

The **Pilot / Exploratory Studies Core** of the National Institute on Aging-supported **Older Americans Independence Center** (OAIC) of the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions is soliciting proposals for scientific pilot projects to elucidate the etiology of, or develop interventions or treatments for, the syndrome of frailty in older Americans, with discovery aimed at impacting the larger field of frailty science. The overarching goal of this Core is to foster innovative research that will extend knowledge of the etiology, mechanisms and novel approaches to the treatment of frailty, and lead to the development and testing of treatments and prevention strategies. Pilot funding can be sought for basic investigation, clinical or population-based investigation, clinical trials, and the dissemination of the results of clinical trials to the broader community. Individuals will also have access to other OAIC infrastructure including the Biostatistics Core to assist in study design and data analysis, the Biological Mechanisms, Core for assistance in the use of genetic and genomic technologies to support their research on frailty in aging, and Clinical Translation and Recruitment Core. The OAIC puts particular emphasis on development of projects that meet the NIH goal of stimulating translational research. Support requested may range up to **\$30,000** in direct costs for a one-year period.

Proposals for support by this Center should include specific aims, rationale, preliminary studies and methods for the proposed study, a statement of its *relevance to the OAIC mission*, requested resources, and timeline. Mentor(s) or preceptor(s) should also be identified. Criteria include the importance and realistic nature of the anticipated frailty research program and whether the candidate's career development needs are consonant with OAIC goals and will benefit from OAIC support. Quarterly benchmarks must be stated; continuation of funding will be contingent upon meeting these benchmarks and reporting them in a timely fashion. Proposals should be **no longer than five pages** and are **due by March 1, 2020**. Please refer to the Submission Guidelines document for further detail. Those deemed meritorious will be followed up by subsequent interviews. Final selection and notification of funding is targeted for **June 1, 2020**. Funding would begin by **July 1, 2020**. Proposals should be submitted via e-mail to the OAIC Administrator, Brian Buta, bbuta@jhu.edu.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss the appropriateness of proposed scientific goals. Please direct any questions about scientific/research issues to the Core Leader, Neal Fedarko, nfedark1@jhmi.edu.

Johns Hopkins University Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center (OAIC)

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. Title page: please include Title of project; PI; department and/or school; address; phone number; email address, list of collaborating investigators, including mentor; budget; starting and ending dates for project.
2. Abstract
3. Budget and justification (maximum \$30K direct costs)
4. Investigators (PI, mentor, collaborating investigators, affiliation, role in project, amount of time to be devoted to this project)
5. Biographical sketch of investigators (NIH format)
6. Research Plan (not to exceed page 5 pages for sections a-d)
 - a. Hypotheses and specific aims
 - b. Background and significance of the research to frailty and late-life decline
 - c. Preliminary information if applicable (should demonstrate ability to perform the research)
 - d. Research design and methods: describe subject selection, data collection, research procedures/measures, analysis plan, timetable for completion
 - e. Literature citations (limit 20)
 - f. Protection of human subjects (describe plans for obtaining informed consent and procedures for informing and protecting subjects to be enrolled in the study if applicable)

Please follow [PHS 398 guidelines](#) for budget, Biographical sketch, and human subjects information. If you have any questions, please contact OAIC administrator, Brian Buta, at bbuta@jhu.edu, 410-502-3412.

Please submit applications via e-mail attachment (Word or PDF format) to bbuta@jhu.edu.

Applications are due by 5pm, on designated date within this RFP.

Additional information on the JHU OAIC is available here: <https://coah.jhu.edu/oaic/>