Request for Proposals:

2022-2023 Development Projects
University of Washington Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (UW ADRC)

Purpose

The UW ADRC seeks proposals for Development Projects that advance the understanding, diagnosis, and/or treatment of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD).

The UW ADRC aims to fund 3-4 projects of up to $50,000 each. At least two awards will be reserved for junior applicants (Postdoctoral fellows with appropriate senior collaborators or junior faculty up to the rank of Assistant Professor).

Funds would be awarded for a one-year project period, 5/1/2022 through 4/30/2023. The proposed project must be feasible within this time frame.

Background

The UW ADRC is an NIH-funded research Center that belongs to a national network of Alzheimer's Disease Centers and maintains clinical research resources for the benefit of local and national scientific investigators. Development Projects that leverage UW ADRC themes and/or resources are preferred.

The current focus of the UW ADRC is to investigate the biological heterogeneity of ADRD including the diversity in mechanistic and biological underpinnings of AD. Another focus of the Center is resilience and resistance: we seek a better understanding of biological basis of resistance to ADRD, and how to reframe the clinical perspective surrounding dementia around "retained strengths". We also have a unique focus on ADRD research participation in Native American and Alaska Native populations. Proposals need not be limited to these themes, and consideration will be given to any project in the field of ADRD, especially those that benefit from utilizing UW ADRC resources. These include well-characterized human subjects with and without AD and related disorders; including biorepositories of tissue samples including DNA, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), skin biopsies, and an extensive brain bank; outreach mechanisms and health disparity research; psychometric and diagnostic data; and the UW ADRC central database and statistical expertise. Applicants should familiarize themselves with these resources through the links below.
http://depts.washington.edu/mbwc/adrc/
AD@UW - Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (washington.edu)

Eligibility

Applicants need not be affiliated with the UW, but preference will be given to applicants who will be able to develop or enhance UW ADRC collaborations and effectively use UW ADRC resources. Non-UW applicants are encouraged to collaborate with at least one investigator from the UW ADRC.

A Letter of Intent is _mandatory_. Based on the LOI, the ADRC will determine which faculty and/or ADRC Core Leads should be consulted *prior* to the full application, and the ADRC Research Navigator will help to set up these contacts. At the minimum, there will be a mandatory consultation with our Data Management & Statistics Core around study design prior to the full application. In our experience, the most successful applications are the ones who take full advantage of the consultations suggested.

All research or medical fellows awarded a Development Project will be designated as ADRC Research Education Component (REC) Trainees and will have access to a training and mentorship program designed to support the development of basic, translational and clinical ADRD researchers. Development Project awardees at the rank of Assistant Professor and above will be designated as REC Investigators, and will have access to ongoing Research Navigation services to support ongoing interaction with and use of UW ADRC resources.

Key Dates
09/13/21, 11:59 pm	**Letter of Intent (LOI) Deadline**
09/20/21	Applicants invited for full application
11/15/21, 11:59 pm	**Full application deadline**
02/28/22	Selection of awardees
05/01/22	Earliest project start date
04/30/23	Latest project end date

Application Procedure
<mark>Letter of Intent Deadline: 09/13/2021, 11:59 pm PT</mark>
The Letter of Intent (LOI) should be no more than one page and include a descriptive title, brief abstract with specific aims, and study team members. We encourage early perusal of our resources (http://depts.washington.edu/mbwc/adrc/), including some video recordings for particular resources (AD@UW - Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (washington.edu). In particular, if using tissue samples and/or human subjects, you will need to consult with the relevant ADRC Core Lead to help determine feasibility, and include in your LOI an estimate of type and number of samples. For more information on ADRC resources or to set up contacts with relevant faculty, you are invited to email the Research Navigator, Annika Noreen, PhD, annikn@uw.edu.

The LOI should be emailed to annikn@uw.edu by 11:59 pm PT on September 10th, 2021.

An invitation to submit a full proposal or notification if you are not selected will be communicated by email by September 20th, 2021.

<mark>Full Application Deadline: 11/15/2021, 11:59 pm PT</mark>
Applicants will get further instructions and examples of successful past applications. Full applications consist of a condensed NIH application template (PHS 398 form) and include: Submission/Applicant Information; Abstract; Biosketches; Budget and Budget Justification; Research Plan (up to 4 pages); References; Human Subjects and/or Animal Use forms. Applications need to be submitted as a single pdf to annikn@uw.edu. Applications that do not conform to the above requirements will not be reviewed.

Review Process
Proposals are competitive and peer-reviewed. Applications will be reviewed by internal (UW, non-ADRC) and external (non-UW) referees. Reviews will be provided in full or in summary to applicants as appropriate. Awardees will be communicated to applicants by February 28th, 2022.

Reporting requirements
• Yearly NIH progress reports for the duration of the ADRC funding cycle (2020-2025)
• Tracking of career progress for up to 7 years (for REC Trainees and Investigators)