Basic and Translational Virology Research

The UCLA AIDS Institute and I3T are accepting Letters of Intent for novel seed grant proposals from the field of virology. Applicants are invited to submit proposals addressing fundamental processes that can be used to identify common themes relevant to viruses that will ultimately impact our understanding of HIV disease. These processes could include, but are not limited to: viral replication, cellular innate responses, immune evasion and defense, viral evolution, therapeutic interventions etc. All applications must be focused on studies of viruses other than HIV, but potential relevance to HIV must be shown. Funding will be expected to facilitate development of preliminary data that can be leveraged for future submissions of R01 or program project grants.

Funding level: Grants will be funded in two phases at up to $100,000 each.

Phase 1- $50,000. With potential relevance to HIV disease. Phase 1 studies should study a non-HIV/AIDS viral or cellular process and accumulate evidence that the process is related to HIV disease or to general principles of viruses or cells with bearing upon HIV disease.

Phase 2- $50,000. Further test the hypothesis that the process is directly relevant to HIV and AIDS. Only applicants successfully completing Phase 1 may apply for Phase 2 funding.

Deadline for receipt of Letters of Intent:
LOI will be due 11/18/19. Applicants whose Letters of Intent are favorably reviewed will be invited to submit a formal proposal. Formal proposals will then be due by 01/13/20.

The project period will be two years, with the earliest start date of 03/01/20.

Investigator Eligibility
- All UCLA faculty are eligible. It is recommended, but not required, that applications include a Co-PI currently active in HIV/AIDS.

Funding criteria
- Significance, Approach, Innovation
- Potential Relevance to HIV disease.
- Evidence of investigator productivity
- Preliminary data supporting the project
- How research funded by the seed grant could be translated into a larger grant.
- Established projects or those incrementally related to existing work will not be considered

Other requirements of award
- Although IRB approval is not required prior to application, release of funding will be contingent on receipt of IRB approval for the 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 including additional extramural funding obtained will be required following completion.
- All successful seed grant recipients will be required to serve as peer reviewers in subsequent funding rounds of I3T and AI seed grants.
• 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 I3T and the UCLA AI/CFAR by November 30 of each year: (1) all publications that resulted from I3T and AI supported research with PubMed ID, and (2) all PHS and non-PHS federal support that contributed to or resulted from the AI/CFAR and I3T-supported research.

Core facilities are available through UCLA (http://www.cores.ucla.edu) and the UCLA AIDS Institute/Center for AIDS Research (https://www.uclahealth.org/aidsinstitute/cfar)

Instructions for Letters of Intent
The letters of intent will be pre-screened. Letters of intent must be no longer than 1 page and include the following:

• Specific Aims and Hypothesis with concise, but sufficient detail of Significance and Approach for evaluation.
• Innovation
• Investigator(s) names and qualifications. Attach current NIH biosketch.
• Phase 1 studies- Potential to be relevant to HIV Disease (Relevance statements must be specific. Vague statements such as “understanding virological processes would bear upon HIV replication” or “immune defense is relevant to HIV cure” will not be acceptable)
• Phase 2 studies- Experimental evidence supporting the hypothesis that the process studied is relevant to HIV disease.

• Total amount of funding requested (max $50,000 for Phase 1 or 2)

Letters of intent must be received no later than 4:00 pm on 11/18/19. They can be sent as a single pdf (please include the name of the PI in the file) via email to: Jina Lee (jinalee@mednet.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 01/13/20.

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