

HARC Center Collaborative Opportunity Fund

The HARC Center Collaborative Opportunity Fund provides seed grants for new collaborations to study HIV-host interactions. The goal is to mesh structural and functional studies of HIV-host interactions performed within the Center with those of outside collaborators such that they inform and build on one another in pursuit of structural/functional insights and ultimately effective anti-HIV therapeutics.

A major goal of this seed funding program is to support recipients' transition to independent funding and it is expected that recipients will actively pursue this goal.

It is a requirement of this program that collaborators be Early Stage Investigators or new-to-HIV Research investigators with expertise, technology or research interests relevant to the Center's research foci. We are committed to increasing ethnic and gender diversity in the Center and encourage qualified applications from females and other underrepresented groups.

About the HARC Center:

The HARC Center is one of five interdisciplinary research centers funded by the NIH AIDS-Related Structural Biology Program. The Center focuses on creating a comprehensive structural/functional picture of interactions between HIV viral proteins and key intracellular host molecules in the viral lifecycle. Such complexes offer the potential for novel targeted drug design strategies in the treatment of AIDS and other diseases.

A diverse range of investigators contribute to a "Systems to Structure" pipeline that spans biochemical, molecular biological and structural methods, including mass spectrometry, x-ray crystallography, membrane expression, CRISPR, NMR and cryo-electron microscopy as well as CRISPR technology and other genetic approaches.

See the HARC Center website at <http://harc.ucsf.edu> for more information.

Application process:

Please note, your application will be reviewed by all the HARC Center PIs, who are listed on the HARC Center website at <http://harc.ucsf.edu>. If funded, your collaborative project will be integrated in the collaborative environment and broader group context of the entire Center, which includes team meetings and sharing of results. Please consider this context in proposing research and sharing unpublished results. The intention of this program is to fund work that is collaborative and not competitive.

Applications must be submitted as a **single PDF file** (to melanie.brewer@ucsf.edu) with the following:

- 1) Multiple campus (MCA) Commitment Form (only required if you are at a UC that is not UCSF)
- 2) Completed and signed NIH PHS 398 face page (downloadable from <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>)
- 3) Current F & A agreement for your institution
- 4) Detailed budget and justification using PHS398 forms: A maximum of \$120,000 in total costs (direct plus indirect costs) for the fund period from September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021). Budgets must include travel costs to the annual NIH Structural Biology meeting held in Bethesda, MD in June, and for visits to the HARC Center as needed.
- 5) NIH Biosketch (5-page maximum) See <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm> or use the NIH SciENcv tool <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv/>

6) Other Support document, including all dollar amounts and dates. For subawards or Center-type grants, please indicate the funds that were awarded specifically to your lab.

7) Statement of the overall goals of the project and how it fits into the scope of the HARC Center. Statement of the roles of collaborating HARC Center PI(s) and how the resources and expertise of the Center will be utilized. It is recommended that you coordinate with the HARC Center PI(s) with whom you propose to collaborate, when preparing this statement. Statement of prior year progress, if this is a renewal application. (1-page maximum for all statements combined)

8) Three-page (maximum) proposal, single-spaced, Arial, font size 11 pts or higher (page limit includes figures, but excludes references)

- a. Specific Aims
- b. Significance/Innovation
- c. Approach & Preliminary Data
- d. Milestones
- e. References cited

Eligibility:

Applications are open to any interested Early Stage or “New to HIV Research” investigator who holds a faculty-level or equivalent appointment at a qualified institution in the United States (not a postdoctoral fellow or student). Eligible PIs will have been designated by their sponsor institution as qualified to submit research grant (e.g., R21, R01) applications. Research track faculty and lecturers or others who are qualified to submit research grants are eligible for this program. It is requirement that applicants be Early Stage Investigators, or those who are new to the HIV field. [Please see this page to determine if you are eligible as an Early Stage Investigator.](#)

Review Criteria:

Review criteria will include (1) significance and innovation of the research, (2) productivity, training, experience and record of accomplishment of the investigator(s), (3) soundness of the research strategy, including measures to ensure reproducibility and reliability of results and appropriate consideration of biological variables such as gender in any animal or human studies, and (4) consideration of the scientific environment and how it will contribute to success of the proposed work. Review will also include consideration of the integration of the proposed work into the HARC Center and its research foci (e.g., interactions with HARC investigators, utilization of HARC resources, development/application of new technologies to HARC projects etc.)

Deadline:

May 30, 2020	Applications due (5:00 P.M., Pacific Time)
July 15, 2020	Notification of funding decision
September 1, 2020	Funding start date

Total Award:

Up to \$120,000 in total costs (direct plus indirect) for the fund period Sept. 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021. A detailed budget and justification are required in the application. Budget must include travel costs to annual NIH program meeting and to visit the HARC Center as needed.

Funded Individuals - Requirements:

All applications are subject to approval by NIH program staff. Funded investigators will be required to follow all NIH regulations/requirements, including those related to animal use, human subjects, and recombinant DNA.

Participation in the annual NIH program meeting in June, "Structural Biology Related to HIV/AIDS", is required and funds must be allocated for this purpose. Participation in HARC Center activities is expected and will include participation in periodic meetings with HARC PIs, Center members, Advisory Board members and/or collaborators.

A final report is required at the end of each funding period. This report should summarize results, including any publications resulting from the research. Reports will be provided to NIH as part of the HARC Center annual progress reporting.

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Program Contact:

Melanie Brewer - melanie.brewer@ucsf.edu