DC CENTER FOR AIDS RESEARCH PILOT AWARDS 101

February 4, 2022



Welcome and agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- DC CFAR Overview
- Pilot Awards Program Overview
- Open Discussion & Questions
- Closing at 1:30 PM



INTRODUCTIONS



OVERVIEW OF THE DC CFAR



NIH-Funded Centers for AIDS Research in the US



Network of 17 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 eight 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.



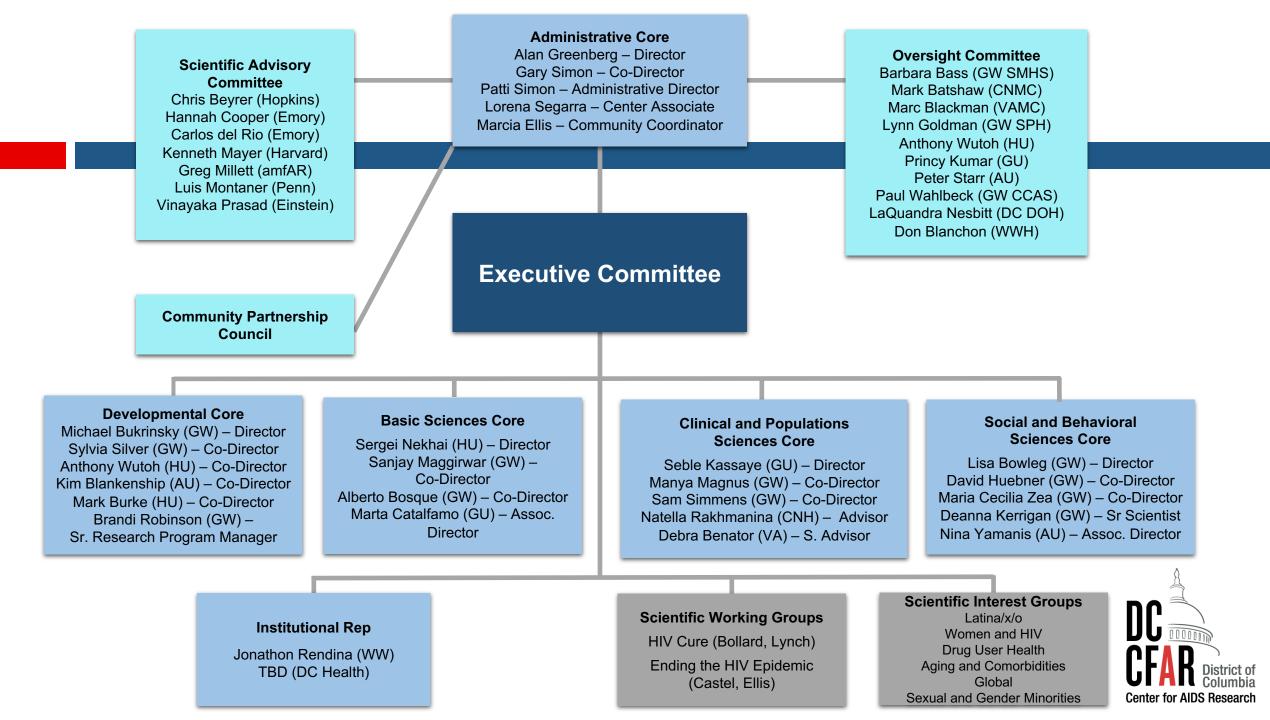
DC Center for AIDS Research 2010-2021

Mission: Intensify our multi-institutional effort to support research that contributes to ending the HIV epidemic in Washington, DC and beyond in partnership with government and community.





123 NIH HIV awards received Cumulative FRB of \$190M supported



DC CFAR Executive Committee

Administrative



Alan Greenberg (GW) Director



Gary Simon (GW) Co-Director



Sylvia Silver Michael Bukrinsky (GW) Co-Director (HU) Co-Director (GW) Director



Developmental



Mark Burke Kim Blankenship (HU) Co-Director (AU) Co-Director

Institutional Rep



Jonathon Rendina (WW)



Sergei Nekhai (HU) Director



Basic Sciences

Sanjay Maggirwar (GW) Co-Director

Alberto Bosque Marta Catalfamo (GW) Co-Director (GU) Assoc. Director

Social and Behavioral Sciences



(GW) Director

Maria Cecilia Zea

(GW) Co-Director





Deanna Kerrigan (GW) Co-Director (AU) Assoc. Director (GW) Sr. Scientist



Seble Kassave Manya Magnus (GW) Co-Director (GW) Co-Director (GU) Director

Clinical and Population Sciences

Sam Simmens



Natella Rakhmanina Debra Benator (CN) Scientific (VA) Scientific Advisor







Amanda Castel (GW) Lead

Center for AIDS Research



Cath Bollard (CN) Lead





Rebecca Lynch (GW) Co-Lead

HIV Cure SWG

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



Administrative Core – Core A





Alan Greenberg Gary Simon (GW) Director (GW) Co-Director

Patti Simon (GW) Administrative Director



Lorena Segarra (GW) Center Associate



Vivian Kirkham (GW) Program Assistant

Leadership and governance

- Greenberg (PI)
- Strategic planning and decision-making
- Convenes EC, OC, SAC and CPC meetings
- Leads/supports recruitment efforts

Multi-disciplinary science

Organize citywide events, SWGs, SIGs and Inter-CFAR activities

Administrative oversight and fiscal management

- Grants awarded to/managed within Core A
- Creates overall annual budgets (in consultation with the Cores)
- Issues sub-awards

Collaboration and communication

- Promote scientific programming
- NIH program officers and NIH grants management
- CFAR institutions' business offices
- Website, Weekly Update, Social Media and Special Announcements



Developmental Core – Core B



Michael Bukrinsky (GW) Director



Sylvia Silver (GW) Co-Director

Anthony Wutoh (HU) Co-Director



Kim Blankenship (AU) Co-Director



Mark Burke Brandi Robinson (HU) Co-Director (GW) Senior Research Program Manager



Vivian Kirkham (GW) Core Manager

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

Pilot Awards Program

- Early Stage and New Investigators awards up to \$50K
- Competitive awards program
- Two cycles each year, spring and fall

Microgrants

- Competitive, small grants, \$2,500 \$5,000
- Core services (all CFAR investigators)
- Publication fees, poster printing, travel to scientific conferences (pilot award and NIH supplement recipients)

Mentoring Program

- Developing research ideas
- Implementing a research project
- · Grant application and manuscript preparation

Education and Training

- Grant writing workshops
- Research Seminars
- Journal Club Webinars
- Mixers



Basic Sciences Core – Core C



Sergei Nekhai (HU) Director

Sanjay Maggirwar (GW) Alberto Bosque (GW) Co-Director Co- Director



Marta Catalfamo (GU) Assoc. Director



Cara Thompson (GW) Core Manager

High impact laboratory services

- Virologic and molecular services
- Immunological services
- Sequencing services
- Imaging services

Training to investigators in techniques and assays

- Core Providers Day
- Lab Open Houses
- Resources for training opportunities

Consultations

- Manuscript preparation
- Grant application support



Clinical and Population Sciences Core – Core D





Manya Magnus

Seble Kassaye (GU) Director



Sam Simmens (GW) Co-Director (GW) Co-Director

Comprehensive clinical, epidemiological, and biostatistical research services

- Consultations
- Manuscript preparation
- Study design •
- **Biostatistical analysis**

Access to longitudinal HIV Cohorts for research and collaborations

- DC Cohort
- MACS-WIHS Combined Cohort Study (MWCCS)
- Seronegative Cohort (new)



Social and Behavioral Sciences Core – Core E



Lisa Bowleg (GW) Director



Maria Cecilia Zea (GW) David Huebner (GW) Co-Director Co- Director



Nina Yamanis (AU) Assoc. Director



Allison O'Rourke (GW) Core Manager

Services supporting development of new grant applications

- Peer review sessions
- Consultations
- Statistical analysis
- Manuscript preparation

Networking and building collaborations

• Mixers, mini-conferences, virtual coffee hours

Education, training, and resources

• Social and Behavioral Instruments (SABI) database

Community-engaged research

Best practices for researcher-community collaboration and disseminating results



Community Partnership Council (CPC)



George Kerr CPC Chair

- 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 community on CPC and related activities
 - Provide the unique perspective of the various communities represented on the variou



OVERVIEW OF PILOT AWARDS PROGRAM



Pilot Awards Program

- Aims to provide pilot funds on a competitive basis to HIV/AIDS investigators to assist them in the development of their NIH-funded research careers
 - Scope includes basic, clinical, epidemiologic, social behavioral, and prevention HIV/AIDS science
 - Two RFA cycles per year Spring & Fall; typically award 7-8 per year
 - Awards up to \$50,000
 - Faculty investigators at 8 participating DC CFAR institutions are eligible to apply as PI
 - The funds are provided to support early stage or new/transitioning investigators, with an emphasis on women and underrepresented minorities
 - Applications reviewed by 3 peer reviewers and 1 CPC member
- RFA was released on January 25, 2022
 - Pre-submission forms are due February 17 and are required to submit a full application
 - Strongly encourage applications that focus on the DC CFAR priorities of HIV Cure Research; Ending the HIV Epidemic; Women & HIV; Drug User Health; Global; Latina/x/o; Aging and Comorbidities; Sexual and Gender Minorities
 - Applications also strongly encouraged with other large NIH-funded HIV studies in DC including the Multicenter AIDS Cohort Study/Women's Interagency HIV Study Combined Cohort Study (MACS/WIHS CCS), and the DC Cohort



Recent Pilot Award Recipients



Lee Campbell, Georgetown University; Fall 2021

Identifying the effects of contemporary opioids on HIV proviral transcription and neuronal functionality



Donaldson Conserve, George Washington University; Fall 2021 Developing Confirmatory HIV Testing and Linkage to Care Intervention Strategies for Men in Tanzania



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



Ruth Kanthula, Georgetown University; Fall 2020

Prevalence of subclinical atherosclerosis among female adolescent and young adults with perinatally acquired HIV infection



Recent Award Recipients New to HIV



Georges Haddad, Howard University; Fall 2021 Effects of cART on the Heart



Mark Laubach, American University; Spring 2021 Effects of HIV1 Tat and Antiretroviral Therapy on the Rodent Frontal Cortex

Alexander Zestos, American University; Spring 2021

Assessments of potential impacts of cognitive deficits on drug use and their implications for HIV intravenous drug users



Thomas Heinbockel, Howard University; Fall 2020

HIV Tat Protein in CB1 Receptor-Mediated Signaling in Central Olfactory Circuits





DC CFAR Pilot Award Experience – Sarah Calabrese, PhD

- 2017 Pilot Award: Optimizing PrEP Social Marketing to Black MSM in DC to Raise Awareness and Uptake
 - PI: S. K. Calabrese
 - Co-Is: M. C. Zea, M. Magnus, V. Patel, J. F. Dovidio, M. Kharfen
- Application Process
 - Supportive
 - Developmental core consultation
 - Stats consultation
 - Comprehensive
 - Practice writing NIH R-series grant app
- Implementation Process
 - Presentation to/feedback from Executive Committee
 - Responsive and resourceful when (numerous) roadblocks encountered



DC CFAR Pilot Award Experience

Outcomes

Academic Presentations

- Boone, C.A.⁺, Modrakovic, D.⁺, Rao, S.⁺, Galvao, R., Kalwicz, D.⁺, Wilbourn, B.⁺, Patel, V., Zea, M.C., Dovidio, J., Kharfen, M., Magnus, M., Poppen, P.J., Yeung, E.W., Bowleg, L., Calabrese, S.K., Factors associated with Black MSM's participation in biomedical HIV research, Biomedical HIV Prevention Summit, 2020 Dec, [virtual conference].
- Calabrese, S.K., Dovidio, J.F., Patel, V.V., Modrakovic, D.†, Boone, C.A.†, Galvao, R.W., Rao, S.†, Kalwicz, D.†, Wilbourn, B.†, Kharfen, M., Magnus, M., & Zea, M.C., The stigmatizing effect of "targeting" US Black men who have sex with men in the social marketing of PrEP: A mixed methods study, XXIII International AIDS Conference, 2020 Jul, [virtual conference].

Non-Academic Presentations

- Calabrese, S.K., Online Survey Data Collection: Lessons Learned and Recommendations, Adelante Scholars Webinar, Washington, DC [virtual], 2020 Jul
 - Also presented at DC CFAR Social and Behavioral Sciences Coffee Hour
- Calabrese, S.K., Targeted Social Marketing of PrEP May Inadvertently Perpetuate Stigma, AIDS Foundation. Chicago, Chicago, IL, Chicago, IL [virtual], 2020 Oct

Manuscripts in Preparation

- Calabrese, S.K., Dovidio, J.F., Patel, V.V., Modrakovic, D.†, Boone, C.A.†, Galvao, R.W., Rao, S.†, Kalwicz, D.†, Wilbourn, B.†, Kharfen, M., Magnus, M., & Zea, M.C., The stigmatizing effect of "targeting" US Black men who have sex with men in the social marketing of PrEP: A mixed methods study.
- Modrakovic, D.†... Calabrese, S.K. Dissecting the onion: Identifying and remediating issues surrounding data validity in online survey research



DC DOUDDING CFAR District of Columbia Center for AIDS Research

† Student/Mentee

Other DC CFAR Experience

Involvement

- Sexual and Gender Minority Scientific Working Group
- Social and Behavioral Sciences Core
- Pilot grant peer review
- Consultations
 - Grant
 - Statistics
- Didactic Opportunities
 - Seminars, conferences, etc.
- Funding Opportunities
 - Administrative supplement award
- Networking
 - Local research resources (e.g., DC Cohort)
 - New collaborations

C	ORIGINAL PAPER	Check for
A tł	Pptimizing Provider Preexposure Pro Cross-Sectional Analysis of Recomm he PrEP Implementation Cascade	nendations from Providers Across
Na Ke	haranya Rao ¹ ⊙ • Ashley E. Reed ¹ • Benjamin Parchem ¹ athan B. Hansen ⁴ • Trace S. Kershaw ⁵ • Valerie A. Earnsh enneth H. Mayer ^{7,8} • Kristen Underhill ¹⁰ • Joshua G. Ros arah K. Calabrese ^{1,14}	- E. Jennifer Edelman ⁴ - Manya Magnus ³ - naw ⁶ · Douglas S. Krakower ^{7,8} · John F. Dovidio ⁹ · .enberger ¹¹ · Damon F. Ogburn ¹² · Joseph R. Betancourt ¹³ ·
	cepted: 9 July 2021 The Author(s), under exclusive licence to Springer Science+Business Me	edia, LLC, part of Springer Nature 2021
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QUESTIONS?



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