

# New Opportunities to Enhance Geriatric Oncology/Hematology Research: NIA Funding Opportunities for Early Career Specialty Investigators

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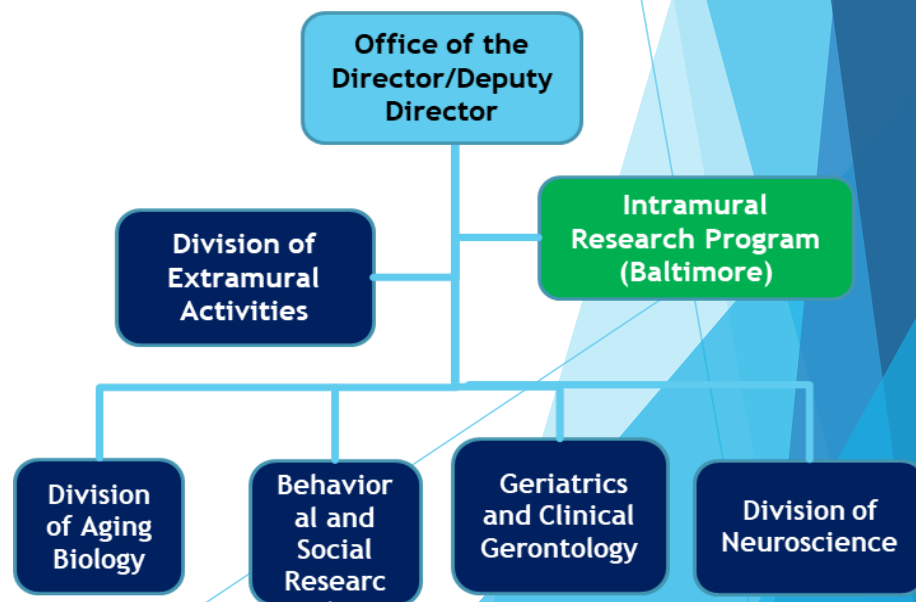
# Overview of the NIH/NIA: Who Are We?

## National Institutes of Health

- ▶ NIH is made up of 27 institutes and centers (ICs)
  - ▶ Most have Intramural and Extramural Programs
- ▶ ICs award >80% of the NIH budget each year
  - ▶ Minimal budget to support staff
- ▶ Each IC has a budget and a director, and typically their own review for early career/training awards and RFAs (like GEMSSTAR)
- ▶ The Center for Scientific Research (CSR) oversees triage and review of most applications

## National Institute on Aging

- ▶ 3<sup>rd</sup> largest IC at NIH
- ▶ Primary funder of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias
- ▶ Mission and Strategic Direction
- ▶ 4 Divisions



# Which IC is Right for My Research?

## NIA

- ▶ Smaller, very personal, responsive
- ▶ But with AD/ABRD funds, we are now the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest (by budget) IC
  - ▶ 80% to Alzheimers
- ▶ Focus on early career investigators
  - ▶ Early Career Investigators- w/i 10 yrs terminal degree
  - ▶ New Investigators - 1<sup>st</sup> R01
- ▶ GEMSSTAR and Beeson
- ▶ Tough K payline - but will understand specific aging focus

## NIA Focus

- ▶ Inform science of aging
- ▶ WHY older adults are more vulnerable?
- ▶ Elucidate alterations in disease presentation, management, prevention in older adults
- ▶ Geriatric conditions, syndromes, complexities
- ▶ Focus on outcomes of QOL, function, cognition and independence. Patient-oriented research.

***Talk to Project Officers at BOTH Institutions BEFORE applying!!  
WE BOTH WANT YOU TO SUCCEED!!!!***

# Know Your Funder!

## NIA's MISSION

- ▶ Support and conduct genetic, biological, clinical, behavioral, social, and economic **research** on aging.
  - ▶ *Aging processes*, How do aging-associated changes in physiology affect predisposition to, and outcome from, specific diseases and conditions and their combination? (Across the entire lifespan)
  - ▶ *Conditions of aging*, What are the optimal strategies for diagnosing and managing age-related diseases and conditions along with comorbidities?
  - ▶ *Needs/care of aged* How do entities such as comorbidity, polypharmacy, and geriatric syndromes (e.g. frailty, sarcopenia, vascular stiffness) affect the care and procedural risk of older adults?
- ▶ Foster the **development** of research and clinician scientists in aging.
- ▶ Provide research **resources**.
- ▶ **Disseminate information** about aging and advances in research **to the public**, health care professionals, and the scientific community, among a variety of audiences.

## The National Institute on Aging:

Strategic Directions for Research, 2020-2025

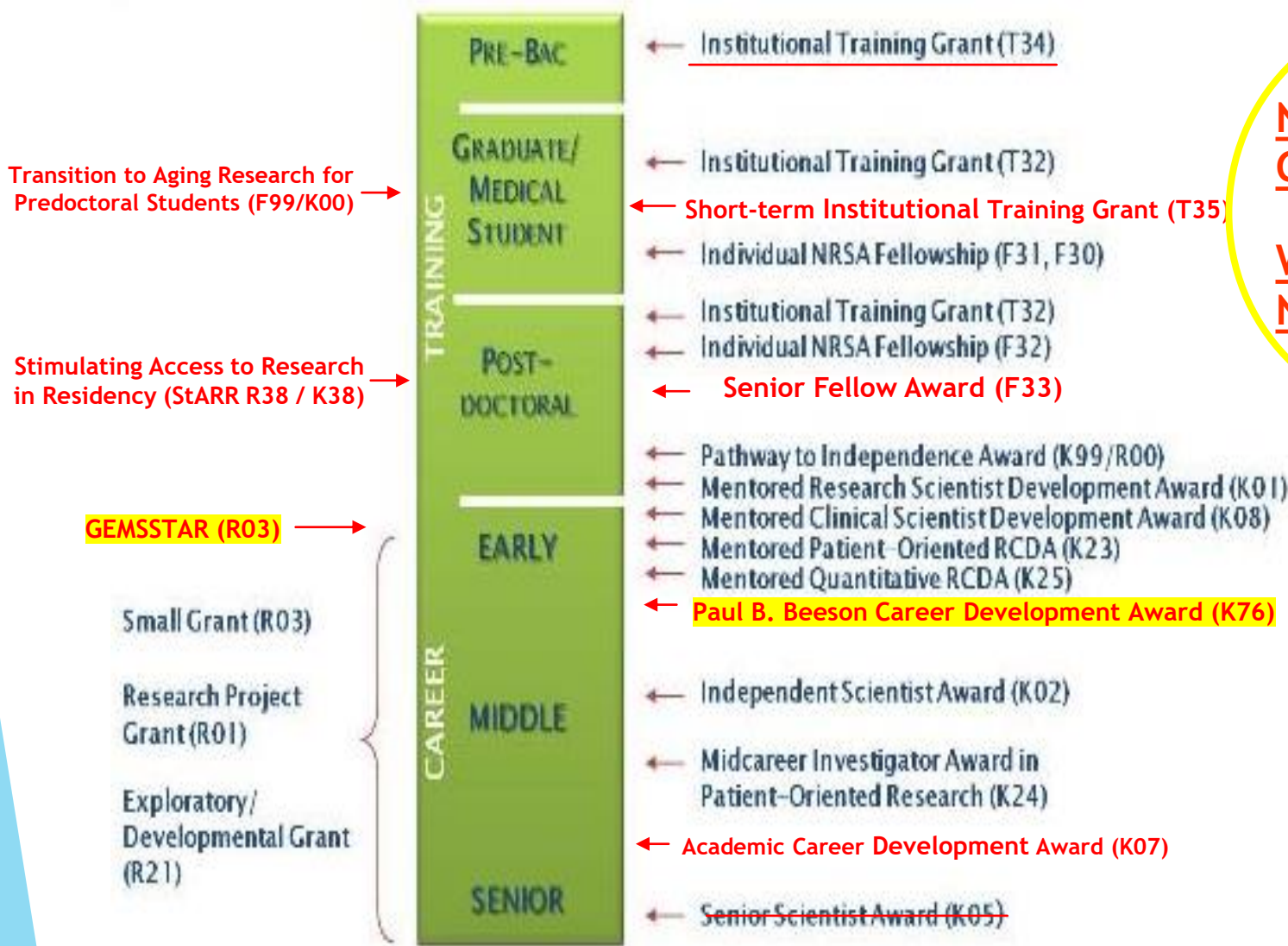


NIH ONLINE ONLY

## Strategic Directions

## National Institute on Aging: Transforming Aging Through Research

# NIA Training, Fellowship, and Career Development Awards



NIA Training and Career Funding

Writing Tips for NIH Grants

Graphic represents a small sample of NIH funding mechanisms available.

# Grants for Early Medical and Surgical Specialists' Transition to Aging Research (GEMSSTAR) - Nuts and Bolts

## ▶ Why was GEMSSTAR created?

- ▶ To attract and foster medical/surgical/dental specialist clinician researchers to improve care of older adults within their specialty

## ▶ What is it?

- ▶ NIA-sponsored annual award (approx. 15 awards/y)

NIA funded R03  
\$100k DC/y x 2 y



Individualized Professional  
Development Plan (PDP) 2y,  
Applicant-identified funding source

- ▶ GSTAR-RFA-23 to be released next summer (for funding 7/23), ([RFA-AG-022-027](#) - due today)
- ▶ RECEIPT DATE: late Oct/early Nov 2021, Review- approx. Feb 2022, Funding start - July/Aug 2022

## ▶ Who is it for?

- ▶ Clinician Researchers, MD or equivalent, Early Career (faculty position at start of funding), no prior K\* or R01 type award
- ▶ Goal- to obtain preliminary data in aging research, mentor in aging/geriatrics, career development skills, join community of specialist researchers, flexibility in effort - to launch a career in aging research within specialty (K, R01, etc)

## ▶ Other Info:

- ▶ Reviewed by NIA Special Emphasis Panel - have aging expertise by broad array of backgrounds - PDP is NOT reviewed by NIA and will not impact score
- ▶ Letter of Intent (due 1 month before deadline) - optional but helpful to obtain optimal expertise on review panel
- ▶ NIA PO's can offer feedback - please prepare ahead, POs have no input on peer review/score
  - ▶ ALL COMMUNICATION via GEMSSTAR EMAIL - [niagemsstar@mail.nih.gov](mailto:niagemsstar@mail.nih.gov) [GEMSSTAR FAQ Website](#)
- ▶ FOLLOW RFA INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY!!!!!! - THIS IS A LONG PROCESS- PATIENCE IS ESSENTIAL!!

# Career Development Awards

<https://researchtraining.nih.gov/>

## ▶ Mentored Career Development Awards

- ▶ Parent K01 (Research Scientist), K08 (Clinical Scientist), K23 (Patient-Oriented) - 3 cycles/yr- \$100k/yr
- ▶ **2022 Paul B. Beeson Emerging Leaders Career Development Award in Aging (K76)**  
“K deluxe” - set-aside -7-10 awards - 1 cycle/yr-
- ▶ LOI Due 9/22/21, Application Due- 10/22/21 funding approx. 8/2022 (next 10/21/22 for funding 7-8/2023)
  - ▶ [RFA-AG-21-020](#) Clinical Trial Not Allowed
  - ▶ [RFA-AG-21-021](#) Clinical Trial Allowed
  - ▶ \$225k/yr for 3-5yr (direct costs)
  - ▶ Future leaders in aging research
  - ▶ Leadership experience, prior grant requirement dropped
  - ▶ Health-related research or clinical doctoral degree, including, but not limited to PhD, MD, DO, DDS, DMD, OD, DC, PharmD, DN and DVM. Early Stage Investigator status
  - ▶ May have K but must justify why need more training
  - ▶ Annual Conference
  - ▶ <https://www.afar.org/research/funding/beeson/>
  - ▶ <http://www.johnahartford.org/events/view/apply-for-the-paul-b.-beeson-emerging-leaders-career-development-award-in-a>
- ▶ K99/R00 - two phase accelerator award, 2yrs/3yrs

# Introducing: Clinician-Scientists Transdisciplinary Aging Research (Clin-STAR) Coordinating Center

Indep Funded  
Invest/Leaders in  
Aging/Specialties

200+ Beeson Scholars  
Aging Research Leaders  
(MD, PhD, SW, RN, Etc)

T Franklin Williams  
& Jahnigen Scholars  
(specialists) MD/DO

184 GEMSSTAR  
32 specialties  
MD/DO/DDS

MSTAR, Butler-  
Williams, F31/32

**VIRTUAL PLATFORM**

RESEARCH COLLABORATION

NETWORKING

MENTORING & CAREER DVMT

RESEARCH RESOURCES

EDUCATIONAL ADVANCES

Actively Engaged in  
Research  
MD, PhD, SW, Therapists,  
Rehab, Nurses, Psychologists

1U24 AG065204-01  
(AFAR, PI, Gill)



## A National Platform to Advance Transdisciplinary Aging Research



The Clinician-Scientists Transdisciplinary Aging Research (Clin-STAR) Coordinating Center provides a national platform for clinicians focusing their careers on aging research in order to improve patient-centered care for older adults across specialties and disciplines.

### Building on GEMSSTAR

Explore how Clin-STAR builds on GEMSSTAR in this blog post from the National Institute on Aging.

[Read NIA Blog](#)



### Upcoming Event

#### Office Hour with Dr. Kristine Yaffe

June 15th 1-2pm ET

Clin-STAR Office Hours connect senior mentors with early career clinician-scientists to provide guidance on research and career development. Office Hours will follow a consultancy format with small groups and topics discussed will be confidential. RSVP required.



[Reserve Your Spot](#)

### Clin-STAR Journey Stories

#### Journey into Aging Research: Charles Brown, IV, MD, MHS

Mentors and Research Training Transformed a Clinician into a Clinician-Scientist

*"Try to focus on a question that can be answered and that has broader implications—a problem that is common and important. Then, if you are going to do research, get the right training. Finding the time to get formal training creates a springboard."*

[Read Dr. Brown's Story](#)



### Sign up for Clin-STAR Updates

We'll send updates on networking events, resources and funding opportunities right to your inbox.

[Sign Up Here](#)



National Institute on Aging

To develop an organizational structure that will facilitate the exchange and dissemination of scientific and research knowledge on aging and the care of older persons

To provide mentoring and career development support for emerging investigators committed to pursuing aging research in their clinical discipline

To stimulate aging research, foster networking and collaborations across disciplines, and identify and support high priority and understudied areas of aging research

To develop and implement strategies for assessing the effectiveness of the Clin-STAR program and to use this information to guide future directions and report outcomes to stakeholders

Website: [Clin-STAR.org](http://Clin-STAR.org) Twitter: [@ClinSTARCC](https://twitter.com/ClinSTARCC)

▶ **What is it?**

- ▶ Virtual community of clinically focused researchers to facilitate collaboration, networking, research opportunities, career development, mentoring and consolidate resources. Funded by NIA by 5 year U24. Administrative Supplement- to collaborate with AGS (Rising Star Program) and help to integrate surgery community and AGS Annual Meeting.
- ▶ List-serv informs of opportunities, Database facilitates interactions/searching/ resource sharing/remote mentoring, etc.

▶ **Who is for?**

- ▶ Clinician researcher focused on bridging specialties and geriatrics - any discipline, any training/career level. NIA-funded free resource.

▶ **How does it facilitate transdisciplinary aging research?**

- ▶ “One Stop Shop” for webinars, funding opportunities, research and career resources. We welcome posting pertinent info from your specialty.
- ▶ Database of aging specialty researchers - ability to connect with those in various specialties on a specific problem, finding like souls, how to set up a geriatric specialty aging practice, collaborating and extending specialized techniques/tools, multisite clinical trials, specific interest groups, medical/surgical projects, finding a mentor.
- ▶ Pilot funding, Office hours for mentoring, Mini-Sabbaticals, Distinguished Professor Program, Webinars on various research topics, upcoming series in JAGS, opportunities to collaborate with leaders in field or access geriatric/aging resources., annual meeting.

▶ **What’s in it for me (my specialty community)?**

- ▶ Please encourage those in your field interested in aging/geriatric research to sign on to the ListServ to keep on top of upcoming opportunities (webinars, funding, mentoring, career development, etc)
- ▶ Please encourage those in your field interested in aging/geriatric research to sign into the database (5-7 min) which will allow you to interact/search/collaborate, etc with those in the community. You are the GAS which fuels the ClinSTAR initiative.

# Site Visit!

Website: [Clin-STAR.org](http://Clin-STAR.org)

Twitter: @ClinSTARCC

**Clin-STAR Annual Meeting Nov 16-18. 2021**

# Additional NIA Resources

## People and Resources

- ▶ **Butler-Williams NIA Summer Institute** - week long aging 'course' at NIA - 50 scholars, each summer - application usually comes out in Jan-Feb 2022 for Aug 2022
- ▶ **Established NIA-Funded Centers**
  - ▶ Research Centers Collaborative Network (RCCN)
  - ▶ OAIC, Nathan Shock, Roybal, RCMAR, ADRC
- ▶ **NIA/NIH Measures and Instruments**
  - ▶ PROMIS, NIA Toolbox, Clin-STAR
- ▶ **NIA/NIH Cohorts**
- ▶ **Establish NIA-Funded Networks**
  - ▶ AGING, Deprescribing, Emergency Medicine, Delirium
- ▶ Clinician-Scientist Transdisciplinary Aging Research Coordinating Center (Clin-STAR)
- ▶ IMPACT Collaboratory
- ▶ U.S. Deprescribing Network
- ▶ Your Program Officer!

**NIA Blog-** *awesome resource for all including funding lines*

## Funding Opportunities

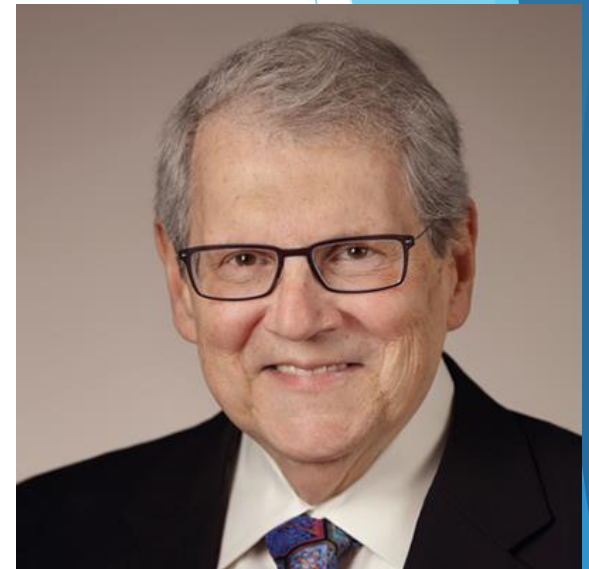
- ▶ **Council Approved Concepts** for Funding Published after each Council Meeting (see blog next few weeks)  
<https://www.nia.nih.gov/research/initiatives/approved-concepts>
- ▶ Loan Repayment Program Webinar - up to \$50k/yr
- ▶ **Pilot Studies** - from Networks and Centers (RCCN)
  - ▶ Clin-STAR Pilot Grants
  - ▶ IMPACT Collaboratory
  - ▶ AGING Initiative- Multiple Chronic Conditions Scholars, Webinars, Pilots grants
  - ▶ Pepper Centers - Older Adult Independence Centers
  - ▶ Geriatric Emergency care Applied Research (GEAR) Network-
  - ▶ US Deprescribing Network

**GEMSTAR, AD/ADRD R03s (Systems Biology, Basic Science, Archiving and Leveraging Existing Data Sets for Analyses) & Beeson K76** - joins you to a community of scientists

**Early Career Reviewer Program**  
(NIH Wide only- not NIA...yet)

# Stephen I. Katz Early Stage Investigator Research Project Grant

- ▶ A special R01 award for ESI's who are pursuing a new research direction for which there is no preliminary data
- ▶ Supported by most NIH IC's (including NIA)
- ▶ No budget limit, 5 years, non-standard receipt dates (3 times/yr)
- ▶ Reviewed in standing CSR study sections



Stephen Katz, NIAMS Director (1998-2018)

<https://grants.nih.gov/funding/katz-esi-r01.htm>

# Ponder Your Current Situation and Your Ideal Journey Ahead.....

- ▶ Ideal Day
- ▶ Research Trajectory
  - ▶ Significance of each part
- ▶ Skill, Training Trajectory
- ▶ Mentoring
- ▶ Resources
- ▶ Know academic currency
- ▶ Know how to say yes and no
- ▶ Reexamine journey frequently and adjust
- ▶ Training, mentorship
- ▶ Protected Time
- ▶ Resources (lab, infrastructure)
- ▶ Realistic Budget/time to perform the RIGHT Study
- ▶ Don't try to play the system, let the system work for you
  - ▶ Don't fit your research into an FOA, find the FOA to fund your research
- ▶ Look for synergy w clinical career, collaboration, leverage resources, multiple funding
- ▶ **Discuss with your mentor, and PO**

**Thank you**

<https://www.nia.nih.gov/research/dgcg/about-gcg-staff-listings>