



ACTG Laboratory Center Request for Applications to Conduct Research Using Samples from the Repository at BRI

Deadline: July 29, 2022, 11:59 PM PST

I. Introduction

The National Institutes of Health/Division of AIDS (NIH/DAIDS) and the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) Network would like to increase non-network and international DAIDS Network investigator access to stored specimens available at the ACTG Biomedical Research Institute (BRI) repository in Rockville, Maryland to encourage the use of banked specimens for new laboratory based scientific proposals. Specimen types stored at the BRI repository include blood, serum, plasma, sputum, peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC), tissue, and other body fluids such as cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), semen, endocervical and cervicovaginal lavage fluid, many of which are now available for testing by external investigators. Access to this specimen repository is available at the Specimen Repository website www.specimenrepository.org.

II. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to encourage the use of pedigreed ACTG specimens stored at BRI to facilitate continued and novel research. This FOA is open to all qualified investigators, regardless of whether they are affiliated with the ACTG or IMPAACT. Preference will be given to new and early investigators (https://grants.nih.gov/policy/new_investigators/index.htm). Specialty Laboratory investigators already receiving funding from the ACTG as part of the Laboratory Center are not eligible to apply.

The purpose of this FOA, which will complement the existing New Works Concept Sheet (NWCS) process, is to provide limited total direct funding to support laboratory-specific research projects that use these repository specimens as described in the NWCS proposal. There will be no support from the ACTG Statistical Data Analysis Center (SDAC) for this specimen search or for subsequent data analysis. Investigators will need to identify specimens that meet their desired study criteria through the Specimen Repository link above.

Building on this open web resource, the ACTG Laboratory Center has put forward this FOA to stimulate interest in and support for laboratory-based studies that will benefit from the use of these pedigreed clinical trial specimens.

Funded applicants will present their study results during the Annual ACTG Network Meeting in June 2023. Funded applicants will be encouraged to use the results of the pilot studies as preliminary data in applying for independent R21 or R01 funding to NIH.

III. Eligibility

- The RFA is open to any investigator interested in conducting research that is consistent with the mission of the ACTG, including but not limited to research in the area of HIV and aging, reservoir assessment and persistence, HBV, TB, chronic immune activation or related topics
- As noted above, the ACTG will preferentially select proposals led by early career investigators.
- Collaboration with existing ACTG protocol team members and ACTG Network members is strongly encouraged whenever possible.

IV. Funding Source and Mechanism

The ACTG anticipates funding up to two awards of \$50,000 each (total direct cost in US dollars) for completion within no later than one year. Applicants should add institutional facility and administrative (F&A) costs to the total direct cost using the appropriate negotiated indirect cost rate for their institution in order to determine total cost for each proposal.

The ACTG Laboratory Center at UCLA will issue the contracts.

V. Application Procedures

Applicants must submit the following items via <https://submit.mis.s-3.net/> by no later than 11:59 PM PST on July 29, 2022.*

- NWCS (New Work Concept Sheet); form and instructions available for download at <https://submit.mis.s-3.net/>
- Budget on PHS 398 ([Word](#) or [PDF](#)) and justification – combined into single file (Word or PDF)
- NIH biosketch for each investigator – combined into a single file (Word or PDF)

* Letter of Intent requested by July 15, 2022 but not required. Submit to ACTGProposals@DLHCorp.com.

VI. Evaluation Criteria

Reviewers will evaluate proposals based on the potential impact to the HIV and aging field, on the potential to inform future ACTG intervention studies, and on the likelihood to complete the project within the timeframe outlined above.

VII. Review Process

A panel comprised of experienced investigators will review the proposals and provide recommendations for funding to the ACTG Scientific Agenda Steering Committee (SASC). The SASC will make the final decision.

VIII. Key Dates/Timelines

Release of solicitation:	June 30, 2022
Letter of intent due date:	July 15, 2022 (<i>not required</i>) Submit to ACTGProposals@DLHCorp.com
Application due date:	July 29, 2022 Submit via https://submit.mis.s-3.net/
Review date:	August, 2022
Award date:	September, 2022

IX. Inquiries

For questions: contact BRIRFA2022@fstrf.org