

Pilot Studies Research Program Funding Announcement (RFA)

Wake Forest Claude D Pepper Older Americans Independence Center (OAIC)

Theme: *“Integrating pathways affecting physical function for new approaches to disability treatment and prevention”*

**Due Dates: Letter of Intent (required)
Full Application**

**Friday, July 16, 2021
Friday, August 27, 2021**

The Wake Forest Pepper Pilot Studies Program promotes promising new research ideas by providing funds for generation of preliminary data for development of grant applications leading to external funding of larger, definitive studies. **Overall Objective:** 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. **Major goal:** development and testing in clinical/pre-clinical studies of novel interventions targeting age-related decline in physical function to prevent/reverse progression to disability.

Studies supporting WFBHS value-based initiatives aiming to implement discovery-based approaches focused on physical function are welcome. The program funds full pilot studies, proposals with plans to add measures to existing studies, and exploratory analyses of existing databases and archived biofluid and tissue samples.

Innovative, multidisciplinary, geroscience-based, 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:

- Age-related changes to specific organ systems (e.g. cardiovascular, kidney, liver, immune system)
- Body composition phenotypes (muscle, fat, bone) and function
- Physical / cognitive function and/or their interrelationships in predicting patient-centered outcomes
- Brain-body interactions
- Peripheral and/or central nervous system
- Bioenergetics and mitochondrial function
- Biomarkers (biofluids, tissues, cells)
- Cellular senescence

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 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 award budgets allowed up to \$25,000 for one year 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 pm, Friday, July 16, 2021**. This mandatory requirement is pivotal to the process. Inquiries are encouraged. LOIs will be reviewed for their relevance to the Wake Forest Pepper OAIC theme and adherence to LOI requirements. LOIs deemed to be the most promising for generating important new information supporting subsequent grant applications with high likelihood of funding will be invited and provided guidance from Pilot Core leaders towards developing strong proposals.

If invited to submit an application, we encourage you to consult with Leaders of the Pilot and other Pepper Center Cores during preparation of your proposal. (See table on next page)

Pepper Cores	Pepper Core Leaders
Clinical Research Core (CRC)	Jack Rejeski, PhD / Jeff Williamson, MD / Kristen Beavers, PhD
Biostatistics and Research Information Systems Core (BIC)	Mike Miller, PhD / Iris Leng, PhD / Edward Ip, PhD / Dan Beavers, PhD
Integrative Biology Core (IBC)	Barbara Nicklas, PhD / Osvaldo Delbono, PhD / Jamie Justice, PhD
Bio Imaging Resource Core (BRC)	Leon Lenchik, MD / Christina Hugenschmidt, PhD / Ashley Weaver, 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, aims, and relevance to the WF OAIC objectives and goals
- 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 Friday, November 6, 2020. 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 larger translational team-oriented grant application.
- Outline of how the proposed project moves a field forward toward addressing health care needs within the population.

Application Process Timeline

Letter of Intent* deadline	Friday, July 16, 2021 by 5:00 pm
<i>*You will be contacted one week after LOI submitted to inform if you will proceed with full application, LOIs are welcome earlier than 10/5 for expedited responses and additional time to prepare application</i>	
Full Application deadline	Friday, August 27, 2021 by 5:00 pm
Funding decisions communicated	Late September 2021

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 (register@wakehealth.edu)
 Dr. Dalane Kitzman (dkitzman@wakehealth.edu)
 Dr. Jingzhong Ding (jd Ding@wakehealth.edu)

Administrative inquiries are to be directed to Abby Archer (aarcher@wakehealth.edu)