



## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS:

### **New Workshop for Early Career Investigators focused on Standardized Measurement of Neutralizing Antibodies to Advance HIV Vaccine Development, 18-19 October 2009**

It is generally believed that elicitation of neutralizing antibodies will be important in an efficacious vaccine and may be critical for the induction of sterilizing immunity. A major goal for HIV vaccine design is the development of an immunogen that will provide protection against a wide array of strains representing multiple genetic clades and inter-clade recombinants. Given that HIV vaccine-induced antibody performance in the current neutralization assays will function as a “gatekeeper” for HIV-1 subunit vaccine advancement, development of standardized platforms for reproducible measurement of *in vitro* neutralization is therefore a high priority. Recognizing that standardizing and validating immunomonitoring assays will be critical part of this process, several investigators around the world are working on this problem. The data from reporter cell line neutralization assays may agree with results observed in primary cells; however, exceptions have recently been reported. Without measurable humoral immune correlates of protection from HIV-1 infection or viremic control as established in a clinical setting, it is impossible to predict which assay best quantifies protective neutralization. Thus, evaluation of antibodies in different platforms, reflecting the biologic variation in the interaction of HIV-1 with its host cells, has been proposed as an interim solution to this problem

To engage new investigators interested in this area, the OCTAVE Project-- Online Collaborative Training for AIDS Vaccine Evaluation-- is organizing a workshop focused on analysis and assays of antibodies in HIV Vaccine Research. This Satellite workshop, entitled "Standardized Measurement of Neutralizing Antibodies to Advance HIV Vaccine Development: An OCTAVE Workshop for Early Stage Investigators", will be held as a satellite session immediately prior to the AIDS Vaccine 2009 Conference in Paris, October 18-19. The training will blend novel eLearning exercises in advance of an interactive, face-to-face 1.5 day workshop for early stage investigators selected to participate.

***We encourage early career investigators with interest in neutralizing antibodies and/or vaccine trialists to submit a CV and a 250 word statement of interest to [emily.schaeffer@sfdph.org](mailto:emily.schaeffer@sfdph.org) by 20 August 2009. In your statement of interest, please describe relevant background and how this workshop will support your future work in the area. There are currently ten available slots.***

***Air travel, ground transportation, two nights in a hotel and meals will be provided for the OCTAVE workshop. Complimentary registration for the AIDS Vaccine 2009 will also be provided. However, for those planning to participate in the full meeting, you will need to cover costs of room and board during the conference itself.***

This workshop is supported by The Bill and Melinda Gates sponsored Vaccine Immune Monitoring Consortium (PI – David Montifiore); NIH Office for AIDS Research (OAR); US Military HIV Research Program (USMHRP); WHO AIDS Vaccine Program; HIV Vaccine Trials Network; International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI); and Global HIV/AIDS Vaccine Enterprise.