2006 CFAR Developmental Grant Program In HIV/AIDS Research

Deadline May 1st, 2006

Open to All faculty members of the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the Southern Research Institute

All HIV/AIDS Related Applications Welcome

Programmatic Areas of Emphasis

• HIV associated malignancies
• HIV Co-Infections: TB, HSV, HPV, etc...
• Complications associated with Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy: Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease, Pulmonary Disease Ostopenia/Osteoporosis, Toxicity, Others
• HIV Vaccinology including basic virology, immunology, identification/screening of inhibitory compounds, generation and identification of broadly neutralizing Abs, drug/vector delivery systems
• High risk behavior assessment and prevention related to substance abuse and /or mental health
• HIV /AIDS Education and prevention in at risk communities

To obtain detailed instructions concerning the application and review procedure, please contact:
Michael Bertram, Ph.D.
UAB Center for AIDS Research
BBRB 256
934-8291
mbertram@uab.edu
NEW IN 2006
The deadline for submission is 5:00 PM on May 1st, 2006.

Submission of applications will be accepted in an electronic format only via email to mbertram@uab.edu. All application materials must be submitted as one pdf file. Instruction and assistance in meeting this requirement is available from Michael Bertram, CFAR Administrative Director. Do not wait to the last minute.

In the body of the email with the application attached, please list five potential reviewers of your application. Please choose experts in the area addressed in the application. Do not include anyone listed on the grant as key personnel or consultant.

PURPOSE
The UAB CFAR has played a major role in the development of new programmatic areas both in basic and clinical AIDS research at UAB. The specific aims of the Developmental Core with respect to this grant program are to:

1. Organize and foster a competitive Developmental Grant Program in AIDS research that focuses on junior investigators and multidisciplinary interactions.
2. Mentor young investigators in AIDS research.
3. Encourage Program Project Initiatives in AIDS research.

AREAS OF INTEREST
The UAB AIDS Center will fund a limited number of research grants to assist faculty members at UAB and SRI in initiating new research programs in, behavioral, basic and/or clinical AIDS-related areas. In 2005, projects falling in to the following programmatic areas are encouraged:

- HIV associated malignancies
- HIV Co-Infections: TB, HSV, HPV, etc...
- Complications associated with Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy: Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease, Pulmonary Disease Ostopenia/Osteoporosis, Toxicity, Others
- HIV Vaccinology including basic virology, immunology, identification/screening of inhibitory compounds, generation and identification of broadly neutralizing Abs, drug/vector delivery systems
- High risk behavior assessment and prevention related to substance abuse and/or mental health
- HIV /AIDS Education and prevention in at risk communities

There are three categories for these awards:

(i) Developmental funds for junior faculty: To initiate research programs in AIDS-related areas and to obtain data that will allow a more competitive application to be submitted for extramural support. Support is limited to approximately $30,000 per award.

(ii) Developmental funds for innovative HIV research projects: To support an innovative, high-impact research idea proposed by junior or senior investigator. Support is limited to approximately $30,000 per award.

(iii) Developmental funds for interdisciplinary programs: To initiate a novel, collaborative, interdisciplinary, AIDS-related research effort. Support is limited to approximately $60,000 per award.

ELIGIBILITY
Any faculty member at the University of Alabama at Birmingham or Southern Research Institute is eligible to apply for CFAR Developmental Grants. Present funding in AIDS-related areas is not an exclusion criterion. Junior and established investigators who have not previously received an AIDS grant from a national funding agency are encouraged to apply.

Awards made to senior investigators are permitted provided that the following criteria are met:

1. The proposed research represents a new, HIV/AIDS-related branch of the investigator’s current research programs; and
2. The proposed research clearly describes a mentoring component for a junior investigator.
EXCLUSION CRITERIA
(i) AIDS grant proposals that are in any way funded by other federal or private agencies as of May 1st, 2005
(ii) Applications submitted by postdoctoral fellows or graduate students
(iii) Applications which fail to demonstrate relevance to AIDS in the proposed research

Terms and Conditions of Support
Award Period: Awards will be for a 1 year period of time beginning June/July, 2006 until May/June, 2007.

Two stipulations will be placed on Developmental Program Awardees:
(i) Awardees will be asked to present the results of their work during the Virology Discussion Group weekly seminar series
(ii) Awardees will be asked to be a part of the review committee in the subsequent year of the Developmental Award Program.

Appropriate Approval for Research: All Developmental Award Applications are required to have appropriate approval from UAB Administration prior to submission to the CFAR. Approval is required in four instances. It is advisable to obtain appropriate approvals as soon as possible to avoid delays in funding. The CFAR will not be permitted to release developmental support until all appropriate approvals are secured.

1) Human Subjects: Any research that involves human subjects defined as whole persons, samples, tissues, or data on persons (e.g. X-rays of patients with pulmonary edema) requires Institutional Review Board (IRB) review. Contacts for this review board are attached.

2) Animal Subjects: Any research that involves animal subjects, defined as live animals, samples, or tissues from animals, requires approval from the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Investigators are encouraged to obtain IACUC approval early because there is normally a turnaround time of one month between submission and IACUC response. This committee meets twice monthly, on the middle and last Wednesday of each month. If you have questions on animal subject research, then please look at the attached contact sheet for appropriate contact people.

3) Hazardous Materials: If your proposal involves the use of chemical, biological, radioactive, or other hazardous materials, then it should be reviewed by the offices of Occupational Health & Safety. As with the Animal Subject Review, turnaround times may take an extended period of time (2 months) so applicants are encouraged to obtain hazardous materials approval as early as possible. Contact information for this office may be found at the end of this document.

4) Conflict of Interest: If your proposal suggests a relationship between your research and personal financial interests, then it should be reviewed by the Conflict of Interest Review Board (CIRB). Please see the contact sheet at the end of this document for details.

Southern Research Institute Applicants: Applicants from Southern Research Institute must complete the equivalent review procedure at SRI before submitting the application to the CFAR Administrative Office. Please include the SRI Checklist with your application.

RECEIPT AND REVIEW SCHEDULE

Applications submitted in response to this announcement will be reviewed in accordance with the NIH review and award process. The timeline for this process will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Receipt Date</th>
<th>Merit Review</th>
<th>Earliest Possible Start of Grant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 1st, 2006</td>
<td>May/June, 2006</td>
<td>June 1st, 2006</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPLICATION SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS
You are encouraged to submit your application in R21 or R01 format.

Please use Helvetica or Arial fonts no smaller than 11 point,

Use PHS 398 Form Pages (revised in 9/04), http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html

Applications should consist of the following on PHS 398 Forms
http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html:

(i) UAB Expedited Extramural Support Checklist (Signed by your department chair- does not need to go to OGCA for approval)
(ii) NIH Face Page
(iii) A 1/2 page Description of the AIDS-related relevance of the proposed study
(iv) Abstract – 200 words using peer-language describing the proposed study – PHS398 form page 2
(v) Table of Contents
(vi) Budget – if the developmental budget is a subset of a budget for a larger proposal (e.g. R21 or R01), then include both budgets. Grant funds may be used only for those expenses clearly related to and necessary to carry out research projects.
(vii) Budget Justification
(viii) Biographical Sketches and Research Support
(ix) Description/Research Plan – page limit: 10 pages including references and figures where appropriate, providing the following:
   (a) a one year research plan for research grant submissions which should include the background and rationale, preliminary studies, specific aims, experimental design and procedures to be used in data analysis
   (b) relate specific aims to long term objects; and
   (c) discuss novel methodologies, if any.

The scope of the overall proposal need not be limited to the one-year funding period provided by the CFAR. Proposals designed for a 5-year (e.g. R01) budget period, with plans of being submitted to other agencies for funding, are strongly encouraged. However, applicants must separately describe the one-year, CFAR-funded project with the separate R01 attached as an appendix.

Applicants may also submit a full-length R01 application if they wish to have their application peer-reviewed and critiqued prior to submission to a funding agency.

REVIEW PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA
Applications will be reviewed for scientific merit and relevance to program goals. Each application will be evaluated for scientific merit by peer review composed of a group of scientists from UAB and SRI. Criteria for scientific/technical merit review of applications will include the following:
(i) Relevance to AIDS Research (1/2 page describing the direct relevance to AIDS, in addition to the abstract, must accompany the application);
(ii) Significance and originality from a scientific or technical standpoint of the goals of the proposed research;
(iii) Qualifications and experience of the principal investigator and proposed staff;
(iv) Adequacy of the conceptual and theoretical framework for the research;
(v) Evidence of familiarity with relevant research literature;
(vi) Composition and experience of the research team;
(vii) Scientific merit of the research design, approaches, and methodology;
(viii) Evidence that the program will stimulate interdisciplinary interactions between investigators (for Interdisciplinary Program Initiation Grants)
(ix) Evidence of availability of research subjects that are appropriate to the goals of the project;
(x) Adequacy of the data analysis plan, the existing and proposed facilities, and resources;
(xi) Appropriateness of the budget;
(xii) Adequacy of proposed procedures for protecting human subjects, research staff, and animals.
AWARD CRITERIA

In the decision to fund applications, the following will be considered:

(i) Relevance to AIDS-related research;
(ii) Quality of the proposed project as determined during the review process;
(iii) Availability of funds;
(iv) Balance among research areas of the announcement.

One electronic copy as a PDF file should be delivered to the following address no later than 5 pm on May 1st, 2006: mbertram@uab.edu

If you have any questions concerning this announcement, please contact the AIDS Center Administrative Office at:

Phone: 205-934-8291
Fax: 205-934-1640
E-Mail: mbertram@uab.edu
CONTACT SHEET

Human Subjects Research:
Sheila Moore
Institutional Review Board
Administration Building (AB) Room 470
UAB Zip: 0111
Telephone: 934.3789
Outside Participants outside Birmingham:
1.800.822.8816 ext 4.3789 (between 8 and 5 central time M-F)
FAX: 934.1301
Email: smoore@uab.edu
Online Instructions and Forms: http://www.uab.edu/uabra/irb/irb.htm
Sample consent form: http://main.uab.edu/show.asp?durki=30250

Animal Subjects Research:
Gene Hines, Ph.D.
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
Volker hall (VH) B-10
UAB ZIP: 0019
Telephone: 934.7692
Telephone: 934.7847
FAX: 934.1188
Email: ghines@uab.edu
Online Instructions and Forms: http://www.uab.edu/iacuc/index.htm

Conflict of Interest Review:
Vicki Byrd
Conflict of Interest Review Board
Administration Building (AB) Room 1120C
UAB Zip: 0111
Telephone: 975.9691
FAX: 934.0625
Email: vbyrd@provost.uab.edu
Online Instructions and Forms: http://www.uab.edu/uabra/cirb/cirb.htm

Hazardous Materials:
Donna Williamson
Elaine Broussard
Occupational Health & Safety
Community Health Services Building (CH19) Suite 445
UAB Zip: 2041
Telephone: 934.2487
FAX: 934.7487
Email: dwilliamson@healthsafe.uab.edu
Email: ebroussard@healthsafe.uab.edu
Online Instructions and Forms: http://www.healthsafe.uab.edu