

**University of Alabama at Birmingham**  
**Sexually Transmitted Infections Cooperative Research Center (STI CRC)**

**2014 Request for Applications (RFA)**  
**Mentored Developmental Research Project Awards**

|                              |                                      |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>RFA Release Date</b>      | <b>1 September 2014</b>              |
| <b>Application Due Date</b>  | <b>1 October 2014 by 5:00 PM CDT</b> |
| <b>Estimated Review Date</b> | <b>10 October 2014</b>               |
| <b>Earliest Award Date</b>   | <b>15 October 2014</b>               |

## **Mentored Developmental Research Project**

### **1) Overview**

#### **a) Purpose**

Mentored Developmental Research Project awards (similar to K08 and K23 awards) provide 1-2 years of funding to support research projects and career development activities that will enhance the applicant's ability to compete successfully for an independent R- or K-series award (e.g., acquisition of preliminary data, training in grant preparation). ***This RFA will be released each summer over the next 4 years.***

#### **b) Eligibility**

Applicants for DRP awards are scientists (M.D., Ph.D., or other relevant doctoral-level degree) nearing completion of the postdoctoral fellowship period or early in faculty positions. Applicants must be US citizens or Permanent Residents. Eligible individuals must not have served as a Principal Investigator on a NIH R01 or U-series grant (in the field of STD or HIV research). Previous DRP award recipients are not eligible to compete for a second DRP award. Applicants will be drawn from the new investigators interested in beginning or continuing STI research. Contact the Award Coordinator, Janna Tharp ([jtharp@uab.edu](mailto:jtharp@uab.edu)), for questions regarding eligibility.

#### **c) Types of Projects**

Eligible research areas include basic, epidemiological, translational, behavioral, or implementation science research on STI topics other than HIV. HIV studies may be included in a proposal only as they relate to, or impact upon, other STIs.

***Award criteria will prioritize projects that would not otherwise be possible without this funding. Applicants should emphasize the ways in which this funding will be used separately from any other current funding to enhance career development.***

Per NIH, we cannot fund clinical trials of investigational drugs. If you are considering a study involving approved drugs and/or standard-of-care, please contact the Award Coordinator, Janna Tharp ([jtharp@uab.edu](mailto:jtharp@uab.edu)), to determine whether your proposed project would be eligible for funding.

#### **d) Funding Available**

Awards will be up to \$60,000/year. Applicants may apply for up to 2 years of funding. Direct costs only will be awarded: ***no indirect costs will be paid***. A letter of agreement to waive IDC should be included with applications if relevant.

The award can be used for PI or other salary, technical support, laboratory or other supplies, equipment, and travel costs related to the project. Requests for computers must be strongly justified as being used ***exclusively*** for the execution of the project. Note that statistical consultation will be available to DRP awardees through the STI-CRC Biostatistics Core.

Requests for Second Year of Funding: Second year funding is will be competitively considered along with other applications and contingent upon a cogent rationale for the requirement of 2 years and demonstration of satisfactory progress during year one.

### **2) Award Requirements**

#### **a) Human Subjects and Animal Care Approvals:**

Prior to funding, a copy of all Institutional Biohazard, Animal Care and IRB approvals must be forwarded to the Award Coordinator, Janna Tharp ([jtharp@uab.edu](mailto:jtharp@uab.edu)).

#### **b) Reporting and Presentation Requirements:**

Awardees will be required to submit yearly progress reports to the Award Coordinator and make an oral presentation after each year of their award. The chair of the awardee's mentoring committee will also be required to submit a brief progress report annually before Year 2 funding can be received.

#### **c) STI CRC Support:**

2014 STI CRC Mentored Developmental Research Project RFA

**After completing all pre-submission requirements, electronically submit all of the components listed below except (Letters of Reference) in a single PDF file by 5:00 p.m. CDT 11 October 2014 to [jtharp@uab.edu](mailto:jtharp@uab.edu).**

STI CRC support (9A) must be acknowledged in all publications and presentations derived from STI CRC funding.

**Any application not meeting these requirements will not be reviewed.**

d) Other Support:

In the event that current funding exists, or pending other support is funded which overlaps with or reduces your effort on this project, you must notify the Award Coordinator, Janna Tharp ([jtharp@uab.edu](mailto:jtharp@uab.edu)) immediately. Your funding status will be reviewed and, if it is determined that the new funding overlaps with the specific aims of your STI CRC proposal, the award will be adjusted.

e) Post-Award Requirements:

After project is completed, awardees must agree to provide contact information and respond to annual queries about publications, collaborations and future grants related to the STI CRC project. Awardees must also take full responsibility to meet the Public Access Policy (get PMCID numbers) for all publications related to your project award. This is necessary for our reports to NIH.

#### 4) Application Instructions

The full proposal will be on [PHS 398 forms](#) and should follow a modified NIH K08/K23 format with the modifications listed below). Applicants will submit their DRP applications using a modified NIH K08 or K23 format, with a **7** page limit that includes all of the trainee components: Applicant Background and Career Development Plan (1 page), Mentor's Statement (1 page), Specific Aims (1 page), and Research Plan (including Significance, Innovation, and Approach; 4 pages). The trainee and mentor Biosketches, description of training in Responsible Conduct of Research, and the independent letters of support will not count toward the 7-page limit. **No appendices are allowed.** Do not submit Targeted/Planned Enrollment Tables. Submit a detailed budget, not a modular budget.

#### Required components

1. Face Page: (PHS 398 Form page 1 - Download: [MS Word](#) or [PDF](#))
2. Project Summary Page: (PHS 398 Form pages 2 and 3 - Download: [MS Word](#) or [PDF](#))
3. Detailed budget for each 12 month period: (PHS 398 Form page 4 - Download: [MS Word](#) or [PDF](#))
4. Complete budget and justification: (PHS 398 Form page 5 - Download: [MS Word](#) or [PDF](#))
5. Resources page (PHS 398 Format - Download: [MS Word](#) or [PDF](#); maximum length 1 page)
6. Biographical Sketch for the applicant (PHS 398 Format - Download: [MS Word](#) or [PDF](#))
7. Biographical Sketches for mentor and, if applicable, mentoring team. (PHS 398 Format - Download: [MS Word](#) or [PDF](#)) The Personal Statement section for the mentoring team should clearly state what expertise they will bring to the career development and research activities of the applicant.
8. Career Development and Research Plan (**Maximum 7 pages for a-d below**). Use PHS 398 Continuation Format pages (Download: [MS Word](#) or [PDF](#)).
  - a. Applicant Background and Career Development Plan (1 page)
  - b. Mentor's Statement (1 page). Note: this is not a letter of recommendation. It is a description of how the trainee will be mentored, evidence of successful mentoring.
  - c. Specific Aims (1 page)
  - d. Research Strategy (including Significance, Innovation, and Approach) (maximum length 4 pages)
9. Bibliography and References cited (as needed)
10. Protection of Human Subjects (if applicable; maximum 1 page). **Include all areas required by NIH.**
11. Description of Applicant's Past and Planned Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research (maximum, 1 page) **Include all areas required by NIH.**

12. Vertebrate Animals (if applicable; maximum 1 page) Include all areas required by NIH.
13. Letters of reference from 2 persons, excluding your mentor (who will write a separate statement [(8c above)]). Letters should be sent directly to the Award Coordinator, Janna Tharp ([jtharp@uab.edu](mailto:jtharp@uab.edu)) and not included with the application. **Letters must be received by 5:00 PM PDT on October 1, 2014.**

## 5) Budget Development Guidelines and Restrictions

- a) Requested support for project collaborators who are NOT at the same institution as the awardee should be listed as consultant costs. Subcontracts will not be issued to collaborator's institutions.
- b) Requested support for equipment and technology must be fully justified in the budget justification with a clear connection to the scientific aspects of the project and not for general office or lab use. Any request for purchase of computers is limited to computers that are used EXCLUSIVELY for the project.
- c) Tuition, fees and stipends for graduate students are allowable within the following guidelines:
  - Total compensation (salary, fringe, and tuition/fees) cannot exceed \$42,000.
- d) Costs associated with Institutional Review Board (IRB) review of human research protocols, or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) review of animal research protocols, are not allowable as direct charges.
- e) All costs must conform to the NIH Grants Policy Statement (GPS) and applicable U.S. Office of Management and Budget OMB circulars for necessity and reasonability, allocability, conformance and consistency, as well as allowability. Please follow the link below to section 7.2 cost principles section of the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#).

## 6) Review Process and Criteria

The evaluation criteria for proposals include:

- a) **Applicant**
  - Commitment to a research career in STD
  - Academic record and accomplishments to date
  - Potential to become an independent investigator
- b) **Career Development Plan**
  - Appropriateness of the plan for achieving scientific independence
  - Consistency with candidate's prior training and career goals
- c) **Mentor/Co-mentors**
  - Mentor's research qualifications in the area of the proposed project
  - Quality and extent of mentor's proposed role in providing guidance to the candidate
  - Previous success in training early career investigators
  - History of research productivity
- d) **Research Plan (Significance, Innovation, Approach)**
  - Scientific merit of the research question, design, and methodology
  - Relevance of the proposed research to the applicant's career objectives
  - Appropriateness of the research plan to the applicant's stage of research development
  - Appropriateness of the research plan for advancing the career development plan