

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

California Collaborative Consortium on Thirdhand Smoke Pilot Research Awards

The **California Collaborative Consortium on Thirdhand Smoke** (THS Consortium) is a multi-institutional, interdisciplinary, programmatic, and translational research effort. The Consortium aims to identify the potential health effects of exposure to THS residue from tobacco, vaping, and cannabis products in indoor environments, validate environmental indicators and biomarkers of exposure to THS, educate the public and relevant stakeholder groups (e.g., housing), and devise evidence-based policies to prevent such exposure. Funded by the **California Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program** (TRDRP), the central theme of the Phase 4 funding Cycle (2023-2025) is leveraging THS research to inform and contribute to the California Tobacco Endgame Initiative which seeks to end the sale and use of all commercial tobacco products in the state by the year 2035.

AWARD PURPOSE

The **THS Consortium** is pleased to announce the call for the **2023 Pilot Research Grant applications**. The goal of the Pilot Research Awards is to expand and promote the THS research priorities in relation to the Consortium's central theme. This short-term funding support for pilot studies should inform the development of larger, peer-reviewed THS-focused research applications that can compete successfully for TRDRP or other funding. Research proposals are encouraged from any scientific discipline and may focus on any aspect of THS pollution from tobacco, vaping, and cannabis products in indoor environments, exposure, clinical implications, health outcomes, prevention, remediation, and policy implications. Preference will be given to early-stage and new investigators to stimulate innovative translational research in support of the Consortium's mission.

KEY DATES

December 3, 2022: Call Release
January 31, 2023: Applications Due (Noon, Pacific Time)
February 28, 2023: Notification of Review Outcome
April 1, 2023: Award Start Date
March 31, 2024: Award End Date

DURATION OF AWARD

12 months

FUNDS AVAILABLE

Up to two (2) awards of up to \$75,000 total costs per award (total=direct + indirect).

ELIGIBILITY

The Principal Investigator must have an appointment and principal investigator status at a California research institution and must commit to the project a minimum of 1.2 person-months (10%) of effort for a 12-month appointment or equivalent. U.S. citizenship is not a requirement for eligibility.

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Application templates may be requested from Georg E. Matt (gmatt@sdsu.edu), Director, THS Consortium Pilot Projects.

- 1) **Cover Page** (see cover page template)
- 2) **Research Plan** (see research plan template)
 - Specific Aims** (1 page)
 - Research Strategy** (3 pages)
 - Literature Cited** (1 page)
- 3) **Budget summary and Budget Justification** (1 page, see budget page template)
- 4) **NIH Biosketch of PI** (see biosketch template)
- 5) **Human subjects** (see human subjects accrual template)
- 6) **Vertebrate animals** (see vertebrate animals template)

Parts 1-6 should be combined into one PDF document.

Grantees must comply with the policies written in the Research Grants Program Office Grants Administration Manual (GAM): https://www.ucop.edu/research-grants-program/_files/documents/srp_forms/srp_gam.pdf. These include Research Misconduct, Conflict of Interest, Acknowledgments, Open Access, and Human & Animal Subjects Usage Policies.

BUDGETARY GUIDELINES

The budget may include indirect costs and partial salary support for investigators, graduate students, post-docs, and technicians. The budget may include publication fees, supplies, and other study-related expenses. Funds cannot be used for travel, professional & meeting fees, salary support for administrative personnel, and equipment.

REVIEW CRITERIA

The internal peer review committee consists of members of the THS Consortium Internal Steering Committee (Benowitz, Destailats, Dodder, Hoh, Jacob, Matt, Quintana, Record, Schick, Snijders). Each proposal will be reviewed by two committee members based on the criteria outlined below. The proposal scores (0-100) will be forwarded to the THS Consortium External Advisory Committee for the final selection of funding.

- **Feasibility (required):** The application will not be scored if it is unlikely to achieve its aims given the budget requested, and institutional and other available resources.
- **Human Subjects/ Animal welfare (required):** The application will not be scored if there are major ethical concerns surrounding human subjects and animal welfare.
- **Scientific merit of the proposed research (30 pts):** hypothesis-driven, appropriate aims and techniques to attain goals; sound study design, methods, and analyses will contribute valuable, valid, and meaningful data.
- **Significance of proposed research to THS Consortium central theme (30 pts):** The proposed project addresses an important research or policy question related to the central theme of the THS Research Consortium.
- **Innovation of the proposed approach to advancing the field of thirdhand smoke research (20 pts):** The proposed project capitalizes on unique populations/ environments, specialized expertise, new concepts/ perspectives, innovative methodologies, and/or emerging technologies.
- **Plans for external grant funding (20 pts):** The pilot project is likely to lead to significant follow-on funding and/or return on investment, e.g., meaningful preliminary data will be generated for potential future grant funding from TRDRP or other sources.

SUBMISSION

Deadline January 31, 2023 @ Noon (PT).

The single application PDF file consisting of (1) Cover page, (2) Research Plan, (3) a Budget summary and justification, (4) NIH biosketch, (5) human subjects form, and (6) vertebrate animals form should be sent via email to Lisa Lawrence (lisa.lawrence@ucsf.edu).

FORMAT SPECIFICATIONS

All applications must be submitted on the forms provided and adhere to the following guidelines:

- Use Arial font 11 points or larger
- Use 0.75-inch margins (top, bottom, left and right) for all pages
- The application must be single-spaced
- Consecutively number pages in the footer of Research Proposal
- Insert name and affiliation in the header of the document
- As applicable, figures or other materials must be inserted directly into the body of the application
- No appendices

HUMAN AND ANIMAL SUBJECTS, SAFETY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

Pending IRB or IACUC approval or copies of IRB or IACUC approval must be submitted prior to activation of the grant award.

GRANTEE PROGRESS AND FINAL REPORTS

Reviews of work and progress will be made quarterly through conference calls. A final report is due within 3 months of the project's end. Grantees are expected to present their project findings at a monthly Consortium webinar.

PUBLICATIONS

All publications (as well as posters and abstracts at scientific meetings) that result from the support provided by this award must acknowledge that support in writing as follows: "This project was supported by the California Collaborative Research Consortium on Thirdhand Smoke funded by the Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program."

EARLY TERMINATION OR TRANSFER OF RESEARCH FUNDS

If the grantee decides to discontinue the research project or leave their California-based research institution, the THS Consortium must be immediately notified and the project will be terminated.

INQUIRIES AND APPLICATION TEMPLATES

For inquiries and to obtain application templates, contact
Georg E. Matt, PhD
Director, THS Consortium Pilot Projects
gmatt@sdsu.edu

- Further information about the THS Consortium can be found at: <https://thirdhandsmoke.org/>
- Information about TRDRP's general research priorities can be found at <https://www.trdrp.org/research-priorities>.
- Information about the California Endgame can be found at: <https://trdrp.org/about/ca-endgame-resources.html>
<https://organizingtoendtobacco.org/>