



THE GONORRHEA VACCINE COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTER (THE GVCRC) CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The **Gonorrhea Vaccine Cooperative Research Center** (The GVCRC) announces a call for Developmental Research Program (DRP) proposals. The purpose of the DRP is to provide support (\$60,000/year for 2 years) to new investigators in the field of vaccine development for sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Investigators must be capable of developing an independent research project and intend to pursue a research career.

The pilot proposals should generate basic science or translational data that can be used to solicit independent funding. The topics that will be considered for funding should directly support STI vaccine research to include gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, vaccine-induced immune responses, vaccine adjuvants, epitope mapping, antigen mining, and novel vaccine platforms or delivery systems and other aspects of vaccine development that are relevant to immune-mediated prevention of sexually transmitted infections.

To be eligible, applicants must be:

A senior post-doctoral researcher (M.D. or Ph.D.), with at least 3 years of post-doctoral research experience.

OR

An early-stage investigator who has completed post-doctoral training but is not yet independently funded by an extramural award,

AND

Show the need for scientific mentorship to become an independent researcher.

ALSO

The applicant **must be an employee** of one of the following GVCRC institutions; Uniformed Services University, Emory University, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Duke University, Emory University, University of Virginia, University of New Mexico and Oregon State University.

Application Deadline
Monday, November 1, 2021
5:00pm EST

Letter of intent to submit should be sent via email to Kimberly.Boxley.CTR@usuhs.edu by Friday, October 1, 2021

Contacts:

Kim Boxley, Program Manager III, Henry M. Jackson Foundation
kimberly.boxley.CTR@usuhs.edu

Ann Jerse, Ph.D, Professor and Director of The GV CRC, USUHS
ann.jerse1@usuhs.edu

Key DATES	APPLICATION PROCEDURE
<p>Posted Date – September 3, 2021 Letter of Intent: October 1, 2021 Close date for proposals – November 1, 2021 Administrative Review - November 1, 2021- November 15, 2021 Scientific review - November 16, 2021 - December 15, 2021 Announcement of winners - January 2, 2022 Funding start date - March 1, 2022</p>	<p>Use PHS Form 398 and NIH format.</p> <p>Form pages and instructions are available at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html</p>
<p>WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY</p>	<p>APPLICATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:</p>
<p>1.) A senior post-doctoral fellow (PhD or MD) with at least 3 years of post-doctoral research experience.</p> <p>2.) PhD or MD early-stage investigators at The GVCRC-participating institutions who have recently completed post-doctoral training, but have <u>not</u> yet become PI on an extramurally funded grant of ≥ \$ 50,000/year (direct costs).</p> <p>3.) Applicants <u>must show a need for scientific mentorship</u> in their pursuit to become an independent researcher</p> <p>To be eligible for the DRP, applicants must be living within the US and be an employee of a GVCRC institution. The GVCRC institutions are: Uniformed Services University, Emory University, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, Duke University, University of New Mexico, University of Virginia and Oregon State University.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover Letter (No Form Page) • Face page (Form Page 1) • Project Summary and Relevance (Form Page 2) • Senior/Key Personnel (Form Page 2) • Detailed budget for each year (Form Page 4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do <u>not</u> use modular budgets. Include F&A (overhead) in the budget. • Budget justification (No Form Page) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The budget will be for 2 years at \$60,000 Total Direct Cost per year (excluding F&A). Itemize costs and describe how these costs support the project. • Biographical Sketch Format Pages (Standard NIH Format) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include for applicant, mentor and any key personnel <p>http://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm</p>
<p>ELIGIBLE TOPICS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career Development Plan (1-3 pages) (No Form Page) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate's Background • Career goals and objectives • Career development/training activities during award period • Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research
<p>These are pilot projects, with the intention that they will generate basic science or translational data that can be used to solicit independent funding. The topic of the research plan must be an aspect of STI vaccine research that is related to the research themes of the GVCRC, to include gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, vaccine-induced immune responses, vaccine adjuvants, epitope mapping, antigen mining, and novel vaccine platforms or delivery systems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentor support statement (No Form Page) • Letter of reference – <u>one</u> letter from someone <u>other</u> than primary mentor— send directly to kimberly.boxley.ctr@usuhs.edu
<p>DEADLINES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Plan Suggested Length
<p>Letter of Intent: October 1, 2021 APPLICATIONS: November 1, 2021 5:00 p.m. EST AWARD PERIOD: Not to exceed 2 years Earliest start date: March 1, 2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific aims (1/2-1 page) • Background (1-2 pages) • Preliminary studies (2-4 pages) • Research design and methods (4-6 pages)
<p>APPLICATION EVALUATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature cited (No limit to number of pages) • Human Subjects (No page limit / As needed) • Vertebrate animals (No page limit / As needed)
<p>Applications will be evaluated with respect to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant's experience • Clarity of personal statement, and likelihood that the mentorship and career plan will lead to independence • Quality of the research proposal with respect to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significance • Innovation • Supporting data • Technical feasibility • Grantsmanship • Mentor support statement and the outside reference • Experience of the mentor • One award will be funded from this project 	<p>Animal Care and Human Subjects Review Committee approvals, if applicable, must be obtained before an award can be funded.</p> <p>Send the completed application as follows: a single PDF containing the entire application (except letter of reference).</p> <p>These must be received by November 1, 2021 5:00 p.m. EST. Send applications to: kimberly.boxley.ctr@usuhs.edu</p> <p>Questions?? Kimberly Boxley, Kimberly.Boxley.CTR@usuhs.edu Ann Jerse, Ph.D. Ann.Jerse1@usuhs.edu</p>

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Additional Application Information and Award Expectations

i.) **Scientific mentoring plan**

The Awardee is expected to be highly motivated and capable of working independently. However, regularly scheduled one-on-one time with the individual's research mentor is expected to identify areas of need.

ii.) **Professional development plan**

Successful career development should also include training in professional activities outside of bench research such as scientific writing, mentoring, public speaking and editing and reviewing skills. The Awardee is expected to write and submit abstracts to for the Annual STI CRC programmatic meetings and to present posters or if selected, oral presentations of their data. The Awardee is also expected to compose one or more first author scientific manuscripts that report the outcome of their research for submission to a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

While developing the Research and Training plan, the mentor should encourage the Awardee to serve on University committees (i.e. Institutional Review Board, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, Bioinstrumentation and Equipment committees, etc.) so the Awardee can learn more about how research is conducted and the ways by which the University infrastructure supports research.

iii.) **Plans for transition into an independent career**

During the second year of the award, the mentor should help the Awardee identify career and independent funding opportunities that are consistent with his or her career plan. The mentor should also advise the Awardee as to how they should utilize their research findings to be competitive for these opportunities.

iv.) **Progress reports and summary of activities** The Awardee will compose and submit a progress report with the other projects and cores associated with the center. At the end of the two year funding period, each Awardee will provide an updated career plan and a written summary of the following activities performed during the period of the award: professional activities (e.g. University service, peer review), manuscripts (submitted and accepted), and grants (submitted and awarded).

v.) **Application Selection and Scoring**

Complete applications will be reviewed by a panel of PIs, co-PIs and Directors within the GVCRC. Members of this panel must not be the mentor of an applicant or work at the same institution as an applicant. Applications will be evaluated on the criteria described above under "Application Evaluation".