

## **Request for Proposals**

### **2020-2021 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).

Depending on funding availability, the UW ADRC will fund 3-4 projects of up to \$50,000 each.

Funds would be awarded for a one-year project period, 5/1/2020 through 4/30/2021. The proposed project must be feasible within this time frame.

The Development Projects program replaces and extends the former Pilot Award program, and is closely linked to our new Research Education Component.

#### **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 these resources are preferred.

The current driving focus of the UW ADRC is investigating the biological heterogeneity of ADRD - the mechanistic and biological underpinnings of Alzheimer's disease as well as the factors countering degeneration and dementia. Another unifying theme of the Center is resilience and resistance: from a basic science perspective, we seek a better understanding of biological basis of resistance to disease, and how to reframe the clinical perspective surrounding dementia around "retained strengths". We also have a unique focus on ADRD research participation in American Indian and Alaska Native populations.

Nevertheless, 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; biorepositories of tissue samples including DNA, cerebrospinal fluid, skin biopsies, and an extensive brain bank; outreach mechanisms and health disparity research; psychometric and diagnostic data; and the ADRC central database and statistical expertise. Applicants are encouraged to familiarize themselves with these resources. [www.depts.washington.edu/mbwc/adrc/page/research-resources](http://www.depts.washington.edu/mbwc/adrc/page/research-resources)

#### **Eligibility**

Applicants must be senior fellows or faculty members. At least two awards will be reserved for junior applicants, defined as senior/postdoctoral fellows with appropriate senior collaborators or junior faculty up to the rank of Assistant Professor (Acting titles accepted). Prior ADRC Pilot awardees are ineligible. Senior faculty members are also encouraged to apply, provided they have not held UW ADRC funds previously, and either they do not have substantial prior experience in AD research or else the proposed project represents a completely new direction for their work.

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. 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**

**09/16/19, 11:59 pm**

09/25/19

**11/15/19, 11:59 pm**

02/17/20

05/01/20

### **Letter of Intent (LOI) Deadline**

Applicants invited for full application

### **Full application deadline**

Selection of awardees

Earliest project start date

### **Application Procedure**

#### **Letter of Intent Deadline: 09/16/19, 11:59 pm PT**

The 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. Based on the LOI, the ADRC will determine whether there are faculty and/or ADRC Core Leads who should be consulted prior to preparing a full application, and the ADRC Research Navigator will help to set up these contacts. At the minimum, a consultation with our Data Management and Statistics Core around study design will be mandatory prior to the full application. In our experience, the most successful applications are the ones who have taken full advantage of the consultations suggested.

We encourage applicants to become familiar with our research resources early in the process. The web page ([www.depts.washington.edu/mbwc/adrc/page/research-resources](http://www.depts.washington.edu/mbwc/adrc/page/research-resources)) includes a summary of our clinical participant Registry, data collected from our longitudinal study participants, other ADRC-managed databases, tissue and sample availability, affiliated studies which can be leveraged, and other information to help guide project development. If you have questions after perusal of ADRC resources online, please email the Research Navigator, Annika Noreen, PhD, [annikn@uw.edu](mailto:annikn@uw.edu).

The LOI should be emailed to [annikn@uw.edu](mailto:annikn@uw.edu) by 11:59 pm PT on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019. An invitation to submit a full application, or notification if you are not selected, will be communicated via email by September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

#### **Full Application Deadline: 11/15/2019, 11:59 pm PT**

Applicants invited to submit a full application will receive an email by September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019, with further instructions. Full applications will be a condensed form of an NIH template (PHS 398 form) and will include: Submission/Applicant Information; Abstract; Biosketches; Budget and Budget Justification; Research Plan (up to 4 pages); References; Human Subjects and/or Animal Use forms.

### **Review Process**

ADRC proposals are competitive and peer-reviewed. Proposals 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 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

### **Reporting requirements**

- A presentation at the ADRC Quarterly Scientific meeting near the end of the project.
- Yearly NIH progress reports for the duration of the ADRC funding cycle (2020-2025), describing outcomes and accomplishments, including publications and grant applications.
- Tracking of career progress for up to 7 years, for those designated as REC trainees