



## OAIC National Coordinating Center

Claude D Pepper Older Americans Independence Centers

# Claude D Pepper Older Americans Independence Centers (OAIC) Coordinating Center Program

## Research Program Funding Announcement (RFA)

*With a focus on collaborative, multi-center, pilot and exploratory studies*

### **Background and Purpose**

The purpose of the RFA is to encourage cross-center collaborations within the OAIC network by funding for Pilot and Exploratory studies that by their nature require meaningful contributions - of expertise, capabilities, and specimens participants - from 2 or more OAICs. The desired outcomes, in addition to building collaborations, are to produce data and results that have strong potential to lead to subsequent proposals for extramural funding of larger, definitive studies produce impactful publications.

Pilot studies can be observational, translational, and / or interventional (pilot trial). Pilot and Exploratory studies can use data, images, and/or stored bio-specimens from completed or ongoing studies for rapid and efficient testing of OAIC-relevant hypotheses.

In accord with the OAIC mission, the focus of the proposals should address factors that impact maintenance of physical function and prevent or reverse physical disability in older persons. As a Coordinating Center pilot/exploratory study, the application should exhibit a compelling need for multiple sites and present a strong plan for collaborative / complementary research that involves 2 or more sites.

### **Pilot / Exploratory Studies Review Criteria**

- Inherent need for and use multiple OAICs
- Well-aligned with OAIC theme and priorities
- Scientific merit and long-term impact
- Evidence of monetary leveraging the opportunity through each participating OAIC
- Potential to progress to a larger, definitive trial that could be developed within the OAIC network, or to lead an ancillary study to a larger study
- Early career faculty involvement strongly encouraged
- Involvement of a diverse investigator group
- Uses the OAIC recommended standardized assessment battery, when applicable
- Addresses the OAIC CC theme of Implementation / Dissemination of findings from completed OAIC-related studies (Aim 4) desirable but not required

### **Letter of Intent details and deadline**

Investigators must submit a 1 page LOI by **January 11, 2021** by 5:00pm EST. LOIs will be reviewed for their relevance to OAIC themes and priorities and pilot / exploratory criteria, as well as adherence to LOI requirements. Proposals that are deemed most promising for generating important new information to support subsequent grant applications with a likelihood of funding will be the most competitive. We encourage you to consult with Pepper Center leaders at your institution and / or at the CC during preparation of your LOI and application. Letters of Intent will be required to include an Intent for a Consortium Agreement.

## LOIs requirements

- Descriptive title of proposed research
- Submitting Investigator: Name, institution, academic rank, e-mail address
- Co-Investigators: Name, institutions, roles
- Hypothesis, rationale, significance and aims of the study
- Description of study/plans
- How the study fulfills requirement for multicenter, collaborative projects
- Brief description of proposed allocation of funds
- Letter of Support from Directors of all Pepper Centers involved in the multi-site pilot including the submitting OAIC's institutional "Letter of Intent to Establish a Consortium Agreement" with necessary budget details included.

## Application submission details and deadline

Applications will follow the 6-page format for NIH R03 applications. It is recommended to include a letter of support from your OAIC with the submission (see Award section below). If selected, you will be invited to submit a complete pilot application and a link will be sent to you for submitting your application online. The Pepper OAIC CC is requesting each application provide a letter of support from their Pepper Center Director.

### Application Process Timeline

Letter of Intent deadline	January 11, 2021 by 11:59 pm EST
Full Application deadline	February 15, 2021 by 11:59 pm EST
Announcement of Awards	March 8, 2021

### Submission Procedure

Inquiries are strongly encouraged so that we can provide specific guidance in developing relevant, responsive, successful proposals. For additional information, administrative inquiries or clarification please contact Abby Archer, OAIC Coordinating Center Project Manager at 713-8504, (aarcher@wakehealth.edu). All LOIs and full applications should be sent via email containing a single pdf document to the OAIC Coordinating Center email.

## Award Information

There is funding to support up to one pilot study (\$80,000 direct costs; up to \$100,000 including both direct and indirect costs that involve two or more centers). These funds will be distributed to the submitting PI's OAIC and the award will be administered as a pilot study within the specific OAIC. Any applicable IRB/ACUC approvals and data and safety monitoring plans as requested by the NIA, etc. will be done at the responsibility of the submitting OAIC and the CC will require proof of these approvals prior to issuing the award. If awarded as a full pilot study, additional documentation will be necessary to start the sub-contracting process. Because of these award requirements, it is recommended that a letter of support (<= 2 pages) from the Pepper Center Director be included with the submitted application.

### Budget Preparation

Full pilot studies may request support for technical staff salaries, testing, animals, supplies, and reagents. The bulk of requested support should be for items such as these (material support of the proposed study), however modest effort support for investigators can be considered if needed.

## Review Process

Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee. Once funded, the project will be facilitated and monitored by the Translational Trials, Tools, and Technology Working Group (T4WG) of the Coordinating Center. The CC will assist as needed in providing advice on study coordination and data management based on its prior experience in multi-center study management. Twice yearly brief progress reports will be required.