

Duke/UNC Alzheimer's Disease Research Center Developmental projects (DP) Request for Applications, 2022

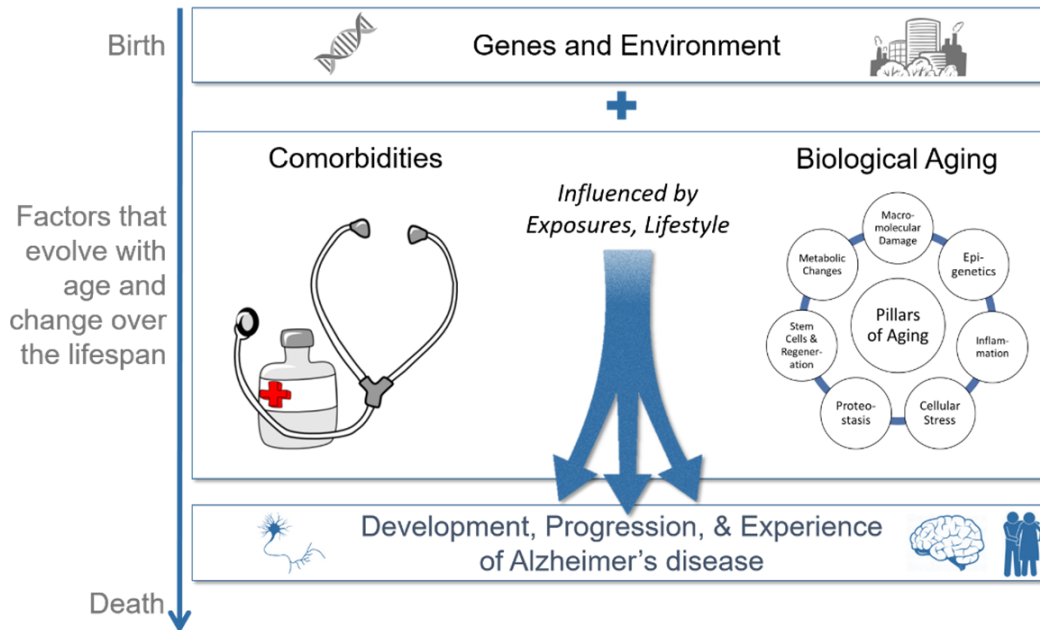
Background: The Duke/UNC Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC, NIA P30AG028716) promotes research and discovery in Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (AD+ADRD) through its core resources. The central **theme** of our ADRC is to identify age-related changes across the lifespan that mediate the development, progression, and experience of Alzheimer's disease. Applicants are highly encouraged to leverage the services and resources of the ADRC Cores. For example, awardees have access to the expertise of a biostatistician and statistical support may be contributed or contracted, depending on the level of need. More information on Core resources: [Duke/UNC ADRC Core Details](#)

Purpose of the Award: The goal of the ADRC developmental project program is to stimulate and support innovative, high potential lines of research related to our theme: to identify age-related changes across the lifespan that contribute to the development, progression, or experience of AD. With this request for applications, we expect to fund at least one 1-year development project beginning July 1, 2023. Projects that represent a collaboration between Duke and UNC investigators are strongly encouraged and are eligible to request funding from *both* schools. DP awardees are supported by the ADRC Cores listed above. Awardees are expected to pursue external funding in their research area and applications should convey the plan to use findings from the developmental project to inform or justify future applications.

Eligibility: Candidates should be faculty, or an advanced fellow/postdoctoral student with clear plans for transition to faculty status. Candidates must hold an appropriate academic or clinical appointment at Duke University or UNC Chapel Hill by the award start-date of July 1, 2023. Only U.S. citizens or non-citizen nationals, or an individual lawfully admitted for permanent residence who possesses an Alien Registration Receipt Card (I-151 or I-551), or some other verification of legal admission as a permanent resident prior to appointment, are eligible due to NIH regulations. Individuals on temporary or student visas are not eligible.

Support: This year's DP program is designed to support a 1-year collaborative project between Duke and UNC investigators. DP awardees may propose up to \$50,000 in direct funding for the overall project, with no more than \$25,000 budgeted at Duke or UNC. Collaborative proposals should designate a PI at both institutions.

Eligible Research: The research focus can be basic, translational, epidemiological, or clinical so long as it supports the ADRC's mission and theme (see Figure). Research that bridges basic science and clinical areas, or has the potential to lead to new interventions for prevention, treatment, or management of AD, or new diagnostic tools for early AD, is of particular interest. Research related to health equity is also encouraged, particularly when proposed as part of a collaboration with the ORE Core or other Cores. Research proposals should utilize one or more of the [ADRC Cores](#). Preference will be given to applications from early stage investigators (ESIs). More senior applicants should explain how the DP funds will be used to support a novel line of research, which represents a pivot from their existing lines of research and aligns well with the Duke/UNC ADRC theme.



Examples of Successful Project Types include but are not limited to:

- Feasibility studies
- Analysis of existing data or samples to evaluate hypotheses related to our theme
- Development or validation of new methodologies or technologies
- Exploration of innovative high-risk ideas in our theme

Commitment to Diversity and Equity: The Duke/UNC ADRC is committed to promoting health equity and adding value to our community through diverse perspectives. Scientists from traditionally under-represented backgrounds are especially encouraged to apply. Additionally, whenever appropriate, applications should discuss how the proposed work may reduce health disparities or will benefit from the ADRC's diverse clinical cohort (with intentional outreach to and inclusion of people from under-represented racial or ethnic groups, participants from rural zip codes, and participants ages 25-65). If human studies are proposed, the application should provide its strategy to promote inclusion and representation in the study population, which may be in coordination with the ORE Core.

Application Timeline:

KEY DATES

- **September 1, 2022:** RFA Released
Applicants are encouraged to meet with Administrative Core leaders (listed below) prior to submission to optimize their project's fit with ADRC goals. Please contact ADRC leaders early to allow adequate opportunity to find an available meeting time.
- **October 15, 2022:** Letter of Intent (LOI) Deadline
Letters of intent will be used to identify appropriate reviewers and communicate with investigators about how to optimize their proposal for this mechanism. Letters of intent should be **no more than 1 page**. Upload your LOI as a PDF with the naming convention "PILastname.PIFirstname.LOI" (e.g., PDF document is named "Whitson.Heather.LOI")

Please include:

- Title
 - Principal investigators and other known members of the team (names, titles, affiliations)
 - Rationale for the proposed project and overall objective
 - Brief description of methodological approach
- **October 25, 2022:** Applicants Invited to Submit Full Application

- **November 30, 2022:** Full Application Deadline
- **February 15, 2023:** Selection of Awardee(s)
- **July 1, 2023:** Award Start Date

Review Process:

Proposals are competitive and peer-reviewed. Applications will be reviewed by internal (Duke/UNC) and external (non-Duke/UNC) referees. Reviews will be provided in full or in summary to applicants as appropriate. Award decisions will be communicated to applicants by February 28th, 2023.

Application Format:

All documents should adhere to NIH formatting requirements (*e.g.*, half-inch margins, minimum 11pt font, no more than six lines per vertical inch). Applicants should combine the following documents into a single PDF with the naming convention "PIlastname.PIfirstname.Full" (*e.g.*, PDF is named "Whitson.Heather.Full")

- Specific aims to include rationale, objective, and expected outcomes/deliverables (1 page)
- Research Strategy (up to 5 pages, including references) include the following sections: Background/Significance, Innovation, Approach, Timeline, Use of ADRC Cores or NACC resources, Plan for future research based on findings
- [Budget with budget justification](#) (Please use NIH PHS398 forms)
Applicants will be asked to submit 2 budgets and 2 budget justifications - one detailing UNC expenses and one detailing Duke expenses. Neither budget should exceed \$25,000. Please communicate with the Duke/UNC ADRC Administrative team to prepare your budget materials. (Mary Roberston: Mary.robertson@duke.edu for Duke budgets; Anne Goldstein: Anne.Goldstein@med.unc.edu for UNC budgets).
- Resource Sharing plan, describing how you will support open science (1 page)
- Applicant Biosketch + Biosketch of each key co-investigator ([NIH format](#))

To begin the submission process and upload your LOI, click the link below:

https://duke.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bwnlrxrdbT3DZuWW

To schedule your 1:1 meeting, and for programmatic/scientific questions, please contact either:

Heather Whitson, MD, MHS, ADRC Co-Director (Duke) (heather.whitson@duke.edu)

Gwenn Garden, MD, PhD, ADRC Co-Director (UNC) (gwenn.garden@med.unc.edu)

For administrative questions, please contact:

Sara Patillo, MSHS, CCRP, PMP (sara.patillo@duke.edu)

Michelle Cooley (michelle.cooley@duke.edu)