

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

**September 2, 2008  
Announcement**

Pilot grant awards in aging-related basic, clinical and health services research are available from the UCLA OAIC. The principal investigator must be a UCLA faculty member or a faculty member from another institution who is collaborating with a UCLA faculty member. Principal investigators who have had a pilot funded in 2006 or 2007 are not eligible to apply (but they may be co-investigators). Funding level is dependent on scope of work, described on the following page.

The OAIC Pilot application process:

1. Submit an initial application packet via e-mail for review by the OAIC Pilot Core and Executive Committee. **All initial application packet submissions must be received by 8:00 A.M. Pacific time on Friday, October 17, 2008 (see contact information below).**
2. The initial application packet must include:
  - a) A two-page letter of intent, double-spaced using Arial font 11-point typeface, with one-inch margins. The letter must include:
    - An abstract of the planned pilot research project
    - A specific statement about how the planned project is related to the OAIC mission and aims
    - A specific statement about how this pilot work will inform the applicant's future research and how it will lead to larger NIH or foundation funding
    - A description of the proposed project investigators and their roles on the project
    - If appropriate, a statement about the involvement of a mentor and the role that mentor will play in the work
  - b) NIH 4-page Biosketches of all Investigators
3. The Committees will review the initial application packets and contact investigators from whom they wish to receive full pilot proposals by **5:00 PM Pacific time, Wednesday, November 12, 2008**. Additional instructions will be given to invited applicants at that time.
4. Full NIA-style pilot proposals (8 double-spaced pages in length, 0.5 inch margins, Arial 11 point font) that are invited for submission will be due by **5:00 PM Pacific time, Monday, January 12, 2009**.

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. Priority will be given to pilots that would likely lead to R01s or to other substantive funding, consistent with the OAIC mission. *Investigators whose grants have been reviewed favorably but need additional pilot data before being in a fundable range are encouraged to apply.* In addition, pilots that are likely to draw upon the OAIC Cores (see next page) will be most competitive.

The application packet should be e-mailed to the attention of **Lucio Arruda, UCLA Division of Geriatrics: larruda@mednet.ucla.edu; (310-825-8253)**.

# **UCLA Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center**

## **Center Mission**

The UCLA Claude Pepper Older Americans Independence Center (OAIC) is designed to maintain and restore the independence of older persons. The UCLA Center's theme, "*Developing Interventions to Maintain Independence and Understanding Mechanisms of Successful Interventions*" emphasizes research that builds bridges between basic biomedical science and clinical science.

We define 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.

In the UCLA OAIC paradigm, basic biomedical research informs clinical research and clinical research informs basic biomedical research. Accordingly, the UCLA OAIC supports research that links these two types of research in both directions by 1) examining mechanisms underlying successful clinical interventions and 2) developing new basic science approaches that will lead to clinical interventions

The Center stimulates scientific discovery through 4 Research Cores (Recruitment, Research Operations, Analysis and Cost-effectiveness, and Inflammatory Biology), a Pilot and Exploratory Studies Core, a Research Career Development Core, and a Leadership/Administrative Core.

Research Cores provide 4 levels of support (consultation, short-term, ongoing, and partnership on new projects) for external projects and internal OAIC activities.

The UCLA OAIC specific aims are:

- 1) To provide intellectual leadership and innovation for geriatrics and aging research on the Center's theme and related research
- 2) To stimulate translational links between basic and clinical research, with an emphasis on inflammation
- 3) To facilitate and develop novel multidisciplinary research
- 4) To stimulate incorporation of emerging technologies
- 5) To serve as source of advice and collaboration to other institutions
- 6) To provide career development of future research leaders

Funding levels for pilot projects:

Funding caps and permitted durations of pilots vary, depending on the nature of the work. Funding ranges are:

- For studies that will collect new data on human subjects (primary data collection) -- maximum of \$50K total budget for entire project; 1 to 2 year project period permitted\*
- For studies that will run biomarkers on already collected samples, including data analysis and write up – maximum of \$25K total budget for entire project; 1 to 2 year project period permitted.
- For analysis only pilots (must be a creative and substantive analysis of available data and include manuscript write up) – maximum \$15K, 1 year project period allowed
- Basic science projects – maximum \$50K total budget for entire project, 1 to 2 year project period allowed

***All funds must be spent during the award year. There will be no carry forwards or no cost time extensions.***

### **\*IRB REQUIREMENTS:**

For studies with primary data collection, investigators will be required to submit their IRB applications by the time their final proposals are submitted to our external review panel on **March 2, 2009**. A copy of the receipt of application or the entire application will suffice as evidence of this. The OAIC Research Operations Core is available to provide some advice on IRB preparation if requested. For more information regarding the IRB requirements, please contact Lucio Arruda at (310) 825-8253 or larruda@mednet.ucla.edu.