



CFAR COMPETITIVE SUPPLEMENTS IN AIDS – FY2005 AWARDS Request for Letter of Intent (LOI)

Funding available through the University of California, San Francisco – Gladstone Institute of Virology & Immunology Center for AIDS Research (CFAR)

“CONQUERING AIDS THROUGH MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH”

About CFAR Competitive Supplements in AIDS Funding

Once again, the national CFAR network has made funds available for competitive supplement grants. Each CFAR is allowed to submit **two** applications for scientific projects and **one** application for training organized around existing electronic databases or cohorts. The amount of funding is substantial, \$150,000 direct costs for a one-year period; and this year we have more time to prepare our requests than we did in 2003. In reviewing the RFA from the NIH, it again seems as though the focus is on science rather than infrastructure. Given the grant size, the project should resemble a small RO-1 or a project from a Program Project Grant. Given the due date for solicited applications (November 15th at our CFAR office), successful responses are likely to be for projects already well organized and able to cite work in progress.

The application process is summarized below following a description of the supplement from the NIH. Briefly, we invite short letters of intent (LOI), 1-2 pages at most, due to the UCSF-GIVI CFAR on October 8th. More details, including research emphasis and targets, are provided in the NIH [National CFAR Supplement PA](#).

As always, applicants are welcome to call our offices if you have any questions (415-379-5602).

Competitive Supplements in AIDS Funding Request for Application (RFA) - Summary

The CFAR Program at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is accepting applications from current CFARS for competitive supplements. The awards will be up to \$150,000 in direct costs in six research areas listed below. The NIH expects to make nine to 15 scientific awards, depending on budget requests and funding availability. Additionally, each CFAR is permitted to submit a single application for a competitive supplement for training of developing world investigators that focuses on aspects of clinical databases for AIDS studies. There will be only **one** award of not more than \$200,000 in direct costs for the database-training supplement. Collaboration between current CFAR sites is strongly encouraged but not mandatory. You'll find a current directory of [National CFAR](#) programs on our website.

Proposals must be submitted through an existing CFAR. If awarded, the supplement will be fiscally administered through the parent CFAR. These supplements should complement existing research being undertaken by the respective CFAR institutions. Each will be evaluated for scientific merit, as well as the ability to lead to long-term funding by standard research funding mechanisms (e.g. R21, RO1, PO1, etc.).

Each CFAR is limited to a maximum of two applications from the scientific areas listed, except for area seven. Only one application per CFAR is permitted for the database-training supplement.

Areas of Research Interest

Applications should address one or more of the following specific AIDS research priority areas:

- **Area 1:** International
- **Area 2:** Behavior

- **Area 3:** Substance Abuse
- **Area 4:** Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM)
- **Area 5:** Malignancies
- **Area 6:** Women/Girls
- **Area 7:** Database Training

In addition to CFAR/CFAR collaborations, applicants are also strongly encouraged to use existing NIH-funded cohorts such as [The Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study \(MACS\)](#), [The Women's Interagency HIV Study \(WIHS\)](#), the [AIDS and Cancer Specimen Resource \(ACSR\)](#), and similar programs. Applicants are strongly urged to read the [Supplement Program Announcement \(PA\)](#) for more specific scientific goals within each area of research.

About CFAR Programs

Applicants are encouraged to target research with the potential to enhance the interfaces between basic and clinical, basic and behavioral-epidemiological, and/or clinical and behavioral-epidemiological sciences as reflected in the research priorities represented by the CFAR mission and within the context of the research goals and objectives listed in the competitive supplement announcement.

CFAR Scientific Cores include:

- Clinical/Population Sciences Core, Steve Deeks & Jeff Martin, Directors (sdeeks@php.ucsf.edu; martin@psg.ucsf.edu)
- Immunology Core, Mike McCune & Barry Bredt, Directors (mmccune@gladstone.ucsf.edu, barryb@itsa.ucsf.edu)
- Virology Core, Robert Grant, Director (rgrant@itsa.ucsf.edu)
- Specimen Bank Core, John Greenspan & Yvonne DeSouza, Directors (greenspanj@dentistry.ucsf.edu, ydes@itsa.ucsf.edu)
- Pharmacology Core, Francesca Aweeka, Director (aweeeka@itsa.ucsf.edu)

[CFAR cores](#) are available to support pilot and on-going research applications. Applicants are encouraged to contact UCSF-GIVI Core Directors for additional information on current research priorities within each core and are encouraged to work with more than one core.

Eligibility

Because these applications are being reviewed as competing supplements, researchers submitting an LOI to CFAR must have [principal investigator \(PI\)](#) status, or provisional PI status for at least one-year from the anticipated start date of the award: **August 1, 2005**. Applicants may be affiliated with any [UCSF-GIVI CFAR partner institute](#) (e.g. San Francisco General, SF Dept. of Public Health, J. David Gladstone Institutes, Center for AIDS Prevention Studies, Positive Health Program, Blood Centers of the Pacific, Osher Center, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, etc.).

Competitive Supplements – LOI Details for Applicant

Applications may be discussed with members of the NIH CFAR Steering Committee prior to formal submission. Therefore, the LOI must contain a formal project abstract and study aims/outcomes in the document. The proposal may include infrastructure requests for capacity building, but a strong science component must be evident to allow CFAR reviewers to discuss the LOI with NIH program officers on the steering committee. If selected for proposal submission by our CFAR, applicants must submit the formal study proposal ([PHS 398](#) format) to CFAR's administrative office no later than Close of Business on November 15, 2004.

The Center is supported by a grant from the National Institutes of Health, #P30-AI27763

Because of the extremely tight submission deadline from receipt of LOI to final submission, only those eligible PIs with a well-developed research proposal capable of being evaluated as an RO-1 or similar funding mechanism should respond to this Letter of Intent (LOI) solicitation.

Competitive Supplements – Award Summary

The award level for proposals in **research areas one through six** can be up to \$150,000 in direct costs. The award level for the **clinical database training research** supplement can be up to \$200,000 in direct costs.

1. The funding will last for a one-year period.
2. Award will be administered within the CFAR parent grant (P30 AI27763).
3. Carry forward of funding will not be permitted.
4. Grant preparation and support services, including budget and budget justification review, can be provided to the applicant in preparing the proposal (PHS 398 format).
5. CFAR staff will process all signature approval deadlines for the proposal to be submitted to Contracts & Grant once the application is received in our offices (COB - 11/15/04).

Letter of Intent Process

1. Please submit a brief letter of intent (no more than 1-2 pages), including the formal abstract and study aims, via [email](#). Indicate in the LOI how the study aims would be implemented, your PI eligibility, relevant research areas addressed by the study, CFAR scientist with whom you would collaborate, CFAR services and/or cohorts you will be utilizing.
2. If you are submitting a letter of intent for the database training supplement, please indicate the nature and type of clinical database for which you would be providing training, development, etc., as well as the requested information listed above.

Deadline for Letters of Intent: Close of business – October 8, 2004
Please submit your Letter of Intent via email attachment to awards@cfar.ucsf.edu

3. Upon receipt and review of the LOIs by CFAR, applicants selected will be notified via email no later than October 18, 2004.
4. The completed proposal (PHS 398) must be received no later than November 15, 2004 (Close of Business) at the CFAR administrative office:

Street Address	UCSF Box*
UCSF-GIVI CFAR 4150 Clement Street, Bldg. 16 San Francisco, CA 94121	UCSF-GIVI CFAR UC Box VAMC111V San Francisco, CA 94143-111V

**Note: Proposals sent via campus mail may be delayed beyond the 11/15/04 submission deadline. We strongly advise against using internal mail to delivery your applications.*

5. All Human Subjects Testing Requirements, Financial Disclosure forms and internal UCSF documentation must be submitted with the final document.

Competing Supplements 2004/2005 Schedule

LOI Announcement	September 24, 2004
Letter of Intent Due to CFAR	October 8, 2004
Senior Leadership Review	October 11-15, 2004
Application Submission Notices	October 18, 2004

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Application Packets Due to CFAR	November 15, 2004
Signature/Grant Review Process	November 16-December 3, 2004
C&G Reviews	December 6, 2004
NIH Program Grant Receipt	December 10, 2004
Review Date	April 1, 2005
Anticipated Start Date	August 1, 2005

CFAR is one of the three primary centers comprising UCSF's AIDS Research Institute and has access to a variety of mentoring and advisement services. If you should have any questions regarding submission or would like to take advantage of our support services or for additional information and reporting procedures on this funding, please do not hesitate to contact the UCSF-GIVI CFAR's Administrative Core.

*Philip Campbell, CFAR Administrative/Communications Coordinator, at 415-221-4810 x3674
(pcampbell@cfar.ucsf.edu)*

Loren Dobkin, CFAR Program Analyst, at 415-221-4810, x3672 (ldobkin@cfar.ucsf.edu)

Terry Gleason, CFAR Finance Analyst, at 415-221-4810, x3673(tgleason@cfar.ucsf.edu).

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