



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**U.S. National Institutes of Health, Centers for AIDS Research and International AIDS Society
Announce New Round of Innovative HIV Research Awards**

Saturday, 29 June, 2013 (Geneva, Switzerland)--The International AIDS Society (IAS), in partnership with the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the NIH-supported Centers for AIDS Research (CFARs), today announced the launch of a new round of the joint research grant programme, Creative and Novel Ideas in HIV Research (CNIHR).

The CNIHR grant programme invites innovative proposals from early-stage scientists without prior experience in HIV research with the potential of answering essential questions in HIV research, including emerging issues of long-term survival with HIV infection, prevention of HIV transmission, and research toward a cure. The new round of the CNIHR grant programme builds on the success of previous rounds that supported cutting-edge research in the field of HIV and led to international collaborations. Since the first round in 2010, the programme has awarded more than US\$12.8 million to fund research projects of promising early-stage researchers. Each awardee is funded for up to two years with up to US\$150,000 (direct costs) per year plus applicable indirect costs.

“By competitively funding new, very promising scientists from many disciplines and countries, CNIHR ensures innovation and new approaches to HIV/AIDS research,” said King Holmes, director of the Center for AIDS Research at the University of Washington.

Major breakthroughs in HIV research, such as the functional cure of the “Berlin patient” after stem cell transplantation, are evidence that HIV research can strongly benefit from knowledge and techniques of other disciplines. There is a continuing need to support a new generation of HIV researchers and to encourage those from a variety of disciplines to focus their energy and expertise on the many challenges facing the HIV field.

“The *Towards an HIV Cure* Global Scientific Strategy highlights the need to engage with the next generation of young HIV researchers – this new round of the joint research grant programme is an important part of that process,” said IAS President Françoise Barré-Sinoussi.

The first step of the competitive application process is now open on the CNIHR website (www.cnihr.org) and will close on 16 October 2013. Applicants will be asked to complete a two-step process to outline their research projects. Awardees will be selected by April 2014 and will receive a scholarship to attend a networking and training programme in conjunction with the 20th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2014), which will be held from 20 to 25 July 2014 in Melbourne, Australia, where the grantees will be officially announced. The proposed research projects will be supported in collaboration with a CFARs institution with expertise in each candidate’s area of proposed research.

“The Centers for AIDS Research (CFAR) are critical to the success of CNIHR,” said Michael Saag, Director of CFARs at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. “CFAR leadership has worked closely with the Office of AIDS Research and the IAS to manage the grant reviews and implement the program. It is a great partnership.”

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About the IAS

The **International AIDS Society (IAS)** is the world's leading independent association of HIV professionals, with over 16,000 members from more than 196 countries working at all levels of the global response to AIDS. The IAS members include researchers from all disciplines, clinicians, public health and community practitioners on the frontlines of the epidemic, as well as policy and programme planners.

The IAS is lead organizer of the IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention, which will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 30 June – 3 July 2013 and custodian of the biennial International AIDS Conference, which will be held in Melbourne, Australia, 20-25 July 2014.

www.iasociety.org | www.ias2013.org | www.aids2014.org
[IAS on Facebook](#) | [IAS on LinkedIn](#) | Twitter [@iasociety](#)

About the National Institutes of Health

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), the United States' medical research agency, includes 27 institutes and centres and is a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The NIH is the primary federal agency conducting and supporting basic, clinical and translational medical research, and is investigating the causes, treatments and cures for both common and rare diseases. For more information about the NIH and its programmes, visit www.nih.gov

About the Centers for AIDS Research

The Centers for AIDS Research (CFARs) programme at the NIH provides administrative and shared research support to synergistically enhance and coordinate high-quality AIDS research projects. CFARs accomplish this through core facilities that provide expertise, resources and services not otherwise readily obtained through more traditional funding mechanisms. The CFAR program emphasizes the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration, especially between basic and clinical investigators as well as behavioral scientists to support translational research. The CFAR program also encourages training and mentoring of young investigators as well as an inclusion of women and minorities.. The University of Alabama at Birmingham CFAR, the University of Washington CFAR in Seattle, and the University of California San Francisco CFAR participate in the CNIHR grant programme.

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