



## ANNEX B

### EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR STDR PRE-PILOT (STREAM 1 & 2) AND PILOT STAGES

#### 1. Evaluation Criteria for STDR Pre-Pilot Stream 1 (Target Validation)

| S/N | Summary of Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| 1   | Target Biology and Rationale                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 1.1 | <b>Characterization of target/pathway in the physiological/disease process</b><br><br>a. Does the body of evidence provided in the proposal substantiate the target's role in the selected disease?<br><br>For example (non-exhaustive):<br>a. Association of genetic modification, mRNA levels or protein expression with the disease.<br>b. Correlation between disease progression/severity and target expression.<br>c. Exclusion of the influence of confounding factors.<br>d. Observation of similar phenotype with knockout/knockdown and pharmacological modulation, e.g., with a tool molecule<br>e. Use of relevant or human/patient-derived tissue/models in studies<br>f. Accurate interpretation of the results (causation vs. correlation)<br><br>b. Are the <i>in vitro</i> / <i>in vivo</i> models used adequate?<br><br>c. Are the results consistent with other sources? If there were contrary reports by others, did the proposal address this? |
| 1.2 | <b>Models and Tools (Availability and quality of models and tools for pharmacological evaluation of target)</b><br><br>a. Do the <i>in vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> models available for the indication of choice have a predictive value?<br><br>b. Are there pharmacological tools available for target validation (a tool compound can be a small molecule, antibody or other molecular probe and should be a potent, selective modulator that perturbs the biological target in a dose-dependent manner)?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 2   | <b>Safety</b><br><br>a. Could perturbation of the target lead to toxicity?<br><br>b. Does the proposal consider the target's expression across tissue types, between normal and diseased cells/tissues, and its normal physiological role, etc.?<br><br>c. If safety risks have been identified, can they be mitigated?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

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| <b>3</b>   | <b>Unmet Medical Need</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>3.1</b> | <b>Is there a need for a new treatment to be developed to address this disease?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Does the proposal establish the clinical and epidemiological burden of the disease (incidence/prevalence, morbidity, mortality, quality-of-life impact)?</li> <li>b. Is the current standard-of-care (SoC) landscape accurately described, including approved therapies and their limitations in efficacy, safety, tolerability, durability, or accessibility?</li> <li>c. Is the unmet need defined for a specific, well-characterised patient population (e.g. relapsed/refractory, biomarker-defined, or underserved segment) rather than asserted in general terms?</li> <li>d. Where existing therapies are available, does the proposal substantiate why they are inadequate for the target population (e.g. resistance, intolerance, lack of response, no curative option)?</li> <li>e. Is the claim of unmet need supported by external evidence (guidelines, registries, literature) rather than the applicant's assertion alone?</li> </ul> |
| <b>3.2</b> | <b>How differentiated would the proposed therapeutic be versus the competition?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Are there therapies already on the market or under clinical development for the proposed indication?</li> <li>b. Does the proposed approach have the potential to be differentiated from existing therapy or therapy under development? (e.g., better safety and/or efficacy, optimized compliance, specific patient segments can be addressed effectively, etc.)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>4</b>   | <b>Originality of the Approach</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>4.1</b> | <b>Novelty of the target</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Has the target been pursued before for this indication?</li> <li>b. Have others tried to work on this or a similar target but for a different indication?</li> <li>c. Has the target been clinically validated before? Are there other comparable therapeutics in pre-clinical stage or early clinical development that have not yet reached clinical proof of concept?</li> <li>d. Has the target been clinically validated in the same indication? Are there drugs against the same target and for this indication available in the market?</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>5</b>   | <b>Repurposing Projects (if applicable)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Is there substantial evidence, including experimental proof of mechanistic effects of the use of the repurposed drug in the new indication?</li> <li>b. Are the side effects from the use of this drug acceptable?</li> <li>c. Is there potential for the new use to be patented and exploited?</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

## 2. Evaluation Criteria for STDR Pre-Pilot Stream 2 (Platform Development)

| S/N        | Summary of Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| <b>1</b>   | <b>Fit to Therapeutic Platform Definition</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>1.1</b> | <b>Does the proposed therapeutic asset-generation engine have clear platform architecture, modularity, and pipeline potential?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|            | <p>A therapeutic platform is a <u>reusable</u> discovery, design, engineering, or development system that enables the <u>generation of multiple distinct therapeutic product candidates from a proprietary underlying technology, modality, workflow, or biological principle.</u></p> <p>The platform should have a <u>credible path to producing a pipeline of therapeutic assets</u> across different targets, indications, mechanisms, patient populations, or therapeutic constructs.</p> <p>Technologies whose primary output is a research tool, assay, model, dataset, diagnostic, delivery method, or manufacturing process will not be considered therapeutic platforms unless they are directly integrated with a repeatable process for generating therapeutic candidates.</p> |
| <b>2</b>   | <b>Scientific and Technical Strength</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|            | Does the proposal's scientific and technical package provide evidence for the platform's feasibility? Does it include relevant preliminary data with appropriate comparators and assays/models, a technically feasible workflow and identification of key technical risks with credible mitigation plans?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>3</b>   | <b>Therapeutic Relevance, First Target Rationale and Development Path</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>3.1</b> | <b>Does the proposal have a relevant target and development rationale?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|            | <p>a. Is the first asset and target choice therapeutically compelling and strategically chosen to exemplify how the platform may tackle current treatment bottlenecks or specific biology?</p> <p>b. Is this supported by biology/translational evidence, and is it linked to follow-on strategy?</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>4</b>   | <b>Scalability, Repeatability and Differentiation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>4.1</b> | <b>Is the platform scalable and differentiated?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|            | <p>a. Does the platform have repeatable and modular workflows to allow it to scale across assets? Are input and output criteria defined?</p> <p>b. Is the platform likely to be superior against its benchmarks, and is there potential for expansion?</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>5</b>   | <b>Commercialisation Potential</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>5.1</b> | <b>Does the proposal have a compelling platform-to-product commercial thesis?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|            | Does the proposal outline a clear unmet need, defensible differentiation, an attractive initial indication and a credible path to IP?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>6</b>   | <b>Team Capability and Execution Plan</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|            | Does the team have an execution plan with clear roles for team members, decision gates, risk mitigation and budget alignment?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

### 3. Evaluation Criteria for STDR Pilot

| S/N        | Summary of Criteria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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| <b>1</b>   | <b>Research and Scientific Merit of Technology</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>1.1</b> | <b>Current Scientific Understanding of Target and Platform Validation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Evidence to support the proposed target as a driver of disease</li> <li>b. Evidence to substantiate proposed mechanism of action (MOA) of disease treatment</li> <li>c. <b>For platforms:</b> Evidence to support the platform and what is the breadth of applications</li> </ul>                                            |
| <b>1.2</b> | <b>Quality of Research Conducted to Date</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Stage of development of the technology; and the corresponding development, reasoning, and appropriateness of the concepts and methodology</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>1.3</b> | <b>Potential as Platform Technology [For platform projects]</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Potential to be developed as a platform technology for multiple products or indications</li> <li>b. Opportunity matrix of possible therapies that can be developed using this platform</li> </ul>                                                                                                                            |
| <b>2</b>   | <b>Scientific and Technical Strength</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>2.1</b> | <b>Unmet Medical Need and Current Market Size</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Prevalence of the indication</li> <li>b. Size of the potential target population</li> <li>c. Potential of the technology to deliver on the unmet medical need</li> <li>d. For platforms: Spectrum of possible indications and size of the first target indication</li> </ul>                                                 |
| <b>2.2</b> | <b>Research Differentiation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Existence of directly competing technologies in development, or groups known to be working on similar technologies or the same targets</li> <li>b. Stage of development of the competing groups vis-à-vis the proposed research</li> <li>c. Medical expertise in team, either through experience or collaboration</li> </ul> |
| <b>2.3</b> | <b>Competitive Landscape</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Amount of commercial competition in the target indication, including other treatment approaches (e.g. surgery or devices)</li> <li>b. Existence of therapeutics being developed for the target in the same or different indications</li> <li>c. Clarity on the benefits over current standard of care</li> </ul>             |
| <b>3</b>   | <b>Development Plans</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>3.1</b> | <b>Research Plan Feasibility</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Realistic deliverables with respect to the timeframe and proposed budget</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. Realistic and quality research plan with a clear roadmap</li> <li>c. Presence of any significant barriers to achieving stated goals</li> <li>d. Sufficient budget, expertise and access to research infrastructure or resources</li> <li>e. Clear identification of go/no-go criteria</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>4</b>   | <b>Commercialisation and Intellectual Property (IP)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>4.1</b> | <b>Commercial Viability</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Ability of proposed deliverables to position the project for the next funding stage or be attractive to commercial partners</li> <li>b. Amount of additional development and/or budget outlay to support future development</li> <li>c. Time taken for technology to be ready for pre-Investigational New Drug (IND) activities and/or clinical development</li> <li>d. Challenges in terms of scaling-up, manufacturing and deployment/clinical adoption of the asset or platform technology</li> </ul> |
| <b>4.2</b> | <b>Intellectual Property</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. How crowded the patent landscape is</li> <li>b. Potential to generate foreground IP</li> <li>c. Potential issues with freedom-to-operate</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>4.3</b> | <b>Strategic Partnerships for Future Development</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Identification or engagement of strategic partners</li> <li>b. Potential for development of technologies with partners</li> <li>c. Development plan to secure venture capital funds</li> <li>d. Strategy for licensing</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |