

CFAR Developmental Core PATH Activities



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RESEARCH FUNDING

CFAR-series Awards: provide one year of non-renewable funding although the budget may be spread out over a longer project period, if needed in order to accomplish a project's scope of work. CFAR-series applications are accepted twice a year (November 1, May 1). Eligibility requirements may be found in each mechanism's RFA.

CFAR-03 awards are modeled after the NIH R03 mechanism. Single or dual PI awards are intended to generate data that will be used to ground a future NIH application in a CFAR and/or NIH OAR high priority area of research.

CFAR-K awards provide supplementary (non-salary) funding that will fill in or extend the research of NIH K awardees preparing to make the K to R transition.

CFAR-C awards are intended to promote new research collaborations between a junior faculty member at Emory and one or more investigators at other NIH-funded CFARs.

Ramp Up Awards: provide small amounts of financial support to address discrete, time critical HIV research challenges. Ramp Up applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

Opportunity Awards (OA) enable data collection for unfunded research (e.g. for recruitment and / or participant incentives). They also enable expansion of, or overcome obstacles encountered during, currently funded NIH research.

Data Awards (DA) support costs for data pulls and analyses stemming from use of the new *CFAR HIV Disease Registry*. The mechanism also provides support for new and early stage investigators who require specialized training or assistance with quantitative data from sources other than the HIV Disease Registry.

Collaboration Travel Awards (CTA) make it possible for unfunded, early stage investigators to meet face to face with proposed collaborators at other institutions in order to engage in needed training or to develop, in real time, the specific aims and approach of an application being prepared for submission to NIH or the Emory CFAR.

Poster Awards (PA) are for current and former Developmental Core CFAR-series grant recipients who have completed a Poster Design Tutorial. These awards provide ongoing printing for posters describing CFAR-supported research.

NIH Administrative Supplements (CFAR Adelante, NIH CFAR-initiated)

CFAR Adelante is a national mechanism administered for NIH/OAR by the Emory CFAR that funds research to reduce HIV-related health disparities in the Hispanic / Latino community. CFAR Adelante projects incorporate a 4 month mentored training preparation period followed by a mentored research period of approximately 20 months. The next CFAR Adelante application submission deadline has not yet been established by NIH/OAR.

NIH CFAR-initiated calls for administrative supplement projects in narrowly targeted, high priority areas are periodically issued by NIH. Because each CFAR is limited in the number of applications that can be submitted, the Emory CFAR Developmental and Administrative Cores competitively review submitted pre-proposals for development into full applications. An announcement is made through the Emory CFAR listserv each time the NIH CFAR issues a call for projects.

PROPOSAL SUPPORT

Pre-Proposal Feedback. Strong research starts with rigorously considered specific aims and a well-articulated approach. The Developmental Core arranges opportunities for junior faculty to present their research ideas for discussion and feedback by senior CFAR scientists and members of CFAR's community advisory board.

Grant Guru: Not everyone has comprehensive training in grant writing. To assist those who would benefit from one-on-one training, the Developmental Core sponsors access to a grant writing expert who works with early stage investigators on their NIH applications.

Grant Writing Workshops: As a means of ensuring that the Developmental Core receives the strongest possible CFAR-series applications, we offer a grant writing workshop prior to each application submission deadline. The workshop includes strategies for preparing a successful application, including building a mentoring team, negotiating support from the CFAR science cores, creating slides and a talk outline for an optional pre-proposal feedback session with the CFAR CLC and Core Directors, preparing the required appendices, writing a strong specific aims page, and developing a scope of work in keeping with the time-limited nature of a CFAR-funded project.

Science Writing: The Developmental Core offers three mechanisms for helping investigators strengthen their science writing skills: 1) The Core will enroll junior faculty as special standing students in GH592: "Successful Scientific Writing for Public Health Professionals," a ½ semester (7 meeting) course; 2) will provide co-funding of any monies awarded by Emory's Center for Faculty Development and Excellence (CFDE) Scholarly Writing and Publishing Fund (SWAP), with the award earmarked for hiring editorial support or a writing coach; and 3) will provide Ramp Up funding for that same purpose to faculty unable to secure a CFDE SWAP award.

MENTORING ASSISTANCE

Mentor Connections: Although most faculty receive assistance in establishing career mentors by their departments, CFAR members frequently benefit from additional, HIV-specific mentors. The Developmental Core leadership helps interested faculty identify potential mentor candidates, checks their availability and interest, and makes introductions.

K-Club: The CFAR co-sponsors a monthly meeting that provides an educational forum to assist fellows and faculty with successful NIH career development award applications. Meetings cover various topics pertaining to the conception, development, submission, and post-award process for NIH career development awards. K-Club members have an excellent track record of receiving NIH K01, K23, and other award funding.

CLC On Call: Investigators who are interested in conducting human subjects research that is of maximal relevance to the community under study benefit from consultation with members of the CFAR's Community Liaison Council (CLC). Consultations are provided at the protocol design stage and may involve reviewing the cultural relevancy of proposed data collection plans, giving suggestions for optimizing study participant recruitment and retention, and/or discussing options for translating research findings back to the community.

TAM (Training AIDS Mentors) workshops: As new investigators transition to Independent investigator status, they are expected to make a concurrent transition from mentee to mentor. TAM provides skill building training for new mentors on multiple topics including: *The mentoring continuum*: Transitioning from mentee to mentor; *Building your mentorship skillset*: Communication, aligning expectations, assessing mentee understanding; *Defining your mentoring approach*: Choosing mentees and developing mentoring agreements; and *Lessons from senior mentors*: Benefits of mentoring; tips and advice.

NIH Reviewer Training: pairs junior faculty with senior CFAR scientists for mentored participation as reviewers on Developmental Core study sections, which are operated on the NIH model. Training includes review of summary statement drafts, study section meeting coaching, and application discussion feedback.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Poster and Slide Tutorials: Well-designed posters and slides add significance to scientific meeting presentations yet many investigators are unaware of best practices in poster and slide design. The Developmental Core provides individual poster/slide design tutorials and, for tutorial graduates, free printing of one poster and ongoing review of new posters and slides being prepared for presentation at national conferences.

Oral abstracts practice: Prior to major HIV conferences such as CROI or the International AIDS Conference, the Developmental Core organizes formal sessions in which CFAR members sign up to practice presenting their accepted oral abstracts and receive constructive feedback on talk/slide content, timing, and delivery.

Quantitative Research and Analysis: The CFAR Biostatistics and Bioinformatics Core is currently developing a series of analytical skill building courses. Once the training is rolled out, receipt of funding for Ramp Up Data Awards will be contingent on applicants first having attended or “tested out” of each applicable workshop.

Qualitative Research and Analysis: The Developmental Core will enroll interested faculty and postdocs in the Qualitative Research Methods and Qualitative Data Analysis workshops that are periodically offered through the Hubert Department of Global Health Continuing Education.