2013 Pilot Grant Program Request for Proposals

Introduction:

The Center on Aging sponsors an annual pilot grant program to promote the development of aging research at the University of Utah. The goal of this program is to encourage new investigator development, attract established investigators to aging research, and stimulate interdisciplinary research collaborations – ultimately leading to new externally funded research. Additional information describing the program, including its previous recipients, is available at http://aging.utah.edu/grants/pilot/index.php

Applicants: Submissions from a wide range of disciplines from basic biology, clinical sciences, and social and behavioral aspects of aging are encouraged. There is special priority given to supporting applications from individuals who are *new to aging research* and from two or more investigators who are establishing *new interdisciplinary research collaboration* in an aging-related interest area.

Principal investigators must have a regular University of Utah faculty appointment. While Center on Aging membership is not required, applicants are strongly encouraged to apply for membership concurrently with their application. Membership information is available at http://aging.utah.edu/membership/join.php

Funding:

The Center on Aging will devote up to $100,000 to its pilot grant program in fiscal year 2013-2014 (finding to begin January 1, 2014). We expect to up to fund five one-year proposals with a budget limit of $20,000. A second year of funding is possible, but will depend on available funds and will be considered competitively with next year's applications. New applications receive priority and it would be quite unusual for a second year of funding to be awarded.

Applications will be reviewed and funded in two broad tracks derived from the Gerontological Society of America's sections (www.geron.org). If the interdisciplinary features of the proposal bridge between these two tracks, the applicant should select one category as the primary for review purposes.

1. Biological and Health Sciences related. Proposals that pertain to biological aspects of aging or clinical aspects of geriatrics will be reviewed in this category.

2. Behavioral Science, Social Science and Policy related. Proposals that pertain to behavioral, social, or policy-related aspects of aging or geriatric care will be reviewed in this category.

The historical funding success rate has been 30% in both tracks. About three-fourths of grants have been awarded to Health Sciences faculty and one-fourth to Main Campus faculty investigators. This parallels the funding that has been provided from the respective Senior

Vice Presidents' offices to support the pilot grant program. Examples are available on the Center's web page.

Applicants are encouraged to contact Steering Committee members to discuss ideas for possible submissions. Steering Committee members are:

Name	College/ Department	E-mail address
Norman Foster, M.D.	Neurology	norman.foster@hsc.utah.edu
Steven Hunt, Ph.D.	Cardiovascular Genetics	steve.hunt@utah.edu
Paul LaStayo, Ph.D.	Physical Therapy	paul.lastayo@health.utah.edu
Marilyn Luptak, Ph.D.	Social Work	marilyn.luptak@socwk.utah.edu
Lynda Oderda, Pharm.D.	Pharmacotherapy	lynda.oderda@hsc.utah.edu
Ginny Pepper, Ph.D.	College of Nursing	ginny.pepper@nurs.utah.edu
Ken Smith, Ph.D.	Family & Consumer Studies	ken.smith@fcs.utah.edu
Mark Supiano, M.D.	Division of Geriatrics	mark.supiano@hsc.utah.edu

Budget:

The following items may **not** be supported with pilot project funds:

- Faculty salary, with the exception of partial summer salary for faculty with a 9-month appointment if there is explicit justification. Faculty effort devoted to the pilot grant needs to be provided in the form of protected or release time from clinical or teaching responsibilities. A letter from the principal investigator's department head or dean must be submitted with the application documenting the time or percent effort that the faculty member will have available to dedicate to the pilot grant project.
- Major equipment (cost greater than $5,000)
- Travel not directly needed for the research project (e.g. to attend conferences)

Review Process:

Proposals will be reviewed by members from the Center on Aging Steering Committee and at least one outside reviewer. The Steering Committee will make final funding decisions. All applications will be evaluated based on the review criteria (below) and subjected to standards of research quality appropriate for the track in which the proposal is submitted. The allocation of awards across the two tracks will depend on the pool and quality of awards received.

Review Criteria:

- Aging focus and significance.
- Promotion of a new interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Scientific merit and innovative nature of the research.
- Likelihood the proposed study will lead to peer-reviewed extramural funding.

Application Process:

Proposals should be electronically submitted as single PDF file with components in the following order.

1. Cover letter that addresses the following aspects of the proposal:
   - Its review track - Biological and Health Sciences or Behavioral Science, Social Science and Policy.
   - How this research specifically relates to aging and what is its potential significance or relevance to the field. In addition, if the PI is new to aging research, also indicate intentions for future aging-related studies.
   - How the pilot project results will lead to future independent funding and the specific funding sources that will be targeted (agencies and projected submission dates).
   - Suggestions of up to three objective potential reviewers – at least two external to the University of Utah. Please include reviewer affiliations and contact information (including telephone, fax, and email address).
   - Relationship that PI or co-investigators have, if any, with the Center on Aging.

2. A letter of support from the department head/dean confirming that the principal investigator will receive protected time required to devote to the proposed project.

   > _n.b._ Only the PHS 398 NIH forms referenced below should be used. They are available as individual Microsoft Word or PDF documents at
   > http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html#forms

3. Face Page (NIH Form Page 1). Complete sections 1 – 8
4. Project Summary and Relevance (NIH Form Page 2)
5. Budget (Direct Costs Only; NIH Form Page 4)
6. Budget Justification (per NIH Guidelines; Form Page 5)
7. Biographical Sketches for all key personnel (NIH Form Page 6) – complete all four sections – Personal Statement, Positions and Honors, Selected Peer-reviewed Publications, and Research Support
8. Research Plan
   a. Section 5.5.1 Introduction (1 page limit). This applies _only_ to renewal or resubmission applications.
   b. Section 5.5.2 Specific Aims (1 page limit)
   c. Section 5.5.3 Research Plan (5 page limit)
      - Significance
      - Innovation
      - Approach (including preliminary studies or progress report if renewal or revision application)
   d. Section 5.5.5 Bibliography and References Cited/ and Progress Report Publication List
   e. Section 5.5.6 Human Subjects (if applicable)
   f. Section 5.510 Vertebrate Animals (if applicable)

Expectations of Award Recipients:

Recipients of this award are expected to formally apply for membership in the Center on Aging, actively participate in its programs, and provide the Center on Aging with:

- A final progress report at the conclusion of the funding period. Final payment of the award will be made upon receipt of this report.
- A financial accounting of how project funds were spent. Financial support from the Center on Aging must be acknowledged in all publications.
- Information pertaining to any publications and grant support resulting from the pilot grant project.
- A research presentation and/or poster at the 2014 Center on Aging Research Retreat.

Timeline:

The submission deadline for completed proposals is 11:59 p.m. (Mountain Standard Time) August 19, 2013. We anticipate making funding decisions by November 1, 2013. Projects may begin as early as January 1, 2014; the starting date may be negotiated.

Submission and Questions:

The proposal should be submitted to electronically to Holly Abel, Center on Aging Program Assistant at holly.abel@utah.edu (office phone: 801-585-9540) by the August 19, 2013 deadline.

Questions may also be directed to the Center an Aging Executive Director, Dr. Mark Supiano at mark.supiano@utah.edu, or to any Steering Committee member.