

3. CAREER GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

My purpose in seeking a K01 award is to obtain the training and mentored research experience necessary to achieve **my career goal to become an independent researcher in developing novel technology-based HIV prevention interventions for reducing racial/ethnic disparities in HIV among MSM**. I have identified with my mentors the following career objectives that my proposal is carefully designed to address:

Objective 1: Develop expertise in conducting theory- and couple-based research with partnered HIV+ Black MSM using quantitative and qualitative methods. I will accomplish this objective by **(a)** building my knowledge base on concepts and theories of intimate relationships and acquiring applied skills for addressing issues and obstacles involved in dyadic research with HIV+ Black MSM; **(b)** developing quantitative research skills in dyadic analysis for analyzing and understanding dyad-level data; and **(c)** acquiring skills in conducting and analyzing data from qualitative research that complement and enrich quantitative findings.

Objective 2: Acquire skills in intervention development using a novel research design. I will achieve this objective in two interconnected phases: **(a)** Outlining potential intervention targets for change based on Aim 1 findings at an “Intervention Targets Meeting” with my mentors/advisors who are experts in the relevant research domains. **(b)** Using a group model building design, develop an intervention framework by working with a CAB that includes Black MSM in couples in which one (or both) partner(s) is a HIV+ Black man. This formative research phase will engage partnered HIV+ Black MSM as stakeholders in the development of an intervention intended to target and benefit them.¹¹

Objective 3: Develop proficiency in designing a mobile health HIV prevention intervention to promote behavioral health. I will achieve this objective using an iterative product development design by **(a)** working with my mentors and my product designer to draft mobile technology-based approaches for addressing those targets for change; **(b)** conducting and analyzing semi-structured interviews with 8 HIV+ Black MSM couples to iteratively refine the mobile health product; and **(c)** convening a final Mentor Team Meeting to finalize the intervention framework and product design.

I have assembled a team of experienced mentors and experts who are committed to guiding me in each stage of my training to achieve my career development objectives and to accomplish my specific research aims. The proposed training and research activities in this K01 proposal will culminate in an **NIH R34** application to support a full-scale pilot of the mobile health intervention for partnered HIV+ Black MSM.