



## RAPID RESPONSE PILOT GRANTS PROGRAM RESEARCH FUNDING DEADLINE: ROLLING

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The major objective of the San Antonio Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center's (SA OAIC) Pilot/ Exploratory Studies Core (PESC) is to promote the overarching goals of the SA OAIC at UT Health -- to develop and validate interventions to enhance healthy aging and mitigate or slow the progression of adverse aging-associated processes and diseases. For more information about the SA OAIC, please visit our website at [sapepper.barshop.uthscsa.edu](http://sapepper.barshop.uthscsa.edu).

The PESC plays a key role in the SA OAIC's strategy of developing the infrastructure for translating the discoveries on aging interventions made with invertebrate and rodent models to pre-clinical studies and ultimately to human trials. The PESC provides merit-based support for rigorously designed pilot studies that test the efficacy, as well as side effect profiles, of promising pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic cell-based (e.g., stem cells, gene therapy) interventions in pre-clinical animal models and early human clinical studies.

### **RAPID RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM**

We are soliciting applications for our new Rapid Response Pilot Grants Program for aging-related basic, clinical and translational research. Award size will range from \$1,000 to \$10,000, dependent on scope of work. In keeping with the overall emphasis of the SA OAIC, the PESC will support studies in either marmosets or human subjects, focusing especially on pharmacologic interventions using compounds already in clinical use for other indications. However, we will also consider new molecular entities, stem cell, and gene therapy approaches, and other novel approaches to improving the health and functioning of older people, based upon emerging clinical or basic science research. We will primarily focus on applications that propose to test a hypothesis embodying the central theme of interventions that may impact favorably on healthspan and/or lifespan, either in marmosets or people. In general, research in marmosets and humans receive the highest priority; while other animal models may be considered, very strong justification for their use must be provided.

A "rolling applications process" will be used. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until allocated funds for this program have been spent.

Funding decisions will be made within 4 weeks of receipt of applications. Successful applicants must agree to submit progress reports, present their findings at local SA OAIC meetings, and cite the SA OAIC on all publications related to the support.

### **Eligibility Criteria:**

- The PI must be a UT Health faculty member, or an advanced trainee at the post-doctoral level (pre-doctoral students are not eligible). Advanced trainees must apply with an identified and committed UT Health faculty mentor (the mentor will be the PI of record and responsible for the project).
- Because this award will provide limited, targeted support for a discrete need, applicants must provide tangible evidence that the infrastructural environment to conduct the research expediently is adequate.

Award Criteria: Proposed work must be responsive to the SA OAIC mission. Applications that are not directly responsive to this mission will not be reviewed.

- Applications that are aimed at collecting additional preliminary data in response to a recent, favorably scored, but not funded grant application are of particular interest.
- Priority will also be given to applications that are attempting to collect additional data in response to a peer-reviewed publication review.
- For advanced trainee applicants, the proposed work must advance the independent research goals of the trainee.
- Results must have high likelihood of resulting in preliminary data for a larger research grant application and/or first-authored publication by the investigator.
- If the rapid response pilot entails the study of human or animal subjects, an active IRB or IACUC approval must be in place at the time of the submission of the pilot application.
- Requested funding amount must be appropriate for the proposed work.

### **RAPID RESPONSE GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS**

Submit an application packet via e-mail to Lucy Hernandez, hernandezl7@uthscsa.edu, AND, Maggie Liang, liangh0@uthscsa.edu. Note that awards will be made on an ongoing basis until program funds are exhausted. Interested applicants should contact Ms. Hill at the afore-mentioned e-mail address before submitting to ensure that funds are still available.

The application packet must include the following:

A maximum of **three pages**, single spaced using Arial font 11-point typeface, with one-inch margins,

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- a) Relevance: explicit statement about responsiveness of the research to SA OAIC theme
  - b) Primary research questions and hypotheses
  - c) Brief background and significance
  - d) Brief methods
  - e) Timeline
  - f) Specific statement about how data will result in one or more of the following: a revised grant application; a new grant application; a manuscript
  - g) Proposed use of pilot funding (~5 sentences describing the amount of funding requested, the exact intended use of the funds, and why this funding is instrumental to the success of the project)

Also include:

- a) Biosketches and the NIH Commons User Name of all Investigators;
- b) IRB or Animal Use Approval numbers as appropriate (because of the rapid turnaround time, proposals that require IRB or Animal Use approval **must** have this approval at the time of application.
- c) For Advanced Trainees: A mentor's letter that includes explicit description of the infrastructural support that will be available to the pilot project and the nature and amount of mentorship that will be provided.
- d) For applications that are attempting to collect additional preliminary data in response to recent grant application or journal reviews: include a complete copy of the grant application review or journal review, and specifically identify the critique that will be addressed by the proposed work.