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David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA



Grants that Foster
New Areas of Research

Sponsored by the
Gerald Oppenheimer
Foundation



Program Goals

The overriding goal of the Oppenheimer Program is to provide seed money for worthwhile projects in health sciences at UCLA, for which alternative sources of funding are not readily available.

These modest seed grants support innovative projects that are in initial stages of development. The Oppenheimer Program is administered by the Senior Associate Dean for Research in the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

Mr. & Mrs. Gerald H. Oppenheimer

The primary benefactors of the Oppenheimer Program are Mr. & Mrs. Gerald H. Oppenheimer. The Oppenheimer name is a familiar one at UCLA. Gerald (Jerry) has been vitally involved with the University since moving to Southern California in the mid 1960s. He has assumed a leadership role in shaping and supporting the future of medical research at UCLA. The quality that distinguishes Mr. Oppenheimer is his participatory style of philanthropy.

Creation of the Stein/Oppenheimer Endowment Awards provides a perfect example. He was not content to be just the program's generous benefactor. The most urgent needs of the UCLA Center for the Health Sciences were investigated, and the Award was carefully crafted to meet the identified priorities by providing seed money grants. Gail and Jerry Oppenheimer continue to be philanthropic champions for UCLA, including the recent naming of the Gail and Gerald Oppenheimer Family Center for Neurobiology of Stress.



Gail & Gerald Oppenheimer

The Seed Grants

There are five separate seed grant programs under the Oppenheimer Program:

1. **Stein/Oppenheimer Endowment Awards**
2. **UCLA CTSI Scholars Program**
3. **Gerald Oppenheimer Family Foundation Center for the Prevention of Eye Disease Program**
4. **Seed Grant Program in Complementary, Alternative and Integrative Medicine (CAIM)**
5. **Harvey L. Karp Discovery Awards at UCLA**

A single application process is used for all five programs. Faculty may submit only one application each year. Faculty who are funded by the Oppenheimer Program must wait two years before submitting another grant application.

The Stein/Oppenheimer Endowment Awards

program provides up to \$30,000 to enable scientists, clinicians, and others to generate preliminary data for use in subsequent applications to federal and private funding organizations. It is open to academic senate faculty of all ranks.

The Stein/Oppenheimer Endowment was established to further medical research, education, and patient care at the UCLA Center for the Health Sciences. Through the support of specific projects, these awards enhance UCLA's commitment to comprehensive excellence in the biomedical field.

Since the program's inception in 1990, 254 seed grants have been awarded. To date, an investment of over five million dollars has generated more than one hundred million in new research grants to UCLA, a 20-fold return!

The commonality of pursuing pioneering investigations has created a unique bond for the awardees,

though they come from many different paths within the biomedical community. Each year, a Stein/ Oppenheimer reception is held that brings together current and past grant recipients with the program's benefactors and representatives. The camaraderie at these gatherings is a special benefit.

The UCLA Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) Scholars Program is funded by a NCRR Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA). The mission of the CTSA program is to improve human health by transforming the research and training environment to enhance the efficiency and quality of clinical and translational research. Each CTSA allocates significant effort to support career development for the training of translational investigators at all levels. CTSI Scholar Seed Grants are available for junior faculty within their first three years of appointment to support training in translational research in all areas of investigation. Grants of a maximum of \$30,000 will be awarded for a one-year period. Funding from this program cannot be used to support the PI's salary.

Applications will be accepted from M.D. or Ph.D. junior faculty in the UCLA CTSI community (UCLA-Westwood, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Charles Drew University, and Harbor-UCLA/LA Biomedical Research Center) within their first 3 years of appointment. The criteria for the selection include quality of the scientific proposal, the candidate's potential for an independent translational research career, potential translational impact of the research and relevance to the overall translational research mission of the UCLA CTSI.

The Gerald Oppenheimer Family Foundation Center for Prevention of Eye Disease Program established in 2002, is committed to the discovery of agents and methods to prevent ophthalmic diseases. Areas of study include genetic and environmental

factors that may cause eye disease and pharmacological and natural agents to treat eye problems before they happen. The hope is to address issues early in life in order to prevent rather than cure. The Center complements an expanding array of research in many other fields at the University that are applying rigorous scientific methods to study novel approaches to health care. The maximum amount awarded is \$30,000 for one year.

Seed Grant Program in Complementary, Alternative and Integrative Medicine (CAIM) is administered in association with the Oppenheimer Family Center for Neurobiology of Stress. The program accepts applications for pilot and feasibility projects. Funding up to \$30,000 for innovative, high quality interdisciplinary research projects (translational or clinical) is available in

the area of integrative medicine and mind-brain-body interactions. Of particular interest are proposals that address mechanistic or outcomes aspects of mind-brain-body interactions in health and disease.

The applicant must hold an M.D., Ph.D., or equivalent degree and have at least two years of postgraduate research training and permanent visa status. Postdoctoral fellows without current or past NIH or related agency research support (including career development awards) serving as PIs, who are in the process of establishing an independent research program, are encouraged to apply. Established investigators with existing grant support, who have not been involved in research related to CAIM and want to enter this field of research, especially those who bring novel expertise to the field, should also apply.

Application Procedures

Faculty interested on the following programs must apply online:

<http://oppenheimer.healthsciences.ucla.edu/>

Due Date for complete proposals: September 29th, Thursday, 11:59 p.m.

Please apply online for:

Stein/Oppenheimer Endowment Award Program
UCLA Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) Scholars Program
Gerald Oppenheimer Family Foundation Center for the Prevention of Eye Disease Program
Seed Grant Program in Complementary, Alternative and Integrative Medicine (CAIM)
Harvey L. Karp Discovery Awards at UCLA

Online submission begins on September 15th, 2011.

Complete proposals are due on Thursday, September 29th at 11:59 p.m.



Dr. Gene Washington



Dr. Leonard H. Rome

The Harvey L. Karp Discovery Awards at UCLA will provide seed grants to the most exceptional young scientists early in their careers and support innovative research. The purpose of the award is to supply a type of venture capital to outstanding young scientists who seek to conduct high-risk, novel, and creative research that would not yet qualify for National Institutes of Health funding. The award can serve to launch promising projects and to nurture careers. Because the Harvey L. Karp Discovery Award is a competitive award, recipients can add this distinction to their curricula vitae and use the funds to further establish their own independent careers in science. These awards are for \$30,000 for one year. Eligible faculty must be an Assistant Professor within their first three years in the Biomedical Sciences at UCLA.



Gerald Oppenheimer (center) & Leonard Rome (right)