

Emory CFAR Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) Research Projects at the Intersection of HIV and Monkeypox

Description: The Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) at Emory University is soliciting applications for pilot grants of up to \$25,000 for one-year research projects that address the intersection of HIV and the monkeypox virus. Proposals must focus on monkeypox prevention, treatment, care, and/or vaccines in one or both of the following priority populations: people living with HIV *and/or* people at increased risk for HIV (e.g., men who have sex with men, people of trans experience, sex workers, people who inject drugs) who are currently on or actively seeking to be on PrEP. Applicants must be current Emory faculty or Morehouse School of Medicine faculty who meet the eligibility criteria below. [Clinical trials](#) are **NOT** allowed.

Research proposals must address **both** HIV and monkeypox infections. Basic, clinical, sociobehavioral, implementation science, public health, and/or multidisciplinary research projects will be considered. International projects are not allowed, given the one-year timeframe. The CFAR Clinical Research Core is adding clinical monkeypox samples from people living with HIV to the CFAR Specimen Repository. These samples may be beneficial to proposed research projects. Contact [Divine McCaslin](#) for additional information.

Examples of potential project areas may include (but are not limited to):

- Understanding susceptibility, local transmission, risk factors for, and clinical outcomes of monkeypox in one or both priority populations;
- The effects of the monkeypox outbreak on health outcomes in one or both priority populations;
- Health equity research related to monkeypox care delivery or treatment for one or both priority populations;
- Community-engaged research on stigma reduction and/or prevention messaging aimed at preventing acquiring HIV and/or monkeypox among one or both priority populations;
- Implementation science research on the local response in the context of a monkeypox outbreak and the implications for HIV prevention/care delivery for one or both priority populations;
- Monkeypox virology and/or immune responses in one or both priority populations;
- Uptake of and immune responses to approved and candidate monkeypox vaccines in one or both priority populations;
- Basic research, including use of animal models, to better understand the intersection of monkeypox virus and HIV.

Eligibility:

INCLUSION CRITERIA:

- Eligibility to be PI on an NIH R-level grant
- Faculty or faculty-equivalent position with a full-time appointment at Emory University or the Morehouse School of Medicine as of award start date.
- Meets the definition of an NIH "[New Investigator](#)" in HIV/AIDS. Specifically, prior funding as an NIH independent investigator makes an applicant ineligible **ONLY IF** the funding has been in the HIV field.
 - **Exception:** Investigators with prior independent NIH funding in HIV are eligible if they have not been the PI on *any* NIH HIV-related grant within the last five years.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA:

- None

Applications with multiple principal investigators will be considered, as long as all principal investigators meet the above criteria. It is permissible for the PI(s) of this NOSI to be simultaneously serving as PI or MPI on an active CFAR-Series (CFAR-03, CFAR-HBCU, CFAR-K) pilot award.

Budget: Requests for up to \$25,000 for up to one year per proposal will be considered. Funds may NOT be used for investigator or mentor salary or travel (outside of travel needed for completion of study activities), but all other budget categories are allowed. Funds can be used to provide supplementary funding for a currently funded grant if used for additional data collection or analysis related to a new Specific Aim addressing the intersection of HIV and monkeypox.

Regulatory Approvals: Projects must have necessary regulatory approvals (e.g. IRB, IACUC) before start of research activities.

Submission Procedures and Deadline: Project proposals should be submitted online as a single PDF document using the following link *by midnight EST on August 19, 2022*: <https://bit.ly/HIV-MonkeypoxNOSI>. Submissions must include the following:

- a) Research proposal (limited to one page) that includes brief scientific rationale and specific aims. References may be added if needed beyond the page limit.
- b) Line item budget and budget justification (limited to one page each).

Given the short turnaround time for applications, it is expected that the principal investigator(s) and co-investigator(s) will work closely together for completion of submission procedures. Proposals will be reviewed and applicants notified within two weeks of submission deadline.