



PRIVATE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES: DEC 16, 2016

Please contact Corporate & Foundation Relations in the Office of Development at devcfr@mgh.harvard.edu if you wish to submit a proposal in response to any of these opportunities. Note that proposals are still routed through the standard InfoEd/Research Management process.

Please note that any grant that brings in less than **15% in indirect costs (IDC)** will need to be supplemented up to the 15% equivalent by existing investigator or departmental sundry funds. Resolution of this issue must occur prior to submission of the award.

1. Bridge to Success Award for Early Career Investigators, American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM)/American Sleep Medicine Foundation (ASMF)

This award is designed to provide 'bridge funding' to promising sleep scientists who have applied for an entry level career development award such as a K grant from the NIH, a CDA-1 from the VA, or equivalent but whose applications are unlikely to be within the funding cutoff and who need additional time and resources to collect further data and respond to the funding institution's critique, thereby increasing the chances of a successful grant resubmission.

Through this award, the ASMF aims to assist investigators at a critical juncture in their career where bridge funding can determine whether or not a promising sleep scientist stays in the sleep field or moves to a different career track.

Award Amount: \$75,000 for 1 year

Indirect Costs: 8%

Application Deadline: Jan 9, 2017

Website: <http://www.discoverssleep.org/bridgetosleepearlycareer.aspx>

2. Research Professor Grants, American Cancer Society (ACS)

As the nation's largest private, not-for-profit source of funds for scientists studying cancer, the American Cancer Society (ACS) focuses its funding on investigator-initiated, peer-reviewed proposals. This process ensures that scientists propose projects that they believe are ready to be tackled with the available knowledge and techniques. This intellectual freedom encourages discovery in areas that scientists believe are most likely to solve the problems of cancer.



Do you want to learn more about identifying external funding opportunities? See [ECOR's website](#) for information on the funding opps database, **COS Pivot** or contact Amy Robb <arobb@mgh.harvard.edu> to schedule an individual consultation or group training session.

The American Cancer Society offers grants to those who have made seminal contributions that have changed the direction of basic cancer research. Furthermore, it is expected that these investigators will continue to provide leadership in their research area.

Award Amount: \$400,000 paid over 5 years

Indirect Costs: None

LOI Deadline: Feb 1, 2017

Website: <http://www.cancer.org/research/applyforaresearchgrant/granttypes/research-professor-grants>

3. AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA), American Heart Association (AHA) New

The objective of this award supports small-scale research projects related to cardiovascular diseases and stroke at educational institutions that provide baccalaureate or advanced degrees but that have not been major recipients of NIH support.

The award supports any part of the full range of research and development from very basic to clinical.

The goals of the program are to:

- Support meritorious research
- Expose students to research
- Strengthen the research environment of the institution.

Science Focus Funding is available for research broadly related to cardiovascular function and disease, stroke, or to related clinical, basic science, and public health problems. The program should be focused on basic, epidemiological and/or clinical disciplines that bear on cardiovascular and stroke problems. The extent to which the focus of the project is related to cardiovascular disease and/or stroke is an important factor that will be considered in the evaluation of the proposal. However, the program director is not required to be a part of a cardiovascular/stroke-oriented laboratory, clinic or department.

Award Amount: Up to \$154,000 paid over 2 years

Indirect Costs: 10%

Application Deadline: Feb 14, 2017

Website:

http://professional.heart.org/professional/ResearchPrograms/ApplicationInformation/UCM_489540_AHA-Institutional-Research-Enhancement-Award-AIREA.jsp

4. Gene Therapy to Cure HIV, amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research ^{New}

Several barriers to the development of safe and effective gene therapy treatments overlap across disease areas. Advances made in the context of any disease may inform the development of a gene therapy-based cure for HIV.

The purpose of this RFP is to develop a gene therapy-based approach to curing HIV. All proposed research must be directly and specifically relevant to developing a cure for HIV.

Background and purpose

amfAR's \$100 million Countdown to a Cure initiative is aimed at developing the scientific basis of a cure for HIV by the end of 2020. The urgency of our goal demands that we direct our funding to studies that uncover vital knowledge directly applicable to curing HIV in people living with HIV/AIDS.

Persistent reservoirs of virus not cleared by antiretroviral therapy (ART) represent the main barrier to a cure for HIV, and amfAR expects that this RFP will solicit ideas and approaches that overcome this barrier via gene therapy. As evidenced by the "Berlin patient" removing the reservoir and/or blocking new infection events are potential mechanisms by which a cure can be accomplished. This sole case of HIV cure strongly suggests that gene therapy may be a promising route to curing HIV.

Many potential targets - including the removal of obligate host genes, the addition of protective genes, or methods to bypass the defective immune response - have already been identified and are not the focus of this RFP. The technology to deliver gene therapy payloads requires further development and is the subject of this solicitation.

On the basis of the successful achievement of research goals during this first year of funding, amfAR intends to establish the amfAR Research Consortium on HIV Eradication - Gene Therapy (ARCHE-GT). The goal of ARCHE-GT is to develop curative gene therapy product(s) that can be tested in clinical studies. ARCHE-GT will be a consortium of researchers whose goal is to solve the critical barriers to the development of a gene therapy-based cure for HIV.

Grant topics

In the context of this RFP, gene therapy is defined as the targeted modification of HIV or host cell DNA or RNA. The goal of these modifications is the permanent removal of HIV reservoirs.

In June 2016, amfAR convened a meeting of gene therapy researchers to identify the most pressing barriers to a gene therapy cure for HIV. Meeting participants identified four main barriers, described below, that form the grant topics for this RFP.

Each grant funded in ARCHE-GT will address one of the following barriers:

1. Maximize in vivo transduction efficiency

2. One key challenge for gene therapy is the inefficiency of vector uptake, which may be even lower in the resting cells that constitute the HIV reservoir. To ensure an HIV cure, transduction efficiency will likely need to be maximized i.e., clearing all provirus or all infected cells, or preventing all new infection events.
3. Optimize targeting effectiveness
4. Cost and safety issues dictate that improved targeting will be required. Scalable gene therapy will almost certainly require in vivo delivery. While some other clinical conditions may require only localized in vivo gene therapy delivery, HIV cure approaches will require targeting cells distributed throughout the body.
5. Achieve appropriate persistence
6. Poor engraftment and graft-versus-host disease must be overcome to cure HIV by adoptive transfer of gene-modified cells. For safety, an off-switch should be incorporated into gene modification tools. Persistence may also be improved by maintaining gene-editing tools in the circulation and out of sinks such as the liver.
7. 4. Expand modified hematopoietic stem cells in vitro
8. One HIV cure approach may consist of gene-modifying a single stem cell, for example to protect it from HIV infection, and expanding that cell to a sufficient number for transplantation, while maintaining stem-ness, gene modification(s), and the ability to differentiate appropriately in vivo into functioning hematopoietic cells.

Will be considered for funding:

- Manipulation of existing vectors or development of new vectors
- Non-vectored gene therapy delivery

Will not be considered for funding:

- Discovery of new targets for gene therapy
- Vaccine development
- Research not directly and specifically relevant to HIV cure
- Research whose ultimate goal is to bring about control of remaining virus, rather than removal of all pathogenic virus

Funding model

This initial one-year period of funding will be used to select research teams best suited to participate subsequently in ARCHE-GT, to be launched in 2018.

amfAR's ARCHE program is characterized by interactions between teams of researchers. amfAR expects that each ARCHE-GT team will have the appropriate expertise to address one of the barriers listed above and that the design of a gene therapy-based HIV cure will necessitate collaborating with other ARCHE-GT grantee teams. The goal of ARCHE-GT will be to take a collaborative approach to applying the solutions to each of the main barriers to a gene therapy-based cure for HIV.

During the initial one-year funding period, grantees will compete to achieve one of the goals outlined in the grant topics. At the conclusion of the funding period (April 30, 2018), the progress made by each team within each grant topic will be evaluated and compared. Within each grant topic, the research team that "best" reaches the goals will be invited to submit a proposal for subsequent funding (ARCHE-GT), working with the "winning" teams that have best achieved the goals in each of the other grant topics. (The appraisal of which team has "best" reached goals may depend on the grant topic, the scientific content of the projects under evaluation, and factors such as cost, simplicity, scalability, applicability, etc.). ARCHE-GT grantees will be required to participate actively and cooperatively in regular conference calls and in-person meetings to share data and advance the program's goals.

Expected outcomes

Grantees who do not demonstrate successful completion of the initial goals described in this RFP will not be considered for subsequent amfAR-GT funding. The ARCHE-GT team is expected to develop product(s) that can be tested in clinical studies.

Researchers with doctoral degrees, with or without documented experience in HIV research are eligible to apply. Researchers who are new to HIV are strongly advised to work closely with an HIV cure research expert and to consult existing literature on gene therapy for an HIV cure during the formative stages of the research plan.

Award Amount: \$400,000 for 1 year

Indirect Costs: 20%

Registration Deadline: Jan 12, 2017

LOI Deadline: Jan 18, 2017

Website: <http://www.amfar.org/RFP-Gene-therapy-to-cure-HIV/>

5. Innovation in Regulatory Science Awards (IRSA), Burroughs Wellcome Fund (BWF)

BWF identified Innovation in Regulatory Science as an important, underfunded area. This initiative is designed to provide financial support to stimulate research efforts in this area. The awards provide support to academic investigators developing new methodologies or innovative approaches in regulatory science that will ultimately inform the regulatory decisions the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and others make. This would necessarily draw upon the talents of individuals trained in mathematics, computer science, applied physics, medicine, engineering, toxicology, epidemiology, biostatistics, and systems pharmacology, to name a few.

Award Amount: Up to \$500,000 paid over 5 years

Indirect Costs: None

Application Deadline: Mar 15, 2017

Website: <http://www.bwfund.org/grant-programs/regulatory-science/innovation-regulatory-science>

6. New Investigator Fellowship Training Initiative (NIFTI), Foundation for Physical Therapy (FPT)

The NIFTI is designed to fund physical therapists and physical therapist assistants as developing researchers and to improve their competitiveness in securing external funding for their future research.

The Foundation, like the physical therapy profession, is dedicated to the goal of improving the quality and delivery of patient care. The Foundation accomplishes this goal by providing support to new investigators to promote development of research careers pursuing scientifically based and clinically relevant research that demonstrates the clinical effectiveness and functional outcomes of physical therapist practice.

The Foundation supports only those intervention studies in which the interventions are provided by physical therapists, or selected components of the interventions are provided by PTAs under the direction and supervision of physical therapists.

In order to be eligible for funding through a NIFTI, the post-professional, post-doctoral experience must provide mentored research training in an area that is relevant to physical therapy. The experience may be an expansion of the applicant's post-professional doctoral research program and/or must enhance the applicant's research capabilities that contribute to the knowledge base of physical therapy.

Proposed projects must begin to address the most critical questions regarding clinical research as outlined in APTA's Research Agenda (RA) and explain how the project will contribute to the needs of the physical therapy profession, including its implications for physical therapy theory and practice. Preference will be given to those projects that directly address the RA. If a proposed project does not directly address an item or items in the RA, the applicant must explain how the project will enable the applicant to directly address the RA in the future. The RA is provided as a guide to identify critical research questions in physical therapy.

Priority will also be given to applicants who have a:

- Demonstrated commitment as a physical therapist to pursue a career in research;
- Demonstrated commitment from his/her mentor and a strong mentor relationship;
- Demonstrated ability of the mentor and fellowship environment to foster quality research.

Award Amount: \$100,000 paid over 2 years

Indirect Costs: None

Application Deadline: Jan 18, 2017

Website: <http://www.foundation4pt.org/apply-for-funding/fellowships/nifti/>

7. Bronya J. Keats Award for International Collaboration in Research on FA, Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA)

FARA accepts LOIs focusing on FA research that relies on international collaboration among investigators in at least two different countries. Special consideration will be given to proposals that bring new scientists to the FA community. The rationale for the collaboration needs to be convincing and must clearly demonstrate that the research goals could not be achieved by just one of the participating groups and that the synergy among the groups is essential for the success of the project.

Award Amount: Up to \$200,000 paid over 2 years

Indirect Costs: None

LOI Deadline: May 15, 2017

Website: <http://www.curefa.org/grant>

8. General Research Grant, Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA)

FARA supports research through funding competitive grants, promoting collaboration among scientists, advocating for public-private partnerships that support drug discovery, drug development and clinical research and hosting open forums for leading scientists to share their insights, ideas and challenges to advancing treatments for FA.

FARA's Grant Program Priorities:

1. Advance understanding of neuroscience / neuro systems - understanding the neurodegeneration of FA and implications for therapies
2. Advance drug discovery
 - Highest priority in this category will be given to genetic, epigenetic and protein approaches that target increasing frataxin levels
3. Facilitate the drug development process and translational research so that the most promising discoveries are rapidly brought to treatment trials
 - Highest priority in this category will be given to IND-enabling studies, biomarker discovery and validation, early phase or pilot clinical studies
4. Advance clinical research - natural history, discovery and validation of clinical outcome measures and/or biomarkers, identification of early (including pre-symptomatic) quantifiable clinical features, patient reported outcomes, investigator-initiated clinical trials, or evidence-based clinical treatment guidelines
 - Highest priority in this category will be given to clinical research that utilizes or expands resources of the Collaborative Clinical Research Network in FA
5. Reduce the morbidity and mortality caused by cardiac disease in FA

Award Amount: Up to \$300,000 paid over 2 years

Indirect Costs: None

LOI Deadline: Feb 1, 2017

Website: <http://www.curefa.org/grant.html>

9. Kyle Bryant Translational Research Award, Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA)

FARA accepts LOIs focusing on pre-clinical and clinical investigations that will advance treatments for FA. The specific aims must target one or more of the following:

- Identification of biomarkers for FA that will elucidate disease variability, severity, and prognosis; facilitate drug screening, and/or optimize selection of patients and clinical endpoints for clinical trials;
- Development of tools and technologies that can (a) be directly used for therapy development; (b) overcome existing obstacles to treatment and (c) be directly applied to, or adapted for, delivery of potential therapeutics;
- Pre-clinical development and testing of potential therapeutics, biologics, and devices in cells and animals;
- Clinical studies of patient outcome measures, potential interventions, or devices.

Award Amount: Up to \$500,000 paid over 2 years

Indirect Costs: None

LOI Deadline: May 15, 2017

Website: <http://www.curefa.org/grant>

10. HIVMA Clinical Fellowship, Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA)/HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA)

The Fellowship program supports newly trained physicians with gaining HIV clinical experience working with medically underserved patient populations. The goal of the program is to boost the population of HIV physicians and strengthen the commitment to provide clinical care to HIV-infected patients in minority communities.

During the fellowship year, fellows must:

- Work in a clinical setting with a large minority patient population in the US.
- Manage at least 30 HIV patients over the course of their clinical training experience, in both inpatient and outpatient settings.*
- Engage in a mix of didactic and clinical experiences designed to provide the fellow with expertise in the longitudinal care of HIV-infected patients and treatment of common comorbidities and co-infections, such as hepatitis C, substance use and mental illness.
- Attend the 2017 IDWeek conference that will take place October 4 to 8 in San Diego, CA (HIVMA will cover all expenses).
- Participate in a follow-up questionnaire after the completion of the fellowship year.

*Fellows may elect to spend up to 2 months of their Fellowship at another approved institution, clinic or practice to supplement their clinical experience. Sponsoring institutions must have an adequate census of HIV patients to ensure an adequate clinical experience.

Award Amount: \$60,000 for 1 year

Indirect Costs: Additional \$10,000 paid to the institution to offset administrative costs and to provide for additional educational opportunities.

Application Deadline: Jan 8, 2017

Website:

http://www.hivma.org/HIVMA/Career_Training/Minority_Clinical_Fellowship_Apply_Online/

11. Research Grants, Pediatric Low Grade Astrocytoma Foundation (PLGA)

The number one priority of A Kids' Brain Tumor Cure Foundation is to act as a catalyst for researchers world-wide to turn their attention to the area of pediatric low grade glioma brain tumor research and to award research grants for the most promising programs and studies. The hope is that this research will lead to a better understanding of the causes of PLGA as well as the discovery of more effective treatments and a cure for the most common forms of children's brain tumors. Proposals related to basic and translational* projects that can advance understanding of the underlying biology of the development and treatment of PLGA tumors will be considered.

*NIH definition of translational research: the process of applying ideas, insights, and discoveries generated through basic scientific inquiry to the treatment or prevention of human disease.

Award Amount: \$100,000-500,000 for up to 3 years

Indirect Costs: None

LOI Deadline: Continuous

Website: <http://akidsbraintumorcure.org/medical-research-on-childhood-brain-tumors/apply-for-a-plga-sponsored-grant/>

12. SPARK Clinical Site Network Request for Applications (RFA), Simons Foundation/Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative (SFARI)

SPARK is an initiative of SFARI. SFARI's goals include supporting research that will lead to better ways to treat and to improve the lives of individuals with ASD. Some of SFARI's major goals are: to develop more reliable quantitative, objective outcome measures for ASD clinical trials; to develop biomarkers to stratify ASD patients and demonstrate efficacy of treatments; to develop partnerships with individuals with ASD and clinical providers to promote ASD research; and to enable and evaluate new, potential therapies and supports for individuals with ASD.

SFARI will support a network of U.S.-based clinical sites for the purposes of recruiting individuals and families affected by ASD to participate in SPARK.

The overall goal of SPARK is to recruit, engage and retain a research community of 50,000 individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), along with their family members in the United States. This research cohort includes children and adults with ASD, who span the full spectrum of autism and includes individuals of all socio-demographic backgrounds. In the months since the initiative launched in April of 2016, SPARK has recruited over 30,000 participants, including 5,000 "trios," which are families comprised of a child with ASD and both of his/her biological parents.

SPARK participants contribute medical and behavioral information online, collect and mail in saliva samples for DNA analysis, and are invited to participate in future research studies. In addition, the SPARK community will provide researchers with an efficient way to identify eligible participants for their research studies. Individuals who enroll in SPARK will receive up to \$50 in gift cards as well as access to the following: 1) an opportunity to receive aggregate and individual behavioral results from their participation, 2) an opportunity to receive individual genetic results that are pertinent to their autism diagnosis, and 3) interactive webinars and recent articles regarding autism research.

In order to effectively build the SPARK community, SFARI will recruit participants through clinical sites, including past and current research registries, and through partnerships with advocacy organizations and service providers. Participant data will be shared back to the clinical site or registry that referred them to enrich the local research efforts of the clinical site or research registry.

Selected sites will be responsible for the following:

1. Recruitment planning

- Obtain local IRB approval to waive oversight to a centralized IRB. If your IRB is unable to cede oversight to a central IRB, your site cannot participate in SPARK. SPARK's central IRB is Western IRB.
- Develop a recruitment strategy in alignment with central IRB protocol, inclusive of identifying existing research cohorts available for re-contact; local patient databases with email/phone contacts; and community partners working with individuals with ASD and their family members.

2. Outreach & Recruitment

- Conduct remote and in-person recruitment (defined as enrolling eligible participants through the submission of saliva samples) of individuals with ASD and their family members who visit the clinical site
- Recruit individuals with ASD and their family members via re-contact of local research participants and patients who have agreed to be re-contacted for future research opportunities
- Reach out to community groups and organizations that serve individuals with autism and their family members to enhance recruitment by speaking at local events, hosting a booth at a walk, contacting local advocacy groups, etc.

- Following up with participants with regards to return of genetic results and completion of new survey modules

3. Data entry

- Abstract and enter assessment scores from participant medical records or transferring data from a local database into the study portal. We expect IRBs to accept the standard HIPAA language in the centralized consent.
- Upload medical records of enrolled participants into the study portal

4. Tracking progress over time

- Track the number of individuals with ASD and their family members recruited per month
- Participate in monthly site coordinator conference calls to share information about recruitment efforts and receive updates on overall project status

Award Amount: \$450,000 paid over 3 years

Indirect Costs: 20%

Application Deadline: Jan 13, 2017

Website: <https://sfari.org/funding/grants/spark-clinical-site-network-rfa/spark-clinical-site-network-request-for-applications-rfa>

13. Wireless Innovation Project, Vodafone Americas Foundation

The Vodafone Americas FoundationTM is part of Vodafone's global network of foundations. They are affiliated with Vodafone, one of the world's leading mobile telecommunications companies that operates in over five continents and has significant presence in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia Pacific and the United States.

The Vodafone Americas FoundationTM designed the Wireless Innovation ProjectTM as a competition to promote innovation and increase implementation of wireless related technology for a better world.

The competition seeks to identify and fund the best innovations using wireless related technology to address critical social issues around the world. Project proposals must demonstrate significant advancement in the field of wireless-related technology applied to social benefit use.

Applicants must demonstrate a multi-disciplinary approach that uses an innovation in wireless-related technology to address a critical global issue in one or more of the following areas:

Social Issue Areas

- Access to communication
- Education
- Economic development
- Environment

- Health

Technical Issue Areas

- Connectivity
- Energy
- Language or Literacy hurdles
- Ease of use

The project must be at a stage of research where an advanced prototype or field/market test can occur during the award period. The technology should have the potential for replication and large scale impact. Teams should have a business plan or a basic framework for financial sustainability and rollout.

Award Amount: \$100,000-300,000 paid over 3 years

Indirect Costs: Unpublished

Submission Deadline: Mar 6, 2017

Website: <http://vodafone-us.com/wireless-innovation-project/about-wip/>