

Introducing Early Career Investigator Request for Application

James Kublin, MD, MPH
Director, HVTN



Top Priorities

- As a result of the STEP outcome in 2008 the top priorities in the scientific agenda have shifted, to account for new information and to meet new challenges. These priorities are:
 - To better understand the outcome of data from STEP and Phambili, and to use these data to help define and evaluate conceptual improvements in T-cell-based vaccines.
 - To foster an iterative process between human and nonhuman primate studies that should allow the field to define such conceptual improvements.





HIV VACCINE
TRIALS NETWORK



EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATOR SCHOLAR AWARD

Funding Pilot Studies to
Advance Non-Human Primate
Models in Support of HIV
Vaccine Clinical Research



Global HIV Vaccine
Enterprise

HIV VACCINE
TRIALS NETWORK



The Early Career Investigator Scholar Award

- ❑ Funding Pilot Studies to advance Non-Human Primate Models in support of HIV Vaccine Clinical Research
- ❑ Foster ECI mentorship between clinical and NHP scientists addressing common questions in vaccine discovery.
- ❑ Support 3-8 proposals, up to \$450,000 per year for two years.
- ❑ Covers investigator time at 60-100% FTE.
- ❑ Letter of Intent due 22 December 2008 to the HVTN at research@hvtn.org.
- ❑ Applications: www.hvtn.org or www.chavi.org



Research projects and studies may include:

- Developing novel approaches that define immune responses responsible for controlling post infection viremia.
 - Adoptive transfer or depletion experiments to define the magnitude and/or specific functional characteristics of NK or T cells involved in control of viremia post experimental challenge
 - Define reasons for lack of efficacy of cellular immune responses in restricting replication.
- Defining the role epitope diversity (breadth) and magnitude play in control of post infection viremia from heterologous experimental viral challenge.
- Defining similarities and differences in NHP versus humans by directly comparing responses to candidate immunogens.



Research projects and studies may include (cont.):

- Assessing how adjuvants can alter the quality/quantity of T cell responses in both mucosal and systemic compartments and defining the types of cells and their effectiveness in vivo after experimental challenge.
- Elucidating the role of innate or mucosal immunity in control of HIV/SIV infection and vaccine-induced protection.
- Designing novel studies for identifying correlates of vaccine-induced immune protection, control of post-infection viremia, or memory T-cell preservation.
- Defining the role neutralizing or non neutralizing antibodies play in host resistance and whether they enhance T-cell responses in controlling viremia.

