

Guidelines for Nomenclature to Receive Approval from the IUIS Nomenclature Committee (NOM)

Introduction

The mission of the [Nomenclature Committee of IUIS \(NOM\)](#) is to engage the immunology community in an open forum where nomenclature of the cells and molecules of the immune system are discussed and decided upon.

NOM has established a series of Sub-Committees that oversee and up-date the nomenclature of various groups of genes, cells and molecules. They operate along the guidelines given below.

Proposals from the community are welcome regarding nomenclatures for any field of immunology. Proposals that address the field of an established NOM Sub-Committee should refer to and take into account the current nomenclature of the respective Sub-Committee.

Written proposals should be submitted to the Co-chairs of NOM for evaluation by the Committee based upon the guidelines presented below.

NOM Nomenclature Guidelines

1. The members of the group submitting a new nomenclature proposal should be experts in the field. The group should adhere to equity, diversity and inclusion and should strive for global representation and gender equity in its composition[§]. Describe the history of the group and whether an inclusive process was involved in forming it.
2. Introduce the field, and describe the new nomenclature in that context. A new nomenclature should describe immunologically relevant gene(s), molecule(s) or cells, or combinations thereof, and this can be in the context of homeostasis, of disease or of ontogeny.
3. The scope of the nomenclature can cover any species and its immune system^{§§}.
4. Justify the need for the new nomenclature based on a body of peer-reviewed publications and the absence of a pre-existing, adequate nomenclature.
5. A mere report of the existence of gene(s), molecule(s) or cell(s) is not sufficient; their function, clinical and/or biological relevance must be demonstrated.
6. The nomenclature should be neutral and have a rational design.
7. For cells, define whether a cell type or a cell state is being described. Names should be provided with identifying marker(s), expressed gene(s) and/or other phenotypic characteristics^{§§§}.
8. Provide a plan for implementing the nomenclature, and its oversight and maintenance once established^{§§§§}.
9. Ideally, approval by NOM should be obtained before publication of a nomenclature. When accepted by NOM, the nomenclature should be publicized, with an option to do this on the IUIS's [NOM webpage](#) and/or in the IUIS Newsletter.

§ This implies that when a small group has spearheaded the initiative, then this group should seek support from a wider field of independent scientists. If available, the support by a relevant scientific society would be helpful.

§§ Normally, the nomenclature should not be restricted to a single species (e.g., limited to humans only) but take into account the immune system of additional species as appropriate. This is to avoid parallel nomenclatures for different species.

§§§ It is suggested use of identifiers, like CD for cluster of differentiation, C for complement and ILC for innate lymphoid cells, would be helpful. Three-letter identifiers reduce chances of mix-up with other abbreviations. Suggested terms are numbers (1, 2, 3...), letters (a, b, c...), classical, alternative, primary, secondary, early, late, and the like.

§§§§ This may include the production of publications and new websites that describe the nomenclature and its rules. Implementation of a new nomenclature, and particularly its oversight (including approval of its usage), may involve formation of a new Sub-Committee of the NOM, or a new Review Group within an existing NOM Sub-Committee or within the NOM itself.

Approved: By the Nomenclature Committee 31 October 2023; by IUIS Executive Committee 03 November 2024; by the IUIS Council 10 January 2025.