



# NIH funding opportunities



## **Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences: Research Development and Support**

30 Mar 2015

[Click on blue hyperlink for further information]

The NIH funding opportunities listed below are only a **selection** of pre-screened, currently open health funding opportunities for which **South African institutions are eligible to apply**. For a comprehensive selection of NIH funding opportunities, please visit [www.grants.nih.gov](http://www.grants.nih.gov).

**Please be advised that you must contact the Research Grants Management Office (RGMO) at least 60 days before the submission date, Mr Eugene Baugaard ([eugeneb@sun.ac.za](mailto:eugeneb@sun.ac.za)), or as soon as you commit to apply for an NIH grant and that the grant is submitted institutionally.**

## **Important notices**

- Reminder: NIH and AHRQ Biosketch Requirements for Due Dates On or After May 25, 2015 ([NOT-OD-15-085](#))
  - Notice for Use of Cloud Computing Services for Storage and Analysis of Controlled-Access Data Subject to the NIH Genomic Data Sharing (GDS) Policy ([NOT-OD-15-086](#))
  - Notice of Change in Age Range to Include Young Adults up to 25 years of age in PA-15-035 "Research Aimed at Novel Behavioral Targets to Improve Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention Interventions (R34)" ([NOT-DA-15-061](#))
  - Notice of Change in Age Range to Include Young Adults up to 25 years of age in PA-15-036 "Research Aimed at Novel Behavioral Targets to Improve Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention Interventions (R01)" ([NOT-DA-15-062](#))
  - Notice of Clarification of Letter of Intent (LOI) Due Date(s) for NIDA PA-15-099 "Reductions in Illicit Drug Use and Functional Outcomes (R21/R33)" ([NOT-DA-15-063](#))
  - Request for Information (RFI): NHLBI Strategic Visioning - Developing the Research Priorities for the Next Decade ([NOT-HL-15-252](#))
  - Notice of National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) Participation in PAR-15-085 "Predictive Multiscale Models for Biomedical, Biological, Behavioral, Environmental and Clinical Research (U01)" ([NOT-HL-15-257](#))

## **1. Title:** Mechanisms of Immune Protection from TB among HIV-infected Individuals

**Letter of Intent due date:** June 22, 2015      **Hyperlink:** [\(RFA-AI-14-072\)](#)      **Type:** R01

**Hyperlink:** [\(RFA-AI-14-072\)](#) **Type:** R01

**Application Due Date:** July 22, 2015, by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to support studies characterizing the genetic, epigenetic, and/or immunological correlates of protection against tuberculosis infection in highly-exposed but resistant individuals, and the interaction of these correlates with HIV infection. Studies may include identification of underlying genetic or epigenetic factors, as well as characteristics of the innate immune system and related regulatory genes and signaling pathways that play a role in protection from latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI). Multidisciplinary collaboration is encouraged, incorporating clinical studies coupled with functional experiments using samples and data from well-defined cohorts.

**Budget:** Application budgets are not limited but need to reflect the actual needs of the proposed project. The total project period for an application submitted in response to this FOA may not exceed five years.

## **2. Title: Research Answers to NCI's Provocative Questions**

**Letter of Intent due date:** 30 days before application due date

**Hyperlink:** [\(RFA-CA-15-008\)](#)    **Type:** R01  
[\(RFA-CA-15-009\)](#)    R21

**Application Due Date:** June 29 & October 29, 2015; June 29 & October 28, 2016, by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization

**Purpose:** The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement is to support research projects designed to solve specific problems and paradoxes in cancer research identified by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Provocative Questions initiative. These problems and paradoxes phrased as questions are not intended to represent the full range of NCI's priorities in cancer research. Rather, they are meant to challenge cancer researchers to think about and elucidate specific problems in key areas of cancer research that are deemed important but have not received sufficient attention. Some of these "Provocative Questions" (PQs) stem from intriguing but older, neglected observations that have never been adequately explored. Other PQs are built on more recent findings that are perplexing or paradoxical, revealing important gaps in current knowledge. Finally, some PQs reflect problems that traditionally have been thought to be intractable but that now may be open to investigations using new strategies and recent technical advances. The current issuance of the PQ Initiative involves an updated set of 12 PQs. Each research project proposed in response to this FOA must be focused on addressing one particular research problem defined by one specific PQ selected from the list. Projects proposed to address specific PQs may use strategies that incorporate ideas and approaches from multiple disciplines, as appropriate. Transdisciplinary projects are encouraged as long as they serve the scientific focus of the specific PQ chosen.

**Budget:** **RO1:** Application budgets are not limited but need to reflect the actual needs of the proposed project. The total project period for an application submitted in response to this FOA may not exceed five years. **R21:** The combined budget for direct costs for the two year project period may not exceed \$275,000. No more than \$200,000 may be requested in any single year.

**3. Title: Limited Competition: Revisions to Add Phase 2 Clinical Trials Program to Experimental Therapeutics Clinical Trials Network****Letter of Intent due date:** May 19, 2015**Hyperlink:** [\(RFA-CA-15-501\)](#) **Type:** UM1**Application Due Date:** June 19, 2015, by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization

**Purpose:** The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement is to enhance the NCI-supported early development of experimental cancer therapeutics by merging the Phase 2 clinical trials program with the Experimental Therapeutics Clinical Trials Network (ETCTN, funded through RFA-CA-13-006) that is currently focused on Phase 1 clinical trials. The FOA invites revision applications from ETCTN UM1 awardees to expand the scope of activities by adding capabilities to conduct Phase 2 clinical trials. The goal is to integrate Phase 2 infrastructure and expertise to create a unified network for an efficient and comprehensive conduct of early clinical trials. This integration of the Phase 2 capabilities into the new ETCTN structure will allow for more seamless advancement of experimental agents through early stages of development. Ultimately, the expected increased efficiency of clinical trial management is expected to accelerate the delivery of new cancer therapies to the public.

**Budget:** Application budgets must not exceed \$560,000 in direct costs per year. Applicants may request support for the project period of 3 years, not to exceed the remaining number of years on the parent ETCTN award.

**4. Title: Educating Groups Influencing Generic Drug Use****Letter of Intent due date:** April 17, 2015, by 11:59 PM Eastern Time**Hyperlink:** [\(RFA-FD-15-013\)](#) **Type:** UO1**Application Due Date:** June 3, 2015, by 11:59 PM Eastern Time.

**Purpose:** The project purpose is to identify the key groups influencing use of generic drugs, to determine the informational needs of these groups regarding generic drugs, and to test and revise draft messages designed to address those needs. An important component of this project is capturing the extent to which the findings vary by drug class.

**Budget:** Application budgets need to reflect the actual needs of the proposed project and should not exceed the following in total costs (direct and indirect): YR 01: \$250,000 YR 02: \$250,000 YR 03: \$250,000 The scope of the proposed project should determine the project period. The maximum project period is three (3) years.

**5. Title: Methodologies to Enhance Understanding of HIV Associated Social Determinants****Letter of Intent due date:** July 19, 2015**Hyperlink:** [\(RFA-MH-16-200\)](#) **Type:** RO1  
[\(RFA-MH-16-205\)](#) **R21****Application Due Date:** August 19, 2015, by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization.

**Purpose:** This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) invites applications that propose to understand social determinants of health as they relate to HIV infection and disease outcomes.

**Budget:** **RO1** - Application budgets are not limited but need to reflect the actual needs of the proposed project. The scope of the proposed project should determine the project period. The maximum project period is 5 years. **R21** - Application budgets are limited to \$275,000 direct costs over 2 years with no more than \$200,000 direct costs in any one year.

**6. Title: Psychiatric Gene Networks: Solving the Molecular Puzzle of Psychiatric Disorders****Letter of Intent due date:** May 29, 2015**Hyperlink:** [\(RFA-MH-16-300\)](#) **Type** RO1**Application Due Date:** June 29, 2015, by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization

**Purpose:** The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) and the companion FOA is to solicit applications for computational and functional analysis of gene networks and complex pathways that confer susceptibility to severe mental illnesses. These studies should leverage existing diverse multi-scale datasets and apply a combination of cutting-edge bioinformatics, computational predictive modeling, and systems biology approaches to identify and begin to evaluate novel genetic factors and molecular networks underlying functional pathways relevant to psychiatric disorders to verify their relationship or causality with disease/disease risk. The computational model predictions should be further replicated through independent datasets and confirmed using biological measures from existing and/or new experimental data.

**Budget:** **RO1** - Application budgets are not limited but need to reflect the actual needs of the proposed project. The scope of the proposed project should determine the project period. The maximum project period is 5 years.

**7. Title: Psychiatric Gene Networks: Solving the Molecular Puzzle of Psychiatric Disorders - Collaborative****Letter of Intent due date:** May 29, 2015**Hyperlink:** [\(RFA-MH-16-310\)](#) **Type** RO1**Application Due Date:** June 29, 2015, by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization

**Purpose:** The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) and the companion FOA is to solicit applications for computational and functional analysis of gene networks and complex pathways that confer susceptibility to severe mental illnesses. These studies should leverage existing diverse multi-scale datasets and apply a combination of cutting-edge bioinformatics, computational predictive modeling, and systems biology approaches to identify and begin to evaluate novel genetic factors and molecular networks underlying functional pathways relevant to psychiatric disorders to verify their relationship or causality with disease/disease risk. The computational model predictions should be further replicated through independent datasets and confirmed using biological measures from existing and/or new experimental data. This FOA should be used when two or more collaborating sites are essential to complete the proposed research. It is required that the Research Strategy must be identical across linked collaborative RO1 applications, with the exception of a short section describing specific function of each application under "elements unique to that site." For a linked set of collaborative RO1 applications, each application must have its own Program Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI) and the program must provide a mechanism for cross-site coordination and data sharing among the collaborating groups, quality control, database management, statistical analysis, and reporting.

**Budget:** **RO1** - Application budgets are not limited but need to reflect the actual needs of the proposed project. The scope of the proposed project should determine the project period. The maximum project period is 5 years.

**8. Title:** Alcohol Impairment of Immune Function, Host Defense and Tissue Homeostasis**Letter of Intent due date:** N/A**Hyperlink:** [\(PA-15-159\)](#) **Type** RO1**Application Due Date:**

Standard dates (June 5, Oct 5, Feb 5) apply, by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization

Standard AIDS dates (7 May, 7 Sep, 7 Jan) apply, by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization

**Purpose:** This Funding Opportunity Announcement invites applications from researchers with broad expertise to study the consequences of alcohol consumption on immune function with a goal toward improving the outcome of patients who abuse alcohol. Alcohol abuse has long been associated with increased susceptibility to opportunistic infections. This association has led to extensive research demonstrating that alcohol abuse has a profound and negative impact on immune cell number and function and development of immune defense against pathogens. This pattern of drinking differentially affects the outcome of alcohol abuse: binge alcohol consumption suppresses host innate immune defense; chronic alcohol consumption suppresses most immune functions including phagocytic activity of macrophages and development of adaptive immune defense, yet paradoxically activates chronic inflammation. Cumulative evidence now also supports a role for alcohol-induced immune alterations, in particular inflammation, in a wide range of alcohol related illnesses involving organ or tissue injury. In some cases, interventions against such alcohol-induced immune dysfunctions, such as anti-oxidant supplements and probiotics, are found to be effective in improving the clinical outcome. A comprehensive understanding of alcohol-induced immune dysfunctions and the underlying mechanisms is critical for developing effective diagnostic, preventive, and treatment approaches.

**Budget:** RO1 - Application budgets are not limited but need to reflect the actual needs of the proposed project. The scope of the proposed project should determine the project period. The maximum project period is 5 years.

**9. Title:** Exploratory/Developmental Clinical Research Grants in Obesity**Letter of Intent due date:** N/A**Hyperlink:** [\(PA-15-163\)](#) **Type** R21**Application Due Date:**

Standard dates (Jul 16, Nov 16, Mar 16) apply, by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization

Standard AIDS dates (May 7, Sep 7, Jan 7) apply, by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization

**Purpose:** This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) encourages research grant applications from institutions/organizations that propose to conduct exploratory/developmental clinical studies that will accelerate the development of effective interventions for prevention or treatment of overweight or obesity in adults and/or children. Exploratory epidemiological research with a goal of informing translational/clinical research will also be supported within this program.

**Budget:** Direct costs are limited to \$275,000 over an R21 two-year period, with no more than \$200,000 in direct costs allowed in any single year.

**10. Title:** Planning Grant for Global Infectious Disease Research Training Program**Letter of Intent due date:** 30 days prior to the application due date**Hyperlink:** [\(PAR-15-160\)](#) **Type** D71**Application Due Date:**

July 29, 2015; July 29, 2016, by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization

**Purpose:** This Funding Opportunity Announcement invites new planning grant applications for the Global Infectious Disease (GID) Research Training Program from applicants at low- and middle-income research institutions (LMICs). The application should propose plans to develop a collaborative research training program with a U.S. institution that will strengthen the capacity of the applicant institution to conduct infectious disease (excluding HIV/AIDS and select agents) research. Planning grants should describe the planning process and detailed vision for developing a research-training program that focuses on major endemic or life-threatening emerging infectious diseases, neglected tropical diseases, infections that frequently occur as co-infections in HIV infected individuals or infections associated with non-communicable disease conditions in LMICs

**Budget:** Application budgets are limited to \$28,000 per year direct costs. The maximum project period is 1 year.

**11. Title:** Pilot and Feasibility Clinical Research Grants in Kidney Diseases**Letter of Intent due date:** 30 days prior to the application due date**Hyperlink:** [\(PAR-15-161\)](#) **Type** R21**Application Due Date:**

Standard dates (Jun 16, Oct 16, Feb 16) apply, by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization.

Standard AIDS dates (May 7, Sep 7, Jan 7) apply by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization

**Purpose:** This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to support Exploratory/Developmental Research Grants (R21) that propose small scale or pilot and feasibility clinical and translational research studies, including epidemiological studies or clinical trials related to kidney disease research. Studies should address important clinical and translational questions and are potentially of high clinical and public health impact. It is anticipated that some projects supported by these grants may lead to full-scale clinical studies including diagnostic strategies, epidemiological studies, or randomized clinical trials of diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of kidney diseases.

**Budget:** The combined budget for direct costs for the two-year project period may not exceed \$275,000. No more than \$200,000 may be requested in any single year.

**12. Title:** Pilot and Feasibility Clinical Research Grants in Urologic Disorders**Letter of Intent due date:** 30 days prior to the application due date**Hyperlink:** [\(PAR-15-162\)](#) **Type** R21**Application Due Date:**

Standard dates (Jun 16, Oct 16, Feb 16) apply, by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization.

Standard AIDS dates (May 7, Sep 7, Jan 7) apply by 5:00 PM local time of applicant organization

**Purpose:** This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to support Exploratory/Developmental Research Grants (R21) that propose small scale or pilot and feasibility clinical and translational research studies, including epidemiological studies or clinical trials related to urologic disorders research. Studies should address important clinical and translational questions that are potentially of high clinical and public health impact. It is anticipated that some projects supported by these grants may lead to full-scale clinical studies including diagnostic strategies, epidemiological studies, or randomized clinical trials of prevention, diagnosis or treatment of urologic disorders.

**Budget:** The combined budget for direct costs for the two-year project period may not exceed \$275,000. No more than \$200,000 may be requested in any single year.

**Brief definitions of some NIH grant mechanisms:** [comprehensive list of extramural grant and cooperative agreement activity codes](#)

**U01 – NIH Research Project Cooperative Agreement:** supports discrete, specified, circumscribed projects to be performed by investigator(s) in an area representing their specific interests and competencies; many types of cooperative agreements, e.g. Clinical Trials Centers; generally no budget upper limit but may be specified.

**R01 – NIH Research Project Grant Program:** most common NIH program; to support a discrete, specified, circumscribed research project; generally 3-5 years; budget may be specified, but generally <\$500,000 p.a. (direct costs).

**R03 – NIH Small Grant Program:** limited funding for short period to support e.g. pilot / feasibility study, collection of preliminary data, secondary analysis of existing data, small-contained research projects, development of new research technology, etc.; normally for “new investigators”; not renewable; up to 2 years; budget generally <\$50,000 (direct costs).

**UH2/UH3 - Phase Innovation Awards Cooperative Agreement:** Exploratory/Developmental Cooperative Agreement Phase I and II. To support the development of new research activities in categorical program areas (Support generally is restricted in level of support and in time.) The UH3 award is to provide a second phase for the support for innovative exploratory and development research activities initiated under the UH2 mechanism. Although only UH2 awardees are generally eligible to apply for UH3 support, specific program initiatives may establish eligibility criteria under which applications could be accepted from applicants demonstrating progress equivalent to that expected under UH2.

**R21 – NIH Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant:** encourages new, exploratory and developmental research projects (could be used for pilot or feasibility studies); up to 2 years; budget total generally <\$275,000 (direct costs).

**R25 – NIH Education Projects:** used in a wide variety of ways to promote an appreciation for and interest in biomedical research, provide additional training in specific areas, and/or to develop ways to disseminate scientific discovery into public health and community applications.

**R21/R33 - Phased Innovation:** The R33 award is to provide a second phase for the support for innovative exploratory and development research activities initiated under the R21 mechanism. Although only R21 awardees are generally eligible to apply for R33 support, specific program initiatives may establish eligibility criteria under which applications could be accepted from applicants demonstrating progress equivalent to that expected under R33.

**G11 Extramural Associate Research Development Award (EARDA)** : G11 Extramural Associate Research Development Award (EARDA) To provide funds to institutions eligible to participate in the NIH Extramural Associates Program for establishing or enhancing an office of sponsored research and for other research infrastructure needs.

Complete [Glossary and acronym list of NIH Terms](#)

