Duke-UNC Alzheimer's Disease Research Center
REC Scholar Request for Applications 2023

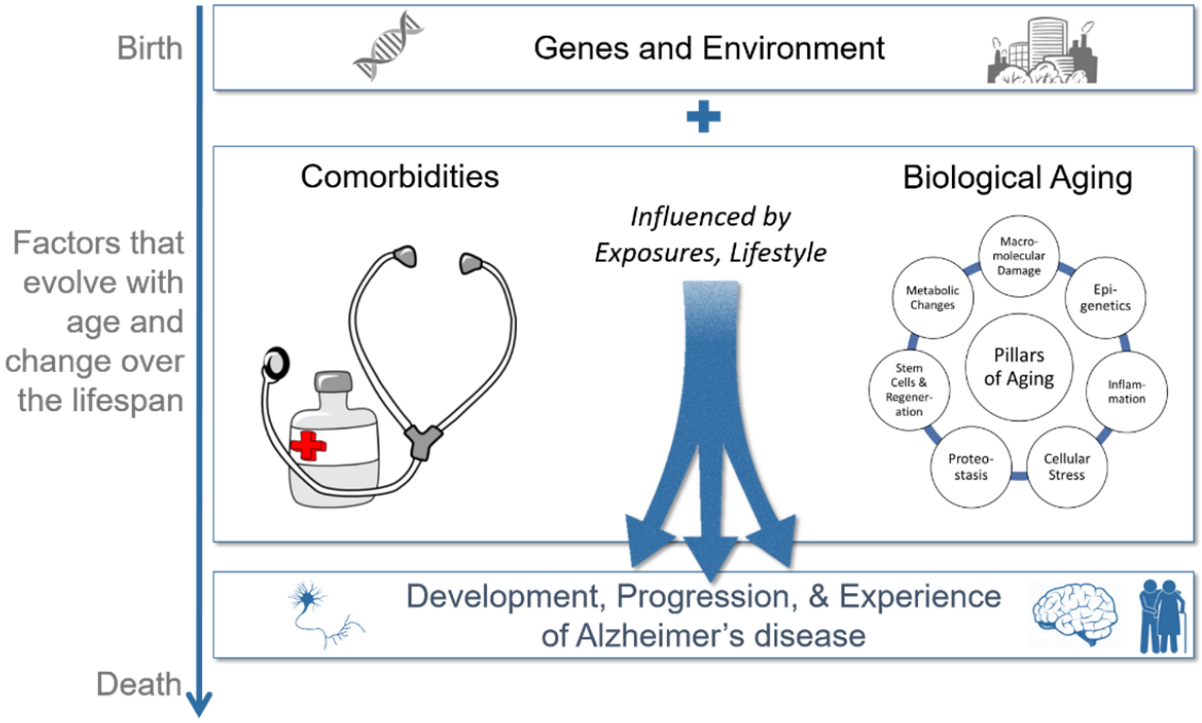
Background: The Duke/UNC Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC, NIA P30AG072958) promotes career development in Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (AD+ADRD) research through its core resources. Our REC Scholar awardees have enhanced experimental approaches by utilizing the vast research facilities at Duke and UNC and have fostered collaborative interactions across several campuses. 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 encouraged to leverage the services and resources of the ADRC Cores.

Purpose of the Award: The goal of the ADRC Research Education Component (REC) is to promote the development of future research leaders who are conducting basic, translational, or clinical AD+ADRD research within the focus area of age-related changes across the lifespan. The REC will award up to 4 REC Scholar awards annually, of 2-year duration, with funding beginning July 1, 2024. The award can cover salary, project support, and research career development activities. REC Scholars are supported by the ADRC Cores listed above, and meet regularly with a mentorship team including ADRC Investigators. At the conclusion of the award, REC Scholars are expected to pursue external funding in their research area.

Eligibility: Candidates should be faculty within 3 years of their first faculty appointment, 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, UNC Chapel Hill, UNC Pembroke, North Carolina Central University, or East Carolina University by the award start-date of July 1, 2024. 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. Candidates must be able to commit a minimum of 6 calendar months of full-time professional effort for career development and research activities.

Support: REC Scholars will receive $10,000 per year in direct funding. Funding will be provided for two years, with Year 2 funds contingent upon successful completion of Year 1 activities. Funds should be budgeted to support professional effort, project expenses, and professional development activities. Applicants do not need to budget for a full 6 calendar-months of effort on their REC award but must be able to show that they have other sources of funding (*e.g.*, fellowships, foundation awards) that will protect at least 50% of their time for AD+ADRD research and career development. The REC will also provide tailored career development activities, structured mentorship in AD+ADRD research, technical/project support from the Center's Cores (*e.g.*, biostatistics support, biospecimen access), and collaborative research opportunities.

Eligible Research: The Scholar's research focus can be basic, translational, epidemiological, or clinical so long as it supports the ADRC's mission and theme. Research that bridges basic science and clinical areas, or has the potential to lead to interventions, 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.



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, applications should discuss how the proposed work may reduce health disparities or will benefit from the ADRC's diverse clinical cohort (enriched for minority participants, participants from rural zip codes, and participants ages 25-44). If human studies are proposed, the application should provide its strategy to promote inclusion and representation in the study population.

Application Timeline:
KEY DATES

- September 1, 2023: RFA released - Applicants are expected to meet with one or more of the REC leaders (listed below) prior to submission to discuss their project's fit with ADRC goals and ensure the candidate's eligibility to be a REC Scholar. Please contact REC leaders early to allow adequate opportunity to find an available meeting time.
- October 16, 2023: Deadline to meet with REC leadership to confirm eligibility
- November 30, 2023: Full application deadline
- March 1, 2024: Selection of awardees
- July 1, 2024: Award start date

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).

- Specific aims (1 page)
- Project title, Background and Significance, Prior Studies/Preliminary Data, Approach, Timeline (maximum 3 pages total)
- Candidate background, how selection as a REC Scholar will facilitate career objectives, and professional development plan (1 page)

- Budget with brief justification (1 page) (Please use NIH PHS398 forms)
- References cited (no page limit)
- Mentor letter summarizing the research accomplishments to-date, describing a plan for ongoing mentorship in the research content area, and confirming that the candidate will have an eligible position at Duke/UNC Chapel Hill/UNC Pembroke/NCCU/ECU with at least 50% protected research time by July 1, 2024.
- Applicant Biosketch (NIH format)

Please upload REC Scholar proposals to:

https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8GKervxiqyJGJ7w

For administrative questions, please contact:
Jacquie Goeking (jacquie.goeking@med.unc.edu)

To schedule your 1:1 meeting with a REC leader, and for programmatic/scientific questions, please contact either:
Kyle M. Walsh, PhD - Research Education Component Co-Leader (kyle.walsh@duke.edu)
Jan Busby-Whitehead, MD - Research Education Component Co-Leader (jan_busby-whitehead@med.unc.edu)