

Appendix A:

Current UCSF-Bay Area CFAR Mission and Specific Aims

UCSF-Bay Area CFAR Mission:

The UCSF-Bay Area Center for AIDS Research seeks to expand HIV research occurring at the intersections of basic, clinical, and behavioral/ epidemiological scientific disciplines. Our Center's central goal is facilitating scientific progress in HIV by providing the broadest community of member investigators across our distributed research environment with direct and indirect resources such as access to emerging technologies and the availability of dynamic scientific cores.

Current Specific Aims:

The six aims of the UCSF-Bay Area CFAR reflect the five Cores and our focus on EHE as follows:

Aim 1 (Administrative Core): Provide administrative leadership to support all functions of the UCSF-Bay Area CFAR. This Core will identify emerging HIV research opportunities for investigators, coordinate CFAR-provided biostatistical support (now in each scientific Core) for stakeholders, reposition CFAR resources to address evolving NIH/OAR priorities, leverage institutional support maximally, foster access to care and public health engagement, and enhance inter-CFAR collaborations.

Aim 2 (Developmental Core): Provide support, resources, and pilot grants to investigators across the CFAR, with a focus on early-career investigators. This core will enhance the Mentoring program (1:1 mentoring, workshops, aims reviews) for ESIs, the Mentoring the Mentors Workshop to train HIV researchers across the U.S., a new program to provide structured support for investigators transitioning from K- to R- funding, and bolster our pilot developmental grant program (\$750K/year).

Aim 3 (Clinical Core): To support the HIV clinical cohorts at UCSF CFAR and their specimen banking needs, with a new initiative on enhancing enrollment in our cohorts and studies via a referral service from our publicly insured HIV clinic. HIV clinical cohorts at UCSF, including CNICS and WIHS/MACS CCS, will be supported in this Core via the Specimen Bank, development, and mentoring initiatives. SCOPE, a highly productive prospective cohort focused currently on HIV persistence and inflammation, receives designated support from CFAR. To increase enrollment of participants across cohorts, we will start a "Participant Referral Service" to improve access to research opportunities for individuals receiving care from Ward 86.

Aim 4 (Basic/Translational Core): To support the breadth of basic science/translational HIV research across the CFAR. This Core will continue two functional now-Sub-Cores -Immunology and Functional Genomics and Pharmacology of Cure and Co-Infections - to support basic and translational research on inflammation, HIV persistence and cure. A Bioinformatics Sub-Core will be added to support investigators in computational high-dimensional data processing, analysis, visualization, and management of multi-omic data.

Aim 5 (Bio-Behavioral Core): To support the intersection of social and behavioral research in HIV with biomedical prevention, substance use research, and biomarker-based analysis: This novel Core will intersect with the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS) but is distinct from that P30 in that it will focus on biomarkers of behavior (adherence metrics, objective measures of substance use). This core will also support a new PrEP cohort (intersecting with adherence monitoring) and bring in UCSF's experience with substance use, given the importance of addressing substance use (with objective monitoring) and HIV on EHE goals.

Aim 6 (EHE initiatives): Advance the national Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) initiative through a newly established Implementation Science Working Group. This group will foster interdisciplinary research focused on improving HIV prevention, diagnosis, and treatment outcomes using real-world implementation frameworks, with an emphasis on optimizing interventions across public health and care delivery settings.