ARGENTINA COLLABORATIVE CANCER AND AIDS PILOT AWARDS
2019 REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Supported by the “University of Miami’s Center For AIDS Research/ Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center – Argentina Consortium for Research and Training in virally induced AIDS-malignancies”
NIH/NCI, CA221208.

Deadlines/Award Timeline
- Submission of Letter and Specific Aims Page for determining eligibility OPEN FOR RECEIPT
- Invited full applications can be submitted until March 22th 2019 5:00 PM Eastern Time
- Funding decisions will be announced no later than April 2019.

Purpose
The University of Miami Miller School of Medicine Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) with its Program in AIDS-associated Malignancies is receiving applications in an ongoing basis for Pilot Projects in HIV/AIDS and Cancer. The purpose of this program is to incorporate new scientists in training and collaborators to the new National Cancer Institute-funded US-Argentina consortium: “UM CFAR/SCCC – Argentina Consortium for Research and Training in AIDS in virally induced AIDS-Malignancies”. This consortium focus on the career development of Argentina basic, translational and clinical emerging scientists through mentored research in KSHV and HPV induced cancers affecting the Argentina population at the highest risk of developing HIV/AIDS. Potential areas of Pilot grant research related to the U54 Cancer in HIV/AIDS focus include the following:
1. Epidemiology. Diagnosis and treatment of viral and non-viral cancers affecting individuals with HIV/AIDS.
2. Targeted therapies for viral and non-viral cancers in the context of HIV/AIDS, including tumor immunotherapy.
3. Studies comparing molecular pathogenesis mechanisms in cancers of the same histopathological classification in patients with or without HIV/AIDS.
4. Viral and non-viral oncogenesis and carcinogenesis in the context of HIV/AIDS.
5. Cell and animal models of viral and non-viral oncogenesis in the context of HIV/AIDS.

Eligibility
The grant focuses primarily on young basic, translational and clinical investigators with a level of experience commensurate to CONICET career entry or in their early stages of CONICET investigator career. Since the primary goal of these Pilots is to incorporate young researchers and their labs/centers/clinical units to the Consortium, the Pilot projects have to be collaborations with the existing consortium Projects/Labs and/or Cores. Interested applicants should contact the Argentina PIs visit http://www.umaru54.org for details) prior to sending a letter of eligibility (see below application procedures).

Project 1 IFIBYNE-CONICET (PI Omar A. Coso Ph.D.): Defining oncogenic signaling networks in AIDS-associated viral cancers as targets of chemoprevention and treatment:
- AIM 1 To study the role of signaling networks upregulating HO-1 and COX2 in KSHV oncogenesis and mTORC1 signaling.
- Aim 2. To study the role of mTORC1 as the target for chemoprevention in HPV-16 driven ASCC

Project 2 FUNDACION HUESPED and UNLP: (Pls Aims 1 and 2, Pedro Cahn MD, Omar Sued MD PI Aim 3. Martin Abba Ph.D.) Molecular, viral and genetic epidemiology of virally induced AIDS-defining cancers affecting Argentina population with the highest risk for HIV infection:
- AIM 1: To characterize prevalence and incidence of HPV and KSHV infection and its associated factors, among a cohort of individuals with HIV or at high risk of HIV in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
• AIM 2: To build a prospective and retrospective repository of samples and clinical information from patients with the diagnosis of KS or premalignant and malignant ASCC.

• AIM 3: To identify the most relevant genomic and transcriptomic changes in samples from patients of KS and ASCC.

Project 3 IBYME-CONICET (PI Gabriel Rabinovich Ph.D.): Role of Galectins-glycan interactions in virally induced AIDS-associated cancers.

• AIM 1: To study the relevance of gal1-N-glycan interactions in viral oncogenesis of Kaposi’s sarcoma,

• AIM 2: Study the role and mechanisms of galectin-glycan interactions in HrHPV-mediated anal epithelial carcinogenesis.

• AIM 3: Study the role of galectin-1 in immune modulation of virally induced AIDS-associated cancers

Funds Available/Award Period
Awards funds will be US $10,000 of each (direct costs only) will be given, with a 1 year project period. Pilot funds could be used to cover research supplies, small lab equipment critical for the proposed work and other research-related expenditures. Projects with funding superior to $10,000 will be considered and might be funded provided availability of funds, strict budget justification, and scientific excellence.

Application procedures, funding and training process

Tier 1. Identification of a Collaborative Lab and Mentor within the U54
The applicants and its laboratory should identify a collaborative lab and a Principal Investigator within the U54 consortium to put together a collaborative project (http://www.umaru54.org)

Tier 2. Sending a letter of Eligibility
The applicant and its lab/center/unit should put together a Letter of Eligibility consisting of a specific Aims page containing in a single page the main background, significance, gap to be addressed, and research aims. Together with a letter detailing the Name of the applicant, the Institution and the Collaborative U54 lab. This Eligibility package will be evaluated at the UM CFAR for determining eligibility and responsiveness. Interested investigators should contact the U54 Principal Investigators in order to send eligibility packages ASAP to p.bachasdaunert@miami.edu and to Patricia Wahl CFAR Administrator Pwahl@med.miami.edu.

Tier 3. Putting together the application and review. Eligible applications will be invited to put together a full application which roughly follows the format of an R21 NIH grant (PHS 398). In addition to the Specific Aims page, the application will contain 6 more pages with the following sections: 1-Background and significance, 2-Innovation, 3-Experimental Design and Methods 4-Career plan for the applicant 5-References cited. The application will be completed by detailed budgets, budgets justifications, and NIH formatted Biosketches. Since mentoring and U54 integration is a critical component of the success of the pilot projects, applicants are required to identify a U54 Mentor in addition to a Mentor from his own lab and/or institution (preferably its direct scientific supervisor or Director) which should write a letter of support to be included in their application. This letter will need to detail the collaboration with the U54 and exactly how the mentor intends to support the career of the pilot awardee and conceives the role of the Pilot in the career development of the awardee. Invited applications can be presented on an ongoing basis for immediate peer review by US-based U54 members and its advisory board, funding, and activation. The last date for presenting applications is March 22th 2019.

Tier 4: Renewal and potential for continued funding and participation in the U54 training network. Before the end of the first year funding, awardees will have to present a detailed report of the activities and achievements. The most productive and motivated Pilot awardees will be eligible for submitting a renewal application with possible access to the consortium training and research infrastructure including training and participation on courses at UM CFAR and SCCC.

Review Criteria
Reviews will be based on scientific merit and the likelihood of contributing to the research and training goals of the U54 Consortium. All applicants will receive feedback on their proposals. Specific criteria include:
• Innovation and significance to HIV/AIDS Cancers and U54 Research
• Scientific merit of the proposed research
• Career stage and training level for the likelihood that the applicant could become a U54 scholar
• Qualifications of the applicant including training and career productivity

Additional Information
Please visit http://cfar.med.miami.edu/ and www.UMARU54.org to contact Argentina U54 investigators to explore eligibility and potential for collaborations.

General Instructions

IMPORTANT! For additional information Please contact Philip Bachas Daunert Bachas-Daunert, p.bachasdaunert@miami.edu

Details of the Full Application
The full application will require the following information and materials:
1. Principal Investigator Information
2. Study Team Information: Co-PIs, Co-Investigators, Mentors within the U54 and applicant institution should all be identified. Mentors are typically senior investigators responsible for advising the PI during the project (no salary support expected). Other significant contributors are typically investigators contributing a key element/expertise to the project but not necessarily a mentor (no salary support expected).
3. Project Information
4. Project Details including:
   a. Project Title
   b. Public Narrative: one to three sentences stating the public health significance
   c. Scientific Abstract: (300 words maximum, Arial font, 11 points, single-spaced, 0.5” all margins) to include the objective, study design and analysis of data- Please note that this field accepts plain text input only. Special characters and formatting such as bullets, “smart quotes,” bold or italic fonts, Greek letters, etc., will be lost or altered. You will need to rely on the use of capital letters, spaces, asterisks, and other standard keyboard characters.
5. Research Plan:
   a. Specific Aims: Limited to 1 page (Arial font, 11 points, single-spacing, 0.5” top, bottom, left & right margins). State concisely the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcomes, including the impact that the results of the proposed research will exert on the field involved.
   b. Research Strategy, Career Goals, and Resources: Limited to 5 pages (Arial font, 11 point, single-spacing, 0.5” top, bottom, left & right margins). Research Strategy: Significance, Innovation, and Approach (include a timeline for the project and also how the results will lay the groundwork for an application to an external funding source). Career Goals: explain how this project is important to your career goals, this is essential for evaluating the potential of the candidate to become a U54 scholar. Resources: List institution and U54 resources to be utilized for this project.
   c. Bibliography and References Cited: Limited to 1 page.
   d. Budget and Budget Justification: Use the budget template provided on the CFAR website under Pilot Awards. Each award could be up to $10,000 for direct costs only, for a one-year project period (estimated). Expenses should be restricted to laboratory supplies, the cost for subject participation, travel, test supplies, and technical support contracts. Projects with funding superior to $10,000 will be considered and might be funded provided availability of funds, strict budget justification, and scientific excellence. Provide a budget justification for each item listed in the budget.
   e. Current NIH bio-sketches for the principal investigator(s) and each co-investigator: Biosketches are required for the PI and Co-Investigators, however, they are not required for collaborators, mentors, or other significant contributors. Please use the NIH template http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/index.htm#format.
   f. Regulatory documents: IRB, IBC, IACUC, CITI training certifications for Human Subjects Research, etc. If you do not yet have your approval, please upload a document explaining what approvals will be needed
for you to conduct your research and provide a status update (example: submitted and pending, or no approvals needed, etc.). **Please note:** IRB, IACUC approvals need to be received by the time of award start (June 2018) so make sure you act in a timely manner to receive all required approvals.

g. Letter of support from U54 and Applicant Institution Mentor: A letter of support is required in regards to their support of this project. The letter needs to detail exactly how the mentor intends to support the pilot awardee.

**Submitting your application**
Eligible applicants and projects will be invited to submit a full application and will have access to the electronic application site.

**Administrative enquiries**
Please contact Philip Bachas Bachas-Daunert, U54 Grant administrator, p.bachasdaunert@miami.edu

**Scientific and Programmatic Enquiries**
Contact Argentina PIs and/or Enrique A. Mesri PhD, Director of the U54 and its Pilot Program
Professor and Graduate Program Director, Department of Microbiology and Immunology
Director, Miami CFAR AIDS Malignancies Program
Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine
emesri@med.miami.edu