



IMPAACT Early Career Investigators Request for Proposals

Background/Goal: The International Maternal Pediatric Adolescent AIDS Clinical Trials (IMPAACT) Network conducts high quality clinical trials to advance the prevention and treatment of HIV and its complications for infants, children, adolescents, and pregnant/postpartum people globally. This request for proposals is to encourage early career investigators to propose a project that takes advantage of data and/or biological specimens generated by the IMPAACT Network.

Approved applicants will be expected to present findings at an IMPAACT Annual Meeting and at one or more other scientific meetings. They will also be expected to submit a manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal by the end of the 2-year program period.

Investigators are invited to submit a proposal by the deadline of 2 October 2023, for project funding expected to begin 1 December 2023.

Eligibility:

Interested applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Affiliated with the IMPAACT Network.
- Holds a current master's degree, doctoral degree, or MD (or local equivalent) and is within 10 years of graduation of their final degree or fellowship/training.
- Has experience either developing or participating in clinical research.
- Has support of employer or work institution.
- Proposed project uses data and/or specimens from one or more of the *concluded* IMPAACT studies listed on the IMPAACT website (<https://www.impaactnetwork.org/studies>). Projects proposing use of specimens obtained from non-IMPAACT studies will not be funded.
- Proposed project can reasonably be completed within the 2 year period.

Mentors:

Applicants must identify a mentor who has been an investigator on an IMPAACT study and is ideally a current member of an IMPAACT Scientific Committee. Applicants are also encouraged to identify a second mentor from their region and/or institution.

Mentors must be willing to:

- Meet regularly with the early career investigator
- Provide timely assessment and feedback on the proposed project
- Assist with establishing realistic timelines for the project
- Provide support during data analysis and manuscript development
- Facilitate networking that will benefit the investigator's project and career

If further information is needed or if the applicant has difficulty locating a mentor, the applicant may contact Program Leadership at impaact.earlycareer@fstrf.org.

Parameters:

- This program will only support investigations using existing data and/or stored specimens from completed IMPAACT clinical trials.
- This program is not intended to (1) develop a new clinical trial, (2) use data and specimens from ongoing studies, or (3) collect prospective data.
- If biological specimens are to be used in the project, use of the IMPAACT/ACTG Specimen Repository website for identification of available specimens is required (<http://www.specimenrepository.org>). If additional assistance is needed beyond the search tools available on the website, the 'contact us' link on the website should be used and details on specimen availability should be further explained in the application.
- The proposed work must be completed and submitted for publication within two years. Therefore, location of specimens (if applicable) and required time for obtaining approvals for data use and shipping (e.g., Data Use Agreements, Materials Transfer Agreements), especially internationally, should be considered and will be included in the review process.
- IMPAACT Statistical and Data Management Center statistical support may be requested.
- A brief statement of support from the protocol chair(s) is required. If the proposed analysis has already been completed or is currently underway, the protocol chair will inform the investigator, as that analysis would not be considered eligible for support through this award. For this reason, interested investigators are strongly encouraged to contact the protocol chair before preparing a proposal.
- Funding: A maximum total dollar amount of \$100,000 (direct + indirect) is available for each award over a two-year period, which may include level of effort support for the investigator. An additional \$25,000 is allowed to support laboratory assays, materials, and shipping of specimens to the laboratory of interest, if applicable. Equipment costs cannot be supported.

Inquiries: Inquiries regarding eligibility or other aspects are encouraged prior to submission of applications. Questions may be submitted to impaact.earlycareer@fstrf.org.

Key Dates:

- Proposal Submission Due Date: 2 October 2023
- Anticipated Funding Start Date: 1 December 2023

Submission of Proposals: Proposals must be submitted to impaact.earlycareer@fstrf.org by 5:00 PM ET on the due date. Please use the application template available on <https://www.impaactnetwork.org/studies/research-and-study-opportunities>.

Applications must include:

- Title of Proposed Investigation (include relevant protocol number in association with the proposal)
- Investigator Information
 - Name and Contact information (include institution, e-mail address)
 - Country of affiliation
 - Self-identified gender and ethnic/racial identification, as comfortable
 - Affiliation with IMPAACT Network or Clinical Research Site
- Research Proposal:
 - Summary of the proposed investigation, including time points for relevant data/specimen, shipment plan for specimens (if any), and associated analysis plans
 - Note if any IRB approvals at the proposing investigator's institution are required; note, if IRB approval is not required investigators will need to provide documentation of an IRB waiver
 - Note any specific institutions and/or laboratories where the proposed work is to be completed
 - Note whether the investigators have their own statistician or would like an IMPAACT statistician (either through the Statistical and Data Analysis Center or the Social Behavioral Sciences Core) to work on the project
- Anticipated timeline for completion (within the funding period) for the following milestones, as applicable:
 - Protocol development
 - IRB Approvals
 - Establish MTAs with testing lab
 - Retrieval and shipment of specimens to testing lab
 - Specimen testing
 - Data analysis
 - Abstract/manuscript development
- Budget and Justification:
 - Provide the budget and justification for the entire funding period, as an Appendix
 - Attendance at the IMPAACT Annual Meeting in Washington, DC for the second year of the project is required and will be supported by the IMPAACT Network. Additional travel and conference registrations should be included in the budget.
 - IMPAACT statistician time need not be included in the budget
 - Optional: Note any outside resources available to the investigator that may contribute to the success of the investigation; e.g., institutional support, grant or foundation support
 - Note, funding is a cost-reimbursement sub-agreement.
- Letters of Support to be included:
 - A brief statement of support from the Protocol Chair(s)
 - A brief statement of support from the proposed mentor(s)

Eligible Studies:

As noted above, proposals may be submitted for concluded studies. Applicants can search the IMPAACT website and filter based on *concluded study status*:

<https://www.impaactnetwork.org/studies>. Additionally, studies with available IMPAACT specimens may be searched on the specimen repository website:

<https://www.specimenrepository.org/RepositorySite/search.html>. If the study of interest is not included on these websites, please contact impaact.earlycareer@fstrf.org.