



**Collaborative for Diagnostic Innovation**  
**UC Davis Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine**  
**Lydia Pleotis Howell, MD, Program Director**

## ***Improving Diagnosis in Health Care*** **Request for Proposals**

**Why is this RFP being issued:** Accurate diagnosis is central to the practice of medicine, yet diagnostic failures and errors occur. The National Academy of Medicine’s 2015 landmark report entitled “Improving Diagnosis in Health Care” (The National Academies Press) identified diagnostic error as a major, unaddressed patient safety issue, noting that *“most people will experience at least one diagnostic error in their lifetime, sometimes with devastating consequences.”* The NAM’s report focuses on three themes. First, it promotes focus on the diagnostic process or “diagnosis”, not just diagnostic errors. Second, it defines a diagnostic error as failure to establish an accurate and/or timely explanation for the patient’s problem AND to communicate that explanation to the patient. Third, it places heavy emphasis on collaboration between disciplines.

**What is the RFP requesting:** This RFP seeks proposals from UC Davis faculty that **advance the quality and value of care through diagnostic innovation, validation, and quality assessment and improvement.** Suggested themes include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Creation of new or better tests and test strategies.
- 2) Optimization of test utilization (particularly reducing underuse, overuse, and misuse of tests and imaging procedures).
- 3) Reduction of diagnostic errors (particularly reducing delays in diagnosis).
- 4) Integration of diagnostic data with other data such as clinical information, microbiome and other phenotypes, social determinants of health, behavioral medicine, and others.

**Who Should Apply:** Interdisciplinary teams led by junior faculty (assistant and associate professors) with mentorship from senior faculty are the focus of this call. All applications should include a team leader or mentor from units participating as partners in this collaborative grant program: School of Medicine Departments of Biochemistry & Molecular Medicine, Dermatology, Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Otolaryngology, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, Pediatrics, Public Health Sciences, Radiology, Surgery; Cancer Center, Center for Health Care Policy and Research, Center for Regenerative Cures, and the Eye Center, the School of Veterinary Medicine.

Inclusion of trainee(s) at various stages and from diverse disciplines is encouraged.

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:** This RFP is made possible by a generous contribution from Brook and Shawn Byers in combination with funds contributed by participating departments and centers, and the Practice Management Group. The program is administered through the Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine under the direction of Lydia Howell, MD.

1. \$90,000 to support ~9 grants of up to \$10,000 each for development and preliminary testing of innovative diagnostic tests or imaging procedures.
2. \$210,000 to support ~7 grants of up to \$30,000 each for studies focused on: a) reliability and validity of emerging diagnostic tests or procedures; b) improving utilization of diagnostic tests and procedures (i.e. reducing overuse, underuse, and/or misuse); and c) reducing diagnostic error rates.

Applications are due December 1, 2017.

## Review and Submission

All applications will be internally reviewed by a committee composed of representatives from each of the participating Departments and Centers.

Evaluation criteria include: Disciplinary diversity and integration of the team members including explicit roles in the collaboration; merit of the proposal relative to the domains above including expected quality improvement outcomes, reduced costs, potential for dissemination across UCD Health; investigator qualifications and productivity of the applicants; project feasibility; expectations for next steps. The latter must be explicit and should include any of the following strategies for sustainability including intramural support, other foundation support, NIH support, and career development awards.

Funding period: Projects should be completed in the designated 12-month period of the grant proposal. No cost-extensions will be considered with justification.

Grant funds may be budgeted for: Small equipment (less than \$5,000) and supplies; core service expenses; personnel for research assistance; and other expenses necessary for the successful execution of the proposal. Exceptions (e.g., equipment costs > \$5,000 if required) can be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Funds may **NOT** be used for: PI salary, travel, subscriptions, memberships, or indirect costs. The PI should designate effort even though no funds are requested.

Projects that include animals or human subjects must be reviewed in accordance with UC Davis guidelines.

**Please collate your application into a single PDF file according to the following order:**

- A. COVER PAGE: Fill in completely. The contract period shall be for one year. There is no indirect cost. Institutional approval is not required.

- B. APPLICATION (3 page maximum limit): Including an introduction, significance, objectives, approaches, collaboration plan, expected outcomes and next steps. Font size and spacing must not exceed NIH guidelines.
- C. LITERATURE CITED (2 page maximum limit)
- D. BUDGET AND BUDGET JUSTIFICATION
  - 1. Prepare a detailed line-item BUDGET for the contract period (not to exceed 12 months).
  - 2. Prepare a brief BUDGET JUSTIFICATION explaining the proposed costs.
- E. RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT: Provide a statement of the resources and facilities available to the applicant and relevant to the proposal.
- F. TARGETED PLANNED ENROLLMENT TABLE: If the project proposal includes human subjects, the proposal must include the PHS 398 form Targeted Planned Enrollment Table to be considered.
- G. HUMAN SUBJECTS (if applicable)
- H. VERTEBRATE ANIMALS (if applicable)
- I. NIH BIOSKETCHES: Include NIH biosketches for all Principal investigators and co-Principal investigators.

## Timeline

- Networking session to identify new collaborators: November 6, 2017 (5:00-7:00 p.m., MIND Institute Auditorium); **Registration required:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/collaborative-for-diagnostic-innovation-networking-event-tickets-38291056581>
- Grant Submission Deadline: December 1, 2017
- Award Announcement: January 15, 2018
- Grant Funding Period: February 1, 2018 - January 31, 2019

**Submission:** Submit as a single pdf file (UCDMC\_(Contact PI's Last Name)\_Application.pdf) to:

Gabriela Lee, [gmllee@ucdavis.edu](mailto:gmllee@ucdavis.edu)

**For more information, visit:**

<http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/pathology/collaborative-for-diagnostic-innovation/index.html>