

**Request for Pilot and Exploratory Study Proposals from the University of Florida
Claude D. Pepper Older American's Independence Center focused on**

Mobility and Prevention of Disability

Release Date: August 3rd, 2018

Deadline

****Full Application due November 26th, 2018****

RFA information workshop

September 6, 2018, 12PM – 1PM, Room 2161, CTRB

The University of Florida Claude D. Pepper Older American's Independence Center (OAIC), Director Marco Pahor, MD, is seeking innovative, interdisciplinary Pilot and Exploratory Study (PES) applications which address the above-mentioned focus. Successful applications should collect pilot data that will lead to extramural research grants and/or career development awards.

UF OAIC Cores

Projects **MUST** utilize and appropriately budget costs to include the OAIC Cores as a research resource. A brief description of each core follows and budgetary information is available from the core leaders upon request.

The Clinical Research Core, led by Steven Anton, Ph.D. and Marco Pahor, M.D., provides the infrastructure and expertise for conducting clinical research across the spectrum of translational investigation.

The Metabolism and Translational Science Core, led by Christiaan Leeuwenburgh Ph.D. and Roger Fillingim, Ph.D., in collaboration with all other Cores, utilizes translational research to determine specific biological mechanisms of functional decline in elderly populations and in pre-clinical animal models of aging.

The Biostatistics Core, led by Peihua Qiu, Ph.D., supports study design, sample size calculations, randomization, and state-of-the-art statistical analyses of OAIC supported studies. The core also provides data coordination, including developing data collection forms, designing web-based capture systems, and data management.

The Data Science and Applied Technology Core, led by Todd Manini, Ph.D. and Sanjay Ranka, Ph.D., provides infrastructure, trained personnel, consultative and collaborative expertise to analyze data from electronic medical records (EMR) and to extract meaningful information from complex biomechanical and physiological data to meet the goals of the UF OAIC. The core conducts exploratory analyses of existing epidemiological and clinical trial data to support grant development and publications.

For more information on the UF OAIC visit www.aging.ufl.edu

Who should apply? What types of projects are funded? What are the evaluation criteria?

Basic science and clinical research studies are encouraged, may originate from investigators at any College within the University of Florida or the VA Medical Center, and can include collaborations with other institutions, particularly those with OAIC's. PESs may be categorized as standard PESs or small PESs based on their budgets (described below). These studies may be led by junior faculty and/or research associates receiving OAIC Research Education Core (REC) support, or by other senior or junior investigators. Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of:

1. Significance, methodological approach, scientific merit and innovation
2. Relevance to the RFA theme: "mobility and prevention of disability."
3. Potential to result in subsequent larger NIH funded projects. A paragraph is required to describe the aims of the subsequent project and to outline how the PES will provide data that are needed for the major grant.
4. Multidisciplinary Investigative Team
5. Environment and use of Pepper Center Cores and Clinical Research Facilities
6. Budget and timeline appropriateness
7. Junior Investigator Involvement and level of mentoring offered to Junior Investigators

What are the budgetary allowances?

Basic science projects are allowed up to \$25,000 per year and clinical research projects which involve enrollment of human subjects are allowed up to \$50,000 per year in direct costs. Each project should be for no more than 2 years and it is the expectation that all funds will be expended within each award year: **no carryover of funds and no indirect costs are allowed**. Priority will be given to applications that are completed within a **shorter timeline**. Therefore, budget and timeline appropriateness are a key basis for evaluation of the application. Smaller PESs are allowed with a budget of < \$10,000 per year for one year. Awards levels are contingent upon the type of project proposed, availability of funds and approval by the OAIC External Advisory Board and the National Institute on Aging.

ALLOWABLE COSTS

1. Only direct costs that support the advancement of the Statement of Work are allowed.
2. Funds awarded may not be used for indirect costs.
3. Awardees must comply with the broad policies governing Cost Accounting Standards.

PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO DIRECT COSTS

1. Domestic travel is permitted for project-related scientific meetings to discuss or present research. All travel expenses to be reimbursed under this contract shall be in accordance with Florida Statutes Section 112.061. Foreign travel is not allowed.
2. Scientific equipment is allowed if specifically budgeted for and awarded. Each PI department will retain title to approved equipment purchased on their portion of the awarded budget.
3. General purpose office equipment is not allowed.
4. Food is not allowed, except for research purposes for research study participants.
5. Principal Investigator and key personnel salaries are not permitted but supporting scientist and staff salaries are allowed.

Will support from other entities enhance the potential for funding?

Leveraging funding from this award by combining resources from other entities is encouraged but not required.

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When will applicants receive notification of award?

Notification of award is expected by **January 31, 2019** and funding distribution will begin for awardees on **April 1, 2019**. The distribution of awards is contingent upon approval of the project from the local Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) as appropriate. **Applicants must ensure and/or include in their timeline the IRB/IACUC submission process.** Facilitation of the IRB process is encouraged by speaking directly with Dr. Iafrate regarding a specific application. For IACUC approval, prior consultation with an ACS veterinarian is strongly encouraged.

What is the application process?

Full applications must be prepared on the COMPLETE 1/2018 revision of the PHS 398 application package (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms.htm>). Include a letter of support of the leader of the OAIC Core(s) involved in the proposed study. No appendix materials are allowed. If human subjects are involved, develop a data and safety monitoring plan as appropriate. The Specific Aims and Research Strategy **should not exceed 6 pages**. **Please note that the 6 total pages INCLUDES THE SPECIFIC AIMS PAGE. The application packet must be:**

Typed: using Arial 11 font with half inch margins all around, single spaced, and with adherence to the page limitations specified. Do not delete section headings. Searchable: It should be created using text or word-processing software and then converted to PDF. Scanned documents cannot be processed using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) and are therefore not searchable. No larger than 4MB. Consider compressing images and/or eliminating color images before converting to a .pdf to minimize file size. Submitted in a single .pdf and named using your last name, e.g., "JohnsonOAIC_Pilot". Failure to adhere to these formatting requirements will affect your review scoring.

Full applications must be submitted electronically **no later than November 26th, 2018** to Louise Perras, louiseh@ufl.edu, as a single pdf file (maximum 4 MB) comprised of the sections listed in Table 1 below. Detailed guidelines and important deadlines will be sent to all accepted applicants. Strict adherence to format specifications will be required as this is an NIH submission.

Table 1. Grant Application Components and Page Limits			
Section	Category	Page Limits	Comments
General Research Information:			
A	Cover Letter		Required.
B	Letters of Support from Core Leaders		Required.
C	Face Page		Required. Identifies project title, project keywords, the applicant organizations and departments, the Principal Investigators, and Key Personnel. NIH format
D	Project Summary	1	Required. NIH format
E	Table of Contents		Required. NIH format
F	Detailed initial budget, entire budget, budget justification		Required. NIH format
G	Biosketches	5	Required for all key personnel. New NIH format.
H	Facilities and other resources		Required. Describe equipment, laboratory and office space.
I	Specific Aims	1	Required. NIH Format
J	Research Strategy (Significance, Innovation, and Approach)	5	Required. Relevance to the RFA theme. NIH Format
K	Future Plans	.5	Required. Anticipated future sources of scientific funding for translation or product development. Potential to result in subsequent larger NIH funded projects. A paragraph is required to describe the aims of the subsequent project and to outline how the PES will provide data that are needed for the major grant. (not included in the 6 pages)
L	Research Milestones	.5	Required. Provides an overview of the project schedule and a plan for progress report at 6-month intervals.
M	Literature Cited		Required. NIH format
N	Human subjects/targeted planned enrollment tables; and/or vertebrate animals		Required. NIH format

PUBLICATIONS

Dissemination of the results developed under this contract are encouraged to be made publicly available and published in scholarly journals. All publications shall acknowledge that "**Support was provided by the University of Florida Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center P30AG028740**" and must be in PMCID compliance.

One copy of any manuscript submitted or accepted for publication shall be delivered to Dr. Yenisel Cruz-Almeida at cryeni@ufl.edu (clinical research) or Dr. Rui Xiao (rxiao@ufl.edu) (basic research).

For additional information or clarification, please contact Drs. Yenisel Cruz-Almeida or Rui Xiao for guidance in developing relevant project proposals. Dr. Yenisel Cruz-Almeida, Department of Aging and Geriatric Research and Pilot and Exploratory Studies Core, UF Pepper OAIC. Phone: 352-294-5845 e-mail: cryeni@ufl.edu. Dr. Rui Xiao, Department of Aging and Geriatric Research and Pilot and Exploratory Studies Core, UF Pepper OAIC. Phone: 352-273-9389 e-mail: rxiao@ufl.edu.