



**University of Washington
Sexually Transmitted Infections Cooperative Research Center
(STI CRC)**

**Request for Applications (RFA)
Developmental Research Project (DRP)
Awards**

RFA Release Date	September 6, 2023
Optional Budget Consultation Due	September 27, 2023
Application Due Date	October 18, by 5:00 PM PST
Estimated Review Date	October 25 – November 22, 2023
Earliest Award Date	December 1, 2023

Mentored Developmental Research Project (DRP)

1) Overview

a) Purpose

Mentored Developmental Research Project awards (similar to K08, K23, and K99 awards) provide one year of funding to support research projects and career development activities that will enhance the applicant's ability to compete successfully for an independent R- or K-series award (e.g., acquisition of preliminary data, training in grant preparation).

b) Eligibility

Applicants for DRP awards are scientists (M.D., Ph.D., or other relevant doctoral-level degree) nearing completion of the postdoctoral fellowship period or in early faculty positions. Eligible individuals must not have served as a Principal Investigator on a NIH or other grant or contract (in the field of STI or HIV research) exceeding \$75,000 direct costs per year. Previous DRP award recipients are not eligible to compete for a second DRP award. Applicants will be drawn from early-career investigators interested in continuing STI research and located at the University of Washington (UW) or the following UW-affiliated institutions: Fred Hutch, Seattle Children's, University of Victoria. **Contact Susan Mello (spmello@uw.edu) for questions regarding eligibility.**

c) Types of Projects

Eligible research areas include basic, epidemiological, translational, behavioral, or implementation science research on STI topics **other than HIV**. HIV studies may be included in a proposal only as they relate to, or impact upon, other STIs. Preference will be given to studies focused on syphilis.

Per NIH, we cannot fund clinical trials of investigational or approved or standard-of-care drugs or any other interventions that evaluate the effect of that intervention on health-related biomedical or behavioral outcomes. Please see NIH policy ([NOT-16-147](#) and [NOT-15-015](#)). **Please contact Anna Wald (annawald@uw.edu) to determine whether your proposed project would be eligible for funding.**

d) Funding Available

One application will be selected for funding, to provide one year of funding. The amount of each award is up to \$60,000 per year (direct costs). Only direct costs will be awarded; no indirect costs (IDC) will be paid to non-UW institutions. A letter of agreement to waive IDC should be included with applications if relevant. The award may be used for PI or other salary (no salary is provided for the mentor), technical support, laboratory or other supplies, equipment, and travel costs related to the project. Requests for computers must be strongly justified as being used EXCLUSIVELY for the execution of the project.

2) Pre-Submission Process

a) Institutional Approval:

- UW applicants should prepare a PHS 398 face page, but do not need departmental, school, or Office of Sponsored Programs signatures.
- Applicants from other institutions should prepare and submit a PHS 398 face page, with concurrence from their institution's business official.

b) Administrative Consultation: Applicants from all institutions (including UW) **are strongly encouraged** to consult about their budgets to clarify budgetary issues. **Please send a draft copy of your budget and justification to John Kemner (jmkenner@uw.edu) no later than September 27, 2023.**

c) Human Subjects and Animal Care Approvals: Animal Care and Institutional Review Board approvals, if applicable, **must be obtained prior to receipt of award funding**, but are not required to submit an application.

3) Award Requirements

a) Human Subjects and Animal Care Approvals: Prior to funding, a copy of all Institutional Biohazard, Animal Care and IRB approvals must be forwarded to Susan Mello (spmello@uw.edu).

b) Reporting and Presentation Requirements: Awardees will be required to submit yearly progress reports to STI CRC staff and to make an oral presentation at the annual UW Fall STI and HIV Research

Symposium after the first year of their award. Awardees are also required to present their work-in-progress at the quarterly UW STI CRC meetings, and their ongoing work at the annual NIH STI CRC meeting, usually held in the Spring. We also strongly encourage awardees to present their results to the communities that participated in the research.

- c) Acknowledgement of Support: STI CRC support (U19AI144133) must be acknowledged in all publications and presentations derived from STI CRC funding.
- d) Other Support: In the event that you receive new research funding that overlaps with or reduces your effort on this project, you must notify Susan Mello (spmello@uw.edu) immediately. Your funding status will be reviewed and, if it is determined that the new funding overlaps with the specific aims of your STI CRC proposal, the award will be adjusted.
- e) Post-Award Requirements: After the project is completed, awardees must agree to provide contact information and respond to annual queries about publications, collaborations, and future grants related to the STI CRC project. Awardees must also take full responsibility to meet the Public Access Policy (obtain PMID numbers) for all publications related to your project award. This is necessary for our reports to NIH.

4) Application Instructions

After completing all pre-submission requirements, submit all of the components listed below except item 13 (Letters of Reference) in a single PDF file by 5:00 p.m. PST October 18, 2023 to spmello@uw.edu. Any application not meeting these requirements will not be reviewed.

The full proposal will be on [PHS 398 forms](#) and should follow a modified NIH K08/K23 format with the modifications listed below). Applicants will submit their DRP applications using a modified NIH K08 or K23 format, with an 8 page limit that includes all of the trainee components: Applicant Background (1 page), Career Development Plan (1 page), Mentor's Statement (1 page), Specific Aims (1 page), and Research Plan (including Significance, Innovation, and Approach; 4 pages). The trainee and mentor biosketches, description of training in Responsible Conduct of Research, and the independent letters of support will not count toward the 8-page limit. No appendices are allowed. Do not submit Targeted/Planned Enrollment Tables. Submit a detailed budget, not a modular budget.

Required components

1. Face Page: (PHS 398 Form page 1 - Download: [MS Word](#) or [PDF](#)) Institutional sign-off for Non-UW applicants required.
2. Project Summary Page: (PHS 398 Form pages 2 and 3 - Download: [MS Word](#) or [PDF](#))
3. Detailed budget for 12 month period: (PHS 398 Form page 4 - Download: [MS Word](#) or [PDF](#))
4. Complete budget and justification: (PHS 398 Form page 5 - Download: [MS Word](#) or [PDF](#))
5. Resources page (PHS 398 Format - Download: [MS Word](#) or [PDF](#); maximum length 1 page)
6. Biographical Sketch for the applicant (PHS 398 Format - Download: [MS Word](#) or [PDF](#))
7. Biographical Sketches for mentor and, if applicable, mentoring team. (PHS 398 Format - Download: [MS Word](#) or [PDF](#)) The Personal Statement section for the mentoring team should clearly state what expertise they will bring to the career development and research activities of the applicant.
8. Career Development and Research Plan (**Maximum 8 pages for a-e below**). Use PHS 398 Continuation Format pages (Download: [MS Word](#) or [PDF](#)).
 - a. Applicant Background (1 page)
 - b. Career Development Plan (1 page)
 - c. Mentor's Statement (1 page). **Note: this is not a letter of recommendation.** It is a description of how the trainee will be mentored, and should include evidence of successful mentoring.
 - d. Specific Aims (1 page)
 - e. Research Strategy (including Significance, Innovation, and Approach) (suggested length 4 pages)
9. Bibliography and References cited (as needed)

10. Description of Applicant's Past and Planned Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research (maximum, 1 page). Include all areas required by NIH.
11. Protection of Human Subjects (if applicable; maximum 1 page). Include all areas required by NIH.
12. Vertebrate Animals (if applicable; maximum 1 page) Include all topics required by NIH.
13. Letters of reference from 3 persons, excluding your mentor who will write a separate statement [8c above]. Letters should be sent directly to Susan Mello (spmello@uw.edu) and not included with the application. **Letters must be received by Application Due Date, 5:00 PM PST on October 18, 2023.**

5) Budget Development Guidelines and Restrictions

- a) Requested support for project collaborators who are NOT at the same institution as the awardee should be listed as consultant costs. Subcontracts will not be issued to collaborator's institutions.
- b) Requested support for equipment and technology must be fully justified in the budget justification with a clear connection to the scientific aspects of the project and not for general office or lab use. Any request for purchase of computers is limited to computers that are used EXCLUSIVELY for the project.
- c) Tuition, fees and stipends for graduate students are allowable within the following guidelines:
 - Total compensation for predocs (salary, fringe, and tuition/fees) cannot exceed \$56,484.
- d) Costs associated with Institutional Review Board (IRB) review of human research protocols, or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) review of animal research protocols, are not allowable as direct charges.
- e) All costs must conform to the NIH Grants Policy Statement (GPS) and applicable U.S. Office of Management and Budget OMB circulars for necessity and reasonability, allocability, conformance and consistency, as well as allowability. Please follow the link below to section 7.2 cost principles section of the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#).

6) Review Process and Criteria

The evaluation criteria for proposals include:

- a) **Applicant**
 - Commitment to a research career in STIs
 - Academic record and accomplishments to date
 - Potential to become an independent investigator
- b) **Career Development Plan**
 - Appropriateness of the plan for achieving scientific independence
 - Consistency with candidate's prior training and career goals
- c) **Mentor/Co-mentors**
 - Mentor's research qualifications in the area of the proposed project
 - Quality and extent of mentor's proposed role in providing guidance to the candidate
 - Previous success in training early career investigators
 - History of research productivity
- d) **Research Plan (Significance, Innovation, Approach)**
 - Scientific merit of the research question, design, and methodology
 - Relevance of the proposed research to the applicant's career objectives
 - Appropriateness of the research plan to the applicant's stage of research development
 - Appropriateness of the research plan for advancing the career development plan