



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Date: December 28, 2009
TO: UK Faculty
FROM: Frederick Schmitt, PhD
RE: Pilot Grant Opportunity

**Sanders-Brown
Center on Aging**

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The Sanders-Brown Center on Aging Alzheimer's Disease Center (ADC) is soliciting pilot grant applications focused on basic and clinical studies of Alzheimer's disease (AD). Each of the awards is intended to provide seed funding to facilitate the initial testing of novel hypotheses and lead to external grants based on the pilot work.

The successful applicant may be in any scientific discipline. Applicants should target their research proposal toward increasing understanding of the mechanisms underlying AD or the clinical management of, or risks for, AD and associated dementias.

Basic science proposals (including translational research) investigating tau, beta-amyloid clearance, genetics, potential disease modifying agents, biomarkers, and vascular mechanisms that contribute to AD are encouraged.

Clinical proposals that investigate risk factors, preclinical AD, caregiving, minority populations, cognitive processes, and imaging 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.

As noted above, the primary purpose of these pilot 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.

Investigators are encouraged to submit proposals that use existing resources of the ADC. The ADC is presently 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: Funding would begin July 1, 2010 and continue for 12 months (through 6/30/2011).

In January of 2011, the grant recipient will provide the ADC an interim report of their progress, and they will provide a written progress report to the ADC after completion of the one-year funding period. Investigators funded through this program are encouraged to participate in the ADC's investigator meetings and symposia. In addition, if the results are promising, recipients will be expected to disseminate their results (e.g., at scientific meetings, publications) through the ADC's Seminar Series.

Eligibility: The applicant must have a primary faculty appointment at UK. 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 expertise toward AD. We also encourage applications from established AD researchers who wish to pursue new and untested but promising research hypotheses.

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, Experimental Design, and Statistical Analyses. 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) Biographical Sketch; Budget for 12-months with Justification; and Other Support. 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 a 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, CCTS). All applications must be approved by the appropriate university officials. An 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/clinicalcore/alzheimercenter.html>.**

The deadline for receipt of applications is March 1, 2010.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED AS PDF FILES TO:

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. Summaries of the reviews will be provided to the applicant.

Notification: Applicants will be notified about the outcome by June 15, 2010.

Questions: Any questions regarding this announcement should be addressed to Dr. Schmitt at the above email. Also, questions concerning integration of the proposal with ADC resources can also be addressed to Dr. Schmitt.