

DC CENTER FOR AIDS RESEARCH PILOT AWARDS PROGRAM 101

January 30, 2024



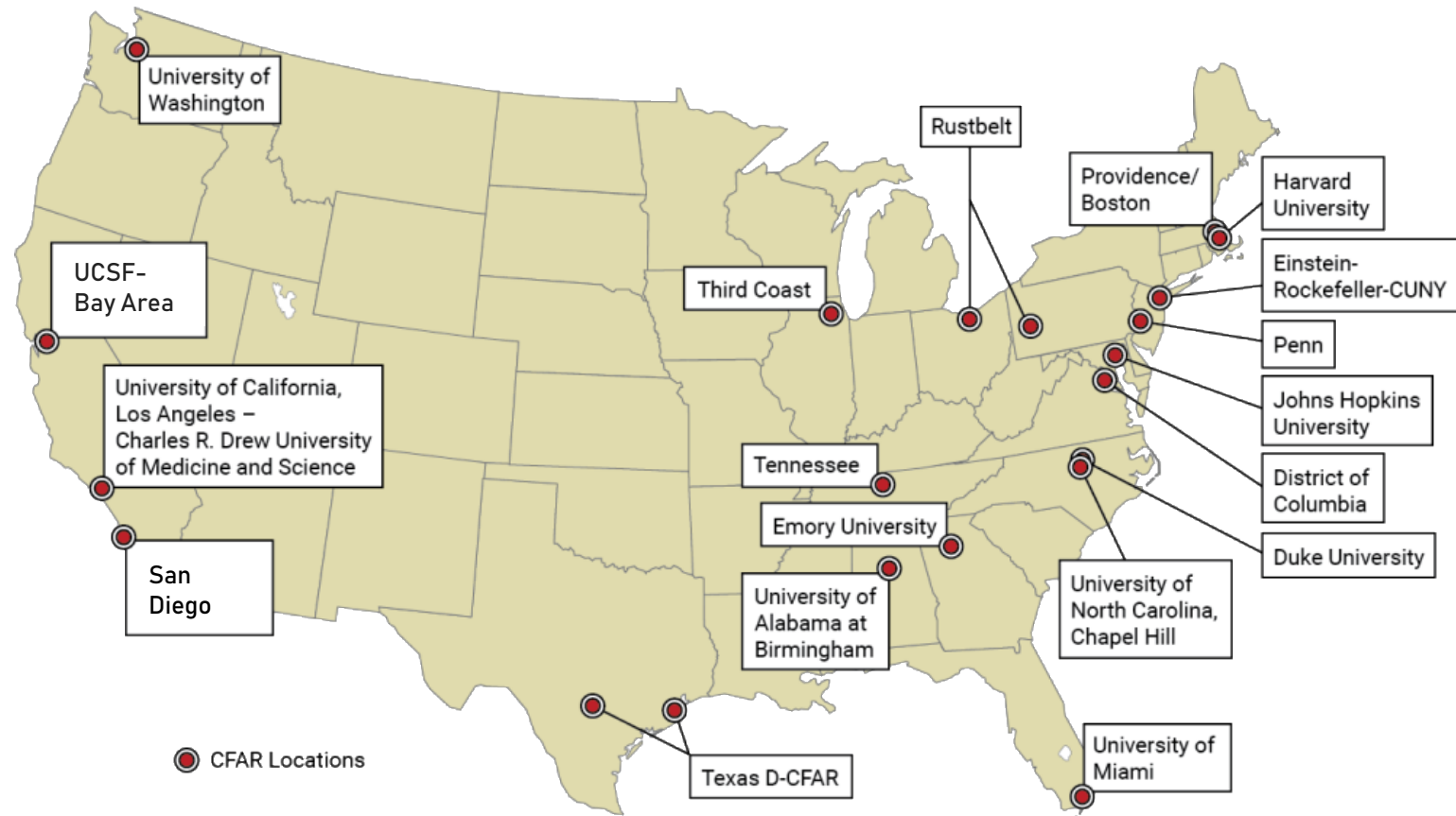
Welcome and agenda

- **Welcome & Introductions**
- **DC CFAR Overview**
- **Traditional Pilot Awards Program Overview**
- **Open Discussion & Questions**
- **Closing at 4:00 PM**

INTRODUCTIONS

OVERVIEW OF THE DC CFAR

NIH-Funded Centers for AIDS Research in the US



Network of 19 CFARs in the U.S. that address the NIH CFAR mission of supporting “a multi-disciplinary environment that promotes basic, clinical, epidemiologic, behavioral, and translational research in the prevention, detection, and treatment of HIV infection and AIDS.”

DC CFAR Mission and Specific Aims

- **Mission:** to intensify our multi-institutional effort to promote and support research that contributes to ending the HIV epidemic in Washington, DC and beyond in partnership with government and community.
- **Specific Aims:**
 - Providing scientific leadership and institutional infrastructure to advance HIV research among the nine collaborating DC CFAR institutions.
 - Stimulating and supporting innovative and consequential HIV research in the basic, clinical, prevention and social and behavioral sciences while promoting an interdisciplinary approach to addressing the NIH high priority scientific HIV focus areas.
 - Driving the development and recruitment of early stage, new, and women and minority HIV investigators.
 - Enhancing communication and fostering meaningful new collaborations between DC CFAR investigators and academic, government, community and clinical partners.

DC Center for AIDS Research 2010-2024



82 pilot awards for \$3.7M
42 supplemental awards for \$14.8M
134 new HIV investigators recruited
140 NIH HIV awards received
Cumulative FRB of \$250M supported

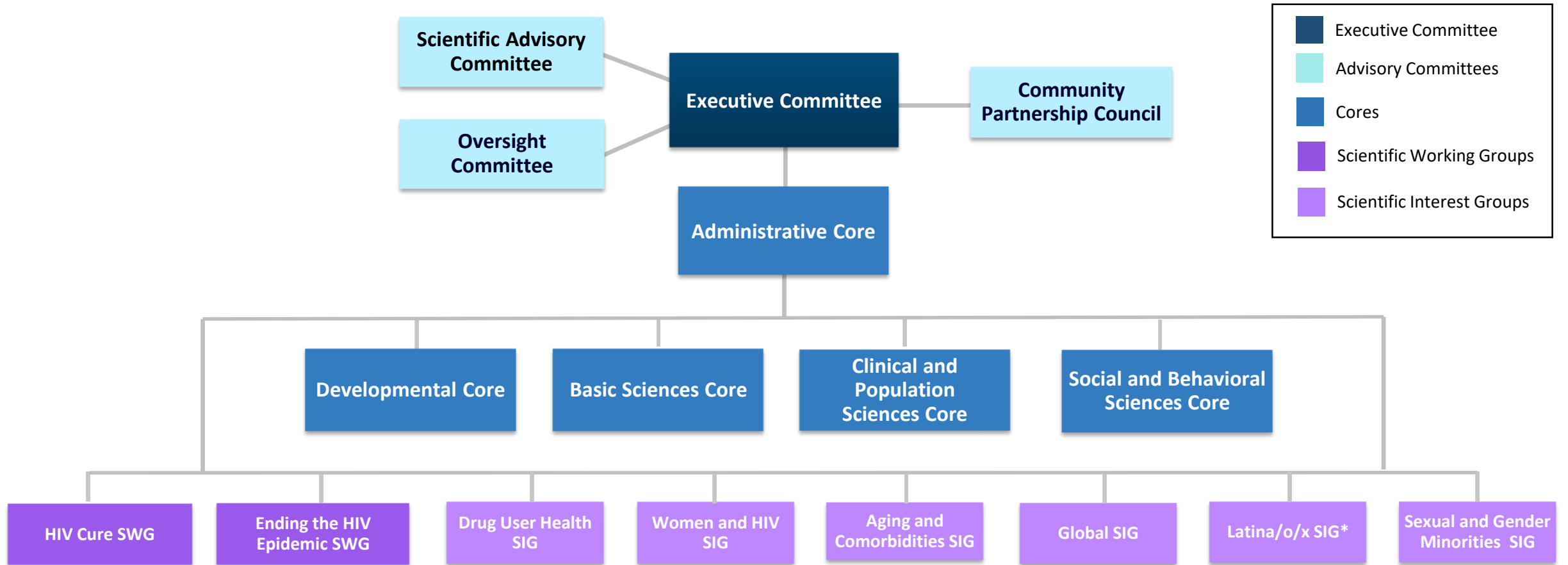
Major DC CFAR Activities

- Stimulate and support research in **NIH HIV Research Priority Areas**
- **Pilot Awards and Mentoring Programs** for early stage and new investigators
- **Core services** - lab, clinical, epidemiology, biostatistics, and behavioral
- Encourage and support **recruitment** of HIV investigators to DC
- Support of multi-institutional **NIH grant applications**
- **Tracking** of services, grants and publications
- Promote **community-engaged research**
- Citywide and Core/SWG **seminars and symposia**
- **Website, Social Media and Weekly Update**

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DC CFAR Organizational Chart



*Consolidated with MACC Latinx Working Group

DC CFAR Executive Committee

Administrative



Alan Greenberg
(GW) Director



Manya Magnus
(GW) Co-Director



Amanda Castel
(GW) Co-Director



Brandi Robinson
(GW) Admin Director

Developmental



Michael Bukrinsky
(GW) Director



Anthony Wutoh
(HU) Co-Director



Kim Blankenship
(AU) Co-Director



Natella Rakhmanina
(CN) Co-Director



Mark Burke (HU)
Co-Director

Basic Sciences



Sergei Nekhai
(HU) Director



Sanjay Maggirwar
(GW) Co-Director



Alberto Bosque
(GW) Co-Director



Marta Catalfamo
(GU) Co-Director



Seble Kassaye
(GU) Director



Qing Pan
(GW) Co-Director



Marc Siegel (GW)
Co-Director



Debra Benator
(VA) Scientific
Advisor

Clinical and Population Sciences



Clover Barnes
(DC Health)



Jonathon Rendina
(WW)



DeMarc Hickson
(UHU)

Inst. Representatives

Social and Behavioral Sciences



Deanna Kerrigan
(GW) Director



Maria Cecilia Zea
(GW) Co-Director



Lisa Bowleg
(GW) Co-Director



David Huebner
(GW) Co-Director



Nina Yamanis
(AU) Co-Director



Tamara Taggart
(GW) Assoc. Director

HIV Cure SWG



Rebecca Lynch
(GW) Lead



Alberto Bosque
(GW) Co-Lead

EHE SWG



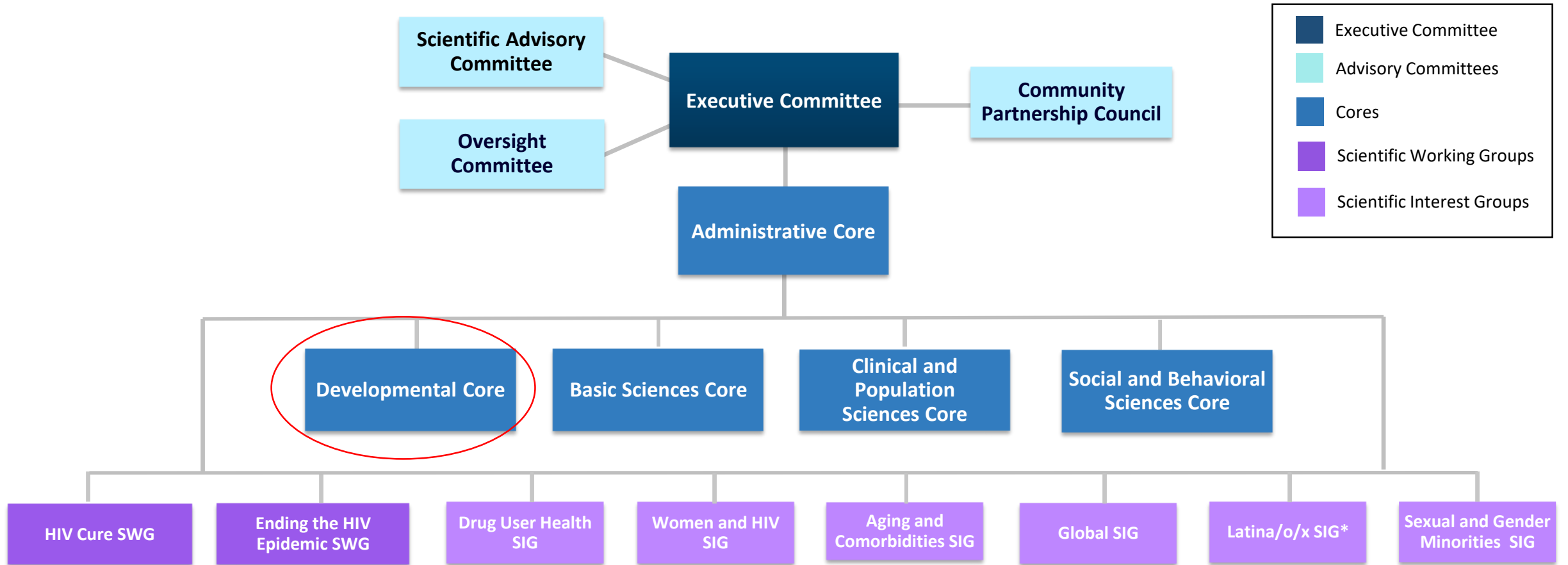
Amanda Castel
(GW) Lead



Clover Barnes
(DC Health) Co-Lead



DC CFAR Organizational Chart



*Consolidated with MACC Latinx Working Group

Developmental Core – Core B



Michael Bukrinsky
(GW) Director



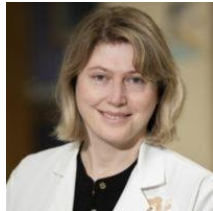
Anthony Wutoh
(HU) Co-Director



Kim Blankenship
(AU) Co-Director



Mark Burke
(HU) Co-Director



Natella Rakmanina
(CN) Co-Director



Lorena Segarra (GW)
Senior Research
Program Manager



Vivian Kirkham
(GW) Core Manager



Wendy Davis
(GW) NILB Support

Core Objectives & Aims

- To promote and support innovative, collaborative, and multidisciplinary HIV research that is pertinent to the epidemic in Washington, DC
- To lead a dynamic mentoring program for early stage and transitioning HIV investigators with an emphasis on women and underrepresented minorities
- To provide educational and networking activities that promote multidisciplinary and cross-institutional collaboration in HIV research
- Research Awards Programs:
 - **Traditional Pilot**
 - Transitioning Investigators
 - Academic Community Partnership
 - Rapid response – MPX, COVID-19
 - Microgrants
- Mentoring Program
- Education and Training

DC CFAR Scientific Cores Services

Cores	Services
Basic Sciences	High-impact laboratory services (including Virologic and molecular, Immunological, Sequencing and Imaging services). Training in techniques and assay. Consultations , manuscript preparation, and grant application support.
Clinical Population Sciences	Consultations , manuscript preparation, study design, and biostatistical analysis . Access to longitudinal HIV Cohorts for research and collaborations (DC Cohort, MACS/WIHS Combined Cohort Study, STAR cohort)
Social and Behavioral Sciences	Services supporting the development of new grant applications (Peer review sessions, consultations, statistical analysis, manuscript preparation). Access to Social and Behavioral Instruments (SABI) database. Access to best practices guide for researcher-community collaboration and disseminating results.

DC CFAR Scientific Working Groups (SWGs) and Scientific Interest Groups (SIGs)

SIG/SWG	Group Name	Leads	Meeting Times	Contact?
SWG	Ending the HIV Epidemic	Amanda Castel, Clover Barnes, Abby Charles	TBD	cristian.mendezagomez@gwu.edu
SWG	HIV Cure	Rebecca Lynch, Alberto Bosque, Toni Young	TBD	cristian.mendezagomez@gwu.edu
SIG	Drug User Health	Irene Kuo, Monica Ruiz, George Kerr, Toni Young	2 nd Wednesday of the month, 12-1 PM	cristian.mendezagomez@gwu.edu
SIG	Women and HIV	Rachel Scott, Mimi Ghosh, J'Mia Edwards, Tranessa Hanson	3 rd Wednesday of the month, 4-5 PM	vkirkham@gwu.edu
SIG	Latina/o/x* <i>Consolidated with MACC Latinx Working Group</i>	Nina Yamanis, Angela Suarez	TBD	cristian.mendezagomez@gwu.edu
SIG	Aging and Comorbidities	Anne Monroe, Marta Catalfamo, Wallace Corbett, Moises Agosto	TBD	cristian.mendezagomez@gwu.edu
SIG	Global	Natella Rakhmanina, Julie Pulerwitz, Khadijah Abdullah	3 rd Thursday of the month, 12-1 PM	vkirkham@gwu.edu
SIG	Sexual and Gender Minorities	Jonathon Rendina, Christian Morris, SaVanna Wanzer	TBD	orourkea@email.gwu.edu

Community Partnership Council (CPC)



George Kerr III (GW)
CPC Chair
Community
Coordinator

- Community Partnership Council (formerly the Community Advisory Board)
 - Prominent members and leaders of the DC HIV community
 - Leaders of various DC HIV community-based organizations (CBOs)
 - Representatives of the HIV research CABs of DC CFAR institutions
- The CPC's active participation is one of the hallmarks of the DC CFAR
 - Participate in DC CFAR CPC meetings
 - Review and provide input on articles and publications
 - Review pilot award applications
 - Participate in pilot award consultation calls
 - Review and provide input on research applications
 - Participate in and present at meetings and conferences
 - Assist in the implementation of research studies
 - Engage with the community on CPC and related activities
 - Provide the unique perspective of the various communities represented on the CPC

OVERVIEW OF THE TRADITIONAL PILOT AWARD PROGRAM

Traditional Pilot Awards Program – Spring 2024

- Aims to provide pilot funds on a competitive basis for a one year period to HIV/AIDS investigators to assist them in the development of their NIH-funded research careers
 - Scope includes NIH-defined high priority HIV/AIDS research areas
 - Awards up to \$75,000
 - Pre-submission is required to submit a full application
 - Special consideration will be given to applications in the focus areas of the DC CFAR Scientific Working Groups (SWGs) and Scientific Interests Groups (SIGs).
- Timeline:

Procedure/Activity	Due Date
Release of RFA	January 31, 2024
Pre-submission Form	5 PM ET, February 21, 2024
Consultation Call Completion	Mid-March 2024
Core Service Request	Mid-March 2024
Specific Aims Review	Early April 2024
Full Application	5 PM ET, April 22, 2024
Application Review	May 2024
Anticipated Project Start	June 1, 2024

Fall 2023 Pilot Award Recipients!



Randi Williams, Georgetown University

Optimizing lung cancer control strategies for people with HIV



Bethel Woldu, Georgetown University

Myocardial dysfunction on cardiac MRI and echocardiography in PLWH and correlates with serological biomarkers



Ellen Yeung, George Washington University

An investigation of the multimorbidity of substance misuse, cognitive impairment, and chronic pain among people living with HIV over the age of 50.

Recent Pilot Award Recipients



**Seshagiri Nandula, Veterans Affairs;
Spring 2023**
Effect of HIV medications on cardiometabolic health in African American Veterans.

**Lee Campbell, Georgetown University;
Fall 2021**
Identifying the effects of contemporary opioids on HIV proviral transcription and neuronal functionality



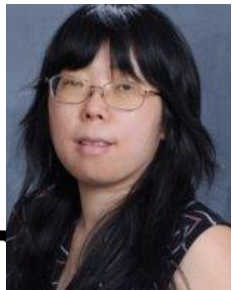
**Michael Thomas, Howard University;
Fall 2022**
Novel Strategy to Develop Ad-based HIV-1 vaccine

**Alexander Zestos, American University;
Spring 2021**
Assessments of potential impacts of cognitive deficits on drug use and their implications for HIV intravenous drug users



**Kellan Baker, Whitman-Walker Institute;
Spring 2022**
Developing Best Practices for Integrating HIV Prevention into Gender-Affirming Care for Transgender Adults

**Yan Wang, George Washington University;
Spring 2021**
Substance use, mental health problems, and HIV outcomes among female sex workers



Request for Application (RFA)



District of Columbia Center for AIDS Research (DC CFAR) Traditional Pilot Awards Program Request for Applications – Spring 2024

The District of Columbia Center for AIDS Research (DC CFAR) is pleased to announce the Spring 2024 cycle of soliciting research proposals through its Traditional Pilot Awards Program. *The goal of this program is to provide pilot research funds to early stage and new HIV/AIDS investigators to collect preliminary data that will enable them to then compete successfully for NIH funding in HIV/AIDS research as principal investigators.* This program provides funding of up to **\$75,000 (no indirect costs)** to support research-related activities such as partial salary support for *early stage investigators*, research staff or students; supplies and reagents; participant incentives; and travel expenses (requires pre-approval) to attend national scientific meetings to present research related to the DC CFAR award. The number of awards that are funded will depend on the number and quality of submissions and on the availability of funds. Awards will be made for a one-year period (June 1, 2024 – May 31, 2025), with well justified no-cost extensions considered for a maximum of one additional year.

Scope: Projects must have a focus on HIV/AIDS and related opportunistic illnesses and on the [NIH-defined high priority HIV/AIDS research areas](#), which broadly include: *HIV cure research; reducing HIV/AIDS incidence; the next generation of HIV therapies; HIV-associated comorbidities, coinfections, and complications; and cross cutting areas of basic research and health disparities.* [Clinical trials](#) and studies involving new drugs, treatments, or devices **cannot** be funded by the DC CFAR. Collaborations are also strongly encouraged with the [DC Cohort](#), the [Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study/Women's Interagency HIV Study Combined Cohort](#). Special consideration will be given to applications in the focus areas of the and the [DC CFAR Scientific Working Groups \(SWGs\)](#) in *HIV Cure research and Ending the HIV Epidemic* and [Scientific Interests Groups \(SIGs\)](#) in *Drug User Health; Women and HIV; Aging and Comorbidities; Latina/x/o; Global HIV; and Sexual and Gender Minorities*.

Eligibility: Principal Investigators (PI) must: have a terminal degree; hold a current academic faculty appointment at one of the [DC CFAR collaborating institutions](#); be eligible to submit NIH grant applications through their home institution's office of research; and be an [investigator member](#) of the DC CFAR. For membership information, please visit the [DC CFAR website](#). PIs can either be [Early Stage Investigators](#) or [New Investigators](#) as defined by NIH, and must be at the rank of Instructor, Research Scientist, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Full Professor. Clinical fellows are not eligible to apply as PIs. Investigators who have a current DC CFAR Pilot or Transitioning Investigator Award or have ever received one of these awards **are not** eligible to apply and are encouraged to apply directly to the NIH. Applications are especially solicited from newly hired faculty from gender, racial, and ethnic groups who are underrepresented in the HIV research field.

Application Process: Interested applicants are required to submit a [pre-submission form](#) through the DC CFAR website, participate in the consultation call and submit a [full application](#) to lsegarra@qwu.edu by the due dates listed below. Late applications will not be accepted. Full applications must be routed through DC CFAR collaborating institutions' Office of Sponsored Research Projects, or parallel office, for signature. Investigators at GW do not need to route their applications. Resubmission applications will be accepted from investigators who applied for a previous round of the pilot awards program but did not receive funding. Potential applicants should note that this is a highly competitive program with a rigorous review process. Applications will be



Eligibility Information

- The funds are provided to support studies from early stage or new/transitioning investigators
- Faculty investigators at 9 participating DC CFAR institutions are eligible to apply as PI
- Resubmissions are allowed (if you were not selected for funding)
- DC CFAR Full Membership – not a member? Submit your request [here!](#)

Application Instructions

Pre-Application	Full Application
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Pre-Submission Form✓ Consultation Call✓ Specific Aims Review✓ Mentorship✓ Core Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Complete application form (and required components)✓ Investigators (not GW) must route their grant applications through their OSP for signature

Application Instructions

Form Approved Through 02/28/2023

OMB No. 0925-0001

Department of Health and Human Services Public Health Services Grant Application <i>Do not exceed character length restrictions indicated.</i>		LEAVE BLANK—FOR PHS USE ONLY.	
		Type	Activity
		Review Group	Number
		Council/Board (Month, Year)	Formerly
			Date Received
1. TITLE OF PROJECT <i>(Do not exceed 81 characters, including spaces and punctuation.)</i>			
2. RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS OR PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT OR SOLICITATION <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES <i>(If "Yes," state number and title)</i>			
Number:		Title:	
3. PROGRAM DIRECTOR/PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR			
3a. NAME (Last, first, middle)		3b. DEGREE(S)	3h. eRA Commons User Name
3c. POSITION TITLE		3d. MAILING ADDRESS <i>(Street, city, state, zip code)</i>	
3e. DEPARTMENT, SERVICE, LABORATORY, OR EQUIVALENT			
3f. MAJOR SUBDIVISION			
3g. TELEPHONE AND FAX <i>(Area code, number and extension)</i>			
TEL:		E-MAIL ADDRESS:	
FAX:			
4. HUMAN SUBJECTS RESEARCH <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		4a. Research Exempt If "Yes," Exemption No. <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
4b. Federal-Wide Assurance No.		4c. Clinical Trial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
		4d. NIH-defined Phase III Clinical Trial <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
5. VERTEBRATE ANIMALS <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes		5a. Animal Welfare Assurance No.	
6. DATES OF PROPOSED PERIOD OF		7. COSTS REQUESTED FOR INITIAL	8. COSTS REQUESTED FOR PROPOSED

Review of Applications

- NIH Criteria (overall impact, significance, investigators, innovation, approach, and environment) and community impact
- DC CFAR Scientific Review Committee
 - 4 Non-conflicted reviewers - 3 scientific experts and 1 CPC Member
- Summary Statement will be provided

Award Guidelines

- Institutional Review Board (IRB) and Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC) Approval, and Ethical Oversight
- Fiscal Management
- Reporting and Compliance

Tips from the Developmental Core




- Read the RFA!
- Prepare early and identify services offered by the DC CFAR Scientific Cores and collaboration with local cohorts and SIGs/SWGs.
- Mentorship is key.
- Your Specific Aims page is central to your application.
- Resubmissions are welcome.
- Community engagement is essential.

Resources - [Dropbox](#)

DC CFAR Research Awards Resources

[Copy to Dropbox](#)

[Download](#)

Name	Modified	⋮
 1. DC CFAR Research Awards FAQ 27July23.docx	7/27/2023 1:18 pm	
 2. Guidelines and Examples	--	
 3. Resources for Grant Development	--	

QUESTIONS?

CONTACT US!

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Natella Rakhmanina NRakhman@childrensnational.org

Lorena Segarra lsegarra@gwu.edu
Vivian Kirkham vkirkham@gwu.edu
Wendy Davis wendywdavis@gwu.edu

**WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR
FEEDBACK!**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VX27B9B>