



RESEARCH GRANT OPPORTUNITIES Biobehavioral Epidemiology and Substance Abuse



The UCLA AIDS Institute and Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) are accepting applications for seed grants to fund studies relevant to HIV in the new program section of Biobehavioral Epidemiology and Substance Abuse. Special consideration will be given to new investigators, high-risk, high-benefit projects and new research direction projects. These seed grants will be funded by the UCLA AI/CFAR and other private sources.

**Funding level: \$50,000 max for Investigators, Junior Faculty
\$15,000 max for Students/Fellows/Postdocs**

Deadline for receipt of Letters of Intent: June 27, 2016

Applicants whose Letters of Intent are favorably reviewed will be invited to submit a formal proposal. Full proposals will then be due by **September 5, 2016**.

The project period will be two years, with the earliest start date of November 2016.

Investigator Eligibility

- Faculty (Clinical Instructor series and higher), at UCLA, or UCLA-affiliated institutions.
- AIDS investigators newly recruited to the UCLA faculty (less than 36 months at UCLA) or without previous R01 support (or equivalent) – must include senior faculty mentor serving as co-Investigator.
- An emerging scientist OR an established scientist moving into a new area of clinical research

Funding Criteria

- Innovative approaches to measurement especially for substance use, are of particular interest
- No applications that include only behavioral measures will be considered.
- Multi-disciplinary projects that involve novel collaborations involving two or more faculty members from clearly distinct disciplines are encouraged.
- The Institute is accepting research proposals in AIDS areas that address one of the NIH High Priority Topics with emphasis placed on topics that address substance use or misuse:
 1. Reducing Incidence of HIV/AIDS, including developing and testing promising methods for implementing antiretroviral medications used for treatment and for pre-exposure prophylaxis; and developing, testing, and implementing strategies to improve HIV testing and entry into prevention services.
 2. Implementation research to ensure initiation of treatment as soon as diagnosis has been made, retention and engagement in these services, and achievement and maintenance of optimal prevention and treatment responses.
 3. 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. This includes focus on “expanded comorbidities” of mental health and/or substance use disorders.
 4. 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, with particular emphasis on expanded comorbidities of mental health and or substance use disorders.

5. Research to Reduce Health Disparities in the incidence of new HIV infections or in treatment outcomes of those living with HIV/AIDS.

- Although IRB approval is not required prior to application, release of funding will be contingent on receipt of IRB approval for proposed project. All required institutional and/or funder's requirements must be met prior to release of funds.
- Please note that human subjects younger than 18 are classified as children (per NIH guidelines) and additional approvals such as informed consent will be required before funding can be released.
- 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.

Core facilities are available, on a recharge basis, in these areas: virology, cytometry, humanized mice, gene and cellular therapy, biostatistics, mucosal immunology, clinical research facilitation (IRB and patient registry). For contact information, please see <http://aidsinstitute.ucla.edu/site.cfm?id=32>

Instructions for Letters of Intent

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

- Name, degrees, and full contact information (email, phone, mailing address)
- 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 include NIH biosketch (does not count towards the 2 page limit)

Letters of intent must be received **no later than 5:00 pm on June 27, 2016**. They can be sent via email to Jina Lee at 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 5:00pm on September 5, 2016**

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 Amy Ragsdale, aeragsdale@mednet.ucla.edu