Background:
The Mid-Atlantic CFAR Consortium (MACC) is a collaborative effort between Centers for AIDS Research (CFARs) in Washington, DC (DC CFAR), Baltimore, MD (Johns Hopkins University CFAR), and Philadelphia, PA (University of Pennsylvania CFAR). With a focus on interdisciplinary collaboration that addresses the profound HIV epidemic in the Mid-Atlantic region, the MACC strives to better understand our shared epidemic through research in order to inform the development and study of promising interventions to reduce HIV incidence and address disparities in the care continuum among highly impacted populations.

The MACC is proud to offer three inaugural scholarship opportunities (one per CFAR) in 2018 to support the development of researchers with an interest in HIV in underrepresented populations, and encourage their development as HIV investigators. The program will provide competitively selected applicants the following support:

- Mentoring by senior faculty from each of the CFARs in research development and dissemination activities.
- Guidance in identifying a research question that will address the Mid-Atlantic HIV epidemic using either existing data (which MACC investigators will support obtaining) or through primary data collection that can occur over a maximum of 4 months with a limited pilot funds budget.
- Support towards dissemination of completed research at CROI (or equivalent conference).
- Mentoring support in writing a K or R-series research strategy for submission based on work accomplished during the Scholar’s tenure.
- Access to applicable MACC CFAR services and resources.
- Up to 10% FTE for one year.
- Budget to allow travel to one scientific conference, leadership and/or scientific training, and visits to each of the CFARs outside of the Scholar’s home location.

Area of research interest should inform the development of promising interventions to reduce HIV incidence and address disparities in the care continuum among highly impacted populations. Basic science applications will not be considered in this round of awards.
**Eligibility requirements:**

In order to be eligible, applicants:

- Must be eligible to receive funds from a MACC affiliated CFAR institution.
- Must be within 5 years of receipt of PhD, MD, ScD, DrPH, DNP, or other doctoral level
degree, completion of first post-doctoral fellowship, or first medical residency at the
time applications are due. Alternately, can demonstrate need for research mentoring in
this field of study.
- Must be able to conduct the technical elements required by the individual research
  question of interest (e.g., analytic training will not be provided).
- Have the support of the Scholar’s current employer, so that they will allow adequate
time to participate in the MACC Scholar’s program. This includes research activities,
  travel as to work with mentors in the Mid-Atlantic region, to attend MACC meetings,
  and to attend the funded scientific conference. Applicants may be affiliated with
  academic or non-academic institutions provided adequate time for training is permitted.

Importantly, members of underrepresented racial/ethnic minority communities and those who
are also of minority sexual orientation and/or gender identity are strongly encouraged to apply.
The NIH guidance regarding such underrepresented racial/ethnic minority communities

**Timeline:**

- September 15, 2017: LOIs are due to maccscholaraward@gmail.com.
- September 20, 2017: Applicant feedback on LOI.
- November 1, 2017: Applications are due to maccscholaraward@gmail.com.
- December 15, 2017: Applicants are notified of outcome of review.
- January 1, 2018: Project start date.

**Letter of intent:**

A brief (approximately 200 words) statement of research interest in the HIV epidemic in the
Mid-Atlantic region that highlights how the MACC Scholar program would support the
Scholar’s next steps in a research trajectory in this area.

**Application:**

Please submit the following in one pdf document to maccscholaraward@gmail.com. Details are
provided on the Application Checklist (Appendix I):

- Current cv
• Personal statement
• One of the following:
  o One page specific aims describing study of interest to be conducted during the
    MACC Scholar year OR
  o One page description of interest in and experience with local epidemic
• Requested budget and budget justification. Sample budget and budget justification are
  provided as Appendix II and Appendix III
• Letter of support from direct supervisor.

**Review process:**

Applications to the MACC Scholar Program will be competitively reviewed by faculty at
participating CFAR institutions. Criteria for review include feasibility of study, relevance of
research questions, methods for ensuring adequate community support and, if relevant,
engagement, positive fit between potential available mentors and Scholar. All participants will
receive a brief summary statement providing feedback on their application.

One of the key goals of the MACC Scholars Program is to provide junior scientists with training
and mentorship that will support their eventual achievement in HIV research that will impact
the Mid-Atlantic region. In view of this, scholars otherwise without academic mentorship will be
given priority over those already affiliated with academic institutions or those who have had
access to training programs.
Appendix I: Application Checklist

Please be sure that all of the information is contained in one pdf document in the following order. Use single spaced, 11 point Arial font for all documents.

- Cover letter
- Current cv containing
  - Home and professional contact information
  - Educational and professional history
  - Peer reviewed publications and presentations
  - Sponsored projects applied for, pending, funded, and completed
  - Prior training awards or mentorship program participation.
- Up to one page personal statement describing short, intermediate, and long term career goals that will be supported by participation in the MACC Scholar program
- One of the following:
  - One page specific aims describing study of interest to be conducted during the MACC Scholar year OR
  - One page description of interest in and experience with local epidemic
- Requested budget and budget justification.
  - Up to $15,000 for one year to include support for salary and research-related travel or support.
  - Salary should include institution’s fringe and indirect rates, if required by the Scholar’s institution or employer; the maximum per scholar per year is $15,000 total. If the institution or employer has agreed to forego or cost share fringe or indirect costs, they should include this information in their letter of support.
  - Sample budget and budget justification are provided as Appendix II and Appendix III.
- If working with a community partner, appropriate letter of support
- Letter of support from direct supervisor.

Appendix II: Sample Budget

The maximum amount scholars can request is $15,000. This is a one year program; one one-year, no cost extension may be requested but is not guaranteed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salary (10% of $70,000 gross annual salary or 5% of $140,00 gross annual salary)</td>
<td>$ 7,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fringe rate (28%) (No IDC charged)</td>
<td>$ 1,960.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs for travel to CROI</td>
<td>$ 2,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds for pilot survey</td>
<td>$ 2,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds for local inter-CFAR travel</td>
<td>$ 1,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Notes about the budget:

- Applicants do not have to request FTE or request the maximum funding. A realistic budget should be proposed.
- Applicants fully covered by sponsored research must work closely with their home institution to ensure that effort certification requirements are met and there is no conflict with existing projects or disallowed overlap.

Appendix III: Sample Budget Justification

Funds for Dr. [x] are requested to support 10% of Dr. X’s annual salary and fringe at a rate of [x%] as established by [institution]. Four hours per week will be dedicated to the Scholar to conduct work specific to the MACC Scholars Program.

Travel funds for CROI are requested. These include [$xxx] for airfare, [$xxx] for hotel, [$xxx] for registration, and [$xxx] for per diem [$xxx] based on [xxx].

Monies for the proposed pilot survey of [xxx] are requested. These funds include software [$xxx], incentives for participants [$xxx], copies for consents and related office supplies [$xxx], and ...

Travel funds are requested to allow local travel to each of the two other CFARs and include train fare [$xxx], hotel fare [$xxx], per diem [$xxx] based on [xxx].

Questions about the MACC Scholar Program? Email maccscholaraward@gmail.com.