



RESEARCH GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Mentorship Grants for Transitional Investigators



The UCLA AIDS Institute, Center for AIDS Research (CFAR), Pendleton Foundation, and other private sources are accepting applications for mentorship grants to fund investigators currently in a transitional period beyond postdoctoral training but prior to an independent career position so that they may acquire additional mentorship and training to enable them to progress to the next level of their career.

Funding level: **2 awards at \$25,000/award** (*The project period will be two years*)
(*Pending renewal of the Center for AIDS Research Grant*)

Application deadline: **April 15, 2008**

Deadline for receipt of Letters of Intent: **March 14, 2008**

Applicants whose *Letters of Intent* are favorably reviewed will be invited to submit a formal proposal.

Investigator eligibility

- Applicants must have one of the following University positions: Research series, Clinical instructor series, adjunct assistant professor (if not yet independent)
- Applicants must identify a mentor
- The career goal of the applicants must be to achieve an independent position
- The research interest of the applicant must be directly related to HIV/AIDS
- The applicant should have laboratory space, office space and/or other designated research space, not necessarily independent, in which to conduct their studies.

Funding criteria

- A limited number of awards will be made available to assist junior investigators who have completed postdoctoral training but have not yet achieved their academic senate positions. These awards are designed specifically to promote the career of such "transitional" investigators so that they may acquire additional mentorship and training to enable them to progress to the next level of their career. These awards are being made in recognition of the current NIH fiscal climate and ensuing difficulties for junior scientists to obtain grants and make the transition to an academic senate position.
- The awardees will be required to participate in AI activities, including participation in an appropriate Program Area, participation in think tanks, attendance of Grand Rounds, etc.
- Serving as a reviewer for seed grants is considered a critical part of the mentorship program.
- 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.
- Grants will be reviewed by a peer review committee.
- Progress reports and end of project reports will be required.

Core facilities are available, on a recharge basis, in these areas: virology, cytometry, mouse/human chimera, gene and cellular therapy, biostatistics, mucosal immunology, clinical research facilitation and consultation.

Instructions for letters of intent

Letters of intent must be no longer than 2 pages, and must include the following:

- Research plan
- Career transition plan for advancement to an independent position.
- Must be signed by both the applicant and the mentor

Letters of intent must be received no later than **4:00 pm** on **March 14, 2008**. They can be sent via post *or* email to:

Rathna Natarajan, CFAR Administrator
UCLA AIDS Institute
10940 Wilshire Blvd., Ste 1200
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Questions can be directed to Rathna Natarajan, rnatarajan@mednet.ucla.edu, 310.794.4419

Instructions for formal proposals

Applications must be submitted using standard PHS 398 format; applications must adhere to format and instructions as given in the PHS 398 Instruction Files. (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>)

Specifically, the following forms must be submitted:

1. Form Page 1: Face Page

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/fp1.doc>

2. Form Page 2: Description, Performance Sites, Key Personnel, Other Significant Contributors, and Human Embryonic Stem Cells

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/fp2.doc>

- a. Note: Unlike NIH grants, provide the abstract in lay language.

3. Form Page 4: Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/fp4.doc>

- a. Note: In addition to the modular budget, please provide a detailed breakdown and budget justification for personnel.

4. Biographical Sketch Format Page

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/biosketch.doc>

5. Resources page

<http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/resources.doc>

6. Description of the Career Transition Program (Continuation Page)

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/continuation.doc>

- a. The continuation page is to be used for this section, which must follow the format in Section C.7 of the 398 Instructions. This section may be no more than **5** pages.
- b. The description of the career development program must consist of the following sections:
- Research plan
 - Career transition plan for advancement to an independent position.
Include plans for grant applications, conference presentations, participation in grant review committees, application for career faculty positions, etc.
 - Describe the mentor and the role of mentor
 - Describe the progression towards defining scientific and professional independence.
 - Anticipated timeline to achieve future career goals
- c. In order to not burden the Biostatistics Core for preparation of seed grant applications, in-depth biostatistical analysis will be required only for those seed grants that are deemed likely to be funded. Following review, for those seed grant applications deemed appropriate for further biostatistics support, that support should be limited to no more than five hours.

7. Letters of Reference

- a. Mentor's Letter of Nomination endorsing candidate and research proposal
- b. Two letters of recommendation from professional references
- c. Letters must accompany this application

8. Coverletter

- a. A one-page cover letter should be included, indicating the grant program to which the application is directed.

Nine copies of the application must be delivered by post or in person to the UCLA AIDS Institute office (10940 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1200 Los Angeles, CA 90024) no later than 4:00 pm on April 15, 2008.

Questions can be directed to Jina Lee at 310-794-7209 or jinalee@mednet.ucla.edu.