

Description:

Funding is made available through the AIDS and Cancer Specimen Resource (ACSR), an NCI funded cooperative agreement that supports the collection and expert preservation of clinically-annotated biospecimens for multidisciplinary research, bridging laboratory basic science with clinical, behavioral, and epidemiological studies. For the past 19 years the ACSR has provided a foundation for successful translational research reliant on consistent access to high-quality well-annotated biospecimens. It has accomplished this via development of extensive expertise in methods for specimen collection and maintenance including specimen stability and full functionality over time. The ACSR remains steadfast in encouraging to HIV-translational research, expanding services to researchers, and instituting practices to complement innovative new experimental directions by global HIV investigators.

Purpose:

The ACSR Pilot Study is targeted toward junior investigators and faculty with innovative ideas for translational, clinical, or behavioral-epidemiological HIV-related research that utilizes ACSR's annotated biospecimens collected from HIV/AIDS patients and controls from both pre and post-HAART periods. Awards are intended for pilot studies to show feasibility and/or to generate preliminary data that will support efforts to procure future funding of larger research projects.

Completed applications are due by 5 pm PDT on August 1, 2014. Applications should be submitted as pdf documents to CODCC@acsr.ucsf.edu

1. The award level for this pilot study is up to \$20,000 in direct costs, indirect costs (F&A) are not allowed
2. The number of awards will be determined by the peer review group.
3. The funding period is for 12 months (start date September 1, 2014).
4. Progress reports will be due to the ACSR Central Operations and Data Coordinating Center (CODCC) at six months and within 60 days of the project end date.

Eligibility:

Post-doctoral students, Fellows, Residents, Assistant Professor level junior faculty, less than or equal to 5 years from completion of most recent highest degree at time of funding (not time of application submission) from non-profit U.S. public and private institutes of higher education. Applicants cannot currently hold or previously have been awarded an NIH R01 grant or equivalent funding. Non-U.S. citizens at eligible U.S. institutes are eligible to apply.

Criteria for Review/Evaluation of Applications:

Applications that are completed and meet eligibility requirements will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit by scientific review committee convened by the ACSR in accordance with NIH review criteria: 1. Significance, 2. Approach, 3. Innovation, 4. Environment. Each of these criteria will be addressed and considered in assigning the overall score. Scores will be consistent with NIH scoring, range 1 to 9 where 1-3 is excellent, 4-6 good, 7-9 poor. Scores with an average of 3 or above will not be eligible for funding.

Awarded applicants will be assigned to an ACSR PI/Senior HIV-researcher for guidance as well as regular communication and correspondence to assess milestones and progress toward completion of aims. Funded applications also are required to adhere to all ACSR requirements for use of specimens including IRB approval, Material Transfer Agreement, etc.

Projects MUST be HIV-related, ideally HIV-related malignancies

All researchers who intend to submit an application are required to contact the ACSR Central Operations and Data Coordinating Center CODCC@acsr.ucsf.edu before proceeding. An ACSR PI will be assigned to assist applicants with the proposal process and ensure that the ACSR can assist the investigator with her/his research needs.

Format and Guidelines:

- A. Proposal Length: Maximum 4 page protocol, including Specific Aims and hypotheses, Background, Significance, Innovation, Research Approach, figures and tables, excluding table of contents and bibliography
- B. Format Requirements: Arial font 11 pt. minimum 0.5 inch for all margins; no appendices; include page numbers and table of contents (not part of total page count)
- C. PI Name, Title: Department/Affiliation/Email address/Address/Phone
- D. Project Title: (80 character limit with spaces)
- E. Abstract: Single paragraph only maximum 300 words with subheadings for background, aims and objectives, study design and methods including statistical analysis; not included in the total page count.
- F. Project Narrative: 3 sentences (would like for sharing with non-scientific shareholders); not included in the total page count.
- G. Research Approach/Plan:
 - 1. Aims and hypotheses:
 - 2. Background:
 - 3. Significance to HIV-research and to the applicant's career goals:
 - 4. Innovation:
 - 5. Research Approach including study design, laboratory methods, statistical analysis methods, power/sample size justification to address the study aims. Preliminary results or supporting data from the applicant's research or from the published literature.
- H. Bibliography: (Not part of the 4-page limit)
- I. Budget Justification: Justify all costs fully
- J. Budget: Use the NIH PHS 398 form "Page 4: Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period"
 - a. Allowable costs: salary for laboratory/research technician; lab reagents and small equipment costs, software for analysis of data, publication costs, required travel to present results at the International Conference on Malignancies and Opportunistic Infections (ICMAOI).

- b. Unallowable costs: salary for investigator(s), computers and capital equipment, administrative costs, indirect costs.
- K. NIH Biosketch for PI and key investigators, Letter of support from Department Chair and/or Supervisor/Mentor
- L. Awarded applicants will be required to submit a Final Progress report and to present their research/results at the annual ICMAOI meeting.