REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA) FY16 MIAMI CFAR PILOT AWARDS

**Deadlines and Award Timeline**
- Letter of Intent (LOI) due April 3, 2015 by 5pm
  (Note: the LOI is for Administrative purposes only)
- Pilot Grant Applications due April 24, 2015 by 5pm
- Funding decisions will be announced by June 2015

**Purpose**
The University of Miami Miller School of Medicine Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) is now accepting applications for pilot projects in HIV/AIDS research. The purpose of this program is to stimulate new research and collaborations between basic and clinical researchers for generation of supporting preliminary data to increase competitiveness for extramural HIV/AIDS funding. The Miami CFAR programmatic areas of interests include: AIDS-Associated Malignancies, HIV Prevention and Drug Abuse, HIV and Women, Therapeutics and Cure/Reservoirs, Vaccines and Immunology, and Co-morbidities and Co-infections. Applications are not restricted to the above areas and proposals in all areas of AIDS-related research will be considered. Applications for translational research and emerging concepts will be accepted.

CFAR developmental awards cannot support clinical trials as defined by NIAID (studies that involve the administration of a therapeutic or preventative agent, and are described in the website: [http://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/info/understand](http://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/info/understand)).

Behavioral studies in humans including interventions will be accepted, but these studies will need to include a DSMP or DSMB, as defined by NIMH policy. The CFAR Clinical Services Core can assist you with the formation of a data safety monitoring board. Sub-projects, which are part of a larger funded program, are not eligible. Both domestic and international applications will be considered.

**Funds Available/Award Period**
Awards of up to $50,000 each (direct costs only) will be given. The award period is for one year (approximately July 2015-June 2016).

**Eligibility**
Investigators at the rank of Assistant Professor (in the research or clinical tracks) or above are eligible to apply. CFAR membership is not a requirement. Although high priority is given to junior investigators, projects proposed by established investigators are eligible for developmental support if that project represents a new area of study for the investigator. Collaborative projects are encouraged and are defined as those involving two or more investigators from different disciplines, and/or different departments. Behavioral science investigators are encouraged to collaborate with other clinical or basic scientists. Post-doctoral associates may apply if they have three or more years of experience and are working towards a transition to faculty status. Proposals involving clinical fellows are encouraged. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Those investigators who have received pilot funding from The Miami CFAR as a PI or co-PI with a start date within the last three years are not eligible. For example, if pilot award start date was June 2012, the PI and co-PIs will not be eligible to apply for another pilot award until June 2015. Applicants from outside UM are eligible if they are collaborating with a UM faculty on the project and plan to use the CFAR cores.
The goal of the Speed Grant Review Program is to provide investigators applying for a CFAR developmental pilot award with a critique that will increase the likelihood of obtaining CFAR funding. Attendees will receive one-on-one feedback on their Specific Aims page from up to 3 University of Miami faculty. Reviewers will be NIH funded researchers with experience as NIH/CDC/PCORI reviewers and with a background in HIV research.

The Speed Grant Review will be held at the University of Miami in early March 2015 to enable participants to apply the critique to applications being submitted to the CFAR in April 2015.

- Participants should be investigators planning to apply for a CFAR developmental award.
- Participation in this program is voluntary but strongly encouraged for junior and mid-level investigators and those senior investigators new to the area of HIV research.
- Participants should submit a single page draft of their proposed specific aims two weeks prior to the Speed Grant Review Program for review.
- Each applicant will have 25 minutes of feedback on their application per reviewer; following the 1st reviewer, the applicant will move to the next reviewer.

Speed Grant Review Program Duration (2 hours)

- Introduction of the CFAR mentoring program to Applicants and Reviewers (20 mins)
- Speed review (approx. 1.5 hrs)
- Summary (10 mins)

Space is limited so please contact Melanie Weiss m.weiss11@med.miami.edu no later than Feb 5 if you are interested in participating.

For complete information and instructions, go to http://cfar.med.miami.edu/developmental-core/pilot-grants.
For questions, please contact Melanie Weiss at 305-243-3345.