To: School of Medicine Faculty
From: Heather Whitson, Director, Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center
Re: ADRC RFP for innovative neurodegeneration-related discovery research in Basic Brain Science

Request for Proposals

The Duke/UNC Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center is pleased to announce a call for proposals for high risk/high impact, basic, discovery science relevant to neurodegeneration. Priority will be given to faculty in the Duke University School of Medicine researching basic neurobiology that has a plausible link to understanding neurodegeneration, including (but not limited to) Alzheimer’s Disease. This opportunity is made possible by a philanthropic gift to Duke University School of Medicine, and eligible applicants must have a faculty appointment at Duke.

We plan to make one $100,000 award focused on truly innovative basic science pilot research projects in neuroscience, based on the following criteria:

- Relevance to neurodegeneration
- Originality
- Scientific rationale
- Clear articulation of the way in which the proposed research differs from other funded projects of the Principal Investigator
- Clarity of plans for obtaining subsequent extramural funding to extend or complete the project
- Feasibility to complete the proposed work within one year of receipt of funding; extensions are not guaranteed.

Applications may use or develop any model system, including animal models, human tissue, or human brain models. Innovation, relevance to neurodegeneration, and the plausibility of a transition to disease-modifying science will be emphasized in the review criteria.

Please include the following in your proposal:

- Title page and contact information
- Abstract of 150 words or less describing the project in lay language
- Project summary in 3 pages or less (11-point Arial font, inclusive of figures but not including citations), addressing the selection criteria listed above.
- Biographical sketches for participating faculty, including current and pending sources of support. Please use the new “NIH Biosketch Form” as outlined in: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-21-073.html

Deadline: Proposals must be received by 5 PM EST, September 15, 2023

Selection Process for New Awards – Proposals will be peer-reviewed, and awards announced by November 1, 2023. Applicants may be interviewed prior to final decisions to assure that the proposed research is a new direction relative to the laboratory’s current efforts. Awardees will be required to submit a year-end progress report and may be asked to present their accomplishments to the philanthropic funder of the program. The funds should not be used to fund faculty salaries.

Click here to submit your application
(https://duke.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eXxGAwFBnplH8JE)