Duke Pepper Center Research Career Development Award
Request for Applications, 2017

Background: The Duke Pepper Older Americans Independence Center (OAIC) (NIA P30 AG028716-01) aims to promote research career development in aging research through its Core resources. The central theme of our OIAC, based in the Duke Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development, is to **understand and enhance reserve and resilience to promote recovery from stressors in late life**. The three Research Cores include: 1) Analysis Core, which provides statistical and technical support for projects as well as furthering statistical and analytical science, 2) Molecular Measures Core, which provides comprehensive biomarkers phenotyping to characterize biochemical, metabolic and genetic bases for aging research and 3) Physical Measures Core which provides expertise, devices, equipment and protocols for functional, physical and psychological measures.

**Purpose of the Award:** The goal of the Pepper Research Education Component (REC) is to promote the development of future research leaders who are conducting basic, translational, or clinical research within the focus area of physical resilience. The REC will award up to 3 career development awards, of 1-2 year duration, with funding beginning July 1, 2018. The award can cover salary, project support, and research career development activities. REC scholars are supported by the Pepper Center Research Cores listed above, and meet regularly with a mentorship team including Pepper Center Investigators. At the conclusion of the award, REC scholars are expected to pursue external funding in the research area.

**Eligible Candidates/Scholars:** Candidates should be within 5 years of their first faculty appointment or an advanced fellow/postdoctoral student with clear plans for transition to faculty status by July, 2018. 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 to accept a REC award. 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 associated with the REC program.

Applicants may not simultaneously hold any other PHS mentored career development award (e.g., K01, K08, K23, K25) that duplicates any of the provisions of the REC program. Support can be integrated with other sources of career support that the candidate may be receiving (e.g., GEMSSTAR, fellowships, non-NIH career awards).

**Support:** The Pepper REC Award will provide up to $60,000 per year for successful applicants, which can be used for salary support, project support, and professional development activities. The Pepper Center will also provide tailored career development activities, structured mentorship in aging research, technical/project support from the Center’s Cores, and collaborative opportunities.

**Eligible Research:** The candidate’s research focus can be basic science, translational, epidemiological, or clinical so long as it supports the Pepper Center theme. Research that bridges basic science and clinical areas is of particular interest. Research should utilize one or more of the Pepper Center cores; biostatistics/genetics, functional measures, or molecular measures. (See [https://sites.duke.edu/centerforaging/claude-d-pepper-older-americans-independence-center/cores/](https://sites.duke.edu/centerforaging/claude-d-pepper-older-americans-independence-center/cores/) for core descriptions).
Application Process and Timeline: Potential applicants are encouraged to meet with one or of the core leaders (listed below) to ensure eligibility and fit with the Pepper Center Goals.

11/1/17 Submit NIH biosketch and Letter of Intent (LOI). The LOI is a 1-page summary of research significance and specific aims

By 12/15/17 Eligible applicants will be invited to submit a full application

2/15/18 Full applications due. Application format and suggested length:

1) Specific aims (1 page)
2) Background and Significance, Prior Studies, Approach (3-4 pages)
3) Candidate background, career objectives, professional development plan (1-2 pages)

Maximum length 5 pages for items 1-3

4) Budget with brief justification (1 page)
5) References
6) Mentor letter. This should summarize the research accomplishments to date, describe a plan for ongoing mentorship in the research content area, and confirm that the candidate will have an eligible faculty position and protected research effort by July, 2018

7) Updated biosketch

By 4/1/518 Notification of funding
7/1/18 Funding begins

Please send proposals via email to:

Jamazina Smith
Program Administrator
Duke Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development
Box 3003, D.U.M.C.
Phone: 919-660-7502
Please contact Ms. Smith for any administrative questions

For programmatic questions, please contact:

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