

## **Overview**

The Pepper OAIC Coordinating Center is seeking proposals to accelerate progress for clinical and translational research projects. These funds are intended to be small (<\$7,500), efficient, relatively short term awards that can generate preliminary data for submission of collaborative extramural grant applications and/or high impact publications. We particularly encourage novel uses of existing data, specimens (blood or tissue), or images from OAIC and aging-related research repositories. Examples include the new NIA Aging Research Biobank, the Wake Forest OAIC's IASDR (Integrated Aging Specimen and Data Repository), specimens available at other OAICs or NIA-supported centers, and specimens available from trials relevant to aging, including LIFE, HEALTH-ABC, and others. Website links referenced below. Example projects include, but are not limited to, analyses of existing data or biospecimens, ancillary studies adding a new dimension to ongoing or past studies, novel assays, technology, data collection or analyses. Applicants should be faculty with a rank of instructor or higher from Pepper-affiliated institutions.

## Application Process involves the following

- Project Summary (250 word max)
- What research question(s) are you trying to answer and what is your planned approach? (1000 word max)
- What will you do with the answer when you have it? (250 word max)
- Details about how these funds will be spent and a justification of the expenses (250 word max)
- Projected timeline for use of the funds - all funds must be spent < 12 months; shorter preferred (250 word max).
- Funds will be awarded for up to \$7,500 (assay kits, materials, and invoices will be paid directly by Coordinating Center)
- A copy of IRB/IACUC approval letter will be required at the time of award (if applicable)
- Reference page (if necessary) to include up to 15 references on a separate page
- Endorsement/commitment letter from Director of submitting OAIC (half page)
- Applications should address: 1) A clinical or translational research focus and Pepper theme; and 2) Plans to use this funding to develop a larger clinical or translational multidisciplinary project or a high impact publication
- Brief letter of support from the lead Pepper Center's Director

## Review Criteria

- Relevance to the overall OAIC theme, research feasibility, innovation, and quality of the science.
- Development of future projects. Likelihood that funding will result in proof of principle or pilot data that will result in the submission of a larger extramural grant application, and / or lead to key publications.
- Demonstrated need.
- 'Leverage'- other resources that are will support the overall initiative.
- Involvement of 2 or more NIA-supported centers is strongly encouraged, preferably OAICs, but can include other NIA-supported center as long as the lead is an OAIC center.
- Involvement of early career faculty is encouraged.

## Links of Interest

NIA Toolkit: <https://agingresearchbiobank.nia.nih.gov/>

WFU IASDR: [https://www.peppercenter-wfu.org/public/bio\\_materials.cfm](https://www.peppercenter-wfu.org/public/bio_materials.cfm)

## Submission Deadlines

Brief Letter of Intent, no more than 250 words due to the Pepper Coordinating Center by **January 11, 2021**

Applications will be due to the Pepper Coordinating Center by **February 15, 2021**.

Contact: Questions regarding the application process should be directed to Abby Archer ([peppercenter@wakehealth.edu](mailto:peppercenter@wakehealth.edu)) and/or Dalane Kitzman ([dkitzman@wakehealth.edu](mailto:dkitzman@wakehealth.edu)).