RESEARCH GRANT OPPORTUNITIES
Basic, Clinical and Translational Research in HIV Prevention and Cure

The UCLA AIDS Institute is accepting applications for seed grants to fund basic and clinical pilot research studies relevant to HIV vaccine and Cure research including basic and translational immunology and virology projects relevant to prophylactic and therapeutic vaccine research and development, and novel strategies for HIV Cure research. The grants will be funded by the UCLA AIDS Institute, through proceeds from Charity Treks (http://www.charitytreks.org).

Maximum request per applicant: $30,000

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.

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.
- NIH defined Early Stage and New Investigators with meritorious scores will receive funding priority consistent with current NIH practices.

Funding Criteria/Guidelines

- Projects focused on HIV vaccine and cure research from all basic, clinical and translational science research disciplines. Clinical Trial research will not be supported.
- The Institute is accepting research proposals in the following areas that address one of the NIH High Priority Topics of research support using AIDS designated funds. These priorities 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. 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).
- Multi-disciplinary projects that involve novel collaborations involving two or more faculty members from clearly distinct disciplines are encouraged. The application must demonstrate that:
1. Each party's contribution to the collaboration comes from expertise in distinct disciplines without overlapping areas of research or technical know-how.
2. 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)
3. The work could not be performed effectively without the collaboration.

- 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.

**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
- 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 reviewed by a peer-review committee.
- Progress reports and end of project reports will be required.
- Pediatric AIDS Coalition at UCLA (PAC) will be acknowledged in all publications and presentations regarding the successfully-funded project.
- Funds will be transferred to successful applicants after all appropriate approvals (IRB, ARC, human subjects certification etc) have been provided.
- A representative from the grant must be available to speak at the next available Dance Marathon event and to speak to PAC Executive committee about the project at an annual meeting.

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 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. Kathie Ferbas, kferbas@mednet.ucla.edu