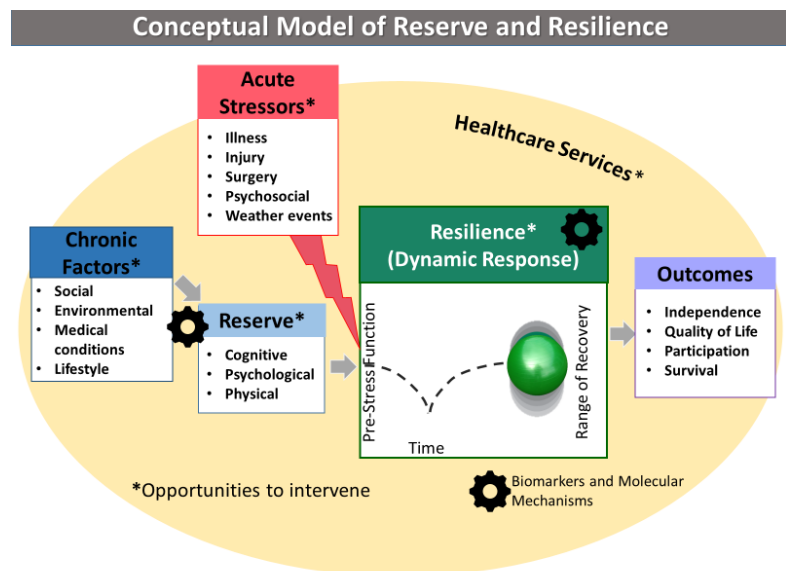


## Duke Pepper Center Request for Applications, 2025 Research Career Development and Pilot Awards

The Duke Pepper Center is seeking **candidates for Career Development and Pilot Award funding beginning July, 2026, contingent on successful renewal of our Center Grant.** Successful applicants will be notified by May 31, 2025, and Center leadership will work with them to refine a project plan and related materials for inclusion in our renewal application by September, 2025.

**Background:** The Duke Pepper Older Americans Independence Center (NIA P30 AG02871601) funds pilot studies and research career development through its Core resources. The central theme of our OIAC is to **understand and enhance reserve and resilience to promote recovery from stressors in late life.** The three Research Cores include:

- **Analysis Core**, which provides statistical and technical support for projects as well as furthering statistical and analytical science.
- **Molecular Measures Core**, which provides comprehensive biomarkers phenotyping to characterize biochemical, metabolic and genetic bases for aging research.
- **Health and Mobility Measures Core** which provides expertise, devices, equipment and protocols for functional, physical and psychological measures.



**Eligible Candidates and Research:** Candidates must currently hold a faculty appointment or have a letter attesting to a planned transition by July 2026. The Center prioritizes funding early career scientists and established researchers who are new to the field of aging research. The candidate's research can be basic, translational, epidemiological, or clinical so long as it supports the Pepper Center theme (see conceptual model below). Prior funded projects can be found here <https://agingcenter.duke.edu/pepper/pesc-pilots>. Research should utilize one or more of the Pepper Center cores <https://agingcenter.duke.edu/pepper>. Due to NIH regulations, only U.S. citizens, non-citizen nationals, 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. Individuals on temporary or student visas are not eligible.

**Award Types:** Applicants will be selected for one of two award types. All awardees are supported by the Pepper Center Research Cores listed above, are eligible to participate in all Center activities, and meet regularly with Pepper Center Investigators.

1. **Pilot Awards.** The Center will support 3-4 Pilot Awards of up to \$60,000 per year for 2 years.
2. **Career Development Awards.** The Center will support 3-4 career development awards of up to \$60,000 per year for 2 years. Awardees receive additional mentorship from aging researchers, curriculum in aging research and career development activities.

**Application Materials:** Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to meet with one or of the core leaders to ensure eligibility and fit with the Pepper Center Goals prior to submission.

- Letter of Interest (LOI) describing your training, career goals, current research program, and how a Pepper Center award would lead to future external funding (1 -2 pages)
- NIH Biosketch
- Specific aims page proposing a 1-2 year research project related to the Pepper Center theme (1 page)

**Please send all materials via email by April 15, 2025**

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