



RESEARCH GRANT OPPORTUNITIES
Basic and Translational Research



The UCLA AIDS Institute/Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) are accepting applications for seed grants to fund basic and translational studies with special emphasis on collaborative and multi-disciplinary studies. The UCLA AI/CFAR, UCLA Pediatric AIDS Coalition and other private sources will fund these seed grants.

Funding level: \$30,000

Deadline for receipt of Letters of Intent: October 2, 2017

Applicants whose Letters of Intent are favorably reviewed will be invited to submit a formal proposal. Formal proposals will then be due by December 11, 2017.

The project period will be two years, with the earliest start date of February 2018.

Investigator Eligibility

- Applicants must have a full-time UCLA faculty appointment (Assistant Research Biologist Step 2 or higher, at the time of submission)
- All AIDS investigators newly recruited to the UCLA faculty (Assistant Researcher (step 2) or higher, less than 36 months at UCLA) or without previous R01 support (or equivalent) must identify a senior faculty mentor to serve as Co-PI (without salary).
- Full professors are not eligible to apply for seed grant awards unless working in novel areas of research that are not an extension of current research. This must be fully justified in the Letter of Intent
- Previous seed grant awardees may reapply with NEW projects.

Funding Criteria

- The Institute is accepting basic and translational research proposals in AIDS areas that address one of the NIH High Priority Topics of research support using AIDS designated funds. These priorities relevant to Basic/Translational Sciences include:
 1. Reducing Incidence of HIV/AIDS including: developing and testing promising vaccines, developing and testing microbicide and pre-exposure prophylaxis candidates.
 2. Next generation of HIV therapies with better safety and ease of use including: developing and testing HIV treatments that are less toxic, longer acting, have fewer side effects and complications, and easier to take and adhere to than current regimens.
 3. Research toward a cure including: developing novel approaches and strategies to identify and eliminate viral reservoirs that could lead toward a cure or lifelong remission of HIV infection, including studies of viral persistence, latency, reactivation, and eradication.
 4. HIV-associated comorbidities, coinfections, and complications including: addressing the impact of HIV-associated comorbidities, including tuberculosis, malignancies; cardiovascular, neurological, and metabolic complications; and premature aging associated with long-term HIV disease and antiretroviral therapy.
 5. Cross cutting area of Basic Research: understanding the basic biology of HIV transmission and pathogenesis; immune dysfunction and chronic inflammation; host microbiome and genetic determinants; and other fundamental issues that underpin the development of high priority HIV prevention, cure, co-morbidities, and treatment strategies.
- Proposals should outline clearly how research funded by the seed grant could be translated into a larger project, particularly an NIH R01 level grant, an R34, an R21 or equivalent funded by a non-governmental source (e.g. amfAR, CIRM, pharmaceutical company, or private foundation).
- Evidence of investigator productivity will be considered during the review. This includes, but is not limited to evidence of ongoing application for outside funding by PI, funding received as a result of any previous CFAR pilot project, PI publication record especially if applicant is a previous CFAR pilot project recipient.

- Grants that fall into one of the following categories will be given higher priority when funds are limited:
 1. Funds for junior AIDS investigators newly recruited to the UCLA faculty (Assistant Researcher (step 2) and higher, less than 36 months at UCLA) or without previous R01 support (or equivalent).
 2. Multi-disciplinary projects that involve novel collaborations involving two or more faculty members from clearly distinct disciplines. The application must demonstrate that:
 - Each party's contribution to the collaboration comes from expertise in distinct disciplines without overlapping areas of research or technical know-how.
 - A substantial contribution is made by each party in the collaboration (for example, simple provision of reagents or advice by one party would not qualify)
 - The work could not be performed effectively without the collaboration.
 3. Bridge funding for existing projects, which will have lost ongoing grant support prior to the start date of the proposed AIDS institute grant, and for which a competing renewal application is submitted or in preparation..

Applications not meeting the above criteria will be returned without review.

- Although IRB approval is not required prior to application, release of funding will be contingent on receipt of IRB approval for proposed project.
- No indirect costs may be included.
- This mechanism is for **domestic** projects only.
- Grants will be peer reviewed by committee.
- Progress reports and end of project reports will be required.
- All successful seed grant recipients will be required to serve as peer reviewers in subsequent funding rounds.

CFAR core facilities are available, on a recharge basis, in these areas: virology, cytometry, humanized mice, gene and cellular therapy, biostatistics, mucosal immunology, and clinical research facilitation (IRB and patient registry). For contact information, please see <http://aidsinstitute.ucla.edu/cfar>

Instructions for Letters of Intent

Letters of intent must be no longer than 2 pages, and must include the following:

- Your name, degrees, and full contact information (email, phone, mailing address)
- Justification of eligibility
- Identification of High Priority topic for AIDS research
- Brief summary of the proposed research project
- Brief summary of your experience conducting similar research
- Total amount of funding requested
- Must also include NIH biosketch (does not count towards the 2 page limit)

Letters of intent must be received **no later than 4:00 pm on October 2, 2017.** They can be sent via post **or** email to: UCLA AIDS Institute, 10940 Wilshire Blvd., Ste 960, Los Angeles, CA 90024, aidsinst@ucla.edu

Instructions for formal proposals will then be forwarded to applicants whose letters of intent are approved. Formal proposals will then be due **no later than 4:00pm on December 11, 2017.**

Successful applicant PIs must provide their NIH Commons ID number. During the award period and for up to ten years post-award, awardees must provide the following information to the UCLA AI/CFAR by November 30 of each year: (1) all publications that resulted from AI/CFAR -supported research with PubMed ID, and (2) all PHS and non-PHS federal support that contributed to or resulted from the AI/CFAR-supported research.

Questions about eligibility, letters of intent, or formal proposals can be directed to Dr. Otoniel Martinez-Maza, omartinez@ucla.edu, 310-825-2542