

Request for Information (RFI): Request for Information (RFI) on the Development of the FY 2021-2023 Trans-NIH Strategic Plan for HIV and HIV-Related Research.



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06/26/2018 at 03:47:02:265 PM

Name of Organization

Whitman-Walker Health

Affiliation

Community Based Organization

If you selected "Other", enter the affiliation type

No Response

1. What are the emerging areas of science in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, disease progression and cure that may impact the NIH research priorities? (limit 500 words)

Consistent with Whitman-Walker's active contribution to the BELIEVE Study (<https://smhs.gwu.edu/believe/>), we support the focus on immune-based therapies as a novel and emerging intervention (see p. 4 of the FY2018 Trans-NIH Plan for HIV-Related Research), with the understanding that research toward a cure itself has the potential for wide-ranging impact on NIH research priorities. Similarly, continued discovery and testing of new drugs with longer-half lives and delivered through new and innovative modalities, such as implants and long-acting injections, also has implications for research, including uptake of new options and the effectiveness of interventions to promote their use. As a health center offering HIV prevention and care services to youth and emerging adults living with HIV, as well as participating in research with these populations, we believe that continued exploration of the potential for social media and gaming in promoting success along the treatment cascade for these young people, including long-term retention on PrEP, is an important emerging area of social science.

b) What are the relevant scientific developments? (limit 500 words)

No Response

c) Are there any major accomplishments that should be considered in the development of the plan?" (limit 500 words)

No Response

2. The OAR is interested in receiving input to guide NIH research investments to end the pandemic and improve the health outcomes for people living with or at risk for HIV infection. Please provide feedback on the questions below for consideration by

the NIH:

a) What are the research gaps and promising opportunities? (limit 500 words)

Building on the section addressing health disparities (p. 6 of the FY2018 Trans-NIH Plan for HIV-Related Research), we believe that specific research gaps include a focus on women - cisgender and transgender women, particularly women of color. We would like to highlight the need for more women to be included in clinical trials – and the necessity of addressing barriers front and center that women face in participating in clinical research. Along these lines, research into prevention tools and delivery modalities specifically for women are needed, with a key part of this sensitivity and awareness of cultural norms and practices around sex and sexuality (e.g., dry sex -- https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/5gkep5/dry-sex-is-the-african-sexual-health-issue-no-ones-talking-about). There is also an opportunity to extend transgender-related prevention and clinical research, including the use of HIV prevention modalities in conjunction with hormone use. WWH has tremendous expertise in providing transgender care and with transgender-related research, with studies such as our DC CFAR pilot award and Leading Innovation for Transgender Women's Health and Empowerment: The LITE Study (<https://www.litestudy.org/>). Research gaps into HIV and aging still exist; however, the transition of long-term research studies like MACS to a study of aging among people with HIV will likely contribute to closing this gap.

3. In support of key NIH-funded domestic and global programs, what are the critical training and capacity-building needs that are vital to support HIV/AIDS-related research activities? (limit 500 words)

- Training researchers around conducting effective and sensitive research with marginalized communities and how to conduct community participatory research to overcome barriers to participation in all types of research.
- Training to build skills to conduct research with HIV+ youth/emerging adults and elderly/aging to answer questions around: o effective interventions to maintain well-being, particularly skill and capacity to effectively work with youth and emerging adults living with HIV as they make the transition from pediatric to adult care settings; and o effective models of care for geriatric care for elders living with HIV, including competent HIV care in assisted living and nursing homes and skills around end-of-life discussions and care; this includes health care affirming of sexual and gender minorities.
- Continue funding of mechanisms for new and non-academic researchers, including those not housed in university settings. Whitman-Walker is a member of the DC CFAR which has allowed us new research opportunities.



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