

UCLA Older Americans Independence Center (OAIC) Pilot Research Funding Available

April 5, 2005 Announcement

Pilot grant awards in aging-related basic, clinical and health services research are available from the UCLA OAIC at \$20,000 for one year.

The OAIC Selection Process:

1. Submit a one-page letter of intent and full CV by e-mail for review by the OAIC Executive Committee. All submissions from interested UCLA or RAND faculty must be received by **12:00 p.m., Thursday, April 28, 2005** (see contact information below). The letter should indicate:
 - Abstract of planned pilot research project
 - Relationship of planned project to Center mission and aims
 - Long range research goals for this pilot work for future research
 - CVs of Principal Investigator and NIH biosketch
2. The Review Committee will review letters of intent and contact investigators whom they wish to submit full pilot proposals by Tuesday, May 9, 2005
3. Full NIA-style pilot proposals (10 double-spaced pages in length) that are invited for submission will be due Wednesday, June 22, 2005.
4. Funded projects will begin July 2005 for the period July 2005 through June 2006.

Criteria for selection include: (a) quality of the proposed research; (b) credentials of PI and Co-investigators (if included); (c) relatedness to the Center theme and mission. Please note that highest priority will be given to pilots that would likely lead to R01s consistent with the OAIC mission within 2-3 years and will draw upon the existing OAIC Cores: Research Development Core, Cost-Effectiveness Core, Data Management Core, and Leadership/Administrative Core. For more information on OAIC cores, please visit http://www.geronet.ucla.edu/centers/pepper/pepper_center.htm

Submission of Letter of Intent

The letter of intent and full CV should be e-mailed to the attention of Lucio Arruda, UCLA Division of Geriatrics: larruda@ucla.edu; (310-312-0531). **The letter of intent, CV, and other requested materials must be received by 12:00 p.m., Thursday, April 28, 2005.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: UCLA OAIC RESEARCH

Research focus and long-range goals: The OAIC is designed to promote the independence of older persons by providing support for research to develop and test clinical interventions, and for core research in the basic sciences. An equally important component of the UCLA OAIC mission is training future leaders in aging research. Specific aims include:

- a. To continue to serve as the focal point for geriatrics and gerontological research within the UCLA community.
- b. To facilitate the development and testing of interventions to increase or maintain abilities need for independence of older persons.
- c. To conduct basic science research that has potential clinical applications in maintaining independence.
- d. To use established methods of health, utility, and cost measurement to assess and suggest ways to improve the cost effectiveness of clinical interventions.
- e. To train researchers capable of leading and conducting research programs that are consistent with the mission of the UCLA OAIC.
- f. To extend OAIC resources into the UCLA campus to increase the quality of aging research throughout the campus and to attract new and established researchers into aging research.
- g. To study a wide range of populations in these research efforts, including older persons with various levels of baseline independence, diverse ethnic backgrounds, and those who have been traditionally underrepresented in research studies.
- h. To translate UCLA OAIC research findings into improvements in health care practice.

OAIC research projects address a broad spectrum of health, ranging from those who need preventive services (e.g., to prevent osteoporosis and to increase muscle strength) to those who are among the frailest nursing home residents whose immobility and chronic medical conditions place them at high risk for infections, high health care utilization, and mortality. UCLA OAIC sponsored research projects share a common theme, “linking interventional research to basic science.” Accordingly, each research project relates a current or potential clinical intervention to a basic science. We have defined basic sciences broadly, recognizing that biologic sciences (e.g., molecular biology and immunology), physical sciences (e.g., biomechanics), and social sciences (e.g., cost-effective analysis, behavioral theory) are all fundamentals upon which clinical interventions are derived and evaluated.