

# ORIP

**Concept Clearance:** New

## **Early Stage Investigator (ESI) HIV/AIDS Research Using Nonhuman Primate (NHP) Models (R21)**

**Objective:** To provide support to help advance HIV/AIDS researchers using NHP models in preclinical research by providing a degree of independence for these ESIs to develop new research directions and to position these researchers to be competitive for new research project (e.g., R01) funding

**Funds Available and Anticipated Number of Awards:** Contingent upon NIH appropriations and the submission of meritorious applications

**Award Project Period:** 2 years

**Council Action:** Vote for support of the “Early Stage Investigator HIV/AIDS Research Using NHP Models (R21)” program

# Background

- **NIH Strategic Plan for HIV and HIV-Related Research**
  - National need to train the next generation of HIV researchers to support the field and achieve specific national priorities for HIV infections
- **Report of the Expert Panel Forum on Challenges in Assessing Nonhuman Primate Needs and Resources for Biomedical Research**
  - Pressing need to expand pool of skilled nonhuman primate (NHP) researchers

# Similar Programs

- **NIDCD Early Career Researcher R21 (formerly R03)**
  - \$100k/year for 3 years;  $\leq 7$  years after terminal degree
  - Program initiated in FY16
  - Anticipate an increase in NIDCD new investigators (NIs)/ESIs obtaining subsequent R01 funding based on NIH-wide data
    - In FY15 across NIH, 12% of NIs/ESIs with no R21 funding versus 26% of NIs/ESIs with R21 funding who applied for an R01 were successful
- **NIBIB Trailblazer Award for New/Early Stage Investigators (R21)**
  - NIs/ESIs had difficulties transitioning to independence with a conventional R21 (\$275k direct costs over 2 years)
  - Offered expanded R21 - \$400k direct costs over 3 years
  - Increased proportion of NIBIB NIs/ESIs obtaining R21 funding
    - 18% (FY15 before the Trailblazer Program)
    - 63% (FY19, the 3rd year of the Trailblazer Program)

# ORIP HIV/AIDS Research Using Nonhuman Primate Models R21

## Purpose

- Provide adequate funds to perform NHP research
- Allow recipients to pursue unique research directions independent of the funding support of their mentor(s)
- Facilitate transition to independence
- Increase competitiveness for R01 or equivalent awards

## Characteristics

- \$200K/year for two years (expanded R21)
- $\geq 2$  years postdoctoral experience
- $\leq 10$  years from terminal degree
- Affiliation with nonhuman primate facility
- Performing preclinical HIV/AIDS research with NHP
- Standard three AIDS receipt dates each year
- 3-5 applications/deadline expected

# Concept Clearance

*Provide support for the Early Stage Investigator HIV/AIDS Research Using Nonhuman Primate (NHP) Models (R21)*