

ATN Request for Proposals (RFP): Cross-Network Analyses of Current ATN Trials

Proposal due date: August 15, 2021

I. Introduction

The US National Institutes of Health (NIH)-sponsored Adolescent Medicine Trials Network for HIV/AIDS Interventions (ATN) aims to develop and conduct innovative behavioral, community-based, translational, therapeutic, microbicide and vaccine trials in youth ages 12 to 24 years, at-risk for HIV and living with HIV. The objectives and overarching goals of the ATN are to increase the numbers of at-risk youth who are aware of their serostatus, and for those who are diagnosed with HIV, to increase the numbers in each segment of the care continuum to 95% and to bend the infection rate curve downward toward zero. Currently, the ATN is comprised of three U19s, each supporting a research program with a well-defined research focus supported by core (e.g., program management, analysis) infrastructures and any needed participant recruitment and enrollment capacity. The ATN is further comprised of a U24 Coordinating Center to provide support, coordination, and operational infrastructure to the Network. More information about the ATN is available at <https://atnweb.org/atnweb/> and in the collection of protocol papers published here <https://www.researchprotocols.org/collection/view/576>.

II. Purpose

The purpose of this RFP is to provide funding support for early stage investigators to conduct cross-protocol analyses of two or more ATN trials conducted under the current funding cycle. This funding opportunity is open to all early stage investigators with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research. An early stage investigator (ESI) is defined as a Program Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI) who has completed their terminal research degree or end of post-graduate clinical training, whichever date is later, within the past 10 years and who has not previously competed successfully as PD/PI for a substantial NIH independent research award. See the [list of NIH grants that a PD/PI can hold and still be considered an ESI](#). Early-stage investigators paired with appropriate senior mentors are encouraged to apply to this RFP. Leveraging network resources, such as utilizing the U19 Analytic Cores and the U24 Coordinating Center for data management or analysis, is also encouraged.

III. Funding Source and Mechanism

Application budgets are limited to \$35,000 Direct Costs and need to reflect the actual needs of the proposed project. The maximum project period is October 2021 through May 2022.

IV. Scope of Work and Expected Project Outcomes

The ATN seeks proposals for cross-protocol analyses of data generated during the current funding cycle that align with the ATN research priorities focused on the HIV prevention and treatment/care cascades. Proposals are encouraged for analyses of data from multiple protocols across the entire ATN. Proposals that only include protocols from one U19 and are beyond the scope of the U19's original aims will also be considered responsive to this RFP.

Project outcomes must include all three of the following:

- April 2022 ATN Meeting oral or poster presentation
- Manuscript submission by May 2022

- Dissemination of findings to the community (e.g., video abstract, infographic, webinar for community)

V. Proposal Procedure and Requirements

Applicants are asked to submit the following by August 15, 2021:

- Proposal Title
- Proposal principal investigator(s) and the names and institutional affiliations of the PI and collaborating investigators
- Biosketch of the PI
- Letters of support from ATN protocol chairs or U19 PI(s) of each trial to be included in the proposed analyses
- Brief proposal (not to exceed two pages) to include:
 - Aim(s)/Objective(s)
 - Summary of significance, rationale and approach
 - Description of data to be used, including list of outcomes and other key variables
 - Description of ATN resources to be utilized
 - Description of the timeline including deliverables and feasibility of accomplishing proposal goals within the funding period (October 2021 – May 2022)
- Human subjects considerations describing how confidentiality of data will be ensured and anonymity of research subjects maintained during data analyses and dissemination of results.
- Estimated budget with justification to support effort of investigator and the data analysis team, if not provided in kind, not to exceed \$35,000 direct costs

VI. Review Process

The ATN Executive Committee and NIH ATN Program Officers will review each proposal. The following will be considered in accordance with standard NIH review procedures:

- Relevance to ATN priorities
- Relevance to and integration with the ATN
- Scientific/technical merit and feasibility of the proposed projects
- Funding availability
- Program priorities

VII. Key Dates/Timeline

- RFP Release Date: July 8, 2021
- Proposal Due Date: August 15, 2021
- Award Notification: September 2021
- Funding Period: October 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022

VIII. Contact Information

- Address to which proposals should be submitted: ATN U24 at ATNAdmin@unc.edu
- Administrative questions may be submitted: ATN U24 at ATNAdmin@unc.edu
- Scientific questions may be submitted to: Sonia Lee at Sonia.lee@nih.gov