

**Sanders-Brown  
Center on Aging**

101 Sanders-Brown Building  
Lexington, KY 40536-0230  
(859) 257-1412  
Fax: (866) 846-1412  
<http://www.coa.uky.edu>

January 15, 2009

TO: University of Kentucky Faculty

FROM: Frederick A. Schmitt, Ph.D.

RE: 2009-2010 Pilot Grant Funding

The Sanders-Brown Center on Aging is a National Institute on Aging-funded Alzheimer's Disease Center (ADC). As an ADC, our prime responsibility is to pursue research to further our understanding of Alzheimer's disease (AD).

**Last year's recipients were:**

- Drs. Charlotte Peterson & Anne Harrison (College of Health Sciences) for their project: "Behavioral and physiological effects of a power training exercise program in people with mild cognitive impairment"
- Dr. Christopher Norris (Molecular and Biomedical Pharmacology) for his project: "Targeted inhibition of astrocytic NFAT activity in a mouse model of Alzheimer's disease."

**The ADC is soliciting pilot grant applications focused on dynamic basic and clinical science studies of AD.** Each of the awards is intended to provide *seed funding* that will facilitate the initial testing of novel hypotheses, and lead to national-level funding of an expanded research plan based on the pilot work.

The successful applicant may be in any scientific discipline and should target their proposed research toward increasing understanding of the mechanisms underlying AD, or the clinical management of, or risks for, AD and associated dementias. These awards are open to all UK full time faculty.

Basic science proposals investigating tau, beta-amyloid clearance, genetics, potential disease modifying agents, and vascular mechanisms that contribute to AD are encouraged. Clinical proposals that investigate risk factors, mild cognitive impairment, preclinical AD, caregiving, minority populations, dementia with movement disorders, cognitive processes, and neuroimaging are also encouraged.

In addition, researchers are encouraged, where possible, to incorporate the ADC's existing Cores (Clinical, Neuropathology, Education and Information Transfer, and Biostatistics and Data Management) into their research plan. The applicant must clarify how the pilot funding will potentially lead to major support to sustain the research efforts after the end of the one-year grant.

We plan to support up to two pilot research projects on AD. These are onetime nonrenewable awards for a maximum of one year of support (up to \$25,000). The following are additional examples of eligibility for pilot support:

1. A study proposed by an established investigator with experience in areas other than AD research who wants to work in the AD research field.
2. A study by an established investigator in AD who wants to try a new hypothesis, method, or approach that is not an extension of ongoing research.
3. A study proposed by a new investigator with an interest in AD research.

The primary purpose of these grants is to allow investigators to obtain preliminary data for the support of a future submission for extramural research funding.

Proposals for pilot studies should present a testable hypothesis and clearly delineate the question being asked, detail the procedures to be followed, and discuss how the data will be analyzed. Pilot study support is not intended for extensive research studies by established investigators, nor may funds be used to support or supplement ongoing-supported research of an investigator.

As noted above, investigators are encouraged to submit proposals that use existing resources of the ADC. The ADC is presently longitudinally following over 200 patients with AD and an additional 400 normal control subjects. These subjects are available to participate in research studies. The ADC maintains a tissue bank of plasma, serum, buffy coat, and brain specimens (formalin-fixed and frozen from deceased subjects; most of the brain specimens have short (<4 hours) postmortem intervals).

**Funding Period and Program Requirements:** The funding period will begin July 1, 2009 and continue for 12 months (through 6/30/2010). In January of 2010, the grant recipients will provide the ADC with an interim report on their progress, and they will provide a formal written progress report to the ADC after completion of the one-year funding period. Investigators funded through this program will participate actively in the ADC's investigators' meetings and symposia. In addition, if the results are promising, recipients will be expected to present their research at scientific meetings, the ADC's Seminar Series, and publish their findings in scholarly journals.

**Eligibility:** The applicant must have Principal Investigator status and a primary faculty appointment at UK. As discussed, we are especially interested in using the pilot mechanism to encourage junior (or new to UK) faculty to pursue AD research, and more senior faculty to turn their well-developed expertise toward AD. We also encourage applications from established researchers who wish to pursue a new and untested, but promising, research hypothesis.

**Application Format:**

Successful applicants must concisely describe their proposed projects in NO MORE THAN 10 pages (single-spaced using no less than 10 point Arial font and 1/2" margins).

The body of the application should include: Abstract, Specific Aims, Significance, Preliminary Work/Background, and Experimental Design.

The application must also include the following sections that are NOT included in the 10-page limitation: Human and Animal Subject Welfare Information and Literature Cited.

Application for support of research involving human subjects must carefully consider a study design with gender and/or minority representation appropriate to the scientific objectives of the research.

Further, each applicant should submit the following material, using the forms from the PHS 398: (Form FF) Biographical Sketch (limit two pages); (Form DD) Budget for First 12-month Budget Period with Justification; and (Form GG) Other Support (also the applicant must append the Specific Aims page for all funded research). Up to four of the applicant's reprints may be submitted in an appendix, if they are pertinent to the application. The budget may request any funds that usually are allowable on an NIH application. However, requests for equipment, travel funds or publication costs must be very well justified. Total direct costs may not exceed \$25,000.

If an application is approved for funding, the award will not be activated until UK oversight board approvals have been provided (e.g., IRB, IACUC, GCRC). All applications must be approved by the appropriate university officials, but need not be routed through UKRF/OSPA.

Any application that does not conform to the above format will be returned to the investigator without review.

For additional information about the ADC, please access our web page:  
<http://www.mc.uky.edu/COA/ADRC/adrc.htm>.

**The deadline for receipt of applications is March 30, 2009. Subject to approval, funding will begin July 1, 2008.**

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED AS PDF FILES TO:**

[fascom@email.uky.edu](mailto:fascom@email.uky.edu)

**Application Review:** Applications will be reviewed for scientific merit and programmatic relevance by a panel of UK and external faculty (if needed) with expertise in the fields covered in the applications.

**Notification:** Applicants will be notified about the outcome by June 15, 2009.

**Questions:** Any questions regarding this announcement should be addressed to Dr. Schmitt at the above email. Any and all questions concerning the application process are encouraged.