Wake Forest University School of Medicine

Wake Forest Alzheimer's Disease Research Center
REC Scholar Positions
2024 Request for Applications (RFA)
DEADLINE EXTENSION: May 3, 2024

The Research Education Component (REC) of the Wake Forest Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (WF ADRC) seeks applications from early career faculty, research associates, and post-doctoral fellows to support their development into independent scientists in the field of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders (ADRD). The main priorities are for REC Scholars to build skills in translational science and team science. Eligible applicants with backgrounds in basic science, clinical, translational, or population research are invited to apply. Applicants can be currently working on ADRD research, wish to expand into the ADRD field, or want to apply their current expertise and/or methodology to ADRD research.

Provided Support:
- Funding is typically $20,000 per year for 1-2 years and can be used for educational opportunities and research
  - Funding can be used to support protected research time, if needed
- Additional $5,000 per year for travel to the National ADRC Directors Meeting and 1 other conference
- Formal mentoring team
- Priority access to WF ADRC Core investigators and resources, as well as the national ADRC network resources – see Supplemental Information

Qualifications:
- Assistant Professors, Instructors, Research Associates and Postdoctoral Fellows can apply
- Applications are welcome from any department at Wake Forest, Atrium Health, Advocate Health or invited institutions (institutions other than Wake Forest must be willing to waive indirect costs)
- Proposed research relevant to Alzheimer's disease or related disorders (can be ongoing)
- Commitment to a research career focused on brain aging, Alzheimer's disease, or related disorders
- Availability for protected time dedicated to research and career development activities
- U.S citizen or permanent resident
- Applicants from minoritized racial or ethnic groups, from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds, from rural areas, and those with disabilities are encouraged to apply
- See Supplement Information section for required application materials

Selection Process:
- REC Committee reviews applications and makes recommendations
- ADRC Executive Committee makes final selection
- Endorsement by the ADRC External Advisory Committee

Timelines:
- Application deadline: ~~April 5, 2024~~ **May 3, 2024**
- Candidates notified: June 14, 2024
- Anticipated start date: July 15, 2024

Please submit applications at this link: https://redcap.link/0t9pa20z. Applicants may contact REC Co-Leads Sharon Letchworth, PhD (sharon.letchworth@wakehealth.edu) and/or Tina Brinkley, PhD (tbrinkle@wakehealth.edu) to discuss proposals prior to submitting LOI or application.

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Supplemental Information

Background

The Wake Forest Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (WF ADRC) provides funding, mentoring, and educational support to Scholars through the Center's Research Education Component (REC). The main priorities of the program are for REC Scholars to build skills in Translational Science and Team Science. Scholar funding of $20,000 can be used for educational opportunities and research support. Additional funding of $5,000 for travel to National ADRC meetings and scientific conferences is included.

The scientific focus of the WF ADRC is the link between metabolic and vascular diseases and the transitions from normal aging to mild cognitive impairment (MCI), AD, and related disorders. Research that addresses health disparities in AD is also a focus of the ADRC.

WF ADRC REC Scholar Application Materials to be submitted at this link: https://redcap.link/0t9pa20z
- Current effort percentages (clinical, administrative, teaching, research)
- Proposed percent effort for the scholarship period, if different than current effort
- Current biosketch and other support
- Proposed Primary Mentor, if known, and their qualifications (Primary Mentor will be finalized after candidate is accepted)
- Additional proposed mentors and qualifications, if known (Mentor Committee will be finalized after candidate is accepted into the program)
- Letters of recommendation (2 total, including one from your Department Chair confirming the available effort for research and career development)
- Educational / Career Development Plan (1-2 pages): Outline training career goals to be achieved and a timeline for success milestones during the training period
   - If formal coursework is planned, specify course(s) and any associated costs
   - List additional educational opportunities and costs
- Proposed research project, if applicable (2-3 pages): Include Title, Specific Aims, Research Strategy (Significance, Innovation, Approach), and Timeline/Milestones (see Appendix A); if project is ongoing, specify how this work will be distinct from that funded by other sources
   - **Due to National Institute of Aging (NIA) guidelines, applicants may not propose new clinical trials**
   - Analysis of existing clinical trial data or the addition of measures to an ongoing trial is permitted; clinical observational studies are also permitted
- Budget: Complete the Budget Template provided with the application form for the requested amount of support (up to $20,000 per year)
   - Include proposed educational opportunities, salary support, technical support and and/or research costs as applicable
- Budget justification for requested funds (1 page)
- References (up to 2 pages)
- Human subjects or vertebrate animals section, if applicable (see Appendix B)

Expectations of REC Scholars:

- Funding is typically for 1-2 years. Scholars must demonstrate progress and meet objectives during the first year and have clearly defined goals for the second year to qualify for the second year of funding.

- At the beginning of the training program, each Scholar will work with the REC Program Committee to

review career goals and develop an Individual Training Plan that will outline the coursework, research objectives, training experiences, and team science education.

- REC Scholars will be matched with a Primary Mentor and Mentor Committee based on their training needs. Twice during the program, the Mentor Committee will meet with the Scholar to provide advice on research, education, and career goals, as well as to monitor progress. Scholars are encouraged to meet with mentors on a one-on-one basis during their training term, as needed.

- Attendance at the national Spring and Fall ADRC Meetings is expected; all travel costs will be covered. Funding to attend one scientific conference per year is also provided.

- Scholars are expected to present training progress and research results to the WF ADRC Executive Committee, the WF ADRC External Advisory Committee, and at WF ADRC events such as seminar series, REC writing workshops, and/or national ADRC events.

- Scholars are expected to prepare at least one abstract/presentation for a scientific conference during their training period.

- Scholars are expected to prepare at least one manuscript for publication during their training period. Publications resulting from research supported by this scholarship must cite the ADRC P30AG072947 grant. Publications must be registered and compliant in PubMed Central.

- REC Scholars are encouraged to apply for WF ADRC Development Project/Pilot Grant funding.

- REC Scholars are expected to draft (preferably submit) an application for independent funding (e.g. K-award, R-award, Alzheimer's Association funding) during the course of their training program.

- REC Scholars are encouraged to participate in externships with other ADRCs or institutions that specialize in ADRD research.

- REC Scholars are expected to participate in scientific education outreach in the community and engage with undergraduate and/or graduate student trainees, as appropriate.

- REC Scholars are strongly encouraged to use and/or produce ADRC resources:
    - Produce resources or methodologies useful for the ADRC
    - Utilize existing resources from one or more of the following:
        - Requests for human biospecimens and data (*e.g.*, cognitive data, demographic data, biomarker data, brain imaging data, brain, blood, and/or cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) samples) can be made via the following link: www.WakeShare.org
        - Requests for non-human primate resources can be submitted here: www.WakeShare.org
        - Brain specimens from our affiliated brain bank at the University of Washington can be requested here: http://depts.washington.edu/mbwc/adrc/page/research-resources
        - Resources from the National Alzheimer Coordinating Center (NACC), which contains data from clinical evaluations, neuropathology, and magnetic resonance imaging from the 42 past and present Alzheimer's Disease Centers (ADCs) supported by NIA can be requested here: https://naccdata.org/
        - Resources from the National Centralized Repository for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (NCRAD), which is a national resource for clinical information and biological samples, such as DNA, plasma, serum, RNA, CSF, cell lines, and brain tissue from multiple ADCs and AD-related clinical studies: https://ncrad.iu.edu/accessing_data.html
        - Collaboration with other ADRCs

- REC Scholars will be expected to provide interim and final reports on the research supported by this scholarship.

- For 5 years after the end of the training period, REC Scholars will be surveyed annually for scientific productivity, leadership experience, and career progress. Thereafter, REC Scholars will be surveyed every 5 years.

- REC Scholars are encouraged to participate in the review process for future application cycles.

Appendix A

Below are examples to show different methods to provide study milestones, outcomes, and timeline. Other formats may be acceptable.

Example 1:

- **Milestone 1 (0-1.5 months):** Milestone 1 Details **Outcome:** Outcome 1 Details
- **Milestone 2 (1.5- 4 months):** Milestone 2 Details **Outcome:** Outcome 2 Details
- **Milestone 3 (4-6 months):** Milestone 3 Details **Outcome**: Outcome 3 Details
- **Milestone 4 (6-12 months):** Milestone 4 Details **Outcome:** Outcome 4 Details
- **Milestone 5 (8-12 months):** Milestone 5 Details **Outcome:** Outcome 5 Details

Example 2:

Timeline and Milestones												
Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Activity/Aim/Milestone 1	X	X	X	X								
Activity/Aim/Milestone 2	X	X										
Activity/Aim/Milestone 3		X	X	X								
Activity/Aim/Milestone 4					X	X	X	X	X	X		
Activity/Aim/Milestone 5					X							
Activity/Aim/Milestone 6						X	X					
Activity/Aim/Milestone 7								X		X		
Activity/Aim/Milestone 8											X	X

Example 3:

Aim	Milestone	Month 1-3	Month 4-6	Month 7-9	Month 10-12
1	Milestone 1	X	X		
	Milestone 2		X		

Aim 1 Anticipated Outcomes: Detail

Aim	Milestone	Month 1-3	Month 4-6	Month 7-9	Month 10-12
2	Milestone 1		X	X	
	Milestone 2		X		
	Milestone 3			X	

Aim 2 Anticipated Outcomes: Detail

Aim	Milestone	Month 1-3	Month 4-6	Month 7-9	Month 10-12
3	Milestone 1			X	
	Milestone 2			X	X

Aim 3 Anticipated Outcomes: Detail

Appendix B

Information Regarding Human Subjects
Address the following if the project **involves human subjects**. *If the project proposes to use biospecimens or data from ADRC participants and does not involve live human subjects, then the following information is not needed.*

- Provide a one-page document addressing the Protection of Human Subjects, if applicable
  - Clearly describe risk, protections, benefits, and importance of the knowledge to be gained by the revised or new activities as discussed in Part II of NIH competing application instructions
- Clinical Trial Classification, if applicable
- Inclusion Plans for Women, Minorities, and Children, if applicable
- Targeted Enrollment Table, if applicable (NIH Targeted Enrollment Table provided with the application form)
- IRB approval is not required for full application submission, but must be in place prior to funding
  - If an award is made:
    - Either an IRB approval letter or an IRB response to a "Determination Whether Research or Similar Activities Require IRB Approval" must be submitted to the ADRC prior to funds being released
    - Human subjects safeguard procedures must be detailed in accordance with the institution's general assurances and HIPAA
    - All key personnel must have current certification of training in the protection of human subjects prior to the start of the grant period
  - **A delay in IRB approval does not alter the project end date**

Information Regarding Live Vertebrates
Address the following if the project **involves vertebrate animals** (1 page max):

- **IACUC Approval Status** (not submitted, pending, approved)
  - IACUC approval is not required for full application submission
  - If an award is made, the grantee must provide verification of IACUC approval or documentation on why the activity does not require IACUC approval prior to the funds being released
  - **A delay in IACUC approval does not alter the project end date**
- **Detailed information on the criteria below:**
  1. Description of Procedures: Provide a concise description of the proposed procedures that involve vertebrate animals in the work outlined in the Research Plan. Identify the species, strains, ages, sex, and total numbers of animals by species, to be used in the proposed work. If dogs or cats are proposed, provide the source of the animals. Identify all project/ performance or collaborating site(s) and describe activities of proposed research with vertebrate animals in those sites.
  2. Justifications: Provide justification that the species are appropriate for the proposed research. Explain why the research goals cannot be accomplished using an alternative model (e.g. computational, human, invertebrate, *in vitro*).
  3. Minimization of Pain and Distress: Describe the interventions including analgesia, anesthesia, sedation, palliative care, and humane endpoints to minimize discomfort, distress, pain, and injury.
  4. Euthanasia: State whether the method of euthanasia is consistent with the recommendations of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals. If not, describe the method and provide a scientific justification.