

Request for Proposals: 2027-2028 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. Given the successful ADRC Center renewal for 2025-2030, the UW ADRC proposes to fund 2-3 projects with a budget of up to \$75,000 (direct costs) in 2027, which includes funds for data management and statistical support. Awarded projects are for a one-year project period (4/1/2027 through 3/31/2028), with the option to compete for one additional year upon approval.

Proposal Topics and Themes

We give special consideration to applications that address elements unique to our Center, including biological mechanisms of AD/ADRD and resilience to AD/ADRD (i.e. why some individuals do not develop clinical symptoms, despite presence of neuropathology), but proposals need not be limited to these themes.

Usage of UW ADRC research resources

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, including specific groups that are at especially high risk (including American Indian, Alaska Native, Hispanic/Latino communities, rural dwellers); brain imaging; biospecimens including DNA, cerebrospinal fluid, skin biopsies, blood components, such as plasma, 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.

Scope of proposed work

Feasibility of completion of the proposed work in one year will be a review criterion, as will likelihood that successful completion of the work will lead to new external funding. No-cost extension will be considered on a case-by-case basis and will also be subject to availability of funds. In some instances a second year of funding may be considered, competitively (see below).

Eligibility

Applications are welcome from UW investigators and their trainees. Preference will be given to early career applicants, defined as postdoctoral fellows or faculty up to the rank of Assistant Professor at the time of funding. Applications from investigators of more senior rank will be considered if they are new to AD/ADRD research or if they propose a new research direction that is not an extension of their work to date. Previous UW ADRC Pilot or Development Project awardees are not eligible. Our funding mechanism prohibits support for clinical trials in Development Projects, but proposed projects can be used to develop and pilot potential interventions for future trials.

Key Dates

9/8/26, 11:59 pm

9/14/26

11/20/26, 11:59 pm

01/31/27

04/01/27

Letter of Intent (LOI) Deadline

Applicants invited for full application

Full application deadline

Communication of selection of awardees

Earliest project start date

Application Procedure for new applications:

Letter of Intent Deadline: 9/8/2026, 11:59 pm PT

A Letter of Intent (LOI) is required. It 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 available UW ADRC 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 where 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: 11/20/2026, 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 11/20/2026.