



George R. Seage, III Pediatric HIV/AIDS Cohort Study (PHACS) Early Career Investigator Mentored Research Award Program Application

Deadline Extended to Monday, September 13, 2021

About George R. Seage, III: Dr. George Seage was a beloved Professor of Epidemiology at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health and one of the founding members of the PHACS network. George was a passionate advocate for research on HIV prevention and treatment using novel epidemiologic methods, and was a deeply committed mentor to many early career investigators, in PHACS and beyond. The PHACS Early Career Investigator Award was dedicated to George's memory in the Spring of 2021. To read more about George, his accomplishments, and his legacy please see the PHACS In Memoriam Page at: <https://phacsstudy.org/About-Us/Memoriam>.

Goal: This program supports the development of Early Career Investigators to enter the field of maternal/child, adolescent, or young adult HIV research while advancing the mission of the PHACS network (<http://phacsstudy.org>). In coordination with a mentor, applicants should propose a project that takes advantage of existing data and samples generated by PHACS protocols or propose scientific research that furthers the primary objectives of the PHACS network studies.

Eligibility: An Early Career Investigator is within 10 years of completion of training (from terminal degree or residency/fellowship training) and is currently a research fellow, instructor/lecturer, assistant professor, or equivalent at their institution. We encourage applications from underrepresented minority applicants. While not a requirement, we also encourage applications that explore the impact of social determinants of health on study participants and their families.

Funding: One award (two, if funds are available) with a total cost (direct + indirect) of \$50,000/year for up to 2 years is available. We will provide support in twelve-month periods but funding will be



incremental to align with the PHACS grant year (ending 7/31). A second year of support may be provided contingent upon a review of the awardee's progress in Year 1. (Progress and final reports will be submitted at the end of Year 1 and Year 2, respectively.)

Funding may be used to cover salary support for the Early Career Investigator and/or other project expenses (e.g., specimen testing, data collection). The budget must include support to attend the annual PHACS Network Meeting (a 2-day meeting) and one other HIV-related conference, such as the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI), for each year of the funding period. The Investigator, with the support of their mentor, may seek additional funding, including a request for discretionary funds from the PHACS Scientific Administrative Core (SAC) to cover other research and equipment costs, but the proposal should not be contingent upon additional funding. Upon funding of the proposal, the PHACS Data Resources Core (DRC) will provide data management support and will assign an epidemiologist or statistician to provide input on methods, perform data analyses, and collaborate on and support manuscript preparation.

Focus: Submissions should be aligned with the focus of at least one of the PHACS working groups as outlined at the following web link: <https://phacsstudy.org/Our-Research/Areas-of-Focus>

Requests for protocol documents may be sent to PHACS@hsph.harvard.edu.

Proposals may utilize data and/or samples from other studies in addition to PHACS and are encouraged to consider the NICHD Data and Specimen Hub (DASH) (<https://dash.nichd.nih.gov/>) (i.e. to propose analysis of data and/or testing of samples from both PHACS *and* another study). Please note that applicants may make use of the existing whole-genome sequencing data available for many of the AMP Up Series study participants.

Key Dates:

- Proposal Submission Due Date: September 13, 2021
- Award Notification Date: October 15, 2021
- Anticipated Funding Start Date: December 15, 2021

Submission of Proposals: Proposals must be submitted to PHACS (PHACS@hsph.harvard.edu) no later than 11:59pm ET on September 13, 2021 with the subject line heading of "Early Career Investigator Application."

Application Format: The application should utilize NIH proposed formats of margins no less than 0.5 inches and Arial 11 point font. Other content and formatting details include:

- I. **Section A:** Applicant and mentor information, including names and contact information (Institution, address, telephone, e-mail).
- II. **Section B. Research Proposal:**

Please include the following information (maximum 3 single-spaced pages):

- Significance, including background literature
- Study objectives



- Study population and data required
- Brief description of study design
- Exposure and outcome measures and potential confounders (if necessary for study design)
- Feasibility assessment (i.e. provide estimated sample size for the analysis and available participant population, however formal analysis plan and power calculations are not required).

III. **Section C. Mentor Plan** (no more than 1000 words): Include timeline and measurable outcomes.

IV. **Section D. Appendices:** The following items should be included as Appendices.

- Appendix 1: References
- Appendix 2: Applicant's and mentor's NIH Biosketches
- Appendix 3: Figures (if applicable)
- Appendix 4: Letters of Support (up to 3)
- Appendix 5: Budget and Justification: Please provide a budget and justification for the entire funding period (total costs = \$ per year). The initial budget period will be **December 15, 2021 – July 31, 2022**, with the remainder of the first year funding to be added when the next fiscal year begins (i.e. Aug 1, 2022). The maximum total annual dollar amount is \$50,000, including applicable indirect costs in accordance with the applicants' institutional approved rate agreement. Please note any outside resources that are available to the Early Career Investigator that may contribute to the success of his or her project; e.g., institutional support, grant or foundation support. If the application is selected for funding, additional institutional budget and administrative documents will be required.
- Appendix 6 (as applicable): If the applicant is a team leader or member of an already approved PHACS capsule or concept, please describe how the investigator's time will be divided between the two projects and provide anticipated timelines for each.

Review Criteria:

The following criteria will be utilized in the review of applications:

- Potential of candidate for a successful career in HIV research
- Importance of proposed research
- Feasibility and relevance to PHACS scientific agenda
- Clarity of presentation
- Strength of the mentor and mentoring plan
- Likelihood of success in the funding period (i.e. delivery of manuscript or other stated end product)

Please contact PHACS@hsph.harvard.edu with any questions or for further information.