

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

Rapid / Exploratory / Freezer Pilot Fund Request for Applications (RFA)

Overview

The Pepper OAIC Coordinating Center is seeking proposals to accelerate progress and build collaboration between Pepper Centers for clinical and translational research. These projects are intended to be efficient and 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 / Pepper 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, as well as population-based studies such as CHS, ARIC, MESA, and others. Website links for some of these are 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. An important aspect of this RFA is involvement of two or more Pepper Centers (or one Pepper Center and another NIA program center). For example, the samples, images, or other data could reside at one Pepper Center and be analyzed at another Pepper Center.

Letter of Intent

- No more than 250 words
- The OAIC Coordinating Center leaders encourage applicants to contact us as needed for guidance on applications and assistance with match-making and identifying potential collaborators from other Pepper Centers via access to the OAIC Collaborators Database via the National Pepper Center website (www.peppercenter.org)

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.
- 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.
- Likelihood that project completion 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 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

Boston Mobilize Study: <http://www.marcusinstituteforaging.org/resources/research-materials>

OAIC Collaborators Database: *access with inquiry to OAIC Coordinating Center email (below)*

Submission Deadlines

Brief Letter of Intent, no more than 250 words due to the Pepper Coordinating Center by **September 13, 2021** (send to peppercenter@wakehealth.edu) Applications will be due to the Pepper Coordinating Center by **October 25, 2021**.

Contact

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