

## Global Health Seed Grant Program 2024/2025 Request for Applications (RFA)

**Overview:** The DGSOM Global Health Program (GHP), in collaboration with UCLA International Health Services, invites proposal submissions for its fifth cycle of the Global Health Seed Grant Program. The primary goals of this program are to: (1) support multidisciplinary teams of faculty involved in global health research in low- and middle-income countries, (2) establish or further build long-term global research partnerships that address pressing health questions relevant to the local setting, and (3) build the capacity of early career investigators at global partner sites and at UCLA.

**Funding level and duration:** Awards are up to \$50,000 for a period of one year. We anticipate that up to 3 grants will be awarded this year. We will only award a maximum of one proposal focused on HIV/AIDS per cycle. Please note that the total award per applicant is \$50,000 (including direct plus indirect costs). If a global partner site has a negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA), the indirect costs must be covered within the total budget.

### Eligibility:

- The Principal Investigator (PI) **must** be a UCLA faculty member (i.e., adjunct faculty, fellows and residents **cannot** be the PI but can be listed as co-investigators and/or the named early career investigator).
- At least one investigator on the team must have a faculty position within DGSOM.
- Projects must be led by multidisciplinary teams representing at least two scientific disciplines (e.g., one clinical scientist and one social scientist) or two different clinical disciplines (e.g., one investigator from internal medicine plus one investigator from surgery). We also strongly encourage collaboration across at least two schools on the UCLA campus (e.g., DGSOM and the Fielding School of Public Health).
- A lead investigator from the global partner site must also be included as a Co-PI on the application.
- The proposed work must occur in a low- or middle-income country as defined by the [World Bank](#).
- The proposed work must include at least one named early career investigator\* from UCLA and at least one named early career investigator\* from the global partner site, for whom the grant will serve as a mechanism for gaining research experience. Please also include a “capacity building/mentorship plan” and criteria for how you will evaluate progress towards capacity building.
  - \*Note: UCLA early career investigators are defined as resident or fellow physicians, PhD students, and postdoctoral trainees as well as junior faculty for whom 3 or fewer years have elapsed since appointment to a faculty position. For the purposes of this Seed Grant Program, UCLA medical students are not eligible as early career investigators, although their participation is welcome. An early career investigator from a global site may include a clinician, medical student, graduate student, or other junior academician working towards a career in global health.
- Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval is not required prior to application submission; however, IRB approvals from both UCLA and the appropriate regulatory agency for the global partner site are both required prior to accessing funds.

The following proposals are not eligible the 2023/2024 Seed Grant cycle:

- 1) Projects for which the main focus is a unilateral or bilateral training exchange:** This Seed Grant Program is not meant to support general bilateral or unilateral training exchanges. If training exchanges are included as part of the grant application for capacity building, please outline the named individuals who will travel and the specific skills to be obtained by each individual and should focus on capacity building for the named early career investigator(s) on the proposal. Please note that PIs should be familiar with any issues related to bringing individuals to UCLA or sending individuals from UCLA abroad for short- or long-term work (visas, work permits, rules around visiting scholars) and mention this in the application (for feasibility).
- 2) Projects based in UCLA or LA-based laboratories:** In order for a basic science project to be eligible for this Seed Grant Program, the majority of the laboratory science should take place in a laboratory at the global site. Projects in which the laboratory science takes place primarily at a UCLA laboratory will not be considered. The application should outline how the project will help build the global partner site's capacity for research as part of the proposed work.
- 3) Proposals submitted by the same PI for the same partner site in two consecutive years:** PIs are not eligible to be funded two consecutive years for a project with the same global partner site. A PI may reapply and be awarded in consecutive years for research with a different global partner.

Please note that competitive applications will aim to build a new global research collaboration, strengthen an existing research collaboration, and/or establish a new research area with an existing global collaboration. Please also note that we strongly encourage collaboration across schools at UCLA, including but not limited to the schools of public health, dentistry, nursing, law, and management.

#### Application process and timeline:

- (1) All applicants are required to submit a **Letter of Intent (LOI)** prior to submission of the full proposal
- (2) LOIs are due by **5pm PST on 10/13/2023**
- (3) Individuals invited to submit a full proposal will be notified the **week of 11/06/2023**
- (4) Full proposals are due by **5pm PST on 12/14/2023**
- (5) Awards will be announced: **early-to-mid March 2024**
- (6) Award period: **mid-March 2024 through June 30, 2025**, contingent upon proof of UCLA and global partner site IRB approvals. We encourage applicants to apply for IRB approval prior to award notification to avoid delays in receiving IRB approval, should the application be awarded.
- (7) Award period will end **6/30/25**, with potential for no-cost time extension (NCTE).

**Letter of Intent:** Please complete and submit the [LOI template](#) by no later than **5pm PST on 10/13/2023**. You should receive a confirmation email immediately. We will reach out with any questions.

#### The [LOI template](#) requires:

- (1) Name of UCLA PI with degree(s), department, and contact information
- (2) Name of global site Co-PI with degree(s), affiliations, and contact information

- (3) Names of all co-investigators with affiliations (departments/schools)
- (4) Name of at least one early career investigator from UCLA and at least one early career investigator from the global site to be included in the application, with title, position, and explanation for how the individuals meet early career investigator status
- (5) Name of global partner and brief description of site
- (6) Specific research aims
- (7) Total funding amount requested

**Full proposal requirements:**

- (1) Cover page and table of contents/checklist (see template provided)
- (2) Research proposal (4 pages maximum, 11-point Arial font with ½- inch margins; note guidance for the suggested length for each section included below)
  - a. Specific aims (0.5 pages)
  - b. Significance (0.5 pages)
  - c. Approach/methodology (1.5 to 1.75 pages)
  - d. Global health impact (1 page), including:
    - i. Description of the global partner and strengths of the partnership
    - ii. Collaborative work to date, if any
    - iii. Specific mentorship and training plan for early career investigators at UCLA and global partner site and how this project will contribute to their career development
  - e. Timeline (0.25 pages)
- (3) Biosketch (National Institutes of Health (NIH) format; for PI and all co-investigators) *\*For young investigator(s), a CV is acceptable in lieu of a biosketch; for this application cycle we will accept both old and new biosketch formats*
- (4) [Itemized budget and justification](#)
- (5) Letter(s) of support from the global partner site Co-PI and any other key collaborators
- (6) Letter of support from UCLA Division Chief or Department Chair stating that you (as PI) are in good standing and that he/she supports the global partnership and research

**Application review process:**

- Each application will be evaluated by two or three reviewers. Reviewers will be selected from within and outside of DGSOM, and will be selected for their global health experience as well as expertise in the topic area of the application.
- Regardless of whether funding is awarded, all applicants will receive reviewer scores and comments upon completion of the review process.
- Applications will be scored based on the criteria outlined below using the NIH scoring system (score of 1-9):

Overall Impact or Criterion Strength	Score	Descriptor
High	1	Exceptional
	2	Outstanding
	3	Excellent

<b>Medium</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Very Good</b>
	<b>5</b>	<b>Good</b>
	<b>6</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>
<b>Low</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Fair</b>
	<b>8</b>	<b>Marginal</b>
	<b>9</b>	<b>Poor</b>

**Application scoring criteria:**

Each application will be scored on the following:

- Significance of proposed research
- Methodology
- Experience of investigative team (specifically for work in the proposed research area and work in global settings)
- Ability to develop or further strengthen a UCLA DGSOM/Health System partnership
- Multidisciplinary collaboration
- Clear and specific description of capacity building for early career investigators at UCLA and at the global partner site
- Feasibility of proposed work within budget
- Feasibility to successfully complete the project in the proposed timeline (no longer than one year)

Please send any questions regarding your application to Dr. Fola May ([FMay@mednet.ucla.edu](mailto:FMay@mednet.ucla.edu)), GHP Director of Grants.