CARG
CANCER & AGING RESEARCH GROUP
Infrastructure Grant
Funded by NIH/NIA
Grant No. 1R21AG059206

2021 Request for Applications (RFA) for:
Pilot Project Awards Supporting Innovation in Cancer and Aging Research

The Cancer and Aging Research Group (CARG) Infrastructure Grant is requesting applications for pilot projects in the field of cancer and aging research. The goal is for this pilot funding to provide support for new investigator pilot projects that can lead to externally funded awards.

Applications must include plans/strategies for how the study will:
   1) Address an issue concerning cancer and aging
   2) Support research teams focused on cancer and aging research
   3) Lead to publications and extramural funding

Deadline for submission: **October 1, 2021**

Funding Parameters: This RFA is for three 12-month pilot awards for up to $20,000 each (which includes indirect costs). We anticipate institutions to reduce indirect costs as part of their institutional commitment. Please provide information on indirect cost rate as part of the budget justification. Pilot awards will be effective **January 2022**. Proposals should reflect the scope of the work with budget request up to $20,000. A separate NIH-styled budget justification is required for each institution with line items reflecting actual costs. Funds can be requested for non-faculty personnel (with strong justification for their anticipated time spent on the project), supplies, and CARING Cores. Funds cannot be used for faculty salaries, travel, books or journal subscriptions. Funds must be spent 1 year after receipt of funds.

Eligibility for Funding:
  1) PI is an early stage or new investigator (using NIH's early stage investigator policy) with a faculty position.
  2) Projects must:
     a) Address an issue concerning cancer and aging
     b) Show scientific merit as well as originality and innovation
     c) Have high potential for successfully competing for an NCI or equivalent extramural grant with results from the pilot
     d) Plan to use and evaluate the CARG Core infrastructure
     e) Demonstrate a feasible 1-year completion timeline
     f) Projects should engage CARG members, CARG mentors, and demonstrate institutional commitment (i.e. matching funds).
  3) At this time, the pilot grant awards will be limited to U.S. based institutions since our national infrastructure grant is NIH-funded.
  4) Approval from NIA will be required prior to award for projects involving human subjects or animals. All questions regarding the award should be directed to the contact listed on the notice of award. Applicants should note that IRB certification (for human subjects) and/or Animal Use Committee approval (for animal subjects) must be provided before a grant award can be made. Under NIA requirements, if your IRB is categorized as not minimal risk, it is required to include the data and safety monitoring plan for the study in NIH format with your IRB approval. Awardees are required to

submit an annual progress report with a final narrative and financial reports and ongoing reporting on the impact of the award on future research.

Priorities for Funding:
1) Scientific innovation
2) Projects with the highest potential impact
3) Alignment with the Cancer and Aging U13 research priorities
4) Projects that utilize secondary data from Cancer and Aging Research Group investigators for at least one of the aims
5) Projects that demonstrate collaboration among CARG investigators
6) Projects with principal investigators from institutions that have not received prior CARinG funding

Application Process:
Questions should be directed to the CARinG email (CARinG@coh.org). In place of Letter of Intent, please complete the brief survey of intent with your interest to apply by Tuesday, August 24th. Here is the **Survey Link**

The following **application materials** should be submitted to Hussai Nuristani (CARinG@coh.org) by **October 1, 2021** 11:59pm CST.
1) The attached Pilot Grant Application Title Page
2) Description of project (maximum 5 pages including aims but excluding references; see components below)
3) Detailed budget with justification
4) NIH biosketches of the PI(s) and co-investigators
5) Letter of institutional support for PI investigator including leveraged resources to facilitate completion of research proposed
6) Must discuss explicitly how CARG infrastructure resources (e.g. data, Core support) are needed and will be utilized to facilitate the next steps for the research

Review:
The review committee will be selected by the Co-PIs of the Infrastructure grant and Core Chairs with additional experts solicited as needed based on the subject matter. Applications will be reviewed by procedures analogous to an NIH study section. Each application will have a primary, secondary, and biostatistical reviewer as well as a stakeholder reviewer (CARinG SCOREboard member). The applications will be assigned to individual reviewers by the Multi-PIs based on expertise. Reviewers will provide a written critique based on alignment with the U13 research priorities, promise for subsequent grant funding, and research productivity. After the review committee meeting, written critiques will be provided to the applicants.

Reporting and Expectations:
Each funded project will be overseen by one of the Multi-PIs, Core Chairs, or other members of the Oversight Board. Awardees will present the project to CARG members for feedback (via teleconference, webinar, or live conference) and will be required to provide a brief annual progress report during the funding period. A final report will be submitted at the end of the funding year. In addition, a final presentation will be delivered to CARG members, including a discussion of next steps in order to facilitate partnerships and to identify opportunities for future funding. Recipients will meet with the CARG Infrastructure Grant leadership to present their plans and ongoing progress at a teleconference meeting at 1 month, 6 months, and 1 year of receipt of funding. A written progress report is required at the end of the grant period and should include explanations if goals were not met as described in the timeline. The final progress report should include an assessment of timeline (including a succinct list of experiments or steps to be taken) to publication and next grant submissions. The CARG Infrastructure Grant should be acknowledged in all publications resulting from this work.