

RESOURCES OF THE RESEARCH CAREER DEVELOPMENT CORE (RCDC) PEPPER OLDER AMERICANS INDEPENDENCE CENTER

The major goals of the Yale Pepper Center and the Research Career Development Core are to support and promote junior faculty development and to encourage research aimed at elucidating multifactorial geriatric syndromes. To advance these goals, the Yale Pepper Center offers a variety of resources to assist junior faculty investigators.

Pepper Center Grants

The Pepper OAIC funds three types of grants:

- Pilot and Exploratory (PEC) Grants
- Research Career Development Grants (RCDC)
- Methodology Developmental Grants

The two-step application process involves the submission of a 2-page letter of intent and a 10 page NIH-style proposal. The most promising applicants are asked to complete a 10-page proposal.

PEC Grants-Each year, investigators can compete for awards for pilot, feasibility, intervention or other types of studies. All Yale faculty are eligible, but junior faculty have priority. The annual solicitation for applications is announced on the website <http://pepper.med.yale.edu/>. Research addressing a wide range of issues related to aging is encouraged.

Proposals should advance our understanding of the etiology, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of multifactorial geriatric health conditions. Other selection criteria include significance, scientific merit, innovation, relevance to fostering independence, ability to complete the project and likelihood that the project will lead to full-scale support by an external agency.

Contacts: Denise Acampora (denise.acampora@yale.edu); Terri Fried (Terri.Fried@yale.edu)

RCDC Grants- The overall goal of the RCDC is to identify and nurture junior faculty across a broad range of disciplines, particularly those whose research advances our understanding of the etiology, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of multifactorial geriatric health conditions. The number of awards available may vary from year to year.

Contacts: Denise Acampora (denise.acampora@yale.edu); Thomas Gill (Thomas.Gill@ynhh.org).

Methodology Developmental Grants

The goal of this funding mechanism is to support innovation in biostatistical, field, data management and informatics methods related to research in aging. Examples of the type of development study funded include:

- “Geriatrics Research Instrument Library” (Data Management and Informatics Core)
- “Promoting Research Participation among Black and Hispanic Older Adults” (Field Core)
- “Analytic Methods for Spatial Factors on Geriatric Health” (Biostatistics Core)

Contacts: Heather Allore (Biostatistics; heather.allore@yale.edu); Peter Charpentier (Data Management and Informatics; peter.charpentier@yale.edu); Joanne McGloin (Field: Joanne.mcgloin@yale.edu)

Aging Workshops

The Junior Faculty Aging Workshops bring together 10-20 junior investigators in aging-related research for semi-monthly presentations of research in progress during the academic year.

Workshop goals are to:

- provide an open, informal environment for junior investigators to present research-in-progress (from research design stage to preliminary results) to their peers
- to allow investigators to obtain constructive feedback on their work from a broad interdisciplinary group
- to encourage the development of collaborative research relationships

Contact: Denise Acampora (Denise.Acampora@yale.edu)

Aging Seminars

The seminar series includes junior and senior investigators from multiple disciplines. Please see schedule on website <http://info.med.yale.edu/intmed/geriatrics> This series provides a forum for:

- junior faculty to present completed studies and receive feedback from senior faculty
- senior investigators and outside investigators to present their work
- bringing together researchers from multiple disciplines and encouraging collaborative relationships

Seminars are held monthly and attendance is about 50 people per seminar.

Contact: Denise Acampora (denise.acampora@yale.edu)

Biology of Aging Basic Science Seminars

This series includes fellows, other trainees, and junior and senior faculty from multiple disciplines and departments engaged in basic science research, including animal studies, with a focus on aging. This series offers a forum for:

- junior faculty to present their research in progress or completed studies and receive feedback from senior faculty
- senior investigators and outside investigators to present their work
- bringing together researchers from multiple disciplines and encouraging collaborative relationships

Seminars are held monthly and attendance is about 15 people per seminar.

Please contact Dr. Al Shaw or Jane Mallory to be included on the mailing list:
(albert.shaw@yale.edu , jane.mallory@ynhh.org)

Research Resource Core Support

The Yale OAIC includes three Research Resource Cores: Biostatistics; Data Management and Informatics (DMI); and Field. One of the goals of the RCDC is to facilitate priority access to the resources of these other cores for junior investigators in the implementation stages of new studies.

Examples of the types of assistance available include:

- consultation on research design and project management
- sample size determination and analytic strategies
- human subject protection, recruitment, tracking and privacy
- access to existing databases
- identification of possible study populations
- design of data collection instruments and quality control systems
- data entry service
- access to trained interviewers.

Investigators are expected to pay for these resources from their own research funds, if available. In order to use these services, it is essential to make arrangements well in advance.

Contact: Heather Allore (Biostatistics; heather.allore@yale.edu); Peter Charpentier (Data Management and Informatics; peter.charpentier@yale.edu); Joanne McGloin (Field; Joanne.mcgloin@yale.edu)

Questionnaire Resource Libraries

The RCDC maintains an extensive library of questionnaires, data extraction forms, operational and training manuals from current and past OAIC projects. This hardcopy resource is intended to provide immediate access to these resources for researchers and to complement the computerized instrument library of the Field and Data Management and Informatics Core.

Contact: Gail McAcay (Gail.McAvay@yale.edu)

The RCDC also supports a library of over 300 successful NIH grants (both research and career development) spanning a broad range of topics of interest to the OAIC. Junior investigators may review samples of interest and make copies of pertinent sections as models for their own applications. The grant Resource Library is located in the Investigative Medicine Program office inside the 35 York Street entrance of Harkness Hall. They are generally accessible 9-5 Monday-Friday. Please make an appointment to access these resources.

Contact: Pam Fucci (pamela.fucci@yale.edu).

Junior Faculty Retreat

A 1 day annual off-site retreat for junior faculty and fellows provides an opportunity for:

- professional networking, with a view towards collaboration development
- educational/career development sessions presented by senior faculty and carefully selected external speakers
- presentations by junior faculty/fellows to obtain feedback

The next retreat is scheduled for March 10, 2006. The invitation list includes all PORA junior faculty and fellows as well as selected individuals from other areas.

Contact: Karissa Stolzman (Karissa.crenshaw@ynhh.org)

Other Types of Support: Travel and Presentation Costs

Other types of support (such as assistance with travel expenses or poster preparation costs) may be available for the presentation of results from Yale Pepper Center supported research activities. Requests should be made in writing, and include the purpose of the request, itemized costs and other sources of support for the activity. Foreign travel is not permitted. Requests must be submitted at least 60 days in advance of the date the funds are needed. Decisions will be based on the availability of funds.

Contact: Denise Acampora (denise.acampora@yale.edu)