

## University of Pennsylvania Alzheimer's Disease Research Center Developmental Project Announcement

The University of Pennsylvania (Penn) Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC) will fund up to two developmental projects in the 2021-2022 academic year, **pending availability of funds**, to support basic, translational or clinical research within the theme of heterogeneity in the Alzheimer's Disease (AD) continuum. AD is heterogeneous in age of onset, clinical phenotype, speed of progression, care needs for patients and families, and presence of co-morbidities and co-pathologies. Importantly, AD is frequently associated with traditionally considered non-AD pathologies that are often associated with other neurodegenerative conditions (e.g. alpha-synuclein and TDP-43). Special emphasis will be given to projects that address the theme of AD heterogeneity, but consideration will also be given for projects that are more novel, offer an area of research underrepresented in the ADRC or at Penn, and are transdisciplinary, expanding the breadth of collaborations.

Each developmental project will be funded for up to \$75,000/year for direct costs. Developmental projects may request funding for one or two years; however, a second year of funding will be awarded only after a competitive review process. The following are excluded from developmental project funding and cannot be included in the budget: tuition costs, costs associated with dissertation research, equipment and instruments.

Priority for these awards will be given to junior investigators, generally Assistant Professor faculty, but consideration will also be given to postdoctoral fellows. Alternatively, mid-career or senior investigators will be considered if the project offers a change in career direction into the ADRC space. Under-represented minorities and women are encouraged to apply. The Principal Investigator (PI) for these developmental projects may reside in any of Penn's 12 schools. Applicants must ensure that the PI for the pilot commits a significant percent effort to the project, as reflected in the budget.

The purpose of these grants is to assist investigators in obtaining preliminary data to serve as the basis of a grant application to the NIH or another public or private agency. Funding decisions are based on scientific merit, as well as the likelihood that the project will lead to additional independent funding to continue the research beyond the end date of the developmental project. Investigators are eligible only once for a developmental project.

Developmental project applicants are encouraged to take advantage of the vast resources available through the Penn ADRC and the ADRC network. Information on obtaining biospecimens from the Penn ADRC and data from the Penn Integrated Neurodegenerative Disease Database (INDD) can be found on the ADRC website: <https://www.med.upenn.edu/adcc/>. Data collected from all NIA-funded ADRCs across the United States (US) can be accessed through the National Alzheimer's Coordinating Center (NACC) and their website is: <https://www.alz.washington.edu/>. Biological materials, such as DNA, plasma, serum, RNA, CSF, cell lines and brain tissue from ADRCs and other centers across the US can be requested through the National Centralized Repository for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (NCRAD): <https://ncrad.iu.edu/index.html>.

### *Application Process:*

Applications should be formatted in the style of a NIH PHS 398 application. However, a title page should be substituted for the NIH face page. The **one-page title page** should include: 1) grant title, 2) name and affiliation(s) of PI, 3) contact information for PI including email address, telephone number and address and 4) an abstract of the proposed project using language that an educated lay audience can understand.

Specific Aims and Research Strategy (items #5 and #6 below) **combined must not exceed 3 pages**.

### *Organization of the application:*

- 1) Title Page (see instructions above)
- 2) Budget

- 3) Biosketch
- 4) Other Support
- 5) Specific Aims
- 6) Research Strategy (Significance, Innovation, Approach)
- 7) Literature Cited

If applicable, include the following:

- 8) Human Subjects Information (if applicable and protocol may be pending)
- 9) Vertebrate Animals Sections (if applicable and protocol may be pending)
- 10) Letters of Support (if applicable)
- 11) Consultants (if applicable)
- 12) Consortium Contractual Arrangements (if applicable)

Developmental project awardees must provide a brief progress report 6 months after the start date to provide updates and any unexpected barriers. A brief report is also required by the due date for the next round of annual ADRC developmental project proposals, if a second year of funding was requested. A brief final report, as well as annual updates regarding publications and funded grants stemming from the developmental project award, is required after the project end date. In addition, awardees will be asked to present their work, after completion, in the form of a short talk at an annual retreat to be held on Penn's campus each fall.

For more information, contact Kathy Jedrziwski, ADRC Director for Administration, at (215) 898-2445 or e-mail: [jedrzmk@penndmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:jedrzmk@penndmedicine.upenn.edu).

Applications Due: February 8, 2021; anticipated date of award, **pending availability of funds**: July 1, 2021.

Submit, by email, a PDF of the full proposal to: Kathy Jedrziwski, [jedrzmk@penndmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:jedrzmk@penndmedicine.upenn.edu). Please note that your application is for the Penn Alzheimer's Disease Research Center Developmental Project Program.