



ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSAL INVITATIONS FOR YOUNG INVESTIGATORS IN NORTH CAROLINA ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTERS

October 2019

The purpose of this communication is to announce the launch of a new program of research grant support for research by young investigators in multiple disciplines whose interests, career objectives and current training or employment situations enable them to embark on important new areas of research addressing the prevention, diagnosis, or treatment for persons with various forms of dementia, including Alzheimer’s disease, or research on programs for the care of persons with these conditions. The program will accept applications for basic, translational, clinical or community-based care delivery research related to dementia. Research projects will be accepted for review employing cellular, animal or human models.

Eligibility for Grant Support

The program will target young investigators (i.e., those who are less than 10 years beyond the beginning of any post-doctoral research training, and have not yet received major funding at the R01 level or who have not yet been recognized with tenure at their respective institutions) and who are affiliated with one of the four academic health centers in North Carolina (East Carolina University, Duke University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, or Wake Forest University), plus the Jerry M. Wallace School of Osteopathic Medicine at Campbell University.

Applicants must have at least one senior faculty member (at the associate or full professor level) at their host institutions willing to serve as primary mentors for the applicant if they are awarded support under this program. Primary mentors must be willing to serve in this capacity without compensation from these funds. No more than half of the financial support from this program may be used for salary support for the applicant. Applicants may not be post-doctoral fellows in the laboratory of a senior investigator at the time the grant is awarded or during the period in which support is provided under this program.

Amount of Financial Support

Two awards per year will be made under this program to applicants from any of the five academic institutions in North Carolina (listed above). Each award will be for two-years, at \$50,000 per year, for a total of \$100,000. No indirect support will be provided for these awards. An administrative officer of each applicant's host institution within whose department, school or division the applicant works must assure that the institution will accept the award under these terms and give assurance that the designated mentor for the applicant will be available to serve in that role without compensation over the duration of the grant period. Applicants may use the funds under this award over the two years for purposes justified by the proposed research.

Application Procedure

Interested young investigators must submit by PDF email a **Letter of Intent** by 5:00 pm EST, **November 15, 2019** addressed to: Research@DementiaNC.org. The email should include an attached file named as follows: **last name, first name.pdf**. The file should not be longer than 5 MB. Letters of Intent should include:

1. Title of the proposed project
2. Brief abstract of the project, with the following content:
 - Significance of this research to the field of dementia science or care
 - Brief description of the principal hypothesis (hypotheses)
 - List of specific aims
 - Any figures and essential references (to your work or to that of others)
3. Position and title of the Applicant
4. Position and title of the Primary Mentor, and indication of the relationship of the Mentor to the Applicant and his/her area of topical focus in the proposed research
5. Attached NIH-style biosketch of the Applicant (no more than 5 pages)

Applicants whose Letters of Intent are selected for invitations to submit full proposals will be notified by **December 16, 2019**, with full proposals due by **February 14, 2020**. Project funding decisions will be made by **April 30th, 2020**.

Full Proposal Application

Separate guidelines for preparation of full proposals will be provided at the time Applicants are notified, on the basis of their Letters of Intent, that they are invited to submit full proposals. Full proposals will require the submission of a more detailed description of the basic aims and methods of the proposed research, the current sources of research support and institutional enabling resources available to the investigator in the proposed research, and a detailed budget for the proposed research with justification.

Topical Areas of Particular Interest

The Dementia Alliance of North Carolina has a broad spectrum of interests in dementia, including the biology of these diseases, variations in disease expression, care delivery modalities that have the potential for modification of the disease experience, and the diversity of populations affected by these diseases.

Expectations of Successful Applicants

Recipients of these research awards will be expected to make both an annual report of progress and a final report of their findings, be willing to participate in one or more presentations of their work in progress to meetings organized by the Dementia Alliance of North Carolina, and share their data derived from this research consistent with NIH data sharing policies.

Questions about this solicitation may be addressed to:

Gordon H. DeFries, PhD*
Chair, Research Projects Committee
Dementia Alliance of North Carolina
Email: gdefriese@canslermail.com
Tel.: 919-608-8943

*Professor of Social Medicine and Epidemiology Emeritus
Schools of Medicine and Public Health
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Former President, North Carolina Institute of Medicine
Senior Health Policy Specialist
Cansler Collaborative Resources, Inc., Raleigh, NC