The Pittsburgh Center for HIV Protein Interactions (PCHPI; [http://www.hivppi.pitt.edu/](http://www.hivppi.pitt.edu/)) is seeking collaborators to further our mission – to understand the early cellular events of HIV infection through characterization of HIV-host cell protein interactions/complexes at a high-resolution, molecular level. "Early cellular events" include those that occur after engagement of cell surface receptors and membrane fusion and prior to genome integration (intracellular trafficking, uncoating, restriction, reverse transcription, nuclear import, etc). We invite qualified individuals to propose collaborative research projects that will: 1) structurally characterize HIV-host protein complexes that have previously been shown to be important for HIV infection or its inhibition, 2) validate a biological role for previously hypothesized HIV-host protein interactions, OR 3) identify new HIV host protein interactions.

Priority will be given to junior investigators (at the level of Assistant Professor and/or not funded by the NIH) and to projects that clearly demonstrate how PCHPI core resources will be used to accomplish the project aims. Interested investigators must contact any of the PCHPI members, before applying, to learn more about our resources and how their research goals can be furthered by our resources and expertise. Inclusion of a plan of collaboration, that incorporates specific PCHPI cores or methodological expertise, will be viewed favorably (space for this is provided on the face page form).

**Total Award (Direct + Indirect costs):** $105,000 per year for one year. A detailed budget and justification is required. Funding for a the second year will be considered, depending on progress in the first year. This decision will be made by the PCHPI executive committee in consultation with the investigator and the PCHPI scientific advisory board.

**Eligible Investigators:** Faculty at the level of Assistant Professor or higher.

**Application Deadline:** Midnight (EST), Monday June 10, 2014.

**Format:** Single spaced, 1/2 inch margins, Arial typeface, black font color, and a font size of 11 points or larger

**Required Components (in indicated order):**
- PCHPI Face Page (with all fields completed)
- Detailed Budget and Budget Justification
- NIH Biosketch (4 page maximum)
- Proposal Text (sections A – D, 5 pages total)
  - A. Specific Aim(s)
  - B. Background
  - C. Preliminary Data
  - D. Research Design and Methods
  - E. Timeline and Specific Milestone(s) (Not to exceed one page)
  - F. References Cited

**Submission:** All proposals should be submitted electronically, **as a PDF file**, to Dr. Teresa Brosenitsch, PCHPI coordinator, at [tab24@pitt.edu](mailto:tab24@pitt.edu).

**Questions:** Questions about the application and review processes should be directed to Dr. Teresa Brosenitsch at [tab24@pitt.edu](mailto:tab24@pitt.edu) or 412-648-8968.

For information about specific cores or resources, please review the PCHPI website at [http://www.hivppi.pitt.edu/](http://www.hivppi.pitt.edu/) where additional contact information for the center and core directors is available.

**Funded Individuals:**
All funded investigators will be required to follow all NIH regulations/requirements, including those related to animal use, human subjects, and recombinant DNA. In addition, participation in PCHPI activities, including monthly executive committee meetings and annual symposia, is required.

**More about the PCHPI:**
The Pittsburgh Center for HIV Protein Interactions (PCHPI) is dedicated to understanding HIV-host protein interactions at a molecular level. The PCHPI is principally located at the University of Pittsburgh in the Department of Structural
Biology. Research conducted at the PCHPI is focused on early events in the HIV cellular infection cycle, those that occur after the virus has fused with the cellular membrane and before the viral genome integrates into the genome of the cell. The path of HIV components and the cytosolic events that take place after membrane fusion and through nuclear import remain a poorly understood area of HIV biology. As such, it presents an enormous opportunity for major discoveries and, thus, for new therapeutic targets.

The PCHPI is dedicated to identifying novel HIV-host protein interactions, to validating the functional importance of reported interactions, and to determining high-resolution structures of HIV proteins and their interacting partners from the human host. The Center has several cores to accomplish these tasks including an imaging core, an interactions discovery core, a protein production and biophysical characterization core, and cores dedicated to structural characterization of HIV protein complexes. Within the Center, complexes are structurally characterized using a combination of X-ray crystallography, solution and solid-state NMR spectroscopy, and cryo-electron microscopy/tomography (see the PCHPI website: http://www.structbio.pitt.edu/hivppi/).