

**LSUHSC Comprehensive HIV/Alcohol Research Center
Request for Applications for Pilot Project Funding**

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: The Comprehensive HIV/Alcohol Research Center (CARC) is accepting applications for its Pilot Project Program. One award of \$30,000 to \$35,000 per project for a 12-month period is anticipated.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: August 15th, 2017

PURPOSE: The purpose of this call for CARC pilot grants is to solicit proposals that use a basic science approach to examine the biological effects of alcohol and/or HIV, especially in the context of alcohol and HIVs comorbidities. The tissue/organ of focus, and the model system used may be determined by the submitting PI. A major goal of this call for abstracts is to help investigators generate preliminary data that will support a research component in a program project proposal that will be competitive for external funding (focus on NIAAA). Pilot projects that establish new collaborations are strongly encouraged.

Eligibility: The Pilot Project program is open to faculty at LSUHSC and affiliated institutions, and entertains applications from scientists at other institutions with research interests aligned with CARC objectives. The CARC Intramural Center Committee (ICC) will monitor the performance and productivity of the Pilot Project Core. Application Instructions:

Research Plan. Not to exceed 5 pages excluding references. This section must clearly identify how data generated will be used to apply for extramural funding in an area directly related to the scientific focus of the LSUHSC CARC, or develop a project that could be integrated as a research component in the renewal of the CARC (2019).

NIH-style Biosketch. Other Support should indicate effort and total direct costs during funding period.

Budget. Detailed budget including justification should be submitted. Funds are not to exceed \$30,000-\$35,000. Allowable costs include: Supplies, and salary support for research personnel (i.e., student worker, research associate). Costs not allowed include travel and salary support for the PI. Sub-contracts outside LSUHSC SoM are not allowed.

Submission: Proposals should be submitted electronically as a single PDF file including the three items above to Betsy Giaimo at mgjaim@lsuhsc.edu no later than **Friday August 15, 2017**

Please note: This funding mechanism **does not** need to be routed through the LSUHSC Office of Research Services for signatures. However, proof of IBC, IRB, and/or IACUC approval will be requested prior to approval.

Review/Evaluation Process: Peer review will be conducted by members of the External Advisory Committee (EAC), which will make recommendations to the ICC. Either the EAC or the ICC may choose to solicit additional expert peer review if necessary. EAC members will be assigned as primary and secondary reviewers of each application with the primary reviewer being responsible for preparing a written critique to be submitted for consideration by the ICC. A presentation to CARC ICC members may be requested prior to approval of funding.

Criteria for Review/Evaluation of Applications: Applications will be prioritized using the following criteria:

Fundability: Are the results obtained from this pilot study likely to lead to competitive federal grant applications? Does the study address an important problem to the alcohol research field related to the focus of the CARC and/or use novel approaches, and/or challenge existing ideas, and/or develop new methodologies?

Fit: Will the proposed work enhance alcohol and HIV research at LSUHSC, either by enhancing current areas of strength, creating new collaborations, and/or creating synergy between ongoing strengths in multiple research groups?

Approach: Are the overall approach, design, methods and analysis adequately developed and

appropriate to address the aims of the study? Will the data generated by the proposed project produce a dataset that is likely to support a competitive federal grant application? Is this plan explicitly described in the proposal?

Investigator(s): Is he/she appropriately trained and experienced in the research area to carry out the proposed work? Does he/she have the track record that would warrant extramural funding based on the data obtained?

Funding Decision: Awards will be announced by October 15th, 2017. Funding is anticipated to start January 1st, 2018 and is contingent on approval by appropriate institutional committees (IRB for human subject research, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, Institutional Biosafety Committee.)

Progress: Members of the ICC will be identified to serve as mentors for the PIs of each pilot project. The assigned ICC mentors will meet with the PIs at least monthly to discuss their progress, data interpretation, and limitations. The Project PI will be expected to give a short oral presentation on the results of this work during a CARC-ICC meeting at least twice a year. Initial funding will be for one year with the potential for a second year extension, based on progress, the potential for extramural funding, and the quality of the new applicant pool. Certain projects will likely require a second year of funding based upon a realistic timeframe required to complete the project.