to get a better understanding of aberrant adaptive immunity mechanisms in human chronic IMDs by comparative human T-cell and B-cell biology. To identify common denominators and differentiating factors between autoimmune diseases, the primarily tackled diseases will be Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA), Systemic Lupus Erythematosis (SLE) & Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). The establishment of a pan-European network for Immuno-Pathology and Translational Biomarker research should facilitate translational research in chronic IMD in order to bridge the gap between animal models and humans.

In the **Knowledge Management Pillar** the focus for 2009 lies on standardization, free access, interoperability and exchange of data relevant for drug discovery and development, including databases for drug/disease models and small molecules and a frame for access and exchange of clinical/healthcare data.