

Pilot Studies Research Program Funding Announcement (RFA)
Claude D Pepper Older Americans Independence Centers (OAIC) Program
**“Integrating pathways affecting physical function for new approaches
to disability treatment and prevention”**

The Wake Forest Pepper Pilot Studies Program promotes promising new research ideas by providing funds for generation of preliminary data for the development of grant applications leading to external funding of larger, definitive studies. The Overall Objective is to promote translational research to assess biological, behavioral, cognitive, genomic, metabolic, and other factors which contribute to age-related physical function decline, or progression to disability. A major goal is the development and testing in clinical or pre-clinical studies of novel interventions which target contributors to age-related decline in physical function in order to prevent or reverse the progression to disability. Studies supporting WFBHS value-based initiatives and aiming to implement discovery-based approaches focused on physical function are welcomed. The program funds full pilot studies as well as exploratory analyses of existing databases and archived blood and tissue samples.

Innovative, multidisciplinary, and translational approaches are encouraged, as are involvement of junior faculty as well as faculty from outside fields interested in aging research.

Examples include but are not limited to assessing potential roles of:

- Body composition, musculoskeletal mass, and function
- Properties of the peripheral and/or central nervous system
- Bioenergetics and mitochondrial function
- Age-related changes to specific organ systems (e.g. cardiovascular, kidney, liver, immune system)
- Blood, tissue, and genomic biomarkers
- Physical or cognitive function or their interrelationships in predicting patient-centered outcomes.

Preliminary data are not required to be competitive. However, applications should include enough information to allow reviewers to determine the likelihood of success.

Eligibility Information

Basic science and clinical research projects are encouraged. These may originate from investigators at Reynolda or Medical Center campuses, and can include collaborations with other institutions, particularly those with Pepper Centers.

Award Information

The Pepper Older Americans Independence Center is funded by a grant from the NIH. Pilot awards are generally funded at a level of up to \$25,000 for one year and with the potential for a partial or full 2nd year if well justified.

Application Process

1. Letter of Intent (LOI)

Investigators must submit a 2 page LOI by 5:00 p.m. **Monday, August 12, 2019**. This mandatory requirement is pivotal to the process. LOIs will be reviewed for their relevance to the Wake Forest Pepper OAIC theme and their adherence to LOI requirements. Those deemed to the most promising in terms of generating important new information supporting subsequent grant applications with a likelihood of funding will be the most competitive and will be invited and provided guidance for developing the strongest proposals.

If invited to submit an application, we encourage you to consult with the Pepper Center Group during preparation of your proposal.

Pepper Cores

Pilot and Exploratory Studies Core (PESC)

Clinical Research Core (CRC)

Biostatistics and Research Information Systems Core (BIC)

Integrative Biology Core (IBC)

Bio Imaging Resource Core (BRC)

Pepper Core Leaders

Thomas Register, PhD / Dalane Kitzman, MD / Jingzhong Ding, MD, PhD

Jack Rejeski, PhD / Jeff Williamson, MD

Mike Miller, PhD / Iris Leng, PhD

Barbara Nicklas, PhD / Osvaldo Delbono, PhD

Leon Lenchik, MD / Christina Hugenschmidt, PhD

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

2. Complete Application on basis of LOI

If selected, you will be invited, within a week after the LOI deadline, to submit a complete pilot application. Individuals invited to apply must submit the full application by 5:00PM on Monday, September 9, 2019. Application Submission Instructions & Guidelines will be included in this invitation.

The study should include

- A multi-disciplinary team including at least one team member from Wake Forest.
- A commitment to use pilot data to develop a future subsequent, larger translational team-oriented grant application, or for exploratory analyses of existing datasets.
- Applicants should outline how the proposed project moves research in a field forward toward addressing health care needs within the population.

Application Process Timeline

Letter of Intent* deadline	Monday August 12, 2019 by 5:00 pm
<i>*You will be contacted one week after LOI submitted to inform if you will proceed with full application</i>	
Full Application deadline	Monday September 9, 2019 by 5:00 pm
Funding date	December 2019

Budget Preparation

Support may be requested for technical staff salaries, testing, animals, supplies, and reagents. Modest effort for investigator support may be requested if needed.

Submission Procedure

Inquiries are strongly encouraged so that we can provide specific guidance in developing relevant and successful proposals. For additional information or clarification please contact

Dr. Tom Register 716-1557 (register@wakehealth.edu)
 Dr. Dalane Kitzman 716-3274 (dkitzman@wakehealth.edu)
 Dr. Jingzhong Ding 716-8601 (jding@wakehealth.edu)

Administrative inquiries should be directed to Abby Archer, Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine at 713-8504, (aarcher@wakehealth.edu).