The HARC Center is one of five interdisciplinary research centers funded by the NIH AIDS-Related Structural Biology Program. The Center aims to create a comprehensive structural picture of interactions between HIV viral proteins and host molecules at early stages of the virus life cycle, with an emphasis on the regulatory and accessory proteins Rev, Tat, Vif, Vpu, and Vpr and on PR. Projects in the Center focus on two major biological themes: (1) Evasion of anti-viral restriction factors and manipulation of degradation pathways and (2) hijacking of machineries for handling nucleic acids. High-resolution structures of HIV-host complexes relevant to these functions offer the potential for novel targeted drug strategies in the treatment of AIDS. We utilize a range of structural techniques, including x-ray crystallography, NMR, and cryo-EM, aided by proteomics/genomics, computational structural biology, and virology, to understand how the virus hijacks the host cell machinery. In addition to structural and functional investigations of regulatory and accessory complexes, the completion of a comprehensive interaction map between HIV and host proteins (Jager et al., Nature 2012) has opened a wide range of opportunities to understand new aspects of viral biology and study the structures of new complexes. See the HARC Center website at http://harc.ucsf.edu for more information.

The HARC Center Collaborative Opportunity Fund is a program to provide seed grants for new collaborations with structural and HIV biologists. It is expected that the projects will lead to independent funding after the initial seed period. We especially encourage new and non-HIV investigators with interests relevant to the Center to apply for funding.

**Application process:**
Applications must be submitted as a single PDF file (to melanie.brewer@ucsf.edu) with the following:

1) Completed NIH PHS 398 face page including signature from authorized institutional official (downloadable from http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html) Intramural applications do not need to include institutional signature.

2) Detailed budget and justification using PHS398 forms: A maximum of $100,000 for one year in total costs. A second year of funding may be awarded, dependent upon progress, in a competitive renewal process. Budgets must include travel costs to the annual NIH Structural Biology meeting typically held in Bethesda, MD in June, and for visits to the HARC Center as needed.

3) NIH Biosketch (New format: 5-page maximum) See http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/index.htm - biosketch

4) Other Support document, including dollar amounts.

5) Statement of the overall goals of the project and how it fits into the scope of the HARC Center. Statement of the roles of collaborating HARC Center PI(s) and how the resources and expertise of the Center will be utilized. It is recommended that you coordinate with the HARC Center PI(s) with whom you propose to collaborate, when preparing this statement. Statement of prior year progress, if this is a renewal application. (1-page maximum for all statements combined)
6) Three-page (maximum) proposal, single-spaced, Arial, font size 11 pts or higher (page limit includes figures, but excludes references)
   a. Specific Aims
   b. Significance/Innovation
   c. Approach & Preliminary Data
   d. Milestones
   e. References cited

**Eligibility:**
Applications are open to any interested investigator at a qualified institution in the United States. Priority will be given to early-stage investigators who are either new to the HIV field or young investigators.

**Deadline:**
- June 5, 2015: Applications due (by 5 o’clock P.M., Pacific Time)
- July 15, 2015: Grantees notified
- Sept 1, 2015: Funding start date

**Total Award:**
Up to $100,000 in total costs (direct plus indirect) per year. Awards will be made for one year, with a potential second year of funding awarded in a competitive renewal process. A detailed budget and justification is required in the application. Includes travel costs to annual NIH program meeting and to visit the HARC Center as needed.

Grants will extend for no more than a two-year period, anticipating that results from these seed funds will be adequate to support a new independent grant.

**Funded Individuals:**
All applications selected for funding are subject to approval by NIH staff. Funded investigators will be required to follow all NIH regulations/requirements, including those related to animal use, human subjects, and recombinant DNA.

Participation in the annual NIH program meeting “Structural Biology Related to HIV/AIDS” is required and funds must be allocated for this purpose.

Participation in HARC Center activities is expected and may include participation in periodic meetings of PIs, Center members, or collaborators.

A final report is required at the end of each funding period. This report should summarize results, including any publications resulting from the research. Reports will be provided to NIH staff.

**Administrative Contact:**
Questions about the Collaborative Opportunity Fund should be directed to Melanie Brewer at melanie.brewer@ucsf.edu