REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION SUPPORT RELATED TO THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO PRESERVE INDEPENDENCE IN OLDER ADULTS

UC San Diego is submitting a P30 Center Grant application through the National Institute on Aging (NIA) to create the University of California, San Diego Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center (OAIC). The Center’s theme will be Using Technology to Preserve Independence in Older Adults. Independence has multiple meanings for older adults, but these meanings generally relate to preserving autonomy, such as physical and mental capacity, and being able to competently conduct the tasks or activities that are necessary to remain independent at home (e.g., completing household tasks, taking medications, dressing).

We are now soliciting applications by junior investigators for salary and/or research project support focused on the Center’s theme. Selected applicants will be included in the OAIC proposal, which will be submitted to the NIA in October 2017. If the submission is successful, OAIC funding would commence in approximately July of 2018. The Center’s Research Education Program will provide selected investigators with training, education, and mentoring to achieve academic success focused on the Center’s theme.

Eligibility: Junior investigators (e.g., Instructors and Assistant Professors) from UCSD or any of the ACTRI partner institutions (Salk Institute, Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute, La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology, J Craig Venter Institute or San Diego State University). Only US citizens and permanent residents are eligible to receive support. Postdoctoral students are not eligible.

Please note, applicants must also have identified mentors.

Funding: There are two types of funding:

1) THOSE WITH CURRENT TRAINING AWARD FUNDING: Applicants who, at the time of the Pepper Center award (i.e., July 2018), are currently funded by a training award(s) (e.g., K award, VA CDA), will be eligible to receive up to $30,000 per year for a two-year period to support research project costs.

2) THOSE WITHOUT EXISTING TRAINING AWARDS: Applicants without training awards will be eligible to receive up to $60,000 per year for a three-year period to support salary and/or research project costs.

Research and Education Focus: The program will provide education and the research proposed must focus on the topic of technology designed to preserve independence among older adults. Transdisciplinary research is encouraged. Examples of studies that may be supported include, but are not limited to:

- Preliminary testing of an intervention using technology.
- Analysis of data acquired in ongoing or previous studies or other datasets that have used technology and that may be applied to maintain independence in older adults.

Resource Cores: The Center includes three Resource Cores that provide investigators with consultation and education. We highly encourage applicants to make use of the cores for their proposed work. The three cores and the services they provide are:

- Research Methods – This core will advise on quantitative and qualitative methods related to the study and development of technology. This core will also assist with study design, selection of study measures, recruitment, estimation of power and sample size, and statistical methods.
- Bioethics – This core will a) ensure that investigators are aware of bioethical issues that arise in the context of using technology; b) assist with navigating IRB review; and c) guide investigators in applying research methods relevant to bioethics.
• Physical Prototyping - This core will advise on the creation of physical prototypes that can be used to support independence. Technology focus areas include: assistive robots (e.g., smart walkers, robotic prostheses), sensors (e.g., glucose monitors, fall detectors), and telemedicine technologies (e.g., telepresence robots, haptics).

Application: Two sets of instructions can be found below. Each applicant should follow the instructions that applies to him/her based on whether or not he/she has a training award.

Instructions for Applicants WITH a Training Award (existing or expected as of July 2018):

Please submit the following:

• A cover letter indicating the applicant's interest in applying for Research and Education Support, along with the type and title of existing training award funding.

• Five-page proposal that includes the following:
  o Description of the applicant's current Training Award, including its Specific Aims and how the aims of the proposed project are distinct from this Training Award
  o Description of the additional research proposed to be supported by the OAIC, including:
    1. Project Title
    2. Specific Aims
    3. Background and Significance
    4. Preliminary Work (if applicable)
    5. Research Design and Methods
    6. Identification of Resource Cores (e.g., research methods, bioethics and engineering) to be utilized in the research proposed and how they will be utilized.

• A detailed budget with budget justification. No funding will be provided for travel, clerical help, office supplies, books and subscriptions, graduate student support and tuition remission, or publication expenses.

• NIH-format biosketches from both the candidate and the mentor(s). The candidate's biosketch must address the candidate's qualifications to receive training and research support related to the Center's theme. The mentor(s) biosketch(es) must address their qualifications to mentor the candidate.

• Letter of support from the primary mentor(s) addressing the candidate's accomplishments, potential, and commitment to research with a focus on technology to maintain independence in older adults.

Instructions for Applicants WITHOUT a Training Award:

Please submit the following:

• A cover letter indicating the applicant’s interest in applying for Research and Education Support

• Five-page proposal describing the research proposed for support by the OAIC, including:
  1. Project Title
  2. Specific Aims
  3. Background and Significance
  4. Preliminary Work (if applicable)
  5. Research Design and Methods
  6. Identification of Resource Cores (e.g., research methods, bioethics and engineering) to be utilized in the research proposed and how they will be utilized.

• A detailed budget with budget justification. No funding will be provided for travel, clerical help, office supplies, books and subscriptions, graduate student support and tuition remission, or publication expenses.
• NIH-format biosketches from both the candidate and the mentor(s). The candidate’s biosketch must address the candidate’s qualifications to receive training and research support related to the Center’s theme. The mentor(s) biosketch(es) must address their qualifications to mentor the candidate.

• Letter of support from the primary mentor(s) addressing the candidate’s accomplishments, potential, and commitment to research with a focus on technology to maintain independence in older adults.

**Formatting Specifications:**
- 11-point Arial font
- Single-spaced
- 0.5 inch margins on all sides
- 8.5” x 11” (standard size) page
- Number all pages
- No appendices
- References are not part of the page limits

**Evaluation Criteria:**
- Fulfillment of the requirements and eligibility criteria noted above
- Relevance of the proposed pilot project to the Center’s theme
- The addition of technology to an existing study (if applicable)
- Scientific merit
- Strength of the methods proposed
- Potential of the project to develop into a competitive proposal to NIH or other funding agency within two years after completion
- Potential to generate publishable data for peer reviewed publications
- Qualifications of the Principal Investigator (candidate) and collaborators (if relevant)

**Deadline:** Completed applications are due by Friday, September 8, 2017 at 5pm PT and should be submitted to Jennifer Reichstadt, MSG at jreichst@ucsd.edu. We expect to review applications and notify applicants rather quickly following this deadline. Please note, if your proposal is selected, human subjects, vertebrate animal, budget, and other forms in NIH format will be required by September 22, 2017 for inclusion in the Center grant application.

**Contact:** Please contact Jennifer Reichstadt with questions by email jreichst@ucsd.edu or phone at 619-543-7832.