REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
PILOT PROJECTS – ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE RESEARCH 2020-2021

Applications are being accepted for one-year Pilot Project Awards of up to $35,000

UC San Diego and San Diego State University jointly lead an Alzheimer’s Disease-Related Resource Center for Minority Aging Research (AD-RCMAR) funded by the National Institute on Aging. The goal of this Center is to enhance the diversity of the aging research workforce by mentoring scientists from underrepresented groups for careers in Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders (ADRD) research. In particular, the San Diego AD-RCMAR is working to fill critical gaps in ADRD research focused on older Latinos.

Pilot Funding: We are currently accepting applications for pilot grant awards for the 2020-21 academic year (funding to start July 1, 2020). If funded, recipients will receive $25,000 - $35,000 (depending on scope of project) for one year. We plan to fund three to four pilot project awards.

Eligibility and Requirements: All applicants must be current U.S. citizens or hold a U.S. Permanent Resident Visa from an underrepresented background as defined by the National Institute of Health (https://diversity.nih.gov/about-us/population-underrepresented), which includes individuals from the following racial and ethnic groups: Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders. In addition, applications will be considered from applicants, who can demonstrate a sustained interest in advancing scientific research on Alzheimer’s disease in minority populations. Applications are encouraged from postdoctoral fellows or junior faculty members with an appointment rank no higher than Assistant Professor from academic institutions. In addition, applications are encouraged from mid-career faculty, including those at a rank not higher than Associate Professor, who are newly transitioning into ADRD research.

If selected, participants will be expected to attend a monthly seminar series, present their work as part of AD-RCMAR workshops and other select events, and report career progress on a regular basis – even after the year of pilot funding is completed.

Pilot Project Focus: The pilot project proposal should focus on priority areas of social and behavioral science related to ADRD, including research on cognitive aging, ADRD epidemiology, preventive interventions for ADRD, and the formal and informal caregiving challenges of individuals with ADRD. Transdisciplinary research is encouraged, along with projects that specifically focus on ADRD in older Latinos.

Resources Available to Selected Participants: In addition to receiving pilot funding for their research, selected participants will become AD-RCMAR Scientists and benefit from strong mentorship with guided research- and career-development planning; education in ADRD, minority aging and health disparities; access to a wealth of data and research resources, including unique data sets, statistical support, and secondary-data analytic methods; interdisciplinary collaboration; access to a writing coach; and travel funds to attend select meetings and/or visit another AD-RCMAR site.
**Initial Application - Required Documents:** Interested candidates must submit:

1. A one-page Cover Letter, indicating qualifications for this award based on the eligibility criteria above, along with a summary of how this award will further one’s career development goals.


3. A 1-2 page overview briefly summarizing the proposed pilot project (MS Word document, single-spaced in Arial font with 11-point typeface, one-inch margins, on 8.5”x11”-size paper), including:
   a. Specific Aims
   b. Significance
   c. Approach

4. List of Suggested Primary Mentors (Research and/or Career) – Name, Title, and Brief Overview of Mentorship Role.

We encourage potential applicants to contact us with ideas for a potential project. Following the review of submitted applications, a select number of applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal of their planned research. Center leadership will work together with the selected candidates to develop and write a full proposal.

**Data Sets:** The San Diego AD-RCMAR has access to multiple large data sets, several of which highlight the Center leadership’s expertise in Latinos with ADRD. If selected to develop a full proposal, applicants will receive guidance from program leadership regarding available data sets (e.g., the Hispanic Community Health Study/Study of Latinos, the Rancho Bernardo Study of Healthy Aging, and data sets within the Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center and Alzheimer’s Disease Cooperative Study).

**Application Timeline:**

1. **Monday, December 2, 2019** – All completed Letters of Intent are due by 5pm PST and should be submitted to Jennifer Reichstadt, MSG, Program Administrator at jreichst@ucsd.edu.

2. **Monday, December 16, 2019** - Applicants will be notified if they have been selected to submit a full proposal.

3. **Monday, January 27, 2020** - Full proposals will be due.

4. **Week of March 2, 2020** – Applicants selected for funding will be notified, including any revisions requested.

5. **March 30, 2020** – Finalized proposals and supporting documents will be due for submission to NIH/NIA for final approval.

6. **July 2020** – Funding to be made available to selected applicants, if approved by the NIA.

**Contact:** Please contact Jennifer Reichstadt, AD-RCMAR Program Administrator at jreichst@ucsd.edu with any questions and/or to discuss a project idea needing feedback.