

**UCLA Older Americans Independence Center (OAIC)  
Rapid Grants Program  
Research Funding Available**

**September 22, 2008  
Announcement**

The UCLA OAIC is soliciting applications for a new **rapid grants program** for aging-related basic, clinical and health services research. Award size will range from **\$500 to \$10,000**, dependent on scope of work. The Principal Investigator (PI) must be a UCLA junior faculty member or advanced trainee (or an individual at this level who is collaborating with a senior UCLA faculty member). A “rolling applications process” will be used. **Applications will be accepted immediately and through December 31, 2008** or until the allocated funds for this program have been spent.

The goal of the rapid grants program is to provide small-to-moderate sized funding that will advance the independent research careers of junior faculty and advanced trainees. Funds may be used to purchase supplies, equipment or personnel services; results of research should lead to a first-authored manuscript by the PI and/or preliminary data for a research grant application. Funds may not be used to support the salary of the PI or of administrative staff.

Eligibility criteria:

- 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 faculty mentor (the mentor will be the PI of record and responsible for the project). Individuals from other institutions who are mentored by a senior UCLA faculty member are also eligible.
- There must be an identified and committed senior mentor at UCLA.
- Because this award will provide targeted support for a discrete need, applicants and mentors must provide evidence of that the infrastructural environment to conduct the research will be provided.

Award criteria:

- Proposed work must be responsive to the UCLA OAIC research mission (see below).
- Work must advance the independent research goals of the PI.
- Results must have high likelihood of resulting in preliminary data for a research grant application and/or first-authored publication by PI.
- Requested fund amount is proportionate to the proposed work.
- Funds must be expended by **June 30, 2009**.
- Preference will be given to applications that are attempting to collect additional preliminary data in response to recent grant application reviews.

Rapid grant application process:

Submit an application packet via e-mail any time between **September 18 and December 31, 2008**. Note that awards will be made on an ongoing basis until program funds are exhausted. Interested applicants should contact Lucio Arruda before submitting to ensure that funds are still available (please see contact information below).

The application packet must include the following.

A 3-page application, single spaced using Arial font 11-point typeface, with one-inch margins, which includes that following:

- a) Proposed use of grants funding (3-5 sentences describing the amount of funding requested, the targeted use of the funds, and why this funding is instrumental to the success of the project).
- b) Primary research questions and hypotheses
- c) Brief background and significance
- d) Brief methods
- e) Timeline (note expenditure deadline)
- f) Specific statement about how data will result in a manuscript/grant.
- g) Specific statement about relevance to OAIC
- h) Mentor's brief statement about infrastructural and mentorship support.

Also include Biosketches of all Investigators and IRB or Animal Use approval numbers as appropriate. Because of the rapid turnaround time, proposals that require IRB or Animal Use approval **must** have this approval at the time of application.

*For applications that are attempting to collect additional preliminary data in response to recent grant application reviews: include the grant review and specifically identify the critique that will be addressed by the proposed work.*

Funding decisions will be made within 4 weeks of receipt. Successful applicants must agree to submit progress reports, present their findings at local Pepper Center meetings, and cite the UCLA Pepper Center on all publications related to the support.

The application packet should be e-mailed to the attention of:

**Lucio Arruda**  
**UCLA Division of Geriatrics**  
[larruda@mednet.ucla.edu](mailto: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