

June 27, 2017
UCLA Older Americans Independence Center (OAIC)
Pilot Program
Seeks Participation in OAIC Renewal Application
Letter of Intent due July 31, 2017

The UCLA OAIC is soliciting applicants for Pilot Grants in basic, clinical and health services research within the UCLA OAIC theme: *Inflammation, Aging, and Independence*. Selected pilot applications will be included in the OAIC competing renewal, which will be submitted in October 2017. If the UCLA OAIC competing renewal application is successful, OAIC and pilot funding would commence in July 2018.

Key Dates

- July 31, 2017 Letter of Intent due
- August 7, 2017. Notification of applicants invited to participate in Phase two
- August 28, 2017. Full pilots due
- September 5, 2017. Notification of selected pilots
- October 19, 2017. Submission of OAIC renewal

Types of Pilots, Funding Levels and Project Durations

- Basic science projects: These studies may be up to 1-year in duration and must conduct substantial new data collection, analysis, and manuscript write-up in animal models or other model systems. May request a maximum **\$40K over a one-year period**.
- Studies conducting analyses and running biomarkers on already collected human samples: These studies may be up to 1-year in duration and must include data analysis and manuscript write-up. May request a total of **\$40K over a one-year period**.
- Primary human subjects data collection: These studies may be up to 2 years in duration and are the highest funded category because data collection with human subjects is generally more time consuming and expensive than the other types of pilots described herein. May request a maximum of **\$50K/year (maximum 2-year total \$100K)**.

Eligibility criteria:

- Junior Investigators: The PI must be a UCLA junior faculty member or advanced trainee at the post-doctoral level (pre-doctoral students are not eligible) with an identified and committed UCLA faculty mentor (the mentor will be the PI of record and responsible for the project).
- Senior Investigators: The PI must be a UCLA senior faculty member who wishes to use this pilot funding to create a new area of emphasis in her/his work that is aging-related.

Award criteria:

- Proposed work must be responsive to the UCLA OAIC research theme (see next page). Applications that are not directly responsive to the mission will not be reviewed.
- Application must provide a robust rationale for the sample size (number of subjects, animals, or sample)
- If the applicant is a junior investigator, the work must advance their independent research goals.
- If the applicant is a senior investigator, the work must represent a new geriatrics focus to that investigators work.
- Results must have high likelihood of resulting in preliminary data for a larger research grant application and/or first-authored publication.
- The time-line and requested funding amount must be appropriate for the proposed work.

**UCLA Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center
Competing Renewal Application Theme and Structure**

Center Theme: “Inflammation, Aging, and Independence”.

The UCLA OAIC will conduct basic science, observational, and interventional research on factors that contribute to increased inflammation in aging and its consequences. To be eligible for consideration, proposed pilots must:

- 1) focus on inflammation mechanisms that are affected by aging or diseases or disorders associated with aging that are mediated or influenced by inflammation
- 2) study inflammation in aged populations (animal or human). If pilot is basic science, then model system must be applicable to an aging population
- 3) affect clinical outcomes, including function, or have the potential to affect clinical outcomes that relate to independence of older Americans

Translational research is encouraged but not required.

PILOT APPLICATION PROCESS

This will be a two-phase application process, outlined below.

Phase one: Letter of Intent Application Packet, submitted by **5 PM on Monday, July 31, 2017**, via e-mail, to Lucio Arruda (contact information on next page).

- The Letter of Intent Application Packet must include 3 components:
 - A letter of intent: 2 pages in length, using Arial font 11-point typeface, with one-inch margins, double spaced
 - Biographical information
 - For senior investigators, recent NIH bio sketch (new format preferred but old format is acceptable)
 - For junior investigators, recent NIH bio sketch (new format preferred but old format is acceptable) *or* a CV if investigator does not have bio sketch
 - Statement of commitment to junior investigator or to aging research
 - For junior investigators, a brief letter from mentor specifying his/her commitment to the project (1/2 page maximum)
 - For senior investigators, a brief statement about how this application represents a new geriatrics focus to your work (1/2 page maximum)

Letters of intent will be reviewed on August 4th and selected applicants will be invited to participate in Phase two by August 7th.

Phase two: Developing the Pilot Project, due on **5 PM, August 28**, to Lucio Arruda via e-mail.

Because the OAIC is soliciting pilots to be included in our competing renewal application, and because the time-line for project development is short, we will use a collaborative process. In Phase two, applicants will be paired with an OAIC senior mentor who will facilitate the development of the pilot. The pilot will remain the work of the pilot investigator. The OAIC senior mentor will discuss the proposed work with the investigator, give guidance on components that are critical to a successful OAIC pilot application and provide interactive feedback as the pilot is developed. In this manner, the OAIC hopes to assist investigators in crafting a strong application in a timely manner. The completed Phase two application will be reviewed by the UCLA OAIC Executive Committee who will make the final

decision about whether the proposal will be included in the renewal application.

Phase two materials are due by August 28: all using Arial font 11-point typeface, with 0.5 inch margins, double spaced

Structured Abstract: 1.0 page

Research Proposal: maximum 9 pages (excluding references), consisting of the following 4 sections:

- 1 Specific Aims and Hypotheses
- 2 Significance, which must include
 - a. Scientific justification and rationale for the proposed work
 - b. Relatedness to mission--a specific explanation of how this work relates to the OAIC theme. Describe how the research addresses items 1-3 listed under Center Theme above
- 3 Approach
 - a. Methods that will be used to conduct the research
 - b. Discussion of data analysis methods and justification of sample size
 - c. Plans to consider relevant biological variables, such as sex, for studies of vertebrate animals or human subjects
- 4 Innovative aspects

Budget, Budget Justification, and Timeline: maximum 1 page

- 1 Amount of funding requested, by category (personnel, supplies, etc)
- 2 Justification for the requested funds
- 3 If other resources will be donated to the project (such as infrastructure or personnel) explain this in the justification
- 4 Timeline

The Phase one and Phase two applications should be e-mailed to the attention of:

Lucio Arruda

UCLA Division of Geriatrics

larruda@mednet.ucla.edu

310-825-8253