January 23, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: University of Kentucky Faculty and Postdocs

FROM: Peter Nelson, MD, PhD and Stephen Scheff, PhD

RE: CALL FOR PROPOSALS: Pilot Grant Funding for Studies on Alzheimer’s Disease

The Sanders-Brown Center on Aging is a National Institute on Aging-funded Alzheimer's Disease Center (ADC). As an ADC our responsibility is to pursue research to further our understanding of aging and Alzheimer's disease (AD). The ADC is soliciting pilot grant applications focused on dynamic basic and clinical science studies of both Aging and AD. Each of the awards is intended to provide seed funding that will facilitate the initial testing of novel hypotheses that lead to national-level funding of an expanded research plan based on the pilot work.

The successful applicant may be in any scientific discipline within the UK system. Applicants should target their research proposal toward increasing understanding of the mechanisms underlying Aging and/or AD and/or the clinical management of, or risks for, AD and associated dementias.

The relevant dates and deadlines for this grant application are as stated below.

| Applications will be accepted and reviewed according to the following schedule |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Call for Applications                             | Full Application Receipt Deadline | Funding Decision |
| January 30, 2014                                  | March 15, 2014 (5:00 pm)            | April 1, 2014     |

Basic science proposals with a focus on translational research relevant to AD are strongly encouraged and of particular interest.

Clinical proposals that investigate risk factors, prevention, preclinical AD, caregiving, minority populations, dementia with movement disorders, cognitive processes, and neuroimaging are also encouraged.

In addition, researchers are encouraged where possible to incorporate and communicate with investigators in the ADC’s existing Cores -- (Clinical [Dr Gregory Jicha], Neuropathology [Dr Peter Nelson], Education and Information Transfer [Dr Deborah Danner], and Biostatistics and Data Management [Dr Richard Kryscio]) -- in order to strengthen their research plan.

For reference, the ADC website is found here: http://www.uky.edu/coa/adc
The applicant must clarify how the pilot funding will potentially lead to major support to sustain the research efforts after the end of the one-year grant.

We plan to support up to two pilot research projects on Aging or AD through the ADC grant. The UK CCTS has also agreed to support an additional pilot study through this mechanism. The application to be funded for neurodegenerative disease research through the CCTS will also use the above application and review schedule.

Therefore, there are up to three, one-time nonrenewable awards for a maximum of one year of support (up to $25,000). The following are additional examples of eligibility for pilot support:

1. A study proposed by an established investigator with experience in areas other than AD research who wants to work in the AD research field.
2. A study by an established investigator in AD who wants to try a new hypothesis, method, or approach that is not an extension of ongoing research.
3. A study proposed by a new investigator with an interest in Aging or AD research.

As noted above, the primary purpose of these pilot grants is to allow investigators to obtain preliminary data for the support of a future submission for extramural research funding. Proposals for pilot studies should present a testable hypothesis and clearly delineate the question being asked, detail the procedures to be followed, and discuss how the data will be analyzed. Pilot study support is not intended for extensive research studies by established investigators, nor may funds be used to support or supplement ongoing research of an investigator.

Investigators are encouraged to submit proposals that use existing resources of the ADC. The ADC is presently longitudinally following over 200 patients with AD and an additional 400 normal control subjects. These subjects are available to participate in research studies. The ADC maintains a tissue bank of plasma, serum, buffy coat, and brain specimens (formalin-fixed and frozen from deceased subjects; most of the brain specimens have short (<4 hours) postmortem intervals).

**Funding Period and Program Requirements:** Depending on the parent grant’s budget, the pilot funding period will begin July 1, 2014 and continue for 12 months.

Investigators funded through this program are asked to participate in the ADC’s seminars and symposia. In addition, if the results are promising, recipients will be expected to present their research at scientific meetings, and publish their findings in scholarly journals, with citation to the ADC pilot grant support (NIH P30 AG028383).

**Eligibility:** The applicant must have a primary faculty appointment at UK. As discussed, we are especially interested in using the pilot mechanism to encourage junior (or new to UK) faculty to pursue Aging and AD research and more senior faculty to turn their well-developed expertise toward Aging and AD. We also encourage applications from established researchers who wish to pursue a new and untested but promising research hypothesis.

Postdoctoral scholars and fellows are also eligible to apply for funding but must include a brief one paragraph training plan in their application as well as a letter of support from their primary mentor(s).

**Application Format:** Successful applicants must concisely describe their proposed projects in NO MORE THAN 7 (seven) pages (single-spaced using no less than 11 point Arial font and 1/2” margins). This includes: Specific Aims, Significance, Preliminary Work (if available), Background and Experimental Design.
The application must also include the following sections that are NOT included in the 7-page limitation: **Human and Animal Subject Welfare Information** and **Literature Cited**. Application for support of research involving human subjects must carefully consider a study design with gender and/or minority representation appropriate to the scientific objectives of the research.

Each applicant should submit the following material, using the latest forms from the PHS 398 R21 (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html): Biographical Sketch with Other Support; Budget for the 12-month Budget Period with Justification. Up to three of the applicant’s reprints may be submitted in an appendix, if they are pertinent to the application.

The **budget** may request any funds that usually are allowable on an NIH application. Total direct costs may not exceed $25,000, which should include appropriate effort including for the PI and others contributing to the research.

**For pilot grants funded by the Center on Aging the following budget guidelines are in effect**

1. **Keep the budget simple and scientific**
2. PI effort must be stated and budgeted – no cost sharing is allowed
3. Every individual listed in the budget must show effort and budgeted – no cost sharing allowed
4. Funding for equipment is **not allowed**
5. Graduate student funding is **not allowed**
6. Funding for technicians and postdoctoral fellows is **allowed and strongly encouraged**
7. Travel is **not allowed**
8. Funding for office supplies and data processing is **not allowed**
9. Funding for general laboratory supplies is allowed

**No eIAF is required for this submission.** No check list page is required for this submission.

If an application is approved for funding, the award will not be activated until UK oversight board approvals have been provided (e.g., IRB, IACUC, CCTS). All applications must be approved by the appropriate university officials, but need not be routed through OSPA.

Any application that does not conform to the above format will be returned to the investigator without review.

**For additional information about the ADC, please access our web page:** [http://www.uky.edu/coa/adc](http://www.uky.edu/coa/adc)

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED AS PDF FILES TO:**

[ peter.nelson@uky.edu](mailto:peter.nelson@uky.edu) or [sscheff@email.uky.edu](mailto:sscheff@email.uky.edu)

**Application Review:** Applications will be reviewed for scientific merit and programmatic relevance by a panel of UK and external faculty (if needed) with expertise in the fields covered in the applications. Summaries of the reviews will be provided to the applicant.

**Questions:** Any questions regarding this announcement should be addressed to Drs. Nelson and Scheff at the above emails.

Questions concerning integration of the proposal with ADC resources can also be addressed to these ADC faculty.