Request for Proposals: 2025-2026 Development Projects
University of Washington Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (UW ADRC)

Background
The UW ADRC is an NIH-funded Center of Excellence in Alzheimer's Disease and related degenerative dementias (AD/ADRD) that belongs to a national network of ADRCs. We maintain AD/ADRD research resources for the benefit of local and national scientific investigators. The UW ADRC seeks proposals for Development Projects that advance our understanding, diagnosis, and/or treatment of AD/ADRD. Pending a successful ADRC Center renewal for 2025-2030, the UW ADRC aims to fund 2-3 projects with a budget of up to $75,000 (direct costs) per year, which includes funds to provide data management and statistical support. Awarded projects are for a one-year project period (5/1/2025 through 4/30/2026), with the option to be extended for one additional year upon approval.

Proposal Topics and Themes
Development Projects that leverage the central UW ADRC theme of biological heterogeneity and/or UW ADRC resources are preferred. One award in this cycle is expected to be devoted to the theme of resilience against AD/ADRD, e.g. investigation of why some individuals do not develop clinical symptoms, despite presence of neuropathology. Special consideration will also be given in this cycle to applications devoted to outreach and recruitment to improve the diversity of AD/ADRD research participants, in particular American Indian, Alaska Native, and Hispanic/Latino communities. Proposals need not be limited to these themes, and consideration will be given to any project in the field of AD/ADRD research that benefits from or utilizes UW ADRC resources. These resources include well-characterized participants with and without AD/ADRD; brain imaging; biospecimens including DNA, cerebrospinal fluid, skin biopsies, blood, and an extensive brain bank; psychometric and diagnostic data; and the UW ADRC central database and statistical expertise. Applicants can familiarize themselves with available resources at: uwadrc.org.

Eligibility
Applications are welcome from investigators at levels ranging from postdoctoral fellows to full professors. At least one award will be reserved for early career applicants, defined as postdoctoral fellows with appropriate senior collaborators, or faculty who will be at the rank of Assistant Professor at the time of funding. For senior investigators, we seek applicants whose research is primarily in areas other than AD/ADRD research and wants to extend their work into the dementia research field, or who wants to try a new hypothesis, method or approach that is not an extension of their ongoing AD research. Applicants need not be affiliated with UW, but preference will be given to applicants who develop or enhance UW ADRC collaborations and effectively use UW ADRC resources. Non-UW applicants are required to collaborate with at least one investigator from UW ADRC. Applicants from under-represented groups in the scientific workforce are especially encouraged to apply. Previous UW ADRC Pilot and Development Project awardees are not eligible. Development Projects cannot be used to support clinical trials but can be used to develop and pilot test potential interventions for future trials.

Key Dates

10/11/24, 11:59 pm	**Letter of Intent (LOI) Deadline**
10/18/24	Applicants invited for full application
12/13/24, 11:59 pm	**Full application deadline**
02/28/25	Communication of selection of awardees
05/01/25	Earliest project start date

Application Procedure for new applications:

Letter of Intent Deadline: 10/11/2024, 11:59 pm PT
The required 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 perusal of resources (uwadrc.org), including videos describing particular resources. For projects using tissue samples and/or human subjects, applicants will need to consult with the relevant ADRC Core Lead(s) to determine feasibility, and include type and estimated number of samples in the LOI, and justification if possible. For more information on ADRC resources or to set up contacts with relevant faculty, email the Research Navigator, Annika Noreen, PhD, annikn@uw.edu.

Application Process
Applicants who are invited to a full application will receive instructions and examples of successful past applications. Invited applicants are required to consult with the Data Management & Statistics Core related to study design; introductions will be made by the Research Navigator. UW ADRC may also recommend additional consultation with other faculty and/or Cores, as needed. Based on past experience, the most successful applications will take full advantage of the expertise offered.

Full Application Deadline: 12/13/2024, 11:59 pm PT
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 these application format requirements will not be reviewed.*

Review Process for new applications:
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.

Reporting requirements
- All early career awardees will be expected to participate in UW ADRC Research Education Component (REC) as a REC Trainee or REC Investigator. These programs provide access to resources designed to support development of AD/ADRD researchers.
- Yearly NIH progress reports for the duration of the ADRC funding cycle (2025-2030)
- Tracking of career progress for up to 7 years (for REC Trainees and Investigators)

Investigators with a current Development Project applying for a second year of funding:
Applications to renew a currently-funded Development Project must include a LOI, and a 2 page Research Plan with the following content:
   a. Summary of results, organized by Specific Aim
   b. Publications in progress, in press, and published
   c. Summary of any grant applications based on this work (both unsuccessful and successful)
   d. New Aims and budget for the second year and how this would contribute to follow-on funding
Renewal applications will not undergo external review, but will be evaluated by the ADRC Executive Committee against new applications. Please submit as a pdf to annikn@uw.edu by 11:59 pm PT 12/13/2024.