REQUEST FOR PILOT/EXPLORATORY STUDY PROPOSALS
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 independently 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 applicants for Pilot/Exploratory Study awards to be included in the OAIC proposal, which will be submitted to the NIA in October 2017. If the submission is successful, OAIC and pilot funding would commence in approximately July of 2018.

The goal of these Pilot/Exploratory Studies is to provide funds to investigators with novel research ideas pertaining to the Center’s theme and provide them with the support needed to pilot their ideas and acquire information needed to expand or design future studies.

Funding: Funding ranges from $25,000-$50,000 for one to three years. Amount and duration of funding will depend on the scope of the project.

Eligibility: Post-doctoral students, junior and senior investigators 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).

Pilot Award Focus: The Pilot/Exploratory Study proposal should focus on 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 Process:** Interested candidates must submit a brief application including:

- A five-page proposal summarizing the pilot project, 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 biosketch

**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.