

September 7, 2021

Dear Colleagues:

Again, this year, the University of Maryland Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center (UM-OAIC) at the School of Medicine is providing funding for two-year pilot projects. This funding is designed to provide start-up support for quality research proposals of high relevance to the Center's mission, which addresses the process by which function is lost, and the multiple factors that affect the onset, and progression of disability in older adults. Building on these important perspectives, the UM-OAIC focuses on the restoration of function in older adults with physical impairments, and the prevention of further progression in those who are already disabled. Studies may examine the mechanisms underlying the functional impairments associated with stroke, hip fracture, osteoarthritis and other common chronic diseases in older adults.

*Please circulate this announcement to other faculty in your department or school.*

**Funding:** The Center will consider funding 3 pilot projects, one of which will be technology focused, with budgets up to \$35,000 direct costs for the 1st year of work only. These projects are renewable for a second year pending approval of a progress report by the Pepper Center leaders; however, no additional funds will be provided if approved for a second year. It is expected that within 12 months after successful completion of the pilot study, a peer-reviewed manuscript will be written and a proposal for NIH funding will be submitted.

A pilot project investigator (PI) should be a full-time junior faculty member with limited external funding, a post-doctoral fellow with a written departmental commitment to faculty appointment within the coming academic year, or a more senior funded investigator transitioning to research in aging. PIs may use the funds for technical support, but not for their salaries. There must be a letter of commitment from the department to support a minimum of 10% of the PI's salary and effort for up to 2 years on the grant project. Additionally, human subjects (IRB) or IACUC approval is required before funding will be released.

**Application Process:** Interested pilot project investigators need to submit their NIH Biosketch and one for any co-investigators and complete the attached form that contains the following:

- 1) A specific description of how the project relates to the theme of the Pepper Center;
- 2) A statement on how this pilot funding will lead to the next grant submission as well as advance the investigator's future research in aging;
- 3) A brief narrative of the proposed research justifying the hypothesis and aims, primary outcomes, analyses, and the timeline for the completion of the research;
- 4) A list of the potential collaborating mentors and associated center core leaders; and
- 5) A description of the core services that will be required to conduct the research.

Letters of intent are due by **October 18, 2021** in WORD format.



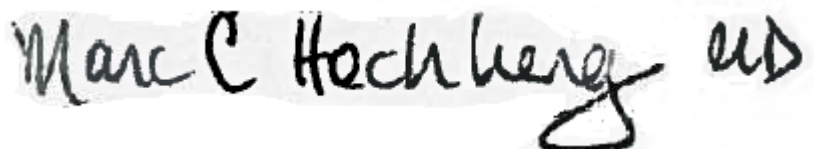
Interested applicants must discuss their project with a core leader (below) to assure compatibility with the center. For more information about the UM-OAIC's mission and core services, please visit <http://www.medschool.umaryland.edu/peppercenter/>. To submit a letter of intent, please send it electronically in WORD format to Anne Sullens at [asullens@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:asullens@som.umaryland.edu). The pilot projects that show promise will be invited to submit a five-page application.

For pilots projects that show promise and are invited to submit a five-page application, the opportunity to participate in a Research Design Studio, a newly created service under the direction of Dr. Michael Terrin, will be offered to investigators. The goal is to support the development of rigorously designed pilot study proposal in consultation with investigators in their research areas which will provide methodological expertise specific to each proposal.

Letter of intent due by October 18, 2021  
 Notification of LOI acceptance by November 1, 2021  
 Pilot project applications due by January 10, 2022  
 Decision notification by April 29, 2022  
 Funded pilot projects begin on July 1, 2022 or upon NIA release of funds

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Anne Sullens at 410-706-1695 or by e-mail at [asullens@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:asullens@som.umaryland.edu).

Sincerely,

Stephen Seliger, MD, MS  
 Pilot and Exploratory Studies Core Leader  
 University of Maryland OAIC

Marc C. Hochberg, MD, MPH  
 Pilot and Exploratory Studies Core Co-Leader  
 University of Maryland OAIC

<b>UM-OAIC Core Leaders</b>	<b>Area of Research</b>
Marc Hochberg, MD, MPH	Osteoarthritis and related Musculoskeletal Disorders
Leslie Katzel, MD, PhD	Applied Physiology
Richard Macko, MD	Stroke, Robotics, Neurology
Jay Magaziner, PhD, MSHyg	Translational Research and Epidemiological Methods, Hip Fracture
Larry Magder, PhD	Biostatistics, Epidemiologic Methods, Study Design
Mary-Claire Roghmann, MD, MS	Adult Infectious Disease
Alice Ryan, PhD	Muscle Biology and Applied Physiology
Stephen Seliger, MD, MS	Chronic Kidney Disease, Aging Cognition, Physical Function
John Sorkin, MD, PhD	Biostatistics and Epidemiology
Michael Terrin, MDCM, MPH	Epidemiology, Clinical Trials, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, Anemia/Blood Diseases, Cardiovascular Diseases
Chris Ward, PhD	Muscle and Skeletal Biology
Larry Zhang, PhD	Musculoskeletal rehabilitation, robotics, osteoarthritis

CC: Jay Magaziner, PhD, MSHyg  
 Les Katzel, MD, PhD  
 Alice Ryan, PhD

**2021 Pilot Letter of Intent Application**  
**University of Maryland Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center (UM-OAIC)**  
**at the School of Medicine**

Application Process: Interested pilot project investigators need to submit a NIH Biosketch of the principal and co-investigator and the following (please add additional space if needed; no more than 3 pages total):

Name:  
Faculty Position:  
School/Department/Division:  
Title of Pilot Project:  
Name(s) of Co-Investigators:

- 1.) A specific description of how the project relates to the theme of the center:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) A statement on how this pilot funding will lead to the next grant submission as well as advance your future research in aging:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) A brief narrative of the proposed research justifying the hypothesis and aims, primary outcomes, analyses, and the timeline for the completion of the research
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) A list of the potential collaborating mentors and Pepper center core leader(s) you met with
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5) A description of the core services that will be required to conduct the research.

Letters of intent are due by **October 18, 2020** in WORD format to [asullens@som.umaryland.edu](mailto:asullens@som.umaryland.edu)