

September 3, 2024

Dear Colleague:

The University of Maryland Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center (UM-OAIC) at the School of Medicine has two Research Education Core (REC) Scholar position available for a qualified M.D. or Ph.D. scientist. The goal of this program is to foster the career development of qualified early career faculty from multiple disciplines into independent, academic scientists in gerontology and geriatrics through a mentor-based, research training program. REC Scholars are expected to work in basic or translational research within the UM-OAIC mission (see below). The Pepper Center provides a research training and educational environment to promote the career development of early career faculty toward independence as investigators in aging-related research. REC Scholars are expected to submit a career development grant application as part of their scholar activities. The REC Scholar position is funded for a period of up to two years contingent on adequate progress. The funding available is \$35,000-\$50,000; not to exceed \$50,000. Funding would begin July 2025. The scholar's Department Chair is required to contribute funds to assure at least 50% protected time; this assurance must be received in writing when the LOI is submitted. Scholars are also eligible and encouraged to apply for one-year UM-OAIC pilot project funding of \$30,000 to support a research project.

The UM-OAIC's mission focuses on the restoration of function in order to improve function in those with impairments, and the prevention or delay of further progression in those who are already disabled. Studies may examine the mechanisms underlying the functional impairments associated with chronic disease in older people such as stroke, hip fracture, sarcopenia, and HIV. The UM-OAIC has three research cores, each with a specific focus, and will provide training and services to the funded scholar who is working to advance the science in their area of interest. The methodologies within the cores will provide the UM-OAIC scholar with resources to study the mechanisms underlying disease-specific functional disabilities and determine the effectiveness of novel functional-impairment specific rehabilitation strategies. Further information about the UM-OAIC including center core leaders and investigators can be found at <http://www.medschool.umaryland.edu/peppercenter/>.

There will be an informational session by Drs. Mary-Claire Roghmann and Odessa Addison to discuss the REC Scholar LOI and full application process. Dr. Seliger will also outline the process for pilot funding. This webinar will take place on Thursday, October 10, 2024 at 4pm. See zoom link below to attend:

<https://umaryland.zoom.us/j/96462788639?pwd=Y2PFufWOTZKRp1Mqc8ZZ0wLaoBYE3v.1>

Meeting ID: 964 6278 8639

Passcode: 106596

Prior to applying, interested candidates are **strongly encouraged** attend (or listen to a recording of) the informational session. Further questions can be addressed to Dr. Roghmann or Dr. Addison through Ms. Sullens (asullens@som.umaryland.edu).

Candidate must meet the following criteria:

1. Research interests and academic accomplishments (3-5 publications and abstracts/presentations) that demonstrate potential for success in aging research that involves enhancing functional independence and/or health in older persons;
2. Demonstrated competence in research during previous clinical, research, and fellowship training;
3. Evidence of originality and critical thought in the conduct of research;
4. US citizen, permanent resident and/or green card holder;



5. Faculty appointment at University of Maryland school Baltimore, University of Maryland Baltimore County or University of Maryland College Park at time of award; and
6. Not previously a PI on an NIH R01, VA Merit, program project, or currently on a K or VA Career Development Award.

Application Process and Timeline

Submission of Initial Scholar Letter of Intent: Applicants interested in applying for the UM-OAIC REC Scholar position must submit the following: 1) curriculum vitae; 2) a 2-3 page written statement of their career goals and the focus of their aging-related research as well as a brief description (research question, hypothesis, aims, methods and relevance to the UM-OAIC) of the research that is planned to be conducted during their period of award; 3) a letter of support from a research mentor; 5) a letter from your Department Chair stating funds contributing at least 50% protected time will be provided; 4) completed Initial REC Scholar Application Form to Anne Sullens (asullens@som.umaryland.edu). Candidates will be ranked according to their academic ability and potential for the conduct of aging-related research. LOI's are reviewed and invitations are extended to the top candidates to submit a detailed scholar application.

Submission of Detailed Scholar Application:

Selected candidates will be asked to submit an outline of their continuing research training for the next three years and a 5–7-page description of the main research they are proposing. The main research focus during the period of the award should be described, including the hypothesis and specific aims, background and significance, study design, statistical methods, and a timeline for accomplishments. In addition, candidates should submit a letter of recommendation from their division/department chair. These letters should indicate how the UM-OAIC will enhance the REC Scholar's professional growth.

Full grant applications will be reviewed and ranked using the NIH scale of 1-9, and level of enthusiasm. The highest-ranked candidates will be interviewed by members of the selection committee. The best candidate will be selected as the UM-OAIC REC Scholar. All applicants will receive a written review of their application.

Below is the tentative timeline for scholar project applications:

Letter of intent due by October 31, 2024

Notification of LOI acceptance by November 22, 2024

Detailed scholar application due by January 31, 2025

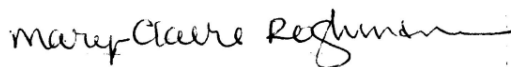
Decision notification by April 30, 2025

Funding begins on July 1, 2025, or upon NIA release of funds

We appreciate very much your support of this program and your assistance in identifying the worthiest candidates for the UM-OAIC REC Scholar distinction.

Should you or potential scholars have any questions, please feel free to contact Anne Sullens, at (410) 706-1695, or email asullens@som.umaryland.edu.

Sincerely,



Mary-Claire Roghmann, MD, MS
REC Leader, UM-OAIC



Odessa Addison, DPT, PhD
REC Co-Leader, UM-OAIC

CC: Jay Magaziner, PhD, MSHyg, Alice Ryan, PhD, Les Katzel, MD, PhD

**University of Maryland Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center
Research Education Core Scholar 2024
Initial Scholar Application Form**

Contact Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone #: _____

E-Mail: _____

Please check one: M.D. Ph.D. M.D./Ph.D.

University Affiliation: _____

As part of the Research Education Core, we are required to provide diversity information about the applicants to our REC Scholar program. Please complete the questions below. We will not be attaching names with responses to NIH.

Are you of Hispanic, Latino or of Spanish Origin?: Yes No

How would you describe yourself?:

White Black or African American American Indian or Alaska Native
 Asian Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander From multiple races Other

Do you consider yourself to have a disability? (Those with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, as described in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended)

Yes No

Are you from a disadvantage background? Those who meet 2 or more of the following criteria:

Yes No

Were or currently are homeless, as defined by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Definition: https://nche.ed.gov/mckinney-vento/);
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Were or currently are in the foster care system, as defined by the Administration for Children and Families (Definition: https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/focus-areas/foster-care/);

Were eligible for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program for two or more years (Definition: https://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/income-eligibility-guidelines/);
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Have/had no parents or legal guardians who completed a bachelor's degree (see https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2018/2018009.pdf);
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Were or currently are eligible for Federal Pell grants (Definition: https://www2.ed.gov/programs/fpg/eligibility.html);
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Received support from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) as a parent or child (Definition: https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/wic-eligibility-requirements).

Grew up in one of the following areas: a) a U.S. rural area, as designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Rural Health Grants Eligibility Analyzer, or b) a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services-designated Low-Income and Health Professional Shortage Areas (qualifying zip codes are included in the file). Only one of the two possibilities listed can be used as a criterion for the disadvantaged background definition.

Eligibility:

- Are you currently, or have you been, a PI on an NIH R01, R29, or subproject of a Program Project (PO1), Center (P50, P60, U54) grant, or mentored career development (K-series) grant?
___ Yes ___ No
- Are you a US citizen or have you been admitted for permanent residence/citizenship?
___ Yes ___ No

Professional Goals and Research Interests:

- Attach a copy of your current curriculum vitae.
- Attach a brief description (hypothesis, aims, methods, and relevance to the UM-OAIC) of the research you plan to conduct during the period of your award.

Letter of Support:

Please provide a letter of support from your primary research mentor.

Please send all materials via e-mail by 5 pm on October 31, 2024 to:
Anne Sullens at asullens@som.umaryland.edu