



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Comprehensive Research Center in Health Disparities

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**GRANT NOTICE:
HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH
\$50,000 direct costs for 12-18 months**

GRANT PROPOSAL DUE DATE: October 30, 2009

The **UC San Diego Comprehensive Research Center in Health Disparities (CRCHD)** invites proposals to fund pilot/feasibility projects in health disparities research.

Eligibility criteria:

Investigators eligible for pilot/feasibility study funding include: new investigators with modest previous research support; established investigators with previous research support, who are new to the field of health disparities; and, established investigators in health disparities research who wish to test innovative research ideas that clearly depart from established lines of investigation. All eligible investigators must have a UCSD or SDSU faculty appointment: however, non-faculty partners are encouraged to submit an application provided a UCSD or SDSU faculty member agrees to be designated as the faculty program leader. The CRCHD is available to offer assistance in identifying a faculty program leader that will fit the area of concentration. Please state your need for assistance in identifying a faculty program leader in the initial letter of intent.

Letter of Intent deadline: July 17, 2009

Letter of Intent guidelines:

All applicants must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI). The one-page LOI must include a general description of the proposed pilot and/or feasibility study, describing the following: a) what you are planning to do; b) how you are planning to do it; c) who you are serving; d) how, if applicable, will participants be recruited; and e) a brief description of how the direct and indirect impact of your project will help reduce or eliminate health disparities, both immediately and long-term. In addition, the LOI must provide evidence that the applicant is a UCSD or SDSU faculty member (if the applicant is not faculty, indicate if assistance is needed to identify a faculty program leader); indicate which University will serve as the approving IRB institution; provide a full CV for the applicant; and, when applicable, include a letter of support from the UCSD or SDSU faculty program leader. Investigators who meet the eligibility criteria, submit Letters of Intent that are determined to align closely with the mission of CRCHD, and describe proposals which meet the application guidelines will be invited to submit a full proposal.

Proposal guidelines:

The full application and guidelines will be emailed to investigators who are invited to apply, and will also be available on the CRCHD website (<http://meded.ucsd.edu/crchd>).

The major criteria for funding Pilot/Feasibility proposals will be scientific merit. Investigators will be expected to present focused, testable hypotheses, with clearly defined research questions. Proposals will be required to include detailed descriptions of proposed methods and measures, and demonstrate that the researchers have developed appropriate analysis plans. Proposals should also include a description of the investigators' national, regional, and/or local research networks, and potential or anticipated impact on reducing or eliminating health disparities both, both immediately and long-term.

Proposals will be scored for the degree to which the research identifies or investigates causes of inequities in health/disease status, and/or the degree to which the research contributes to the reduction of known causes or factors which contribute to inequities in health/disease status. Investigators' ability to communicate the significance of the proposed research, as well as the implications of their potential findings, will have great bearing on the success of their application. Recipients of pilot/feasibility awards must agree to abide by the following:

- Funds may be requested for start-up research and feasibility studies, not to enhance work currently funded by another agency. Awards are not to be construed as interim or bridge funding unless the project represents a new direction.
- Requests for funding must not exceed the maximum award amount of \$50,000 for direct costs, with all work to be conducted within a minimum of 12 months to a maximum of 18 months.
- Projects, when possible or if appropriate, must demonstrate active community involvement in research design, participation, and feedback.
- Applications will be required to include evidence that all considerations have been given to the protection of human subjects. Proposals that are accepted for funding will be required to obtain approval of agency IRB (UCSD or SDSU). If the applicant is not directly associated with either of these agencies, then the IRB application must be applied for under a UCSD faculty member (letter of support must be attached).
- Investigators will be required to use fully informed consent, with no exceptions.
- Investigators will be required to provide assurances that all appropriate measures for the protection of confidentiality will be implemented.
- Investigators will assume responsibility for dealing in a proactive manner with incidentally identified health issues or concerns of research participants who may, or may not, have easy access to the health care system.
- Application is to be limited to 5 pages, though figures, bibliography, budget pages, and CVs are counted as additional pages, as needed. Applicants will be expected to respond to items A – J: Scientific Abstract, Specific Aims, Background and Significance, Preliminary Studies (or related work), Research Design and Methods, Human Subjects, Vertebrate Animals, Literature Cited, Consortium/Contractual Arrangements, and Consultants. Applicants must also include a paragraph/statement describing eligibility for the program, as well as include a generally-outlined budget.
- Recipients will be required to list the UC San Diego Comprehensive Research Center in Health Disparities (CRCHD) as their source of funding on each publication which reports research supported by this award.

Review criteria

- 1) **SIGNIFICANCE**: Does the study address an important problem? If the aims of the application are achieved, how will they advance scientific knowledge? What will be the effect of these studies on the concepts or methods that drive this field?
- 2) **APPROACH**: Are the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, and appropriate to the aims of the project? Are potential problem areas acknowledged and alternative strategies discussed?
- 3) **INNOVATION**: Does the project employ novel concepts, approaches or methods? Are the aims original and innovative? Does the project challenge existing paradigms or develop new methodologies or technologies?
- 4) **INVESTIGATOR**: Are the investigators appropriately trained and well-suited to carry out this work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the principal investigator and to that of the other researchers (if any)?
- 5) **ENVIRONMENT**: Does the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Do the proposed experiments take advantage of unique features of the scientific environment or employ useful collaborative arrangements? Is there evidence of institutional support? Is there clear evidence of the involvement and buy-in from the community affected by the topic of the research?

Dates/Deadlines:

Letter of Intent Due:	July 17, 2009
Application Due:	October 30, 2009
Award Notification (electronic):	January 25, 2009
Funding Available:	TBD

Previously funded projects include:

- *Vida Saludable: a preliminary childhood obesity prevention program*
- *Fatty Liver among Adolescent American Indians (AI) of the Indian Health Council*
- *Feasibility of Implementing an Enhanced Health Curriculum (nutrition and physical activity) in Head Start Centers Serving Predominantly Mexican-American Preschoolers and their Families*
- *Barriers and Facilitators to Recruitment of Hispanics into HIV/AIDS Clinical Research Studies*
- *Adipocytokines and Other Risk Factors for Coronary Heart Disease in African-American Women*
- *The Genetics of Adiponectin and Cardiovascular Risk in Obese Mexican American and African American Children*
- *Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) to Decrease Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Risk Behaviors among Latino Men who Have Sex with Men (MSM)*
- *Quality of Care for Cardiovascular Risk Factors in Latinos Taking Antipsychotics*
- *Assessment of Fatty Liver Disease in Hispanics Using an Experimental MR Imaging Technique*
- *Assessing Barriers to Treatment for HIV in African Americans in San Diego*

E-mail Letter of Intent and Full Application (if invited) to:

Stacey Delmar at sdelmar@ucsd.edu

Program questions should be addressed to:

Shelia L. Broyles, Ph.D., M.P.H. at slbroyles@ucsd.edu or
Stacey Delmar at sdelmar@ucsd.edu or (619) 681-0644