

**Utah Older Americans Independence Center  
Pilot and Exploratory Studies Application Announcement**

The Utah Center on Aging is preparing for an NIA grant submission for a P30 Older Americans Independence Center (OAIC) for the next, May 2012, submission date. An overview of the OAIC is attached and the OAIC RFP from the most recent application cycle is available at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AG-10-003.html>

We are requesting two-page applications for pilot and exploratory studies to be considered for inclusion as part of the OAIC's Pilot and Exploratory Studies Core (P/ESC) with an application deadline of January 17, 2012. These applications must pertain to the proposed theme of the Utah OAIC – vascular aging and mobility – and involve the use of one or more of its resource cores (see attached overview of the OAIC and its resource cores documentation for additional information).

The Pilot and Exploratory Studies Core (P/ESC) will ultimately include 3 or 4 pilot studies selected from among the applications received in response to this solicitation. Should the OAIC application receive funding on its first submission, funding for the selected pilots would be available in March 2013.

Additionally, successful P/ESC applicants will be encouraged to apply separately for the Center on Aging's 2012 Pilot Grant Program. The RFP for these one-year, \$20K pilot grants will be announced by May 2012 with a July 2012 application deadline, and funding of successful applications to begin by Fall 2012. Thus, a proposal could receive funding as early as Fall 2012.

**Objective:**

The objective of the P/ESC funded studies is to “acquire information needed to select or design future crucial studies in the OAIC area of focus.” Consequently, the proposed P/ES must address how it pertains to the Utah OAIC theme and utilize one or more of the OAIC's proposed resource cores.

**Eligibility:**

Principal investigators must have a regular University of Utah faculty appointment. Center on Aging membership is encouraged, but not required. In addition to junior faculty, senior faculty proposing new initiatives of relevance to the OAIC theme are also encouraged to apply.

**Funding:**

The P/ESC may include two levels of pilot projects: standard (\$25 K to \$50K per year direct cost for up to 3 years) or small (up to \$10K per year direct cost for up to 3 years) studies. The following items are *not* generally supported with pilot project funds:

- Faculty salary
- Major equipment (greater than \$5,000)
- Travel not directly needed for the research project (e.g. to attend conferences)

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Review Criteria:

- Aging significance and relationship to OAIC theme (including resource core involvement).
- Scientific merit and innovative nature of the research.
- Likelihood the proposed study will lead to peer-reviewed extramural funding.

Review Process:

Pilot project applications that will be included in the OAIC application will be selected following a two-stage review. First, members of the OAIC Leadership Advisory Committee will review the applications. Meritorious applications selected from this first review will be included in a draft of the full OAIC proposal and submitted to a group of external reviewers in mid-March. The applications that will be included in the final OAIC submission will be determined at that time.

Application Procedure and Deadline:

Proposals should be electronically submitted to Ginger Bair ([ginger.bair@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:ginger.bair@hsc.utah.edu)) by close of business on January 17, 2012 as single PDF file with components in the following order.

1. A cover letter that addresses the following aspects of the proposal:
  - How this research specifically relates to the OAIC theme of vascular aging and mobility and its potential significance or relevance to the field. In addition, if the PI is new to aging research, indicate intentions for future aging-related studies.
  - How the study will utilize proposed OAIC resource cores. Applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss this with the resource core director(s) – listed in the attached document – prior to submitting the application.
  - How the pilot project results will lead to future independent funding and the specific funding sources that will be targeted (RFAs, agencies and projected submission dates)
  - Relationship that the PI or co-investigators have, if any, with the Center on Aging.
  - Whether the study is proposed as a standard or small pilot study and the expected study duration (1 to 3 years). No budget information will be required at this juncture.
2. Research Plan: The final OAIC application page limit for the *entire* P/ESC description for inclusion in the NIH application is six narrative pages. At this stage in the review process a two page application is requested that includes the P/ES's Specific Aims and Research Plan – including: a) Significance, b) Innovation, and c) Approach. Additional information including preliminary data may be included in an Appendix – but this should be minimized as much as possible.
3. NIH Biographical Sketches for all key personnel

Questions:

An informational meeting and Q&A session will be led by Dr. Supiano on Wednesday, November 30, 2011 at noon in the Geriatrics Division conference room (AB 193).

Questions may be directed to the Center an Aging Executive Director, Dr. Mark Supiano at [mark.supiano@utah.edu](mailto:mark.supiano@utah.edu), or to Directors of the proposed OAIC resource cores (their email addresses are listed in the attached).