Duke Alzheimer's Disease Research Center
REC Scholar Request for Applications, 2021

Background: The Duke/UNC Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC, NIA P30AG028716) promotes career development in Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (AD+ADRD) research through its core resources. The central theme of our ADRC is to identify age-related changes *across the lifespan* that mediate the development, progression, and experience of Alzheimer's disease. The ADRC Cores include:

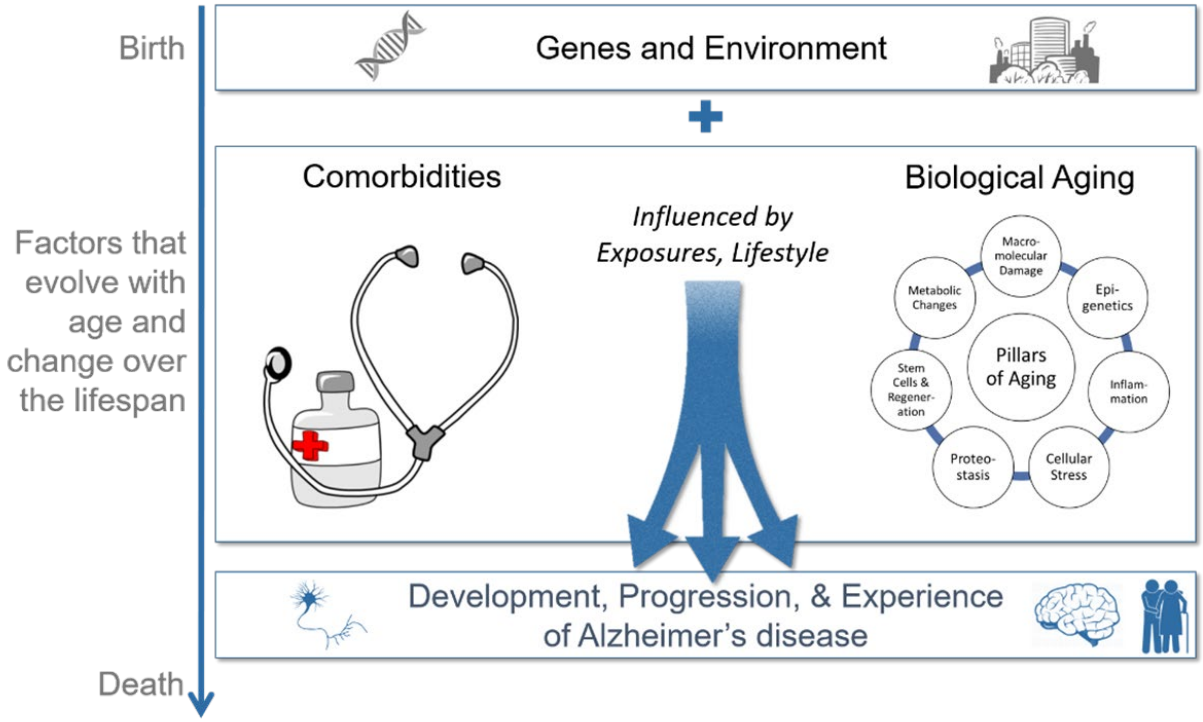
- **Administrative Core:** This Core provides leadership, oversight, and infrastructure support for each of the ADRC's five Cores and its Research Education Component (REC).
- **Data Management and Statistics Core:** This Core offers integrated data management and statistical/ bioinformatics collaborative expertise.
- **Clinical Core:** This Core is responsible for recruiting, clinically characterizing, and following a diverse group of participants who will provide biomarker data and brain tissue to investigators studying AD+ADRD.
- **Biomarker Core:** This Core's objective is to acquire and analyze biofluid and imaging biomarkers, characterize their relevance to AD+ADRD, and determine the underlying age-related factors that drive the development, progression, or experience of the disease.
- **Neuropathology Core:** This Core supports research by performing postmortem histopathological analysis and providing well-annotated and high-quality postmortem tissue and biofluids to investigators studying AD+ADRD.
- **Outreach, Recruitment, and Engagement (ORE) Core:** The ORE Core promotes outreach and education in the community in order to facilitate research recruitment into the ADRC and its supported projects, with a particular focus on the enfranchisement of clinically underserved groups in our region.
- **Research Education Component (REC):** The REC's goal is to develop future leaders in AD+ADRD research by providing early-career exposure to AD+ADRD research, delivering broad cross-campus research education, and annually selecting REC Scholars for focused research mentorship and funding.

Purpose of the Award: The goal of the ADRC Research Education Component (REC) is to promote the development of future research leaders who are conducting basic, translational, or clinical AD+ADRD research within the focus area of age-related changes across the lifespan. The REC will award up to 4 REC Scholar awards annually, of 2-year duration, with funding beginning July 1, 2022. The award can cover salary, project support, and research career development activities. REC Scholars are supported by the ADRC Cores listed above, and meet regularly with a mentorship team including ADRC Investigators. At the conclusion of the award, REC Scholars are expected to pursue external funding in their research area.

Eligibility: Candidates should be faculty within 3 years of their first faculty appointment, or an advanced fellow/postdoctoral student with clear plans for transition to faculty status. Candidates must hold an appropriate academic or clinical appointment at Duke University, UNC Chapel Hill, UNC Pembroke, North Carolina Central University, or East Carolina University by the award start-date of July 1, 2022. Only U.S. citizens or non-citizen nationals, or an individual lawfully admitted for permanent residence who possesses an Alien Registration Receipt Card (I-151 or I-551), or some other verification of legal admission as a permanent resident prior to appointment, are eligible due to NIH regulations. Individuals on temporary or student visas are not eligible. Candidates must be able to commit a minimum of 6 calendar months of full-time professional effort for career development and research activities.

Support: REC Scholars will receive $10,000 per year in direct funding. Funding will be provided for two years, with Year 2 funds contingent upon successful completion of Year 1 activities. Funds should be budgeted to support professional effort, project expenses, and professional development activities. Applicants do not need to budget for a full 6 calendar-months of effort on their REC award, but must be able to show that they have other sources of funding (*e.g.*, fellowships, foundation awards) that will protect at least 50% of their time for AD+ADRD research and career development. The REC will also provide tailored career development activities, structured mentorship in AD+ADRD research, technical/project support from the Center's Cores (*e.g.*, biostatistics support, biospecimen access), and collaborative research opportunities.

Eligible Research: The Scholar's research focus can be basic, translational, epidemiological, or clinical so long as it supports the ADRC's mission and theme. Research that bridges basic science and clinical areas, or has the potential to lead to interventions, is of particular interest. Research related to health equity is also encouraged, particularly when proposed as part of a collaboration with the ORE Core or other Cores. Research proposals should utilize one or more of the ADRC cores (see descriptions here: https://sites.duke.edu/alzcollaborative/research/).



Commitment to Diversity and Equity: The Duke/UNC ADRC is committed to promoting health equity and adding value to our community through diverse perspectives. Scientists from traditionally under-represented backgrounds are especially encouraged to apply. Additionally, applications should discuss how the proposed work may reduce health disparities or will benefit from the ADRC's diverse clinical cohort (enriched for minority participants, participants from rural zip codes, and participants ages 25-44). If human studies are proposed, the application should provide its strategy to promote inclusion and representation in the study population.

Application Process and Timeline: Applicants are expected to meet with one or more of the REC leaders (listed below) prior to submission to discuss their project's fit with ADRC goals and ensure the candidate's eligibility to be a REC Scholar.

- RFA released November 8th, 2021
- Schedule a meeting with a REC leader to discuss application and eligibility. Meeting should occur by December 17th, 2021. Please contact REC leaders early to allow adequate opportunity to find an available meeting time.
- Full application will be due Jan 28th, 2022
- Applicants will be notified of funding decisions by April 1st, 2022
- Award start date is July 1st, 2022

Application Format: All documents should adhere to NIH formatting requirements (*e.g.*, half-inch margins, minimum 11pt font, no more than six lines per vertical inch).

- Specific aims (1 page)
- Background and Significance, Prior Studies/Preliminary Data, Approach, Timeline (maximum 3 pages total)
- Candidate background, how selection as a REC Scholar will facilitate career objectives, and professional development plan (1 page)
- Budget with brief justification (1 page)
- References cited (no page limit)
- Mentor letter summarizing the research accomplishments to-date, describing a plan for ongoing mentorship in the research content area, and confirming that the candidate will have an eligible position at Duke/UNC Chapel Hill/UNC Pembroke/NCCU/ECU with at least 50% protected research time by July 1st, 2022.
- Applicant Biosketch

Please upload REC Scholar proposals to:
https://duke.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0P5NvlB7LarJJtk

For administrative questions, please contact:
Sara Patillo, MSHS, CCRP, PMP (sara.patillo@duke.edu)

To schedule your 1:1 meeting with a REC leader, and for programmatic/scientific questions, please contact either:
Kyle M. Walsh, PhD - Research Education Component Co-Leader (kyle.walsh@duke.edu)
Jan Busby-Whitehead, MD - Research Education Component Co-Leader (jan_busby-whitehead@med.unc.edu)