The UCLA AIDS Institute and the Keck School of Medicine of USC, Department of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology are accepting Letters of Intent for seed grant proposals to encourage cross campus collaborations in one of the NIH High Priority Topics of HIV research. The goal of these grants is to encourage collaborations across campuses in order to facilitate development of preliminary data that will be leveraged for future submissions of program project applications or equivalent funding mechanisms.

**Funding level:** $50,000 (total over the 2 year period/application)

**Deadline for receipt of Letters of Intent:** January 11, 2019

Applicants whose Letters of Intent are favorably reviewed will be invited to submit a formal proposal. Formal proposals will then be due by March 11, 2019.

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

**Investigator eligibility**

Investigators applying for seed grants must be:

- Applicants from UCLA or an affiliated institution or collaborating community-based organization must have UCLA Principal Investigator Status or be 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.

- Applicants from USC must be eligible for to serve as a Principal Investigator per the [USC Faculty Handbook](#).

- 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).

- This will be a multi PI grant, and one of the PI’s must be an NIH defined Early Stage and New Investigator.

- Associate and Full professors are not eligible to apply for seed grant awards unless the applicant is new to the field of HIV or is proposing innovative and 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, however as described below under Funding Criteria, productivity on prior seed grants will be considered as part of the review process.

*Note that dissertations are not eligible for this RFA.*

**Funding criteria**

- The Institute is accepting research proposals in AIDS areas that address any of the NIH High Priority Topics of research support using AIDS designated funds. ([High Priority AIDS Topics](#)).

- Established projects will not be considered.

- Projects must involve novel collaborations involving two or more faculty members (at least one from each campus). 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.

- Proposals that involve junior investigator positions in addition to the required Co-PI will receive funding priority.

- Applicants should describe all preliminary data supporting the project.
• 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).

• Only US-based projects will be considered.

• Although IRB and/or IACUC approval is not required prior to the submission of the application, release of funding will be contingent on receipt of IRB and/or IACUC approval notice(s) listing the UCLA CFAR grant number 5P30 AI028697, UCLA AIDS Institute, and Keck School of Medicine of USC, as funding sources for the proposed project.

• 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.

• Grants will be reviewed by a peer-review committee.

• Progress reports and end of project reports will be required.

• 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 pilot project, PI publication record especially if applicant is a previous pilot project recipient.

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). USC users will receive CFAR membership rates for use of CFAR cores. 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 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 January 11, 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 March 11, 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 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 Jina Lee, jinalee@mednet.ucla.edu, 310.794.5335