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Center for Aging in  
Diverse Communities



## 2024 Request for Applications for Pilot Study Grant Center for Aging in Diverse Communities Scientist Program

**Background:** The UCSF Center for Aging in Diverse Communities (CADC) was established in 1997 with funding from the National Institute on Aging (NIA) as part of the Resource Centers for Minority Aging Research (RCMAR). CADC's research theme focuses on understanding multilevel social and behavioral mechanisms of health disparities impacting older adults and developing interventions to achieve health equity. Our most important mission is to provide mentoring and pilot funding for early career researchers from diverse backgrounds who will enhance the aging-research workforce. Information about CADC including prior CADC Scientists is available on our website (<https://cadc.ucsf.edu>).

A primary goal of the CADC is to mentor early-career researchers from historically underrepresented backgrounds to become successful scientists focused on understanding and reducing health disparities and promoting health equity in aging populations. CADC provides pilot study funding, mentoring, and comprehensive training in diverse aging and health disparities research. **CADC is now requesting applications for CADC Scientists** who will conduct one-year pilot studies to investigate research questions within the scope of CADC's goals among older Black/African American, Latino/a/x, Asian American, Pacific Islander, Native American/American Indian populations, sexual and gender minorities of any race/ethnicity, or the intersection of disability and those populations. CADC will fund at least three Scientists **with an anticipated start date of July 1, 2024** (pending IRB approval of the Scientist's pilot study).

**General Provisions:** CADC Scientists will receive training on issues pertaining to aging research in diverse populations and feedback on manuscripts, grant proposals, and other academic products through monthly works-in-progress sessions with CADC faculty and fellow CADC Scientists. CADC Scientists will have the opportunity to interact with CADC faculty and enhance their skills and knowledge related to aging and disparities/equity research among diverse populations. They will be encouraged to participate in training opportunities offered by the National Institute on Aging, and to present their work at the annual national RCMAR conference where there will be networking and mentorship opportunities. The main indicator of success will be the individual's research career development as measured by publication of pilot study results, other publications related to aging and health disparities/health equity, and other grant applications and funding.

**Eligibility:** The applicant must be at the level of a postdoctoral fellow or an assistant professor at UCSF or UC Merced at the time of applying and must be from a racial/ethnic minority group, or a member of a sexual and gender minority group (SGM) of any race/ethnicity as defined by self-identification, or from a [socioeconomically disadvantaged background of any race/ethnicity as defined by NIH](#) or [have a disability as defined by NIH](#). If funded, the CADC Scientist will receive pilot funds and will be Principal Investigator (PI) of the pilot. Applicants must not have received a previous independent research award of the R01 type from the NIH or similar funding agencies. Investigators who have received previous/current funding from faculty development awards (e.g., K awards) are eligible. We will consider applications from previously funded CADC

Scientists or Scientists previously funded by other RCMAR centers, but will give preference to new applicants. Scientists may not concurrently hold two RCMAR pilot awards.

Proposed pilot studies may be analyses of secondary data sets or primary data collection that is feasible within one-year. [Pilot feasibility and acceptability studies](#) will be considered, but no [clinical trials](#). Here are examples of potential research areas and topics that we will fund:

- 1) Health promotion and healthy aging topics;
- 2) Research projects with older minorities that engage community-based organizations;
- 3) Cognitive function among minority older adults;
- 4) Studies of aging and the arts (e.g., music, dance, art);
- 5) Proposals using secondary data that include minority participants and are focused on aging;
- 6) Studies on the health and well-being of ethnically diverse informal caregivers;
- 7) Studies on the determinants, outcomes, and palliation of disability in older minority persons;
- 8) Studies to improve the quality of health care delivery for older minority patients.

**Application:** An application (single-spaced, 0.5 margins, and in Arial 11 font) must include the following:

- 1) **Cover Page:** Include name, current position, institution, main research mentor name, and study title.
- 2) **Research Plan:** Using the following required format and page limits (6 pages maximum excluding references):
  - a) **Specific Aims** (1 page) Include a brief background, significance, overview of the study, long-term objectives, and specific aims.
  - b) **Personal Statement, Career Goals, and Significance for Health Disparities/Health Equity and Aging Research** (1-2 pages) Include a summary of your background, preparation for research, and career objectives. Also address 1) how you and your pilot project are a good fit for this program that aims to diversify the research workforce; please consider including your racial/ethnic, SGM, disability, or socioeconomically disadvantaged background; 2) how your pilot study will contribute to the elimination of health disparities and health inequities, and improve the health and well-being of older adults from diverse populations; 3) how your pilot study is relevant to social, behavioral, psychological, and/or economic research on aging and/or aging-relevant health disparities/health equity; 4) how the proposed pilot study is in alignment with your research career objectives; and 5) how your pilot study findings will contribute to the submission of a future NIA research grant application (e.g., K award, R21, R01).
  - c) **Research Methods** (3 pages) Include an overview of research design and methods, and detailed discussion of: setting, participants and sources of participants, recruitment methods, measures/variables to be used, sample size calculation as appropriate for your research design, and analytic plan. Include at least one paragraph on expected findings and implications of your study. You may include preliminary studies here, if applicable.
- 3) [NIH biosketch](#)
- 4) [One-year budget](#) not to exceed \$50,000 and a [budget justification](#) using NIH forms. These budgets will need to be approved by NIA if selected for funding. Expenses may include salary and fringe benefits for the PI and research staff (but not for mentors), research supplies, and participant payments. **Do not include institutional indirect costs on these pilot study grants;** this is a condition of award. Please note that we will not enter into a subcontract with UC Merced in order to fund pilot studies if this involves indirect costs.
- 5) **Letter of Support** from your main research mentor (1-page).
- 6) [NIH Target/Planned Enrollment Table](#)
- 7) [CITI Human Subjects Protection Training](#) certificate

Applicants, we strongly encourage an **email indicating an intent to apply** with your name, position, and draft title to [anita.ponce@ucsf.edu](mailto:anita.ponce@ucsf.edu) by **Friday, February 9, 2024**.

The application deadline is **5 PM on Friday, March 1, 2024**. Apply online at <https://cadc.ucsf.edu/apply>

**Review Criteria:** Pilot study proposals will receive priority scores based on the written reviews and a discussion by the CADC faculty and input from the CADC Community Advisory Board. Selection of awards will be on the basis of the following criteria:

- 1) Potential for applicant to develop as an independent investigator and viability for the pilot study to contribute to an independent research proposal within two years after completion
- 2) Relevance to diverse aging research in epidemiological, clinical, social, behavioral, translational, or implementation topics
- 3) Feasibility of conducting the study in one year with funds allocated
- 4) Scientific strength of the design, methods, and analytic plans
- 5) Diversity in representation of disciplines conducting aging research, topics, or background of candidate

**Funding:** Funding decisions will be made by **April 8, 2024**.

**Inquiries:** Applicants may email Dr. Leah Karliner with programmatic or eligibility questions at [leah.karliner@ucsf.edu](mailto:leah.karliner@ucsf.edu). For general information or questions regarding the application process or this RFA, contact: Anita Ponce at [anita.ponce@ucsf.edu](mailto:anita.ponce@ucsf.edu).