



February 1, 2007

Dear Colleague:

The University of Maryland Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center (UM-OAIC) and the Maryland Exercise and Robotics Center of Excellence (MERCE) are collaborating to provide one-year pilot project funding to encourage the development of new interventions and mechanistic research, new technologies, and novel methods and approaches for research that address health-related problems and disabilities in older people. We encourage junior faculty and senior fellows to apply, as well as established senior investigators who are making a transition to aging research. The Centers will consider funding projects with a budget of \$20,000 - \$40,000. A pilot investigator may use the funds for technical support salaries but not for investigators' salaries. Additionally, human subjects (IRB) approval is required after funding is received. Please circulate this announcement to other faculty in your department or school.

The research can be related to neurological disability, epidemiology of aging and recovery, stroke and hip fracture research, community translational research, cardiovascular disease prevention, exercise physiology, fMRI and other imaging, molecular biology, or muscle metabolism and rehabilitation sciences research in aging that is congruent with the focus of each center. Interested applicants should discuss their project and develop collaborations with a center investigator to assure compatibility.

Letters of intent are due by 5 PM on March 7, 2008. A one to two-page letter of intent should contain a specific description of how the project relates to the theme of the centers, a statement on how the pilot funding will advance the investigator's future research, a brief narrative of the proposed research that includes a statement of the hypothesis and aims, a list of the potential collaborating mentors and associated center investigators, and a description of the core services that will be required to conduct the research. For more information about the Centers' missions and core services, please visit the Centers' Web sites (UM-OAIC: <http://peppercenter.umaryland.edu> and MERCE: <http://www.medschool.umaryland.edu/robotics/default.asp>). Also include with the letter of intent, a NIH biographical sketch of the principal investigator.

To submit a letter of intent, please send it electronically to Ms. Rosamond Leacock-Martin at [rlmartin@grecc.umaryland.edu](mailto:rlmartin@grecc.umaryland.edu). The pilot projects that show promise will be invited to submit an eight-page application. Below is the tentative timeline for pilot project applications:

Letter of intent due by March 7, 2008  
Application invitations sent by March 21, 2008  
Pilot project applications due by April 22, 2008  
Decision notification by May 23, 2008  
Funded pilot projects start July 1, 2008

Eligibility is limited to the level of post-doctoral fellow, junior faculty (research associate, instructor, and assistant professor), new faculty at UMB and Baltimore VAMC working in gerontology, and those making a transition in their careers to gerontology. Areas of investigation should be compatible with the centers' research focus and investigators should demonstrate the proposed work can be completed within a one-year period.

Applicants should collaborate with senior faculty investigators and/or core leaders from the UM-OAIC or MERCE. The UM-OAIC core leaders are:

- **Andrew P. Goldberg, M.D.**, Department of Medicine, Division of Gerontology- Principal Investigator, Metabolism and Applied Physiology
- **Charlene Hafer-Macko, M.D.**, Department of Neurology-Muscle Biology Core
- **Daniel Hanley, M.D.**, JHU, Department of Neurology –Neuromotor and fMRI Core
- **Leslie Katzel, M.D., Ph.D.**, Department of Medicine, Division of Gerontology-Applied Physiology Core
- **Richard Macko, M.D.**, Department of Neurology- Translational Research and Applied Physiology, Neurorehabilitation.
- **Jay Magaziner, Ph.D., M.S. Hyg.**, Dept. of Epidemiology & Preventive Medicine, Div. of Gerontology- Co-PI, Translational Research and Epidemiological Methods, Hip Fracture
- **Mary Rodgers, Ph.D., P.T.**, Chair, Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science, Rehabilitation Biomechanics
- **Alice Ryan, Ph.D.**, Department of Medicine, Division of Gerontology- Muscle Biology and Applied Physiology
- **John Sorkin, M.D., Ph.D.**, Department of Medicine, Division of Gerontology-Biostatistics and Epidemiology
- **Michael Terrin, M.D., M.P.H.**, Dept. of Epidemiology & Preventive Medicine, Div. of Gerontology- Biostatistics and Epidemiology, Translational Research Methods.
- **Jill Whittall, Ph.D.**, Department of Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science- Neuromotor Function, Upper Extremity Rehabilitation

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Rosamond Leacock-Martin at 410-605-7000 x5425 or by e-mail at [rlmartin@grecc.umaryland.edu](mailto:rlmartin@grecc.umaryland.edu).

Sincerely,



Mary Rodgers, PT, PhD  
Pilot and Exploratory Studies Core Leader  
University of Maryland OAIC  
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Department of Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation  
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