Avenir Award Program for Research on Substance Use Disorders and HIV/AIDS

Information for Prospective Applicants

NIDA AIDS Research Program (ARP)
NIDA HIV Avenir Award

- Exclusive to new and/or early stage investigators (ESI)
- Grant mechanism: NIH Director’s New Innovator Award (DP2)
- Established in 2015
- Designed to help launch research careers of promising ESI and ensure a pipeline of investigators with exceptional creativity in solving emerging problems at the nexus of HIV and substance use
- Research scope must align with global NIH HIV research priorities

‘Avenir’ is a French word meaning ‘future’
Eligibility

- Must have **Early Stage Investigator (ESI) status**
  - Completed doctoral degree or postgraduate clinical training within last 10 years and never received substantial NIH independent research award
- Single PI application
  - Multiple PD/PIs (MPI) are **not** allowed
- Effort: At least 25% or three person months
Avenir-DP2 Application

- The HIV Avenir Award is an idea grant!
- Preliminary data allowed but not required
- Requires letters of reference from three referees
- Requires a ten-page essay
  - The essay should provide a compelling narrative that connects research problem + creative thinking (PI) + novel idea + potential impact
Research Areas of Interest 
(including but not limited to)

- Innovative basic, clinical or translational research that may lead to improved therapies for HIV in people who use drugs (PWUD)
- Novel strategies to prevent HIV transmission among PWUD
- Research to reduce the burden of comorbidities in PWUD
- Innovative approaches to eradicating HIV in people with HIV
- Studies using in vitro systems and/or animal models that test the effects of addictive substances on HIV pathogenesis, disease progression, or treatment success
- Studies to develop interventions or treatments that are tailored to people who use drugs.
Review Criteria

✓ Importance of scientific problem and potential impact of research
✓ Innovation in the approach – project should be distinct from PI’s ongoing research
✓ Applicant's potential to make innovative contributions toward an important problem relevant to HIV and SUD research

- Application will be reviewed by a NIDA Special Emphasis Panel (SEP)
- Review includes an interview with the SEP
Helpful Resources

- HIV Avenir Award on ARP Website
- FOA for PAR-20-224: Avenir Award Program for Research on Substance Use Disorders and HIV/AIDS (DP2 Clinical Trial Optional)
- NIH Director’s New Innovator Award – FAQ
- NIH Early Stage Investigators Policies
- Global NIH HIV Research Priorities and Guidelines for Funding
- FY2022 Pioneer Award Informational Video

This video from the NIH Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives (DPCPSI) provides a helpful overview of the Director’s Pioneer Award. For specific dates, award information, and objectives of the Avenir Program, please refer to the FOA for PAR-20-224.
Contact Us

For more information about the NIDA HIV Avenir Award, visit:
AIDS Research Program (ARP) | NIDA

Questions?
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