## Stanford Aging and Ethnogeriatrics Research Center
## *SAGE Pilot Program Call for Applications 2021*

The Stanford Aging and Ethnogeriatrics (SAGE) Research Center was established in 2018 with funding from the National Institute of Aging (NIA), as part of the Resource Centers for Minority Aging Research (RCMAR). The SAGE Pilot Program is supported through funds from the NIA and the Stanford School of Medicine Dean's Office.

**Program Vision:** The goals of the Center are to 1) strengthen and diversify the aging research workforce by mentoring new and junior researchers to become independent, culturally sensitive, and culturally competent researchers engages in transdisciplinary integrative research in ethnogeriatrics and 2) promote research advances using emerging methodologies that are focused on improving the health and well-being of diverse older adults.

**Funding Opportunity Description:** The SAGE Center is requesting applications from postdoctoral fellows, instructors, research scientists, and junior faculty who propose to conduct aging research studies using emerging methodologies to answer key questions in the aging arena. In keeping with the transdisciplinary mission of the SAGE Center, we welcome proposals from any of the seven schools on Stanford campus, VA Palo Alto Health Care System, Palo Alto University, and in any academic or research non-profit institution affiliated with Stanford.

<u>Our Focus on Transdisciplinary Aging Research</u>

The SAGE Center seeks to conduct transdisciplinary aging research that integrates biological, social, and behavioral sciences and utilizes emerging methodologies. We recognize that the aging process is not defined by just the chronological age—aging is a lifelong process and impacted by numerous modifiable processes and we interpret aging broadly. We will not accept studies proposing to do research with animal models.

<u>Our Focus on Diversity</u>

There is a critical need to sustain a research workforce that is multidisciplinary and diverse. Moreover, as life expectancy increases, our health care, insurance, and retirement systems must meet the needs of a rising number of underserved population groups, and the impact of an increasingly diverse elderly population is not fully understood.

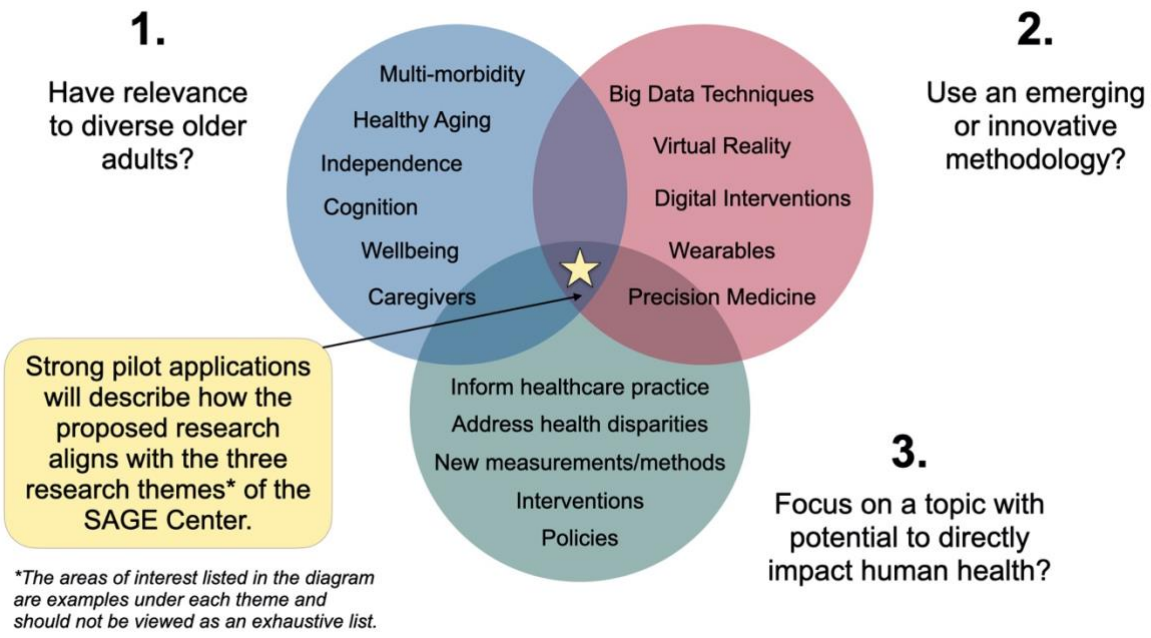
<u>Our Focus on Emerging Methodologies</u>

Technological advances have great potential to shed new light on a broad variety of questions related to aging, and we seek to harness this power through the work done at the SAGE Center. The SAGE definition of

emerging methodologies is broad and focuses on precision health, digital health, big data techniques, and innovative new technological solutions. These methodologies have the potential to result in significant breakthroughs in improving the health and well-being of diverse older adults by informing healthcare practice, addressing health disparities, creating new measurements/methods, and resulting in novel interventions and policies.

Given the funding period of the pilot program (1 year), clinical trials are not encouraged.

**We strongly encourage potential applicants to reach out to either VJ Periyakoil, MD (periyakoil@stanford.edu) and/or Jessica Moon, PhD (jessmoon@stanford.edu) to discuss alignment of the proposed research project with the mission of the SAGE Center *before* submitting an application through the portal.**




**SAGE Scientist Support During the Funding Period:**

Awardees will be distinguished by NIA/NIH as "RCMAR Scientists" and be invited to special conferences and training opportunities offered by the National Institute on Aging.

SAGE Scientists receive research and career mentoring during the funding period. The Program Director will work with the SAGE Scientist to identify a mentor that aligns with his/her career interests and the pilot project.

The main indicator of success in the program is the career advancement of the SAGE Scientists, including publications of study results, other publications related to aging, health disparities, and/or emerging methodologies, and other grant applications and funding.

SAGE Scientists will have the opportunity to interact with SAGE Center faculty and enhance their skills and knowledge related to aging and disparities research using emerging methodologies. SAGE Scientist will be able to participate in research training on issues pertaining to minorities and disparities research, aging research, grant writing, participate in monthly world-in-progress sessions with the PHS Scientists and fellow SAGE Scientists. They are also encouraged to participate in training opportunities offered by the National Institute on Aging and other RCMAR Centers.

**Key Requirements:**

- SAGE Scientists are required to complete ethnogeriatrics training (iSAGE), which consists of three online, video-rich, self-paced components.
- In accordance with NIH policy, SAGE Scientists must complete Responsible Conduct of Research Training.
- Projects that are funded by or utilize SAGE Center resources or services are required to cite the grant in publications and grant applications.
- SAGE Scientists are expected to present their work at the SAGE Annual Meeting and Symposium.

**Eligibility:**

Post-doctoral fellows, instructors, research scientists, and assistant and associate faculty professors in any of the seven schools on Stanford campus, VA Palo Alto Health Care System, Palo Alto University, and in any academic or research non-profit institution affiliated with Stanford. Applicants must have a terminal degree (E.g., MD, PhD, MD/PhD) and be new to aging research.

*Applicants may be from all backgrounds*, and we specifically encourage applicants from underrepresented groups in science and/or individuals who come from disadvantaged backgrounds, as this is a primary focus of the NIA RCMARs. Please refer to the Notice of NIH's Interest in Diversity (NOT-OD-20-031) released on November 22, 2019.

**Funding Details:**

We will fund three small grants (up to $30,000 per grant). The funding period is 1 year.

**Deadline:**

Proposals should be submitted through the *SAGE Pilot Program Call for Applications 2021* form in Qualtrics by February 1, 2021 at 5 pm PST.

**Selection Criteria:** Applications will be administratively reviewed for completion and scientifically reviewed by faculty within the Stanford School of Medicine (February/March). Review criteria include alignment with the SAGE Center mission/research themes and scientific merit. Three finalists will be selected to advance based on formal peer review. The SAGE Center will work with the three finalists to submit their proposal packages to NIA as part of the SAGE Center's annual progress report (late March/early April). NIA makes the final decision and gives formal approval. Projects can start on July 1. The SAGE Center or other representative within the School of Medicine will send the notice of award to the applicants.

**PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS**

Attachments should be written in 11-point Arial font with half-inch margins on all sides and be uploaded as PDFs. Word/page limits are indicated for each attachment. Applications that do not comply with these requirements will not be considered for review.

The application includes the following attachments:

- Cover Sheet
- Relevance of the Proposed Project to the Mission of the SAGE Center (4 sentences)
- Specific Aims (1 page)
- Research Narrative/Strategy (2 pages)
- Key Personnel Bios (3-4 sentences per person)

**Cover Sheet**

The cover sheet must include the title of the proposal, project lead/PI, co-investigator names, and the amount of funding requested.

**Relevance of the Proposed Project to the Mission of the SAGE Center (4-sentence limit)**

Describe how the proposed project aligns with the themes of the SAGE Center (please see the Funding Opportunity Description). Be sure to specifically address the following questions:

- What specific emerging methodology are you planning to use in your proposed research in the aging arena?
- How is your project going to include and pertain to diverse populations? The SAGE Center expects all our programs to be inclusive and have a strong focus on diversity, inclusivity, and equity.
- Will you be doing community-based participatory research? Explain. If not, please state so.

**Specific Aims Page (1-page limit)**

Please use the standard NIH format to draft your specific aims page (https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/draft-specific-aims) and include citations. One commonly used structure is described below:

- Introductory Paragraph–orients the reviewers to the research topic, including the problem, why the problem is important, how the problem is keeping the field from advancing, and what is needed to fix the problem (i.e., the gap in knowledge).
- Paragraph 2–describes the prior research/steps that have been made toward addressing the problem described in Paragraph 1 (what have you done; what have others done; why haven't they fully solved the problem?) and how the proposed project will lead to a solution to the problem (how is your solution unique; what is your central hypothesis?).
- Specific Aims (feasible within 1-year funding period)–for each aim, describe the goal/objective and how it will be accomplished. It can be helpful to think about Specific Aims as SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timebound).
- Impact Paragraph–describes the impact (i.e., return on investment) the proposed research will have on the field or other fields and how it connects to NIH and Institute/Center priorities. Impacts are generally organized from short- to long-term and should connect back to the gap in knowledge or problem described in paragraph 1.

**Research Narrative/Strategy (2-page limit)**

Please use the three standard NIH headings (i.e., Significance, Innovation, Approach). Please also include numbered citations and a References section. References can be in any style of your choosing, must be formatted consistently, and do not count towards to the 2-page limit.

1. Significance–Provides the justification/foundation of the proposed project (the importance of the problem, gap, or critical barrier to progress that is addressed by the proposed project; a discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of prior research/preliminary data that serve as key support for the proposed project; and how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields).
2. Innovation–usually 1 paragraph or organized as bullet points. Describes the conceptual and/or methodological innovations of the proposed project—i.e., how the project (in the short- or long-term) will result in a fundamental change or disruption in our understanding of how the world works; a change in the way we approach scientific problems or clinical practice.
3. Approach–Describes the project methods (e.g., subjects, sample size estimation, data collection methods/standards, models, equipment, approaches for controlling bias such as randomization and blinding), analyses plan (e.g., data curation, statistical methods), anticipated results, and potential pitfalls and alternative approaches.

**Key Personnel Bios (no page limit; 3–4 sentences per person)**

Provide a brief 1 paragraph description for each key personnel on the proposed project (PI/project lead, co-Investigators, and other key personnel) that includes their credentials/expertise and role on the project.