

# The University of Kansas Alzheimer's Disease Center 2012-2013 Pilot Research Grant Program

*Request for Applications Release: February 16, 2012*

*Letter of Intent Deadline: April 1, 2012*

*Application Submission Deadline: May 1, 2012*

*Anticipated Award Announcement: July 1, 2012*

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913-588-5312

The University of Kansas Alzheimer's Disease Center (KU ADC) is pleased to announce a pilot research grant program to support innovative pilot studies relevant to Alzheimer's disease (AD) and brain aging. The KU ADC will fund up to 3 awards of \$30,000 each in each annual funding cycle. Information about this program is available at the KU ADC Website ([www.KUAlzheimer.org](http://www.KUAlzheimer.org)) or through the KU ADC Assistant Director, Eric Vidoni (913-588-5312, [evidoni@kumc.edu](mailto:evidoni@kumc.edu)).

## Background and Scope

The KU ADC is one of 29 National Institute on Aging (NIA) designated research centers dedicated to combating AD. The NIA funds the Alzheimer's Disease Centers, such as the KU ADC, at major medical institutions across the nation. The goal of the KU ADC is to facilitate the translation of research advances into improved diagnosis and care for AD patients and focusing on the long-term goal of finding a cure or preventative measures for AD. Areas of investigation range from the basic mechanisms of AD to managing the symptoms and helping families cope with the effects of the disease. Center staff conduct basic, clinical, and behavioral research and train scientists and health care providers who are new to AD research.

## **Funding Opportunity Description and Award Information**

### Purpose

The mission of the KU ADC is to promote research on AD and brain aging in Kansas and the greater Kansas City area. The KU ADC supports a wide range of AD and brain aging research, including molecular, epidemiologic, observational, model-based, and clinical studies.

This Pilot Research Grant Program supports quality, innovative research projects that advance this mission. Proposals that generate preliminary data or publications that help the investigator successfully compete for extramural grants are encouraged. Early-stage investigators and those not currently performing AD research will be given special consideration, but established AD investigators are also eligible.

### Available Resources

The KU ADC can support the following research requests:

- Access to AD, mild cognitive impairment and control subject populations
- Utilization of AD and control subject biospecimens
- Access to existing datasets
- Expertise related to:
  - Physical Fitness testing
  - Body composition
  - Structural brain neuroimaging of humans and animals
  - Metabolic neuroimaging of humans and animals
  - Molecular and genetics-based services
  - Biochemical assays
  - Mitochondrial assays and characterization

KU ADC personnel are also available to consult on issues of project development and implementation. To obtain data management and statistical project development support, a brief Project Registration form must be completed in addition to the KU ADC application (click the "Register Now" link at <http://biostatistics.kumc.edu>).

Check the box for KU Alzheimer's Disease Center in the Center Affiliation section of the form). Support from other KU ADC Cores may be obtained by contacting that Core's Director (see [www.KUAlzheimer.org](http://www.KUAlzheimer.org) for a listing of KU ADC Cores).

### **Award Information**

The award period is 1 year with a single no-cost extension available. It is expected investigators will submit external applications within one year of completing their KU ADC pilot project.

### **Eligibility**

All post-doctoral fellows, faculty members or adjunct faculty members of KU-Lawrence and KUMC with the skills, knowledge and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research are eligible to apply as Principal Investigators (PIs). Each PI may submit only 1 application per funding cycle.

### **Application and Submission Information**

#### Letter of Intent

A letter of intent is required, but not binding. Only individuals who submit a letter of intent by the deadline will be sent a link to the application portal. The letter of intent should include

- A descriptive title of the proposed research.
- Name, institution, and contact information for the Principal Investigator
- A brief description (250 words or less) of the proposed research. The description should be sufficient to allow Pilot Research Grant Program Committee to determine if the KU ADC can appropriately meet the needs of the project.

The letter of intent should be emailed to Eric Vidoni ([evidoni@kumc.edu](mailto:evidoni@kumc.edu)) by 5 p.m. on the day of the submission deadline.

#### Proposal - Required Submission Items

Applications must be completed online through a REDCap online portal. This link will be emailed upon receiving the letter of intent.

The application portal will provide space to upload the following items:

1. **Face Page:** List the project title, investigator names and titles, and provide an abstract of the proposal (250 words or less).
2. **Research Plan:** Provide a detailed research plan (not to exceed 4 pages). Applicants should follow a similar approach as an NIH R03 grant application in describing a research plan. Those who are unfamiliar with the NIH-style grant process are encouraged to obtain a successful application as a model. Specific page limitations and sections for this pilot program are as follows:
  - Specific Aims (up to 1 page)
  - Significance, Innovation, Approach, and KUADC Resource Utilization\* (up to 3 pages)
    - \*Specifically identify what KU ADC resources are expected to be utilized, which data produced will be used in applications for external funding, and how the project will use KU ADC resources in the future.
  - References (not included in the page limit)

\*\*Use 11pt Arial font and no less than 0.5" margins. Additional information on an NIH-style research plan can be found on the NIH website (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/r03.htm>). Contact Eric Vidoni with specific questions ([evidoni@kumc.edu](mailto:evidoni@kumc.edu)).

3. **Detailed Budget:** Requests should not exceed \$30,000 in direct costs. No indirect dollars are awarded. Smaller grants will be considered. Grants in excess of \$30,000 will only be considered if previous permission to waive this cap is obtained from the KU ADC Director.
  - Faculty and assistant salaries are permitted up to \$10,000.
  - Funding for travel is not permitted unless clearly needed to collect data.
  - Applicants are encouraged to contact the Eric Vidoni to discuss costs for specific ADC resources (913-588-5312, [evidoni@kumc.edu](mailto:evidoni@kumc.edu)).

- Other resources, such as additional fitness testing, dual x-ray absorptiometry, blood draws, etc. may have associated costs established by the Clinical and Translational Science Unit of the Frontiers: Heartland Institute of Clinical and Translational Research. Applicants should [contact the Frontiers CTSU](#) for specific procedure costs.

**4. NIH Biographical Sketch:** A biographical sketch in NIH format, including a project specific personal statement, is required for each investigator (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/biosketch.doc>).

### **Additional Sections and Components**

- 1. Preliminary Data / Feasibility:** Although Preliminary Data are not required, it is important to convey to the reviewer that the proposal is feasible.
- 2. Letters of Support:** Letters of support are encouraged for any resource not directly under the control of the PI. This may include a letter of support from Co-I ensuring access to the needed resource or from Core leaders.
- 3. Co-Investigators:** Space is provided for listing up to 2 co-investigators. If space for additional co-investigators is needed, assemble all co-investigator information in a single document and upload in the provided field.

\*\*Letters of Support and additional co-investigator information should be uploaded in a single document along with any other ancillary files in the provided field

### **Application Review Information**

#### Peer Review

Each pilot project will undergo a peer review. Applicants will receive feedback on their proposal in the form of a NIH-style summary statement and a score with 1 indicating an Exceptional application and 9 indicating a Poor application.

#### Review Criteria

##### Key review criteria

- Investigator: Qualifications and research experience of the research team
- Potential for Productivity: Scientific, technical or clinical significance and innovation and the likelihood for publication of proposed work
- External Fundability: Potential for future external funding and utilization of KU ADC Cores
- Thematic Focus: Use of ADC resources, and appropriateness for mission and thematic scope of the KU ADC. Applicants are encouraged to discuss the project with Core Directors for resources which they propose to use.

Additional criteria helpful to the review are:

- Clear milestones for progress
- Compliance with human subjects protection or animal use and care guidelines
- Clear demonstration that the proposed work can be completed in a timely manner

### **Award Administration Information**

#### Funding Timeline

For projects requiring Human Subjects Committee or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee approval, funding will not begin until approval is obtained. The funding period will continue for one year after the official start date. If justified, a single year no-cost extension will be permitted.

#### Contact Information

We encourage inquiries concerning this funding opportunity and welcome the opportunity to answer questions from potential applicants. For more information please contact Eric Vidoni ([evidoni@kumc.edu](mailto:evidoni@kumc.edu)).

**Post-award Information**

Awardees will be expected to complete a comprehensive report of award-related activities at the end of the award period and to report study-related productivity, such as manuscripts, grant applications, and funding, after the project is completed. Reporting will be done online through an invitation from the Administrative Core Director. In addition, awardees are expected to present their findings as part of The Seminar Series on Aging, Health & Dementia. The Education Core will contact PIs regarding scheduling of the seminar.