



NIDA Avant-Garde Award for HIV/AIDS and Substance Use Disorder Research

Information for Prospective Applicants

NIDA AIDS Research Program (ARP)

NIDA HIV Avant-Garde Award

- Administered by [NIDA AIDS Research Program](#)
- One of NIDA's flagship HIV Initiatives
- Grant mechanism: Director's Pioneer award (DP1)
- Established in 2008
- Supports exceptionally creative investigators addressing imminent problems at the intersection of HIV and Substance Use Disorders (SUD)
- Research scope must align with global NIH HIV research priorities



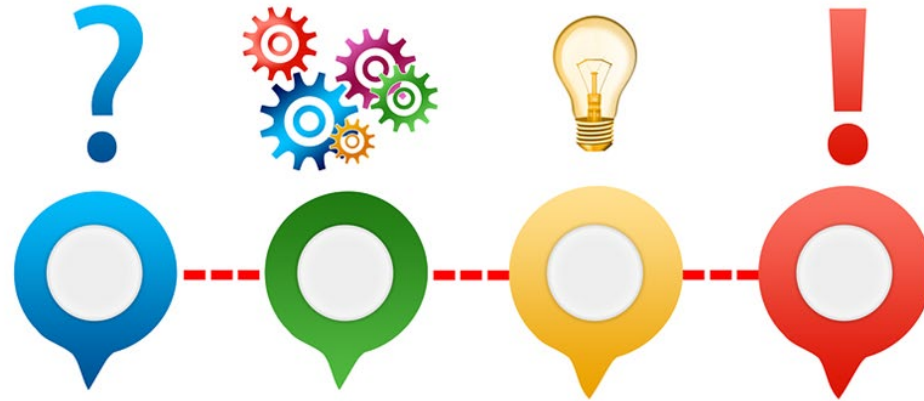
'Avant-Garde' is a French word meaning 'new and innovative'

Eligibility

- Any investigator with creative research ideas that will impact efforts to prevent, treat, and cure HIV in people with SUD
- Single PI application
 - Multiple PD/PIs (MPI) are not allowed
- Effort: At least 35% or 4.2 person months



Avant Garde-DP1 Application



- The HIV Avant-Garde award is an ***idea grant!***
- Preliminary data allowed but *not required*
- Specific aims or research plan *not required*
- Requires letters of reference from **three referees**
- Requires a **five-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 preventive interventions or therapies for HIV in people who use drugs (PWUD)
- Creative, new strategies to prevent disease transmission among PWUD
- Novel approaches to improve HIV and HIV-related comorbid disease outcomes in PWUD
- Novel strategies to improve health outcomes of PWUD living with HIV
- Creative approaches to eradicating HIV

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 Avant-Garde Award on ARP Website](#)
- [FOA for PAR-20-221: NIDA Avant-Garde Award Program for HIV/AIDS and Substance Use Disorder Research \(DP1, Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)
- [NIH Director's Pioneer Award – FAQ](#)
- [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 Avant-Garde Program, please refer to the [FOA for PAR-20-221](#).

Contact Us

For more information about the NIDA HIV Avant-Garde Award, visit:
[AIDS Research Program \(ARP\) | NIDA](#)

Questions?

Contact Dr. Redonna Chandler at Redonna.Chandler@NIH.gov

and/or

Dr. Vasundhara Varthakavi at Vasundhara.Varthakavi@NIH.gov