Multi-Disciplinary Collaboration – Biobehavioral HIV Research

HIV Extinction Project Funding Opportunity
Multi-Disciplinary Collaboration
Approaches to Biobehavioral HIV Research

The UCLA Center for AIDS Research (CFAR), AIDS Institute, UCLA Center for HIV Identification, Prevention and Treatment Services (CHIPTS) and the UCLA Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) are accepting Letters of Intent for seed grant proposals to encourage multidisciplinary collaborations in biobehavioral research through the CFAR Biobehavioral Epidemiology and Substance Abuse Program Section. Applicants are invited to submit proposals describing innovative approaches to that include investigators from different disciplines: basic and behavioral. The goal of these grants is to encourage collaborations between multiple disciplines in order to facilitate development of preliminary data that will be leveraged for future submissions of program project applications or equivalent funding mechanisms. Collaboration with CTSI institutions (Cedars-Sinai, Charles Drew University, LA BioMed/ Harbor-UCLA and UCLA) is strongly encouraged.

Funding level: $100,000 (total over the 2 year period/application)

Deadline for receipt of Letters of Intent: May 17, 2019
Applicants whose Letters of Intent are favorably reviewed will be invited to submit a formal proposal. Formal proposals will then be due by July 15, 2019.

The project period will be two years, with the earliest start date of August 2019 pending renewal of the Los Angeles CFAR by NIH.

Investigator Eligibility

• Applicants in all series levels are eligible to apply for this funding mechanism as long as the faculty member has UCLA Principal Investigator Status or is eligible for an exemption per UCLA Policy 900: Principal Investigator Eligibility. If qualifying via an exemption, you will need to submit a letter from your Department Chair verifying eligibility.

• All NIH defined Early Stage and New Investigators, and all applicants newly recruited to the UCLA faculty (less than 36 months at UCLA) must identify a senior faculty mentor to serve as Co-PI (without salary).

• All NIH defined Early Stage and New Investigators must justify a career path to independence, especially if the applicant does not have lab space assigned in their name in the letter of intent.

Funding criteria

• 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).

• The Institute is accepting research proposals that specifically address the following NIH High Priority Funding Topics:
  o “Cross cutting areas: Basic research, health disparities, and training including but not limited to: 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.”
  o Proposals for this funding mechanism must integrate a behavioral component and a basic research component.

• Multi-disciplinary projects must involve novel collaborations between two or more faculty members. The application must demonstrate that:
  o Each party's contribution to the collaboration comes from expertise in distinct disciplines without overlapping areas of research or technical know-how.
  o 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.

Collaborations that involve NIH defined Early Stage and New Investigators will receive funding priority.

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.

Established projects will not be considered.

Applicants should describe all preliminary data supporting the project.

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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. 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.

For projects involving human subjects, NCATS Human Subjects Research Prior Approval (HSRPA) is 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 https://www.uclahealth.org/aidsinstitute/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 including discussion of career path to independence if appropriate as outlined above
- Letter from Department Chair if required per Investigator 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 May 17, 2019. They can be sent via post or email to: UCLA AIDS Institute, 11075 Santa Monica Blvd., Ste. 100, Los Angeles, CA 90025, 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 July 15, 2019.

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 30th of each year: (1) all publications that resulted from AI/CFAR and CTSI-supported research with PubMed PMCID, and (2) all PHS and non-PHS federal support that contributed to or resulted from the AI/CFAR and CTSI-supported research.

Questions about the UCLA CTSI can be directed to the CTSI Office of Investigator Services at 310-794-CTSI.

Questions about eligibility, letters of intent, or formal proposals can be directed to Jina Lee, jinalee@mednet.ucla.edu, 310-794-5335