



UC San Diego AIDS Research Institute: Current needs for philanthropic support

The UC San Diego AIDS Research Institute (ARI) raises funds for its affiliated organizations, including the UC San Diego Center for AIDS Research. The ARI needs philanthropic support in a number of critical areas. We prefer unrestricted donations, so that we can allocate funds to the areas of greatest need at any given time. Currently, the following areas are most in need of support:

1. New research initiatives

Grant funding can take a year or more to obtain. This works effectively for research that is ongoing or involves a research question that is still in development and not ready for immediate investigation. However, we also need to be able to respond to rapidly evolving areas in HIV/AIDS research, which require immediate attention if the results are to be timely. Examples include the rapid follow-up of a new hypothesis or observation, proof-of-concept studies for new vaccine approaches, or the application of new laboratory tests to existing patient laboratory samples. To respond to promising research questions that need to be addressed urgently, we need to have funds available to provide for seed funding while larger grant support is sought.

In addition, funds are needed to provide funding for innovative pilot studies, which will allow investigators to generate the strong preliminary data needed for grant applications.

2. Infrastructure

a. Laboratory equipment

Expanding needs and new technologies require purchase of new equipment, some of which is quite expensive and not available for support through granting programs. We have a number of productive and innovative laboratories which are currently using equipment that is up to 15 years old and obsolete. For example, for many years, our highly utilized Flow Cytometry laboratory was in critical need of a new Flow Cytometry machine. This instrument cost \$450,000. In 2009, the ARI received a single donation for half the cost and the remainder came from other unrestricted funds. Our researchers still need a sequencer (\$100,000) and a real-time PCR machine (\$75,000). These critically needed instruments are housed in laboratories that provide expert resources to numerous HIV/AIDS research projects throughout the ARI.

Our laboratories are involved in cutting-edge HIV/AIDS research involving genomics, flow cytometry, molecular biology, virology, and protein-expression and proteomics. UC San Diego ARI investigators are working on developing vaccines, treatment, and diagnostic techniques. We have been among the leaders in the field in each of these areas, and it is vital that our laboratories have up-to-date equipment that can support our research.

b. Furniture for patient care areas

Our clinicians have provided primary care for more than 5,000 HIV-positive individuals, and continue to operate a busy clinic. In addition, we have an active research clinic, which provides services to hundreds of people each year. Both our primary care and research clinics need replacement furniture for examination rooms, including beds, chairs, desks, and storage shelves.

3. International research programs

UC San Diego ARI investigators are involved in international research on almost every continent. We have a particular focus on collaborations in Brazil, India, Mexico, Mozambique, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. Numerous opportunities for expanding and fostering research, training, and exchange with our international partners need support.

4. Patient education and assistance programs

We have a dynamic patient education and assistance program, which extends far into our local, national, and international communities. Some of the specific areas in need of ongoing support include the following:

a. Educational newsletters

Multiple newsletters are sent from our research clinic, research centers and international programs, and reach thousands of people.

b. Community educational programs

Examples of our educational programs include (a) educational programs regarding HIV treatments for those considering starting anti-HIV medication for the first time or for those who have failed all HIV medications, (b) community updates from major HIV conferences such as the annual retrovirus conference or the International AIDS Conference, (c) community forums for current HIV topics of interest such as Treatment Interruptions of Hepatitis C coinfection, and (d) specific educational programs targeting people of color and women, such as a program titled "HIV, Myths, and African Americans" which would include discussion about Tuskegee, distrust of medical establishment, provider biases, and cultural and economical barriers to access to care.

c. Staff education

Funds are needed to send nurses and other clinic personnel to medical updates and training programs, locally and nationally.

**For more information, please call us at 858-534-5545.
If you would like to donate today, here's what to do:**

1. Please make your check payable to the UC San Diego Foundation. Our Federal Tax ID is 95-2872494.
2. Please mail your check to this address:
UC San Diego AIDS Research Institute
9500 Gilman Drive, MC 0716
La Jolla, CA 92093-0716

Thank you!

