

## **NCI Guidelines for ARRA Research and Research Infrastructure Grand Opportunities: Exploratory Research in the Development of Vaccines for AIDS-associated Malignancies**

**Announcement Number:** RFA-OD-09-004

**Title:** Recovery Act Limited Competition for NIH Grants: Research and Research Infrastructure “Grand Opportunities” (RC2)

The NCI is participating in the Research and Research Infrastructure Grand Opportunities (GO) Program (RFA-OD-09-004; RC2 grant), which has been issued by the NIH to support research on high impact ideas that lend themselves to short-term, non-renewable funding, and may lay the foundation for new fields of investigation. Through its participation on this and other related funding initiatives, the NCI is committed to fulfilling the goals of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to help stimulate the economy through support of biomedical and behavioral research. Additional information the Recovery Act and related NIH opportunities is available through the Office of Extramural Research.

### **Areas of Scientific Priority:**

Given both the need for vaccines and the paucity of ongoing research efforts directed at vaccine development targeting HIV-associated malignancies, the NCI hereby adds a specific topic as part of its participation on RFA-OD-09-004 in order to stimulate early exploratory research efforts in either preventative or therapeutic vaccine development for infectious causes of cancer (KSHV/HHV8, EBV, HCV, MCPyV, and HPV of the types not present in the current vaccine) or HIV. Novel approaches solely focusing on HIV are not excluded. This initiative is meant to cover the breadth of vaccine development from basic science studies, through animal model development, to preclinical studies. However, it will not support clinical trials. Proposed areas of study include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Generation of protective antibodies in pseudo viral particles;
- Production of neutralizing antibodies;
- Candidate protein vaccines with novel epitopes;
- Novel epitopes and other approaches for protective immunity;
- Targeting of HIV co-receptors;
- Novel conserved epitopes around the HIV’s co-receptor binding site;
- Immunological protections for immunity;
- Novel immune adjuvants;
- HIV-1 envelope immunogens for induction of broadly cross-reactive antibody responses;
- Approaches that will exploit innate intracellular immune factor (e.g., APOBEC3G, Trim5- $\alpha$ );

- Determine the interactions between HIV structural and non-structural proteins with oncogenic viruses that may boost an immune response;
- Determine the immunological mechanisms involved between co-infection with HIV and one or more oncogenic viruses (EBV, KSHV/HHV8, HCV, MCPyV, and HPV);
- Innate immune surveillance of HIV-associated malignancies and ways to boost innate immunity in the context of HIV infection;
- Novel ideas for a preventative HIV vaccine;
- Development of animal models for HIV-associated malignancies or HIV to test vaccine candidates; and
- Development and assessment of therapeutic vaccine strategies to reduce the risk or prevent the development of HIV-associated malignancies.

### **Funding Priorities:**

Overall, NCI expects to devote up to \$10,000,000 for this specific effort. It is part of NCI's participation in the Grand Opportunity Program [RFA-OD-09-004](#).

The budget cap for each award proposal is \$500K in total costs per year.

### **Application Guidelines:**

Applications for NCI funds supporting the scientific areas listed above **MUST** follow the guidelines listed in [RFA-OD-09-004](#).

### **Key Dates ([RFA-OD-09-004](#)):**

Letters of Intent Receipt Date:	April 27, 2009
Application Receipt Date:	May 27, 2009
Peer Review Date:	June/July 2009
Council Review Date:	August 2009
Earliest Anticipated Start Date:	September 30, 2009
Expiration Date:	May 28, 2009

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