

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

### **2018 Research Program Funding Announcement (RFA)**

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

#### **Background and Purpose**

The purpose of the OAIC CC Pilot / Exploratory Studies Program is to foster and facilitate collaborative, cross-OAIC studies that are either enhanced by, or by their nature require, involvement of multiple (2 or more) OAIC sites. This may be due to need for a sample size not easily met at one site, or disparate expertise at different site that is essential for meeting the goals of the studies. Selected, non-OAIC sites can be included if they have critical expertise for meeting the goals of the proposed project not available within the OAIC network, but there must be 2 or more OAIC sites.

The intent of the RFA is to provide seed funding for Pilot and Exploratory studies to demonstrate the feasibility and promise of cross-OAIC initiatives to produce data and results that have strong potential to lead to subsequent proposals for extramural funding of larger, definitive studies in anticipation of a scale-up or extramural funded research proposal.

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 that could either provide definitive published results, or lead to a future prospective study.

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

- Inherent need for multiple sites
- Well-aligned with OAIC theme and priorities
- Scientific merit and long-term impact
- Potential to progress to scalable infrastructure, a definitive trial that could be developed within the OAIC network, or to lead an ancillary study to a larger study
- Early career faculty involvement
- 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)
- Involvement of a diverse investigator group

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

Investigators must submit a 1 page LOI by Monday, September 10 by 5:00pm EST (at the latest). 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.

#### **LOIs requirements**

- Descriptive title of proposed research

- Submitting Investigator: Name, institution, academic rank, e-mail address
- Co-Investigators: Name, institution, and academic rank
- Hypothesis, rationale, significance and aims of the study
- Description of study/plans
- Brief description of proposed allocation of funds

### **Application submission details and deadline**

Applications will follow the 6-page format for NIH R03 applications. We will use a web-based system developed by the Wake Forest CTSA to manage submissions, review, and monitoring progress for pilot studies.

If selected, you will be invited, within a week after the LOI deadline, to submit a complete pilot application.

### **Application Process Timeline**

Letter of Intent deadline	Monday, September 10 by 5:00 pm
Invitation to apply	Monday, September 17
Full Application deadline	Monday, October 22 by 5:00 pm
Funding date	Early 2019

### **Submission Procedure**

Inquiries are strongly encouraged so that we can provide specific guidance in developing relevant and successful proposals. For additional information, administrative inquiries or clarification please contact Abby Archer, OAIC Coordinating Center Program 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 one pilot study (\$65,000 direct costs) and one exploratory study (\$7,500 total costs) that involve 2 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 a full pilot study, additional documentation will be needed to start the sub-contracting process. Exploratory studies will not be issued a sub-contract and will be required to submit invoices or items needing purchased and the CC will process this as a fee-for-service.

### **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. Exploratory studies should only request funds for lab kits/chemicals/reagents, core lab processing, etc. but not salary support.

### **Review Process**

The Directors Committee will nominate a 5-member selection committee which will use standard NIH review processes.

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.