



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: \$40,000

Deadline for receipt of Letters of Intent: March 15, 2021

Applicants whose Letters of Intent are favorably reviewed will be invited to submit a formal proposal. Full proposals will then be due by **May 10, 2021**.

The project period will be two years, with the earliest start date of July 2021.

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
- Preliminary data supporting the project
- Established projects or those incrementally related to existing work will not be considered

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 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 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 the UCLA AIDS Institute by November 30th of each year: (1) all publications that resulted from AI supported research with PubMed ID, and (2) all PHS and non-PHS federal support that contributed to or resulted from the AI-supported research.

Core facilities are available through UCLA (<https://ctsi.ucla.edu/researcher-resources/pages/cores>).

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.
- Justification of eligibility including discussion of career path to independence if appropriate as outlined above
- Letter from Department Chair if required per Investigator Eligibility
- Must also include NIH biosketch (does not count towards the 1-page limit)
- Total amount of funding requested (max \$40,000)

Letters of intent must be received **no later than 4:00 pm on March 15, 2021**. 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 May 10, 2021**.

Questions about eligibility, letters of intent, or formal proposals can be directed to
Jina Lee, jinalee@mednet.ucla.edu, 310.794.5335