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San Diego Center for AIDS Research Welcomes San Diego State University

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La Jolla, CA: After an eight-month strategic planning process led by Dr. Eileen Pitpitan, the San Diego Center for AIDS Research (SD CFAR) welcomed San Diego State University (SDSU) as a new member institution in June 2020.

SDSU serves as the academic home to many behavioral, prevention and intervention scientists who conduct high-priority, innovative HIV research. Their HIV-related scientific inquiries address such topics as disparities in the HIV prevention and care continuum, substance use and other co-occurring conditions, and community-based participatory research.

“SDSU faculty members have a growing NIH-funded HIV research grant portfolio, and we are happy to make them a member of our Center to support their HIV research,” says Dr. Davey Smith, Chief of Infectious Diseases and Global Public Health at University of California San Diego School of Medicine and Co-Director of SD CFAR. “We believe as a member institution SDSU will add significant value by expanding our social-behavioral science footprint.” More specifically, SDSU will help bolster SD CFAR’s research in HIV-related disparities that negatively affect underserved populations. “Addressing health disparities is an essential component of the U.S. [Ending the HIV Epidemic \(EHE\)](#) initiative,” notes Dr. Douglas Richman, Distinguished Professor of Pathology and Medicine at University of California San Diego School of Medicine and Co-Director of SD CFAR. “Our expanded partnership with SDSU will better position our Center to realize EHE goals.”

SD CFAR has strong track record of synergizing high-impact, multidisciplinary HIV/AIDS research that emphasizes the Center’s four priority research areas: optimizing HIV care, relieving health disparities, finding a cure, and developing vaccines. SDSU will engage in these activities in support of the overall mission of SD CFAR, including fostering new collaborations between individual researchers and SD CFAR service cores; expanding the use of SD CFAR service cores and resources; promoting funding collaborations and publishing opportunities; and facilitating the professional development of junior faculty and trainees. SDSU faculty will also serve as key members of the SD CFAR [EHE Scientific Working Group](#).

“We continue to strive to become recognized as a stellar research university and becoming a part of SD CFAR helps to uplift the HIV research and scholarship being conducted by our talented faculty at SDSU. We look forward to the many opportunities and collaborations that this partnership brings,” says Dr. Hala Madanat, Director of the SDSU School of Public Health and newest member of the [SD CFAR Executive Committee](#). Dr. Pitpitan shares, “My colleagues and I are very excited to become a part of SD CFAR. To have SDSU’s role be formalized in this way will help to open up more avenues for SDSU researchers and other SD CFAR members to collaborate with one another, not only to advance science but ultimately to have a positive impact on individuals and communities disparately affected by HIV.”

For more information about the SD CFAR, please visit <https://cfar.ucsd.edu>.

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About the San Diego Center for AIDS Research: The San Diego Center for AIDS Research (SD CFAR) is one of 17 NIH-funded academic centers providing administrative and shared research support to synergistically enhance and coordinate high-quality HIV/AIDS research projects at academic institutions across the U.S. The SD CFAR supports multidisciplinary research to end the HIV epidemic and is recognized as a Tier 3 Center at the highest quality of research and funding. For more information, please visit <https://bit.ly/2ZgM76C>.