

UCSF COVID-19 Rapid Response Pilot Grant - revised

Sponsored by the Academic Senate and the Office of Research - CTSI Pilot Program, the Research Development Office (RDO), and **now adding** the UC National Laboratory Fees Research Program (LFRP) Block Grant and the UCSF-Gladstone Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) (*please note the RFA updates in red italics*)

Call for Proposals Announced	April 3, 2020
Proposal Application Deadline	April 21, 2020
Announcement of Awards	May 5, 2020
Project Timeline	Up to 1 year

The **UCSF COVID-19 Rapid Response Pilot (C19 RRP) Grant Program** seeks to support rapid response research at UCSF focused on SARS-CoV-2 and the COVID-19 pandemic. This program is co-sponsored by the Academic Senate, and the Office of Research's Research Development Office (RDO) and CTSI Pilot Program. *We now welcome the partnership of the UC-affiliated national laboratories through its UC National Laboratory Fees Research Program (LFRP) Block Grant. In addition, UCSF-Gladstone CFAR will sponsor a COVID-19 project that is relevant to people living with HIV.*

Many aspects of the epidemiology and viral pathogenesis of COVID-19 are not fully understood. We seek to support campus research efforts to better understand COVID-19 and this pandemic. We will accept grant proposals focused broadly on COVID-related projects, including fundamental virology, immunology, epidemiology, diagnostic development, therapeutic development and testing, development of animal models, medical interventions, *socio-behavioral impacts, computational modelling* and clinical implementation. We encourage redirected research from labs not normally involved in coronavirus research.

CFAR funding is limited to projects that include people living with HIV.

We encourage faculty to look for opportunities to leverage research at the UC-affiliated national laboratories. For more information about this research and DOE-user facilities at Los Alamos, Livermore, or Berkeley National Laboratories, contact the following for each lab:

John Sarrao, Deputy Director, LANL (sarrao@lanl.gov)

Dave Rakestraw, LLNL, (rakestraw1@llnl.gov)

Information about LLNL's COVID-19 research and response activities can be found at <https://www.llnl.gov/coronavirus>.

Kristin Balder-Froid, LBNL, (khbalder-froid@lbl.gov)

The C19 RRP Grant Program seeks proposals for grants in two award tiers, \$5K and \$40K.

- Proposals can address a broad spectrum of COVID-19 related research, including viral pathogenesis, immunology, epidemiology, diagnostic development, therapeutic development and testing, development of animal models, medical interventions, *socio-behavioral impacts, computational modelling*, and clinical implementation.
- Successful applications will describe how completion of the proposed work will impact the current understanding of SARS-CoV-2 and/or the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Successful applications will describe the next steps if the aims of the project are achieved and plans for supporting that next-step research effort (e.g., extramural funding).

- High-risk thinking or approaches that will likely yield explicit “deliverables” (including discovery that the idea was wrong) will also be considered.
- Multiple-PI and cross-disciplinary efforts are encouraged.

C19 RRP Grant Tier 5K

- Up to \$5,000 for up to one year
- We anticipate awarding up to ten proposals

C19 RRP Grant Tier 40K

- Up to \$40,000 for up to one year
- We anticipate awarding 3-4 proposals

Eligibility:

For proposals with a singular PI, the PI must be a UCSF Faculty researcher with an Academic Senate Appointment. For proposals with Multi-PIs, at least one of the PIs must hold a UCSF Academic Senate Appointment.

HIV-related COVID-19 projects can also come from Postdoctoral fellows or Researchers/Specialists with a terminal degree. We encourage any applicants interested in submitting an HIV-related project to discuss eligibility with Lauren Sterling (lauren.sterling@ucsf.edu).

Selection Process:

A diverse faculty committee with appropriate expertise and understanding of the COVID-19 research arena will select awardees and establish funding levels.

Review Considerations

1. impactful COVID-19 research focus;
2. potential for tangible benefit to patients, including the likelihood that the study will have an immediate patient impact;
3. potential for supporting tangible next steps – larger projects, follow-on funding, etc.;
4. engagement with *DOE-user facilities at Los Alamos, Livermore, or Berkeley National Laboratories;*
5. attention to particular challenges of computational needs, interoperability, health disparities, privacy, participant engagement, consent, security, ethical, and/or regulatory issues;
6. potential downstream use of tools, measurements, approaches, and data, including open public accessibility of generated data and publications;
7. potential to scale, and to leverage the >15 million EHR from across the UC Health centers.

Proposal Instructions: (Arial 11 font; 0.5 inch margins; see attached template)

1. **Cover Page (1 page limit):** Cover page with name of award tier (Tier 1 or Tier 2), deadline, title of proposal, scientific disciplines represented in the collaboration, amount of funding requested, Principal Investigator names, academic titles, departments, phone numbers, UCSF box numbers, and email addresses. Identify the contact PI and the UCSF department that will manage the award, the accounting manager/contact name, UCSF box number, email address, and phone number, and Abstract (Required, 100 words)
2. **Project Description (2-page limit):** 2-sentence Problem Statement; Rationale/background; proposed research plan; feasibility; innovation; significance/impact. Preliminary data not required. Any figures count in the 2 page limit.

3. Budget and Budget Justification (together with 1 page limit): Administrative support, tuition and travel are not allowable expenses. Funds may support faculty salary if well-justified. Similarly, other costs may be allowed if well-justified and necessary for the rapid execution of the project.
4. Biosketches: (not part of page limitations): for each PI, new NIH format.

Submission: As a single PDF, via email to Gretchen Kiser at rdoinfo@ucsf.edu no later than **Tuesday, April 21, 2020 5:00 pm PST**. **NOTE:** Include contact PI last name in the file name and put *COVID-19 Rapid Response Pilot* in the Subject Line.

Background: Coronaviruses are a diverse family of viruses that cause a range of disease in humans and animals, and there are currently no approved coronavirus vaccines or therapeutics. The novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, was identified as the causative agent of the viral pneumonia COVID-19 that is now dramatically impacting the health of people around the world. Current information regarding confirmed cases is changing daily and can be found on the WHO website (<https://www.who.int/>), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html>), and through other sources.

Program contact: *Gretchen Kiser, PhD, in the UCSF Research Development Office: 480.290.0207;*
rdoinfo@ucsf.edu

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Name of award tier: Tier 1 or Tier 2

Title of proposal:

Scientific disciplines and keywords: (e.g., COVID-19, epidemiology, viral pathogenesis)

Funding request: (up to \$5,000 for Tier 1 and up to \$40,000 for Tier 2):

Principal Investigator(s) (for each PI; note the contact PI):

PI1 (Contact PI)

Name:

Academic title:

Department:

Current Phone number:

Email addresses:

Financial Info

UCSF department managing the award -

Finance manager/contact name -

Email address -

Current Phone number –

PI2

Name:

Academic title:

Department:

Current Phone number:

Email addresses:

Abstract: Required; 100 words, targeted to non-expert; may be made publicly available. This is a way to encourage more communication about what is going on.

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Project Description: 2 page limit; Preliminary data not required. Figures must be included within these 2 pages)

Problem Statement: 2 sentences max

Rationale/background:

Proposed Research Plan: To include:

- Specific Aims – What are you going to do?
- Approach – How are you going to do it?
- Feasibility and Timeline – How likely is it to be done in the time proposed/allowed?
- Innovation – What is innovative about this proposal? the approach? the question? etc.
- Significance and Impact – Why is the problem important? If you succeed, what “needle” is moved and by how much? We especially encourage work that will have an immediate impact.
- Dissemination of Results – Describe in ≤3 sentences how you plan to rapidly disseminate the study results to the scientific community.

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Biosketches: not part of page limitations; for each PI, “new” NIH format.