

**Asian Research Center for Minority Aging Research (RCMAR)
Call for Pilot Proposals Request for Applications**

Rutgers Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research
Applications being accepted for one-year
NIH/NIA-funded Pilot-Study Awards up to **\$35,000** each in the 2020-21 cycle

Key dates:

Deadline for Letter of Intent (Required): ~~October 15, 2020 by 11:59 PM EST~~

EXTENDED to November 1, 2020 by 11:59PM EST

Deadline for Application Submission: December 1, 2020 by 11:59 PM EST

Anticipated Award Date: Spring 2021

Overview and goals:

Significant disparities exist among minority older adults, with significantly less research focused on U.S. Asian populations. The goal of our RCMAR is to improve aging-related research involving U.S. Asian older adults and to increase the training and education, and outreach opportunities for junior faculty and post-doctoral students, especially those from underrepresented backgrounds to conduct research in and with these populations. We also aim to develop information and resources toward closing aging health disparities gaps. For more information about RCMAR please visit (<http://www.rcmar.ucla.edu>).

Pilot Project Awards will support collaborative projects conducting innovative research that focuses on the intersection of trauma, resilience and health outcomes involving U.S. Asian older adults (comparative research between U.S. Asian older adults and other aging populations also qualify). This research can span the disciplines of basic science, population studies, outcomes, or social science. Projects can focus on primary data collection or secondary data analyses (a wide range of relevant datasets made available for use by RCMAR scholars with additional statistical support for dataset harmonization, i.e. Population Study of Chinese Elderly in Chicago, Health and Retirement Study and related studies, Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis, Midlife in Japan, Korea National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, etc.). **Projects that include a diverse sample of Asian ethnicities and include sub-group analysis to reflect the heterogeneity of U.S. Asian older adults are encouraged. Projects addressing the research themes of COVID-19, trauma-informed care and the impact of racism and discrimination are also encouraged. Support will be given to projects focused on adaptation and implementation science.**

Eligibility: All advanced post-doctoral fellows or early stage investigator (ESI) who are not only interested in becoming an independent investigator, but also in pursuing research regarding health disparities among U.S. Asian older adults are eligible to apply. Investigators who have previously received or who are current recipients of NIH R01 level or equivalent funding are not eligible for this funding mechanism. Minority scholars are encouraged to apply.

If you have previously applied but were not awarded, you are still eligible to apply for this cycle.

Letter of intent (LOI guideline):

Submission of a LOI is required. The LOI should include the following information: 1) a description of the proposed research; 2) specific aims; 3) a brief paragraph on the scientific significance and how it relates to the goals of the Partnership; and 4) names, titles and institutions of mentoring faculty who are collaborating along with their contact information.

LOIs are limited to two pages in length and in PDF format. Feedback will be provided on all LOIs in order to help investigators develop the strongest application possible. The LOI is not binding and does not enter the review process. LOIs should be submitted via email to Stephanie Bergren (see contact information below).

LOI Deadline: ~~October 15, 2020 by 11:59 PM EST~~
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Full application guideline:

The application must include all sections outlined below.

Cover Page and Abstract: On the cover page please include 1) the title of the project; 2) names, faculty ranks, and institutions of PI and all other co-investigators/collaborators/mentorship team; and 3) the PI's contact information (phone number and email address). Additionally, provide an abstract description of the proposed research project in layman's terms (250 words or fewer).

Research Proposal: The proposal should describe the research plan and should include 1) specific aims; 2) scientific significance and innovation; 3) preliminary studies; 4) research design and methods, including any analytic procedures; 5) limitations; 6) information on how the proposed project will lead to peer-reviewed funding; 7) plans for the PI's career development and mentorship; and 8) the added value that the proposed research brings to the Asian RCMAR and the U.S. Asian older adult population. **This section is limited to 2-3 pages excluding figures, tables and references.** Appendix material will not be accepted. Proposals should be submitted using 11-point Arial font and no less than 0.5" margins.

Biosketches: Current NIH Biosketches (this should include all other funding sources) is required for each participating PI. Biosketches should be submitted on the current NIH Biographical Sketch Format.

Budget requests NOT EXCEEDING the award amount should be submitted on the NIH budget form (to be supplied by Stephanie), and budget justifications should be submitted to match the budget form.

Outline major divisions of funds (personnel, equipment, supplies, other, etc.; and include adequate rationale in the budget justification). Funds can be utilized for research expenses only. All budget estimates include direct costs only. Indirect costs are unallowable.

IRB approval (if applicable): If IRB approval is necessary for the proposed research, approval will be required prior to receiving funding (IRB approval is not needed for the pilot application review).

Targeted/Planned Enrollment Tables and Inclusion Enrollment Reports: These must be submitted on NIH forms (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/inclusion-enrollment-report.pdf>).

Format: All items must be compiled and submitted as a single PDF file. Please number each page. Applications should be submitted electronically via email to Stephanie Bergren (Please see below for contact information).

All application submissions will be acknowledged via email. Should you not receive confirmation of your application submission please contact Stephanie Bergren (please see below for contact information). Additionally, all inquiries related to this request for proposals should be directed via email to Stephanie Bergren.

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Pilot Proposal Review Criteria: Applications will be reviewed by designated review committees. Reviewers will assign a score on the overall application based on the following review criteria:

Significance: The project addresses trauma, resilience and health outcomes involving U.S. Asian older adults or comparative research between U.S. Asian older adults and other aging populations. The aims of the project advance scientific knowledge, technical capability, and have near-term impact.

Innovation: The application utilizes novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.

Investigator(s): The PI, collaborators, and other key personnel have the necessary experience and expertise to accomplish the goals of the proposed research project. The investigators have complementary and integrated expertise.

Approach: The overall strategy, methodology, and analyses is well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project.

Career Development: There is a well thought-out and reasonable plan for career development of the junior investigator. Mentor(s) have been identified and the appropriate mechanisms are in place to achieve career development goals outlined.

Potential for External Funding: There is a high likelihood that the proposed research project will lead to NIH or other types of foundation funding.

Inquiries regarding our RCMAR and or this funding opportunity should be submitted via email to Stephanie Bergren (RCMAR@ifh.rutgers.edu).