

UCLA Older Americans Independence Center (OAIC) Research Funding Available

Research Services Funding Program

**September 22, 2008
Announcement**

Funds are available through the UCLA OAIC to provide research support to small projects through a new mechanism, **Pilot Equivalents**. The principal investigator must be a UCLA faculty member conducting aging-related basic, clinical or health services research.

In this mechanism, support is provided for the use of services provided by the UCLA OAIC Research Cores. Up to \$10,000 of such support may be requested per Core.

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.

Services Provided by UCLA OAIC Research Cores

Recruitment Core

- Identification of potential recruitment sites for demographically specific groups of minority elders
- Review and modification of recruitment and retention plan to incorporate what is known about the most effective culturally tailored approaches for specific groups.
- Introduction to specific community service and or advocacy organizations who are interested in participating in research projects with UCLA.
- Assistance with enrolling and retaining participants in specific studies
- Education in the most effective practices for the recruitment and retention of minority elders

Research Operations Core

- Data collection support, including development of protocols, forms, and manuals of operation
- Training and hiring of data collection staff
- Conduct of study analyses, including recruitment and retention reports and projections
- Data management services, including double-pass data entry and queries for data completion, range checks and quality control procedures
- Development of specialized software applications and interfaces for emerging data collection technologies
- Proposal preparation, including project staffing and budget estimates, as well as guidance for pre- and post award IRB applications
- Develop, review, and maintain data security procedures
- Access and coordination of investigator use potential research subject mailing list (Geriatrics Table of Potential Subjects)

Analysis and Cost-Effectiveness Core (A/CEC)

- Design
- Statistical analysis
- Selection of measures to estimate health, satisfaction, adherence, and costs.
- Specific analyses of these measures after collection
- New measure development and testing of methods to estimate health
- Cost-effectiveness analyses

Inflammatory Biology Core (IBC)

- Sample collection (e.g., plasma, serum, purification of peripheral blood mononuclear cells, preparation of cell pellets for future RNA/DNA extraction)
- Measures of plasma/serum immune and/or inflammatory markers (e.g., cytokines, receptors, adhesion molecules, acute phase proteins)
- Cellular protein markers (e.g., intracellular cytokine production, cell surface expression of activation markers and cytokine receptors, leukocyte subset enumeration)
- Assessment of intracellular signaling (e.g., intranuclear transcription factor assays)
- Molecular assays of cytokine production (e.g., RT-PCR for cytokine mRNA and inflammatory response genes, DNA PCR for assessment of genetic polymorphisms influencing inflammatory biology)
- Consultation for referral to UCLA microarray core for genomic assessments of inflammatory activity and its cellular impact

Application Process

Applications may be submitted 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).

1. Interested investigators should **submit a brief description** of the project (1 paragraph) and the type of support requested (1 paragraph) to Lucio Arruda via e-mail (larruda@mednet.ucla.edu).
2. The investigator will be contacted to meet with Research Core Director(s) to discuss in more detail the type of support requested, the ability of the Research Core(s) to provide such support, and the status of IRB approval.
3. Investigators with projects for which support is feasible will then be invited to **submit an application packet** to the OAIC Executive committee:
 - a) A letter of intent (up to 6 pages double-spaced with one-inch margins, Arial 11-point font) to include:
 - An abstract of the research project
 - A description of the type of support requested
 - For project already funded or underway, a statement about how the additional support will enhance or improve the project and a description of other funding (if applicable)
 - A statement about how this support will inform the applicant's future research and how it will lead to further 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) Biosketches of all investigators

Submit application packets via e-mail for review to the attention of:

Lucio Arruda
UCLA Division of Geriatrics
larruda@mednet.ucla.edu / 310-825-8253

Submitted applications will be reviewed using the following criteria:

- quality of the proposed research
- degree to which the support requested will either enable the research to be done or to expand the scope or effectiveness of the research project
- relatedness to the Center theme and mission (see next page)
- results must have high likelihood of resulting in preliminary data for a research grant application and/or first-authored publication by PI.
- ability of the OAIC Research Core(s) to provide requested support

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