UCLA-UCI Center for Eliminating Cardiometabolic Disparities in Multi-Ethnic Populations (UC END-DISPARITIES)

Pilot Project Program

Investigator Development Core Leads
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AGENDA

- Describe the UCLA-UCI Center for Eliminating Cardio-Metabolic Disparities in Multi-Ethnic Populations (UC END-DISPARITIES) Center and pilot funding mechanism

- Clarify what is different about this mechanism and how to address it in your proposal

- Present common problems seen in pilot proposals that prevent good ideas from being funded

- Open the floor to questions, answers, and discussion

- Project Website: https://enddisparities.mednet.ucla.edu
UC END DISPARITIES Aims

- **Implement and assess** a multilevel, community-academic partnered approach to improve cardiometabolic health outcomes in targeted Latino, Black, Asian, Pacific Islander, and American Indian communities in Los Angeles County and Orange County.

- **Examine factors associated with cardiometabolic risk and outcomes:**
  - Structural (social determinants of health)
  - Health system
  - Individual/Interpersonal
  - Associated basic mechanisms (e.g., inflammatory markers, social genomics, allostatic load linked to discrimination and excess stress)

- **Leverage synergies** with key community-academic networks, community and health system stakeholders, regional networks of minority-serving institutions, and academic institutions.
UC END DISPARITIES

Executive Committee

Community Engagement Core
Community Leads: Wright, Pimentel

Administrative Core
Leads: Brown, Boden-Albala, Norris

Investigator Development Core

Project 1
BP REACH
Blood Pressure Disparities Reduction, Equity, and Access among safety net patients with Cardiovascular Health risk

Project Community Action Board

Project Community Action Board

Project 2
SERVE OC
Skills-Based Educational strategies for Reduction of Vascular Events

NIMHD Program Scientist
External Advisory Committee
Coordinating Center

Center Community Action Board
Who should apply?

- Prioritization given to investigators who are:
  - Early-career
  - New to the field
  - Investigators from under-represented backgrounds

Notes:

- Applicants are required to have a faculty, research, or post-doctoral position at UCLA, UCI, or at another academic institution/organization in Los Angeles or Orange County at the time of application and throughout the funding period.

- Researchers from the UCLA CTSI and UCI ICTS affiliated sites or UCLA CTSI and UCI ICTS ecosystem are encouraged to apply.

- If applicants do not have a UCLA or UCI academic appointment, their projects must have a UCLA or UCI co-PI.
How many awards will be given?

- Six or more (depending on budget) 1-year to 2-year pilot project awards are available.
- At least 4 awarded will be awarded through UCLA and 2 awarded through UCI.
- The maximum funding available per pilot project is $40,000 per year for 1-2 years (i.e., up to $80,000 total over 2 years).
What kinds of projects will be funded?

Projects must aim to engage multiethnic populations in research and to eliminate disparities in cardiometabolic conditions in communities across Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

- Projects that include the following will be prioritized:
  1. Preliminary research that will lead to multilevel interventions and mechanistic approaches to promote the prevention, treatment, and management of multiple chronic conditions;
  2. Measurement of, and data harmonization for, social determinants of health;
  3. Safety net interventions for medically underserved patients in real-world settings; and
  4. Projects that leverage or supplement the UC END-DISPARITIES Center’s current R01-type research projects (see website).

- Health topics include but are not limited to:
  - Hypertension
  - Stroke
  - Diabetes
  - Chronic kidney disease
What kinds of projects will be funded? (continued)

- Ideally, pilot projects should demonstrate effective academic-community partnerships, and lead to the publication of at least one first-authored, peer-reviewed manuscript plus subsequent funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) or similar peer reviewed funding sources.

- **Note:**
  We do **not** fund pilot projects focused on basic science or clinical research designed to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of medications, devices, diagnostic products, and treatment regimens intended for human use. Biomarkers and clinical surrogates that advance the understanding of disease mechanisms can be included as part of project outcomes. Implementation and/or translational science projects are encouraged.
What support will be provided to recipients?

One of the goals of the UC END-DISPARITIES IDC is to provide research training and mentoring to early-career investigators and post-doctoral fellows, including those from backgrounds under-represented in health-related sciences.

- Pilot project recipients will become UC END-DISPARITIES investigators and will be supported by an Investigator Development Core (IDC) pilot project support team, comprised of their primary research mentor, relevant methods expert(s) as needed, a community partner, and administrative support staff.

- UC END-DISPARITIES pilot investigators are expected to attend the following:
  - 2-4 IDC pilot project support team meetings per year;
  - Every other month Center meetings that include a methodological seminar and a works in progress session;
  - 1 annual UC END-DISPARITIES Center retreat.

- The UC END-DISPARITIES IDC also provides strong support and guidance to pilot project program graduates as they pursue subsequent funding.
Anatomy of the Letter of Intent

- Names – PI, mentor, community partner, co-investigators
- Title, duration, amount requested
- Specific aims and project plan (2 page max)
  - Scientific rationale
  - Hypothesis
  - Significance
  - Research design and methods
  - Evidence of feasibility
- Reference citations
- Mentor role
- Bio-sketches
Common Errors in Pilot Proposals

- Applicant teams lack necessary qualifications
- Lack of clarity re: Capacity-building, Research, Program Evaluation, or QI
- Poor agreement between aims and methods
- Low feasibility
- Lacking innovation
- Recruitment/retention issues
- Interventions are not tailored to the community they are meant to serve
- Sloppiness
Hints for excellent proposals

► HIGHLIGHT INNOVATION
  ➢ Highlight if you are studying a population not typically studied or are hard-to-reach?
  ➢ Is anyone being trained for anything? Students or Promotoras, for example?
  ➢ Is this a unique partnership in any way? (e.g. environmental group, faith-based entity,

► CLARITY and AGREEMENT IN GOALS/ACTIVITIES
  ➢ Be clear about what you are asking for. Is it research? If so, is there a hypothesis being tested in a systematic way? Is it QI? Program evaluation? Capacity-building? Pilots must be research studies.

► BE REALISTIC
  ➢ Be sure your activities aren’t too ambitious for 1 or 2 year’s worth of funding
  ➢ Keep it simple. A solid, straight-forward plan is much better than a dabble of this and dollop of that.

► TAILOR YOUR APPLICATION TO THE REQUEST
  ➢ Don’t cut and paste a previous application to another agency into the template.

► HIGHLIGHT MUTUAL BENEFIT TO, AND CONTRIBUTION FROM, ALL PARTNERS
Timeline - Important Dates

- **January 7, 2022, 12pm**, applicants must complete the online application form and upload a Letter of Intent (LOI) and required supporting documents on the UC END-DISPARITIES website – [https://enddisparities.mednet.ucla.edu](https://enddisparities.mednet.ucla.edu). Not all submitted LOI will advance to the full proposal stage.

- **January 26, 2022**, candidates will be notified if they have been selected to submit a full proposal.

- **March 11, 2022**, selected candidates must submit the full proposal with supporting documents.

- **May 2, 2022**, candidates will be notified of funding decisions. Full proposals and supporting documents will be forwarded to NIH/NIMHD for final approval. The award will be disbursed after **July 1, 2022**.
Questions

- Please email with questions to ENDDISPARITIES@mednet.ucla.edu.
- For more information about the UC END DISPARITIES Center visit https://enddisparities.mednet.ucla.edu.