



NIH funding opportunities



Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences: Research Development and Support

01 Mar 2021 (#04)

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The NIH funding opportunities listed below are only a **selection** of pre-screened, currently open health funding opportunities for which **South African institutions are eligible to apply**. For a comprehensive selection of NIH funding opportunities, please visit www.grants.nih.gov or www.sun.ac.za/RDSfunding (current & archive).

Confirm your intent to apply ASAP, but not later than 60 days before the submission date.

Tygerberg Campus: cdevries@sun.ac.za • Stellenbosch Campus lizelk@sun.ac.za

Important Notices

- **[NOT-AI-21-037](#) Notice of Information: Submission of NIAID Investigator-Initiated Clinical Trials to Appropriate FOAs.** This Notice defines the types of investigator-initiated clinical trial applications that should be submitted to NIAID in response to the NIH Research Project Grant (Parent R01 Clinical Trial Required), the NIH Research Project Grant (Parent R21 Clinical Trial Required), Investigator Initiated Extended Clinical Trial (R01 Clinical Trial Required) and NIAID investigator-initiated cooperative agreement funding opportunity announcements (FOAs) and their reissuances. Also, this Notice clarifies that NIAID's [mission-relevant](#) support for [clinical trials](#), defined in [NOT-OD-15-015](#), "Notice of Revised NIH Definition of "Clinical Trial", is contingent on submission of that clinical trial application to the appropriate FOA, based on NIAID's determination of [level of risk](#). Applicants are encouraged to refer to the [NIAID Clinical Trial Research](#) page and [NIAID Investigator-Initiated Clinical Trial Resources](#) for more information.
- **[NOT-AR-21-013](#) Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for Accelerating Medicines Partnership Autoimmune and Immune-Mediated Diseases: Disease Teams for Rheumatoid Arthritis, Lupus, Psoriatic Spectrum Diseases and Sjogren's Syndrome (UC2 Clinical Trial Optional).** This Notice is to inform the research community that the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS), National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID), National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), and Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH) intend to issue a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for the Accelerating Medicines Partnership Autoimmune and Immune-Mediated Diseases: Disease Teams for Rheumatoid Arthritis, Lupus, Psoriatic Spectrum Diseases and Sjogren's Syndrome (UC2 Clinical Trial Optional). This FOA will use the UC2 (High Impact Research and Research Infrastructure Cooperative Agreement Programs) grant mechanism. The FOA is not intended to support hypothesis-driven research but will support discovery. Each application submitted to this anticipated FOA will be required to address only one disease. First Estimated Application Due Date: April/May 2021.
- **[NOT-NS-21-031](#) Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for Blueprint Neurotherapeutics Network (BPN): Biologic-based Drug Discovery and Development for Disorders of the Nervous System (UG3/UH3 Clinical Trial Optional).** The NIH Blueprint for Neuroscience Research announces its intention to publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for investigators seeking support from the Blueprint Neurotherapeutics Network for Biologics (BPN-Biologics). Applicants will be encouraged to utilize a customized set of contract resources and consultants from the BPN-Biologics Network to help advance their neuroscience-focused biotherapeutic discovery and development projects into the clinic. This Notice is provided to allow potential applicants sufficient time to develop meaningful collaborations and responsive projects. Details of the planned FOA are provided below. The FOA is expected to be published in Apr 2021 with an expected application due date in Jul/Aug 2021.

Notices of Special Interest (NOSI)

- **[NOT-AG-21-016](#) Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Neurological and Neurocognitive Sequelae from SARS-CoV-2 Infection and COVID-19 in Aging and Age-Related Neurodegeneration.** The purpose of this Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) is to inform applicants to the National Institute on Aging (NIA) of NIA's interest in basic and clinical mechanistic research on neurological and neurocognitive sequelae originating from Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) infection and Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in aging and age-related neurodegeneration. The specific research objectives of this NOSI are to rapidly expand the knowledge base on acute and long-term neurological and neurocognitive sequelae of COVID-19. This notice applies to due dates on or after June 5, 2021 and subsequent receipt dates through May 7, 2023. Submit applications for this initiative using one of the following funding opportunity announcements (FOAs), or any reissues of these announcements, through the expiration date of this NOSI:
 - [PA-20-185](#) - NIH Research Project Grant (Parent R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)
 - [PA-20-183](#) - NIH Research Project Grant (Parent R01 Clinical Trial Required)
 - [PA-20-184](#) - Research Project Grant (Parent R01 Basic Experimental Studies with Humans Required)
 - [PA-20-195](#) - NIH Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant Program (Parent R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)
 - [PA-20-194](#) - Parent R21 Exploratory/Developmental Grant, Clinical Trial Required
 - [PA-20-196](#) - Parent R21 Exploratory/Developmental Grant, Basic Experimental Studies with Humans
 - [PA-20-200](#) - NIH Small Research Grant Program (Parent R03 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)
- **[NOT-DA-21-007](#) Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Using Data to Advance HIV Epidemic Knowledge and Program Planning.** The purpose of this Notice is to encourage grant applications proposing research that makes use of available, large data sets with the objective of improving HIV epidemic modeling and service planning, with greater attention to the role of substance use. Data may be from NIDA-funded or co-funded projects as well as from other sources. This Notice is expected to increase the utilization of existing data including epidemiologic and clinic cohorts, longitudinal follow-up studies of interventions, as well as other publicly available data including those provided by government bodies, data warehouses and commercial data sources. Existing data may include data from completed projects as well as those that are ongoing. Results from studies supported by this NOSI are expected to generate knowledge that can be used to answer significant questions about HIV epidemics, promote efficient provision of services, and address limitations of existing models that have guided public policy. NIDA is particularly interested in research that integrates substance use considerations into program planning and policy to increase the quality of HIV services and their responsiveness to substance using populations. This notice applies to due dates on or after May 7, 2021 and subsequent receipt dates through September 7, 2024. Submit applications for this initiative using one of the following funding opportunity announcements (FOAs) or any reissues of these announcements through the expiration date of this notice.
 - [PA-20-185](#) - NIH Research Project Grant (Parent R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)
 - [PAR-19-368](#) - Accelerating the Pace of Drug Abuse Research Using Existing Data (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)
 - [PA-20-195](#) - NIH Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant Program (Parent R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Parent Announcements

Parent Announcements (PA) for unsolicited are broad funding opportunity announcements allowing applicants to submit investigator-initiated applications. They are open for up to 3 years and use standard due dates.

- [PA-20-185](#) NIH Research Project Grant (Parent R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)
- [PA-20-184](#) Research Project Grant (Parent R01 Basic Experimental Studies with Humans Required)
- [PA-20-183](#) Research Project Grant (Parent R01 Clinical Trial Required)
- [PA-20-200](#) NIH Small Research Grant Program (Parent R03 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)
- [PA-20-195](#) NIH Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant Program (Parent R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)
- [PA-20-194](#) NIH Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant Program (Parent R21 Clinical Trial Required)
- [PA-20-196](#) NIH Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant Program (Parent R21 Basic Experimental Studies with Humans Required)

Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOA)

1. International Research in Infectious Diseases (R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Letter of Intent: 30 days prior to the application due date

Hyperlink: [PAR-20-108](#)

Type: R01

Application Due Date: July 15, 2021; July 15 2022. Apply by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization.

Funding Opportunity Announcement: The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to invite applications for support of high-priority, regionally relevant infectious disease research by international investigators in resource-constrained countries. Applicant organizations must be headquartered in foreign (non-U.S.) resource-constrained countries (i.e. low-income economies, lower-middle-income economies, and upper-middle-income economies by [World Bank Classification](#)). Eligibility status of applicant organizations will be determined by this World Bank Classification list at application submission date. Research should focus on infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS, of interest to the local country and important from a global health perspective. Collaborative projects involving investigators from international sites and the U.S. are particularly encouraged. These grants will serve to build independent research capacity by providing direct funding to investigators who **do not currently have NIH-funded grant or contract awards for research projects**. The intent of these activities is to advance the development of local scientific expertise.

Budget: NIAID intends to commit an estimated total of \$1.4 million to fund 6-10 awards in FY2022, depending on the number of meritorious applications. Applications may request a budget of up to \$125,000 per year in direct cost and a maximum of \$625,000 in direct costs over a five-year project period.

2. Advancing technologies to improve delivery of pharmacological, gene editing, and other cargoes for HIV and SUD mechanistic or therapeutic research (R01- Clinical Trial Optional)

Letter of Intent: 30 days prior to the application due date

Hyperlink: [RFA-DA-22-010](#)

Type: R01

Application Due Date: October 25, 2021; October 25, 2022. Apply by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization.

Funding Opportunity Announcement: The purpose of this funding opportunity is to develop technologies to improve the delivery of pharmacological, gene editing, or other cargoes for HIV and SUD mechanistic research. This initiative focuses on technologies to improve the delivery of pharmacological, gene editing, or other cargoes for HIV and SUD mechanistic or therapeutic research. The development of combination Anti-retroviral therapy for HIV has transformed HIV/AIDS into a chronic disease by suppressing viral replication to undetectable levels. However, even after combination anti-retroviral therapy, HIV reservoirs remain in the gut, the immune system, and the nervous system where HIV infected CD4+ T cells, macrophages, dendritic cells and microglia may reside. Thus, no cure has been found for HIV infection and no effective vaccine for HIV exists. Current anti-retroviral therapies also have problems with drug toxicity, bioavailability, and have not been formulated for sustained release. Long term sustained delivery is needed among people with substance use disorders where compliance with an anti-retroviral therapy regimen may be problematic. To address these issues the development of improved reagents or technologies to enable targeted delivery of reagents (e.g. small molecules, biologics, gene editing reagents, etc.) to particular CNS regions or cell types is of great interest. Such delivery systems would improve our ability to monitor or manipulate HIV and SUD processes and could serve as the foundation for improved future therapeutics for HIV and/or SUD. Targeted delivery of CRISPr/CAS9 constructs, a gene editing technology, to HIV reservoirs has the potential to eradicate and cure HIV. The effectiveness of gene editing technology may be enhanced through combination with nano-formulations of anti-retroviral therapeutic agents. Such nano-formulations could potentially reduce drug toxicity, improve bioavailability, and provide vehicles for sustained delivery to the periphery and the central nervous system. Sustained delivery formulations that suppress viral expression in the blood stream may eradicate HIV transmission as effectively as a vaccine among drug abusing populations who have problems with treatment compliance. Applications without proposed technology developments to improve the delivery of cargoes for HIV and SUD research will be considered non-responsive and returned without review.

Budget: NIDA expects to fund 4 to 6 projects in FY2022 totaling \$2,000,000 in direct cost. NIDA expects to fund 4 to 6 projects in FY 2023 totaling \$2,000,000 in direct cost. Application budgets are not limited but need to reflect the actual needs of the proposed project. The maximum project period is 5 years.

3. Lung Transplant Consortium - Clinical Centers (U01 - Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Letter of Intent: 30 days prior to the application due date

Hyperlink: [RFA-HL-22-002](#)

Type: U01

Application Due Date: June 15, 2021. Apply by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization.

Funding Opportunity Announcement: This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) seeks applications from lung transplant clinical centers (CCs) to form a cooperative multi-site Lung Transplant Consortium (LTC). The LTC will support CCs in conducting observational and complementary mechanistic clinical research studies that aim to understand the impact of site-specific lung transplant selection criteria and clinical management strategies on donor lung utilization and/or early post-transplant outcomes such as the development of primary graft dysfunction (PGD) and acute lung allograft dysfunction (ALAD) in recipients. Each CC application must consist of a multidisciplinary investigative team that includes a lung transplant surgeon and a lung transplant pulmonologist, and be comprised of primary and subsites that have a combined annual lung transplant volume of at least 100 transplants. Each CC application should propose hypothesis-driven scientific questions to assess certain donor and/or recipient clinical practices and their impact on donor lung utilization, PGD, ALAD or other relevant short-term outcomes that can be addressed through observational data and/or biospecimen collection and analysis at the sites included in their application. In addition, the CCs will be expected to enroll participants and contribute to a core set of data and biospecimens to be collected across all participating consortium sites through the implementation of a common research protocol under the auspices of a centralized Data Coordinating Center (DCC) and a Steering Committee (SC). By leveraging this shared longitudinal resource, LTC investigators will have the tools to identify and answer additional important research questions involving lung transplantation.

Budget: NHLBI intends to commit total costs of up to \$3,388,000 per year in fiscal years 2022-2026 to support up to 8 awards. Application budgets are limited to \$275,000 in direct costs in any year of the project period, but should reflect the actual needs of the proposed project. The scope of the proposed project should determine the project period. The maximum project period is 5 years.

4. Mental Health Research Awards for Investigators Early in their Career in Low and Middle-Income Countries (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)

Letter of Intent: 30 days prior to the application due date

Hyperlink: [RFA-MH-21-120](#)

Type: R01

Application Due Date: November 15, 2021. Apply by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization.

Funding Opportunity Announcement: Mental illnesses are a global concern, presenting shared opportunities to advance science across international boundaries. The goal of this initiative is to support the scientific work and research career development of exceptionally talented scientists who are in the early, formative stages of their careers and who plan to make a long-term career commitment to mental health research. This initiative seeks to assist these researchers in launching an innovative basic, translational, clinical, or services research program that holds the potential to transform the understanding, prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of mental illnesses in low resource international settings. In order to identify outstanding basic, translational, clinical, and services investigators and assist them in launching innovative research programs at an early stage in their career, the NIMH established the Biobehavioral Research Awards for Innovative New Scientists (BRAINS) program in 2009 (see [RFA-MH-20-525](#)). The BRAINS program provides a unique opportunity for innovative investigators, early in their career, to advance NIMH research with applications that demonstrate a high level of risk, ambitious research plans, and a lower emphasis on preliminary data than is generally required for research awards. This initiative will complement the BRAINS program by supporting similarly talented investigators, early in their career, from LMICs (see specific eligibility criteria in section III), who are conducting research that aligns with [NIMH scientific priorities](#). These priorities include, but are not limited to: enhancing our fundamental understanding of mental illnesses, transforming prevention and treatment of mental illnesses, and translating evidence into practice and policy. This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) seeks to support the scientific work and research career development of exceptionally talented scientists, from LMICs, who are in the early, formative stages of their careers and who plan to make a long-term career commitment to mental health research. This FOA seeks to assist these individuals in launching an innovative clinical, translational, basic or services research program that holds the potential to enhance our fundamental understanding of mental illnesses, transform prevention and treatment of mental illnesses, and/or to translate evidence into practice and policy in low resource international settings. This program is designed specifically to support unusually creative investigators with highly innovative research ideas that may lack preliminary data necessary for a traditional R01. Accordingly, preliminary data are not required or expected but may be included to demonstrate feasibility. The program emphasizes both the potential of the PD/PI to be a future leader in the field while promoting innovative and generalizable research that addresses NIMH and LMIC relevant research priorities. This initiative strongly encourages national and international partnerships and collaborations, within country or across countries government agencies, NGOs, health care institutions, organizations, and /or across other sectors (e.g., education, employment, social welfare, and justice settings) in order to be responsive to local needs and to increase the likelihood of long-term sustainability. All collaborations should directly promote the scientific goals of the project while preserving the leadership role of the LMICs investigators. Thus, building additional resources to enhance LMIC Mental Health research cadre and capacity.

Budget: NIMH intends to commit \$2.5M in FY 2022 to fund 5 to 6 awards. Application budgets are limited to \$500,000 in direct costs in any project year and need to reflect the actual needs of the proposed project. The scope of the proposed project should determine the project period. The maximum project period is 5 years.

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