RESEARCH GRANT OPPORTUNITIES
HIV Extinction Project

The UCLA AIDS Institute is accepting applications for novel and highly innovative seed grants to fund basic, clinical and/or translational studies related to HIV Cure research with special emphasis on collaborative and multi-disciplinary studies. Cure research is defined here as lifelong suppression or elimination of HIV-1 in the absence of cART. This RFA will support research focused on the NIH aims of achieving “sustained viral remission, and, in the longer term, viral eradication.” Research to be funded under this RFA includes, but is not limited to, understanding how the HIV reservoir forms, persists and reacts, as well as research into novel approaches for targeting of HIV reservoirs including therapeutic vaccines, development of genetically engineered immune cells that are resistant to HIV infection, drugs that reactivate the latent reservoir, cure-inducing immunotherapies and treatments to silence HIV in infected cells.

Funding level: $25,000-50,000

Deadline for receipt of Letters of Intent: November 18, 2019

Applicants whose Letters of Intent are favorably reviewed will be invited to submit a formal proposal. Formal proposals will then be due by January 13, 2019.

The project period will be one year, with the earliest start date of March 1, 2020. Funds will be released in 2 parts, with the second fund transfer contingent on a satisfactory peer reviewed 6 month progress report.

Investigator Eligibility

- Applicants 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. All faculty who meet this criteria are eligible to apply.
- 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.
- Previous HIV Extinction Project 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.

Funding Criteria

- The Institute is accepting proposals in AIDS areas that address HIV cure research. These are meant to be high risk projects to develop preliminary data for larger NIH grant submissions.
- Proposals will be judged based on scientific merit, novel cure approaches, probability of success, and current or potential UCLA collaborations.
- 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).
- 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 UCLA pilot project grants, and PI publication record.
- Multi-disciplinary projects that involve novel collaborations involving two or more faculty members from clearly distinct disciplines will be given funding priority. 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.

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.
- 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.

CFAR funding is pending. If funded, CFAR core facilities are available, on a recharge basis, in these areas: centralized laboratory support (virology, immunology and ‘omics’ technologies), cytometry, humanized mice, gene therapy, biobehavioral assessment, 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 1 page, 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 (does not count towards the page limit)
- 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 November 18, 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 January 13, 2020.

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 at...