



## HISPANICS-IN- RESEARCH CAPABILITY: SOHP & SOM PARTNERSHIP

### HiREC Advanced Clinical and Translational Research Award 2020-2021

Announcement date: October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Revised on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

#### 1. Introduction / rationale

**HISPANICS-IN-RESEARCH CAPABILITY: SoHP & SoM PARTNERSHIP (HiREC)** is an Endowment Program awarded by NIH, National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIH/NIMHD- Grant Number: S21MD001830). HiREC is a permanent fund to help expand and sustain research capacity and infrastructure of the School of Health Professions (SoHP) and School of Medicine (SoM), Medical Sciences Campus, University of Puerto Rico. It supports strategies that will facilitate minority health and health disparities research and sustain the research career development of Hispanic researchers and the development of research infrastructure in our Campus.

The **2020-2021 HiREC Advanced Clinical and Translational Research (CTR) Award** was developed with the goal to provide support to *mid-career investigators*, with priority, from School of Health Professions (SoHP) and School of Medicine (SoM) with interest and experience in research. A mid-career investigator is a Faculty member that holds a faculty appointment for at least 6 years at the time of the application but has not yet reached full professor level. Hold an MD, PhD or equivalent degree (e.g. MB, ChB, MBBS, and DO) and a full-time faculty position at the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus. Applicants who are at the Instructor, Assistant or Associate level are eligible. Full professors are not eligible.

The aim of the Award is to facilitate the submission of a successful competitive research grant. This Award also fosters the establishment of clinical and translational research multidisciplinary teams for building research infrastructure and capacity. The **HiREC CTR Award is competitive and will provide funds for one year to support the needed research infrastructure by Awardee; to accomplish his /her research plan.**

#### 2. Specific Aims

- a. Facilitate the submission of a successful competitive research grant.
- b. Enhance clinical and translational collaborative research among different disciplines.
- c. Promote minority health and health disparities research in Hispanic population.

#### 3. Eligibility: Be a mid-career investigator with a:

- a. Formal faculty appointment affiliated to any of the six (6) Schools of the Medical Sciences Campus. ***Because of the nature of HiREC commitment with NIH and requirements, priorities will be given to candidates from the School of Health Professions and School of Medicine.***
- b. Research work plan to be developed.
- c. Research area that complies with at least one of HiREC's research areas: HIV, Drug abuse & addiction including alcohol and tobacco; Aging related conditions, Sexual & Reproductive Health Cancer, Respiratory Diseases, Bone, Joints, Muscles and Skin Diseases; Metabolic diseases; Cardiovascular Diseases; Mental Health, Oral Health, Global Health, or Tropical Diseases, Zika, infectious diseases including COVID-19.
- d. Research portfolio that includes:
- e. Publications in recognized scientific journals.
- f. Have had grant support, or has an active grant.



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- g. Presentations in national or international meetings.
- h. Commitment to dedicate at least 25% of effort to research during the Award period (1 year).

### 4. Requirements

- a. Create a multidisciplinary translational research team; to work together to build capacity, strengthen infrastructure through research and for the submission of a competitive grant. We strongly encourage to have a collaboration with different disciplines; with at least a faculty member from either the School of Health Professions or School of Medicine.
- b. Identify a Top senior expert /researcher in health disparities that qualifies as a HiREC Visiting Endowed Chair; willing to serve as a mentor. The criteria required to qualify as HiREC Visiting Endowed Chair are:
  - i. recognition as a health disparities researcher at national, and /or global level
  - ii. a record of scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals
  - iii. successful track record of NIH grants
  - iv. have a long lasting commitment to support Awardee in its career development and grant submission

### 4. Award Funds:

- a. The 2020-2021 HiREC CTR Award is competitive and will provide up to \$55,000 for one year (12<sup>th</sup> months); to support the needed research infrastructure to accomplish the awardee's research plan. Use of funds will be evaluated and approved according to the NIH guidelines for Budget and Budget Justification.
- b. **Use of funds includes:**
  - i. Research Mentoring: Visiting Endowed Chair expenses
  - ii. PI research protected time
  - iii. Capacity building activities to support new research capabilities
  - iv. Laboratory equipment and materials to keep laboratory open and complete research plan
  - v. Other research infrastructure development, as proposed, to support the awardee research plan and development of a competitive research grant ready to submit
  - vi. Technical support
  - vii. Dissemination and travel activities to mainland USA, such as presentations in scientific meetings – Comment: must be directly connected to the research proposal supported by HiREC
  - viii. Publication fees in a peer review journal of high impact

### 6. Expected Outcomes of the Awardee at end of award period are:

- a. Awardee's dedication of at least 25% of effort to research
- b. development of a multidisciplinary translational research team
- c. Participation in at least one scientific meeting—to present research work, data, outcomes—directly related to the active research work under **HiREC CTR Award**
- d. Submission of a manuscript to a peer review scientific journal of high impact
- e. Development of a competitive research grant ready to submit
- f. Engage in Mentoring, Research Coaching or Career Coaching



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### 7. Candidate Selection Criteria:

- a. **Track Record:** Creativity of the candidate and potential to lead excellent multidisciplinary research judging by track record in some or all of the following: areas of expertise and prior training; first authored publications; funded grants.
- b. **Individual development career plan (IDCP):** is a tool to assist the Awardee in **career** and personal **development**. Its primary purpose is reach short and long-term **career goals**, as well as improve current research performance.
- c. **Research Plan:** Scientific value, potential clinical importance, and feasibility of the written multidisciplinary research plan.
- d. **Training Plan:** Quality, appropriateness, and multidisciplinary complementarity of the proposed mentors, and plan for additional didactic and other training if needed.
- e. **Resources:** Tangible commitment and resources provided by department and suitability of the available clinical and laboratory infrastructure and multidisciplinary team.
- f. **Career Potential:** Global assessment of the likelihood that the candidate will develop a career as an outstanding investigator who will lead multidisciplinary teams and have an important impact on health.
- g. **Research infrastructure:** Impact and justification of research infrastructure proposed to accomplish the research plan.

### 8. Selection Process

- a. Chair by a HiREC CTR Award Committee consisting of at least three members.
- b. Consists of the following areas of evaluation for a maximum score of 18:
  - i. Qualifications and commitment of the Awardee (PI) (max score 3)
  - ii. Strength and impact of the translational research multidisciplinary team (max score 3)
  - iii. Proposed HiREC Visiting Endowed Chair (max score 3)
  - iv. Proposal, research plan aligned with HiREC areas of research (max score 3)
  - v. Impact, justification of research infrastructure proposed as required to submit an application for extramural funds at end of the award period (max score 6)

### 9. HOW to apply:

- a. Review the HiREC Advanced Clinical and Translational Research (CTR) Award Announcements for description and requirements.
- b. Attend a virtual orientation meeting with HiREC's PIs Leadership on **November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Via Go to Meeting 9:00 to 10:00am.**
- c. **Send a one-two page letter of intent** to HiREC PIs describing the rationale for the application to HiREC Advanced CTR Award. Letter should be addressed to HiREC PIs: Dr. Lourdes E. Soto de Laurido and Dr. Walter R. Frontera Roura and send via email to [lourdes.soto1@upr.edu](mailto:lourdes.soto1@upr.edu) and [marcia.clemente@upr.edu](mailto:marcia.clemente@upr.edu). Due Date: **November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020.**
- d. Complete the application package on the due date: **January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**
- e. NO proposals will be received nor evaluated after that due date.

### 10. Application Package for the HiREC Advanced CTR Award:

- a. Complete submission of all the following Application Documents:
  - i. Qualifications and commitment of the Awardee (PI).
  - ii. An Updated Biographical Sketch (new NIH format 2023).



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- iii. A one-two page letter of intent describing the rationale for the application.
  - iv. A commitment letter for 25% release time/week for research with the endorsement of immediate supervisor. If there is no immediate.
  - v. Supervisor for the 25% commitment, the letter can be personal and justified.
  - vi. A support letter written and signed by the PI (awardee) and proposed team member(s)/ partner(s), describing the collaboration, its strength, and impact of their translational research team at their respective Institution, School, or Department.
  - vii. **Visiting Endowed Chair** (*see requirements*).
    1. A letter of acceptance and commitment from the invited **Visiting Endowed Chair**.
    2. An Updated Biographical Sketch (new NIH format 2023).
    3. Submission of the credentials of the candidate for HiREC Visiting Endowed Chair as his/her research mentor. After evaluation and confirmation, the candidate will be presented to UPR MSC *Administrative Board* for their approval, to receive the official institutional recognition as UPRMSC HiREC Visiting Endowed Chair.
- b. A research proposal up to 5 pages including:
- i. Statement of the research problem
  - ii. Significance
  - iii. Specific aims
  - iv. Research Approach,
    1. Justification
    2. Innovation
    3. Long term goal
  - v. Timeline
  - vi. Preliminary data. This will make your application stronger
  - vii. Personal plan to develop and submit an NIH grant
- c. Research infrastructure: A statement describing what kind of research infrastructure will be developed, established; to support the applicant 's research plan development

**Note:** References, Budget and Budget Justification and Personal plan to develop and submit an NIH grant do not count towards the 5 page limit.

### 11. HiREC Advanced CTR Award Application: Datelines

- a) Due date for Required Intention letter: month & day **November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020**
- b) Submission of Complete Application: **January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021**
- c) Tentative Announcement of Results: **March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021**
- d) Earliest date to start: **April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

NEW DATES



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### 12. HiREC Endowment Contact Information:

- a) Dr. Lourdes E. Soto de Laurido PI & Director [lourdes.soto1@upr.edu](mailto:lourdes.soto1@upr.edu)
- b) Dr. Walter R. Frontera Roura, PI; [walter.frontera@upr.edu](mailto:walter.frontera@upr.edu)
- c) Mrs. Aracelis Huertas Chardón, Project Manager [aracelis.huertas@upr.edu](mailto:aracelis.huertas@upr.edu)

All required documents must be submitted by email to [marcia.clemente@upr.edu](mailto:marcia.clemente@upr.edu)

**13. Evaluation Process:** a multidisciplinary Committee of local researchers and/or from mail and, will conduct the evaluation process. In coordination with HiREC External Evaluator, HiREC 's PIs will make the final selection of top candidates.

**14. Acknowledgement:** Hispanics-In-Research Capability: SoHP & SoM Partnership (HiREC) Endowment Program, National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), National Institutes of Health, Grant # S21MD001830.

**Approval date:** by HiREC Principal Investigators: October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Revised date:** November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020