



2013 Call for Applications in Basic Biomedical Sciences

The California HIV/AIDS Research Program (CHRP) is pleased to announce grant opportunities for 2013 in the research field area of [Basic Biomedical Sciences](#). Awards for Innovative Pilot Studies (IDEA- Innovative, Developmental, Exploratory Award) and Research Training Awards for Dissertation, and Postdoctoral Training are being offered under this Call. **Letters of Intent are required for all award types**. The table below is a summary of our award types and provides a quick overview.

Key Dates

- **May 8, 2013** - Release of the Call for Applications; Instructions for the submission of Letters of Intent disseminated
- **May 22, 2013** - Prospective Applicant Informational Webinar: check the [CHRP Web Site](#) for details
- **June 6, 2013** - Letters of Intent due before noon, Pacific Time. Earlier submissions are encouraged.
- **August 6, 2013** - Applications due before noon, Pacific Time
- **March 1, 2014** - Award Period Start Date

Funding decisions will be made available in early December.

Contact Information:

For general questions regarding letter of intent or application preparation and submission, contact:

Research Grant Programs Office, Contracts and Grants Unit:

Phone: 510/987-9386 Email: RGPOGrants@ucop.edu

To obtain guidance or direction on the suitability of a proposed project for this funding opportunity, or for scientific questions regarding application preparation, contact:

Anwer Mujeeb, MSc, PhD

Biomedical Sciences Program Officer

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For general information about the California HIV/AIDS Research Program, please visit the [Program Web Site](#).

Key Changes in 2013

- CHRP has revised its indirect cost policy, and now allows 25% indirect cost on modified total direct cost basis to all UC campuses as well as non-UC institutions. For the Research Training Awards (i.e., Dissertation and Postdoctoral Fellowships to both UC Campuses and non-UC Institutions), the allowable indirect cost cap is 8%.
- This year, the Call includes a new and additional focus on HIV cure-related research as a thematic target for the IDEA mechanism in basic biomedical sciences. Applications for IDEA awards involving research that is directly related to an area either exploring or supporting an approach or methodology for HIV cure are highly encouraged.
- Under a revised review criteria and scoring procedure, IDEA and Research Training Award applications will each have an overall merit score calculated by a weighted average of assigned criteria sub-scores. Details are given under each award type below.

Summary of 2013 Award Types

BASIC BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES				
Grant Mechanism	Purpose	Targeted Themes	Award Amounts/Project Duration	Application Deadline
Innovative Pilot Studies (IDEA: Innovative, Developmental, Exploratory Award)	For pilot studies that explore novel ideas, methods and approaches or challenge existing paradigms in HIV/AIDS research	Open to all basic biomedical science topics (Excludes proposals on any non-HIV/SIV infectious agents, except when studies directly relate to co-infection with HIV or SIV)* Applications directly related to an area either exploring or supporting an approach or methodology for HIV cure are highly encouraged	Up to \$160,000 in direct costs for up to 2 years Allowable indirect cost cap is 25% for all UC and non-UC institutions.	Letter of Intent: June 6, 2013 Application: August 6, 2013
Research Training Awards: 1. Dissertation Fellowship 2. Postdoctoral Fellowship	Dissertation and Postdoctoral Research fellowships under a designated mentor/advisor in a basic biomedical field related to HIV/AIDS	Open to all basic biomedical science topics (Excludes proposals on any non-HIV/SIV infectious agents, except when studies directly relate to co-infection with HIV or SIV)*	Dissertation Fellowships: Up to \$25,000 per year in direct costs for up to 2 years. Postdoctoral Fellowships: Up to \$45,000 per year in direct costs for up to 2 years. Up to \$3,000 per year available for health benefits. For Research Training Awards, Allowable indirect cost cap is 8% for all UC and non-UC institutions.	Letter of Intent: June 6, 2013 Application: August 6, 2013

*Proposals involving non-HIV/SIV infectious agents will be considered if there is a compelling relevance to HIV or SIV.

Details of 2013 Award Types

2013 BASIC BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

1. Field Definition

Basic biomedical research involves laboratory studies aimed at understanding the underlying mechanisms of disease at the cellular or subcellular level, or laboratory studies aimed at understanding the mechanism of action or optimization of treatments by conducting research at the cellular or subcellular level. For this purpose, basic biomedical research excludes clinical research conducted with human subjects or on material of human origin for which an investigator directly interacts with human subjects. However, basic biomedical research can include in vitro studies that utilize human tissues that cannot be linked to a living individual.

Disciplines supporting such research include biochemistry, molecular biology, cell biology, microbiology, virology, immunology, structural biology, organic chemistry and others.

2. Innovative, Developmental, Exploratory Awards (IDEAs)

A. General Overview of Award Mechanism

IDEA awards must support HIV/AIDS-related pilot studies within and across a variety of basic biomedical sciences. IDEA research awards provide funds for studies that are innovative, creative, intellectually exciting, and show clear promise to yield findings that

have a potential for high pay-off within the grant period and that also promise to yield findings that could serve as the basis for well-defined future work in a new area of HIV/AIDS research, or those that apply novel methods and approaches or challenge existing paradigms in HIV/AIDS research.

B. Cure-related Research Priority

As an impetus to research efforts on HIV persistence, eradication, and cure, CHRP includes a cure-related focus in this Call to support and fund meritorious research ideas to explore strategies and approaches that will enhance our knowledge in this area. Applications for the IDEA awards on research that is directly related to an area either exploring or supporting an approach or methodology for HIV cure are highly encouraged.

Examples of such topics or approaches include, but are not limited to:

- Methodologies, designs and strategies to expose persistent and/or latent virus
- Methodologies, designs and strategies to identify reservoirs
- Host factors that contribute to maintenance of persistence and/or latency which could be reversed using targeted therapeutic strategies to re-activate
- Pathways and strategies to reactivate and deplete latently infected resting memory T-cells (in-vitro and in-vivo)
- HIV Immunotoxins; design of new recombinant chimeras, etc.
- HIV reservoirs in non-blood compartments

It should be noted that CHRP continues to invite proposals on topics other than cure-related research. In all cases, the responsiveness statement in your letter of intent must state and justify the benefit and importance of your research in direct relation to either the cure-related priority, HIV molecular pathogenesis, or co-infections and co-morbidities that are disproportionately prevalent with HIV/AIDS.

C. Specific Intent of Award Mechanism

IDEAs are intended for:

- Non-profit research, academic, and community-based institutions in California.
- New or experienced HIV investigators testing new ideas and/or approaches.
- Grants are one-time, non-renewable awards for a flexible period up to a maximum of 24 months.
- Researchers may apply for more than one IDEA in one grant cycle, but may only accept one award for that cycle.
- The IDEA Award mechanism is intended both for investigators with experience in HIV-related disease research, as well as for investigators with related expertise who are interested in furthering a career path in HIV/AIDS research.

D. Award Amounts, Duration, and Requirements (including re-submissions)

- Awards may not exceed a total of \$160,000 in direct costs over the entire proposed project period.
- Indirect costs up to 25% of eligible direct costs are provided to all institutions, including University of California campuses.
- The applicant must have principal investigator status at a nonprofit institution in California and must commit to the proposed project a minimum of 1.2 person-months of effort for a 12-month appointment or equivalent effort.
- Awards are contingent on the availability of funds, and after initial funding, allocations may be adjusted based on performance.

E. Review Criteria

Reviewers will evaluate IDEA applications for:

1. Responsiveness to the intent and focus of the IDEA award mechanism (30% score weighting)

- The extent to which the proposed work is pilot in nature
- Significance and potential for advancing science in HIV/AIDS
- Innovation in concept, approach, and/or methods
- Attentiveness to the Cure-related research priority or justification of the significance and importance of the alternative proposed research area

2. Research Plan, Experimental Approach, Leverage Plan, Personnel (70% score weighting)

- Clarity of the research problem
- Strength and feasibility of the conceptual framework, analytical plan and methodology
- Potential for the leverage of results to obtain subsequent funding to advance the project beyond the pilot stage
- Investigator's demonstrated experience or potential (if new investigator) to conduct the proposed research

3. Attentiveness to the needs of California.

Support is limited to aspects of the proposal that are pilot in nature.

F. Specific Topic Limitations or Exclusions

Proposals must address topics in the basic biomedical sciences as defined under section-1 (Field Definition) above. In addition, this opportunity excludes proposals on any non-HIV/SIV infectious agents, except when studies directly relate to co-infection with HIV or SIV, and are relevant in the current context of the HIV epidemic [studies examining non-HIV/SIV infectious agents that play a minimal or insignificant role in the current HIV/AIDS epidemic will not be considered].

*Proposals involving non-HIV/SIV viral models will be considered if there is a compelling relevance to HIV or SIV.

G. Program Scientific Contact

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3. Dissertation and Postdoctoral Fellowship Awards

A. General Overview of Award Mechanism

These awards are intended to support individuals with dissertation or postdoctoral research projects in HIV/AIDS-related basic biomedical sciences and to foster mentoring activities by established HIV/AIDS researchers.

B. Specific Intent of Award Mechanism

The applicant is the awardee of record, and the faculty mentor serves as the institutional sponsor. The proposal must be conceptualized and written by the applicant in consultation with the mentor. The applicant's mentor must be affiliated with a non-profit research or academic institution in California that has appropriate research and training facilities.

C. Award Amounts, Duration, and Requirements

Dissertation Research Fellowships provide a maximum of \$25,000 per year for up to 2 years. Postdoctoral Research Fellowships provide a maximum of \$45,000 per year for up to 2 years, plus up to \$3,000 per year for health benefits. An 8% indirect cost for allowable direct costs will be available for awards to all institutions, i.e. both UC and non-UC institutions. Applicants must be sponsored by an accredited non-profit research or academic institution located in California. Dissertation students must be enrolled in a doctoral program at a California university or research institution, and must have advanced to candidacy for the doctoral degree by the award period start date. Postdoctoral fellowship applicants must hold a doctoral level research or professional degree and postdoctoral fellow status at a California institution by the award period start date. Postdoctoral fellowship

applicants must commit to the proposed project a minimum of 9 person-months of effort for a 12-month appointment or equivalent effort. Dissertation awards may be used for stipends, tuition and fees, and dissertation-related supplies and expenses. Postdoctoral fellowships may be used for salary and research expenses. Training award applicants must be U.S. citizens, permanent residents (green card holders), or hold a J1, H1-B, or other valid U.S. visa appropriate for study or conducting research. Previous awardees of CHRP training awards may not apply, except that a prior Dissertation Awardee may apply for a Postdoctoral Fellowship Award. Except under special and compelling circumstances, no more than one Dissertation Award or Postdoctoral Fellowship with the same mentor can be recommended for funding in the same award period. Research Training Awards are intended for specific mentor-trainee relationships, and they may not be transferred to other individuals.

D. Review Criteria

Reviewers will evaluate training award applications for:

1. Research Plan (50% score weighting)
 - Strength of concept, approach and methods, including the plan for analysis.
 - Suitability of the study for research training.
 - Relevance to HIV/AIDS.
2. Applicant's achievements and potential for a research career (25% score weighting)
3. Mentor, Training and Research Environment (25% score weighting)
 - Qualifications of the mentor/advisor.
 - Suitability of the training environment at the academic institution.
4. Attentiveness to the needs of California.

E. Specific Topic Limitations or Exclusions

The subject matter of all applications must conform to the field definition for biomedical sciences (see above). This opportunity, however, excludes proposals on any non-HIV/SIV infectious agents, except when studies directly relate to co-infection with HIV or SIV, and are relevant in the current context of the HIV epidemic [studies examining non-HIV/SIV infectious agents that play a minimal or insignificant role in the current HIV/AIDS epidemic will not be considered].

*Proposals involving non-HIV/SIV viral models will be considered if there is a compelling relevance to HIV or SIV.

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4. How to Apply and Required Letter of Intent

A Letter of Intent (LOI) is required for all Research and Training Award applications. LOIs will be evaluated by CHRP for responsiveness to the Call for Applications to ensure that all full applications will qualify to be forwarded for peer review. LOIs will not be reviewed for scientific merit. Specific instructions for submitting a Letter of Intent for [IDEAs](#) and [Training Awards](#) are available from the CHRP web site. *It is important that LOI submissions follow these instructions.* As part of following the instructions, each submission must use the template that is supplied to help applicants meet the requirements and to help insure consistency. A clear, concise, abstract will be critical for the initial selection of qualified peer reviewers. LOIs, limited to 1 page and prepared using the supplied template according to the instructions, must be submitted electronically before 12 noon Pacific Time (3 p.m. Eastern Time), June 6, 2013. Applicants with approved LOIs will be notified by e-mail, and will then have access to materials to prepare a full application. A preliminary review of LOIs will be conducted as they are received and applicants will be notified via email if an LOI is deemed non-responsive; therefore, earlier submission will potentially provide an opportunity to resolve any issues. *NOTE: It is recommended that applicants review the instructions and the LOI submission web pages as soon as possible in order to allocate sufficient time for the completion of the process before the deadline.*

