

CURE TEAMS Answered Questions

1. Can the MPI team consists of individuals who have published together previously?
 - a. Yes, previous collaboration is allowed but not expected.
2. Why does the RFA specify the male genital tract allowed?
 - a. Viral reservoirs within the male genital tract fall within NIDDK's mission, while viral reservoirs within the female genital tract are more aligned with the missions of other NIH Institutes.
3. Can a project focused on the male genital tract include some work on the female genital tract if the PI thinks it is scientifically warranted?
 - a. Perhaps, depending on the circumstances; it is best to contact the Program Officers listed in the RFA to discuss your project.
4. Is a minimum effort level expected for the each of the PIs?
 - a. There is no defined effort level for the PIs, and the expected effort level would vary from project to project. However, the effort put forth by each PI should be sufficient to fit the MPI model.
5. Can you please provide an example or more detail of the MPI who has metabolic expertise?
 - a. If you look at the adipose tissue reservoirs, you might have an expert in HIV science and an expert who understands adipocyte metabolism.
6. What do we mean by "two different areas of expertise"? How close can they be?
 - a. NIDDK developed this RFA to build multidisciplinary teams for a greater in-depth interrogation. Therefore, one PI should have primary expertise in HIV science, and another should have primary expertise related to the tissue or organ so as to promote synergy. If there are questions regarding the MPI makeup for your specific application, please reach out to the Program Officers listed in the RFA.
7. What about the effect of COVID-19 on HIV cure?
 - a. Yes, incorporating the effect of COVID-19/SARS-CoV-2, as long as it's focused on HIV cure, would be responsive.
8. How do you evaluate the teams under Approach when presenting preliminary data?
 - a. You may want to consider how a specific aspect of the approach benefitted from the MPI team. You need to provide a brief description of how each PI contributes to the preliminary data (which, for example, could be with design, with execution, or with interpretation). We want to know how everyone works together and the generation of the preliminary data is one way to judge that. Likewise, the MPI leadership plan has additional instructions, specific for the RFA, that will be used by peer reviewers to judge how well the PIs work together.