



San Diego SUN: Supporting and Uplifting New and Diverse Scientists in HIV

What is SD SUN?

SD SUN is a mentored research training program for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) pre- and postdoctoral scholars offered through the San Diego Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) as part of the CFAR Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Pipeline Initiative. The overarching goal of San Diego SUN, or SD SUN, is to provide BIPOC pre- and postdoctoral scholars with the knowledge and skills necessary to embark on an academic career trajectory in HIV science that focuses on ameliorating disparities in communities of color that are at highest risk of HIV. Funding supports up to 7 scholars (4 predocs and 3 postdocs) in a 9-month structured training program focused on:

- Research knowledge, skills, and mentored career development training to support a career path towards becoming a scientist in the field of HIV
- The responsible conduct of research with human subjects, with special consideration given to conducting HIV research with BIPOC and disadvantaged populations.

Scholars may also apply for peer-reviewed mentored 'seed' grants that offer the opportunity to gain critical, hands-on, applied research skills in basic, clinical, and/or socio-behavioral HIV research.

What is the SD SUN mentoring structure?

Scholars who are accepted in the program will be assigned a primary and secondary SD SUN mentor based on alignment of research interests and goals. A third mentor will be the scholar's current primary mentor (e.g., doctoral program or postdoc mentor). Applicants will be asked to identify potential SD SUN mentors, which can be selected from the table below.

Where does the program take place?

The structured training period of SD SUN will take place from February to October 2022 and will be held mostly virtually. In-person gatherings and seminars will also be offered and scheduled throughout the training period.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants must self-identify as Black, Indigenous, or a Person of Color (BIPOC). Pre-doctoral applicants must also be currently enrolled in a doctoral degree program at UCSD or SDSU. Post-doctoral researcher applicants must be currently employed at UCSD or SDSU, and/or are part of an existing T32 fellowship program at either institution. Candidates should be interested in pursuing a research career related to HIV. Applicants must be U.S. citizens.

Dates and Deadline Information

Applications will be accepted until **Thursday, January 20, 2022 by 3pm PST**.
Submit completed applications in one PDF file to: cfar@ucsd.edu

A successful application submission consists of the following:

1. Complete the online Sociodemographic Form via Qualtrics:
https://sdsu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1RdDQrXpUgaeQvk

Submit the below items in one PDF file to: cfar@ucsd.edu

2. Current curriculum vitae
3. Two letters of reference
4. Two-page statement of interest that includes your HIV research interests, short term and long-term career goals, and personal goals/expectations of the program
5. A letter from your current primary mentor committing to supporting the individual in the completion of the SD SUN program and research project. *(This statement can be provided in one of the two required letters of reference).*

Mentor Table. SD SUN Core Faculty Mentors			
Name (Last, First)	Professor Rank	Primary Appointment	Research Interest(s)
Bamford, Laura	Assoc.	UCSD, Medicine	HIV prevention in people who inject drugs
Beliakova-Bethell, Nadejda	Assoc.	UCSD, Medicine	Molecular mechanisms of HIV latency establishment and maintenance in human primary CD4+ T cells
Burton, Dennis	Full	Scripps Research	Vaccine strategies against HIV and other infectious diseases
Chaillon, Antoine	Assist.	UCSD, Medicine	Bioinformatics, HIV viral evolution
De Gruttola, Victor	Full	Harvard, Public Health	Statistical methodology for public health responses to HIV/AIDS
Fielding-Miller, Rebecca	Assist.	UCSD, Medicine	Structural drivers of HIV and gender based violence
Gianella Wiebel, Sara	Assoc.	UCSD, Medicine	HIV-1, translational virology, molecular biology, and immunology
Goldenberg, Shira	Assist.	SDSU, Public Health	Sexual and reproductive health inequities, migration, gender, and race-based inequities, mixed methods
Horvath, Keith	Assoc.	SDSU, Psychology	mHealth interventions for sexual and gender minorities, technology-based interventions to optimize PrEP strategies
Jain, Sonia	Full	UCSD, Public Health	Biostatistics and Clinical Trial Design
Karris, Maile	Assoc.	UCSD, Medicine	Clinical impact of psychosocial co-morbidities of HIV, clinical impact of inflammation in HIV, HIV and aging, management of chronic pain in HIV
Lewinski, Mary	Assoc.	UCSD, Medicine	HIV proteins
Little, Susan	Assoc.	UCSD, Medicine	Pathogenesis of acute or primary HIV infection and HIV transmission, viral replication dynamics and host immune dynamics in acute HIV infection
Looney, David	Full	UCSD, Medicine	System-biology approaches to diagnostics and gene therapy, HIV latency, next-generation sequencing

Martin, Natasha	Assoc.	UCSD, Medicine	Economic modeling, transmission models, HIV transmission and prevention among high-risk groups
Pitpitan, Eileen V.	Assoc.	SDSU, Social Work	HIV-related syndemics (substance use, mental health, violence, stigma); interventions
Richman, Douglas	Full	UCSD, Pathology	Eradicating latent HIV reservoir, development of antiretroviral drugs, clinical evaluations of new drugs and treatment strategies, HIV pathogenesis
Schooley, Robert	Full	UCSD, Medicine	Diagnosis and management of infections in resource-limited settings, HIV pathogenesis
Skaathun, Britt	Assist.	UCSD, Medicine	Social network methods
Smith, Davey	Full	UCSD, Medicine	HIV transmission, HIV reservoir dynamics
Smith, Laramie	Assoc.	UCSD, Medicine	Social and behavioral theory, socio-structural contexts implicated in improving health equity among people living with HIV and substance involved communities
Spina, Celsa	Assoc.	UCSD, Pathology	CD4 T-cell activation events, regulation of HIV replication and latency
Stockman, Jamila K.	Full	UCSD, Medicine	HIV-related syndemics (gender-based violence, substance use, mental health); socio-structural conditions; mixed methods; interventions
Strathdee, Steffanie	Full	UCSD, Medicine	HIV prevention in developing countries, HIV risk behaviors among drug users and sex workers on the Mexico-US border
Storholm, Erik	Assist.	SDSU, Public Health	Health promotion and disease prevention, interventions, HIV/STI transmissions
Urada, Lianne	Assoc.	SDSU, Social Work	HIV, substance use, sex trade/human trafficking, homelessness, gender-based violence