



TEXAS RESOURCE CENTER
ON MINORITY AGING RESEARCH

Texas Resource Center for Minority Aging Research CALL FOR APPLICATIONS - PILOT PROJECTS

University of Texas Medical Branch & University of Texas San Antonio
Resource Center for Minority Aging Research (RCMAR)
Supported by Grant Number P30 AG059301 from the
National Institute on Aging/National Institutes of Health

Request for Letter of Intent and Research Proposal

**Funding will support 1-year Pilot Projects
\$40,000 in direct costs for the period 07/01/2025-06/30/2026**

The Texas RCMAR is a partnership between the University of Texas Medical Branch and the University of Texas San Antonio (K. Markides and F. Riosmena, MPIs), in close collaboration with the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Texas Health San Antonio. The purpose of the Texas RCMAR is to provide infrastructure that facilitates the development of researchers and research on the health and aging of under-represented populations. While our Center has a special focus on the Hispanic population in the United States as well as in Latin America, we also aim to provide support for research on other racial/ethnic, gender/sex, or other minorities in Texas, and the United States more broadly.

Who Should Apply

We encourage applications from faculty who are interested in conducting research on health and aging (broadly defined) and particularly of under-represented populations. We provide support for junior faculty, but we will consider applications from mid-career faculty moving their research toward the study of aging in under-represented populations.

Pilot funds are to be used to jumpstart or further support key parts of the applicant's research *agenda* on the themes above (as opposed to one-off projects). Funded applicants will be part of a small cohort of scientists receiving mentorship and training on aging research, including the development of a subsequent grant application to the National Institute on Aging (NIA) -and more specifically, the Behavioral and Social Research Division- or other relevant funding agencies based on the pilot project as long as they are related to social and/or behavioral research.

Up to four investigators called 'RCMAR Scientists' will be selected based on:

- Quality of proposed research
- Alignment of the proposed research with the RCMAR focus on behavioral and social science research in a priority area related to aging and/or health disparities in older adults
- Alignment of the proposed research with the investigator's long-term career goals
- Relatedness of the proposed research to the Texas RCMAR mission
- Likelihood that proposed research would lead to subsequent National Institute on Aging (NIA) funded projects
- Investigator's experience, training, and record of accomplishments
- Multi-disciplinary mentoring team (potential mentors included on page 5)

Application Process

- A 3-page (maximum) Letter of Intent is due by **January 24, 2025** and should be uploaded [here](#).
- Investigators selected to submit a full proposal will be notified by **February 3, 2025**.
- Full proposals are due by **March 3, 2025**. Proposals will be uploaded to RedCap. Invited investigators will be sent a RedCap link via email to upload their proposal.
- Applications will be reviewed by **March 17, 2025**.
- Decisions will be made by **March 26, 2025**.
- The start and end dates for pilot projects are **July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026**.

The Letter of Intent materials will include:

- Title of project
- Description of the proposed pilot project, including a brief justification for the research and a brief description of the design and data to be collected or used in the pilot project
- Statement about how the proposed pilot project is related to the Texas RCMAR
- Statement about how this pilot project will inform the applicant's research agenda, and how it will lead to larger funding by the National Institutes of Aging/NIH or another agency
- Brief timeline that documents the feasibility of completing the pilot project in the pilot period
- Description of the applicant scientist and their role on the project
- Proposed mentor(s) and a statement about their involvement and the role they will play in conducting the pilot project

Also include:

- Applicant's NIH Biosketch in the most current format
- Mentors' and/or senior key personnel's NIH Biosketches in the most current format
- Institutional Letter of Support
 - This is a letter of support from the applicant's department chair or division chief confirming that the applicant has a junior- or mid-level faculty appointment between 07/01/2025 and 06/30/2026 and adequate 'protected time' during that period to conduct the proposed pilot project.

The Full Proposal should include:

- Project Summary (3 pages)
 - Specific aims
 - Significance
 - Innovation

- Investigators
- Data and methods
- Plans for future funding
- Budget and budget justification
- Biosketches for key personnel

Full proposals and supporting documents will be forwarded to the NIA/NIH for final approval. Each awarded Pilot Principal Investigator must also ensure compliance with NIH Financial Conflict of Interest requirement and secure IRB institutional approval prior to receiving NIA/NIH approval.

Proposal Format

Font and Line Spacing:

- Must be 12 points or larger, with lines singled spaced
- Recommended fonts:
 - Arial
 - Georgia
 - Helvetica
 - Palatino Linotype
 - Times New Roman

Paper Size and Margins:

- Use paper (page) size no larger than standard letter paper size (8 ½" x 11").
- Provide at least one-half inch margins (½") — top, bottom, left, and right — for all pages. No applicant-supplied information can appear in the margins.

Proposal Components

- Budget and justification must be included as separate pages, preferably following the formats provided in the links below:
 - [NIH SF424 \(R&R Budget Form\) Instructions – G.300](#)
 - [R&R Budget Form](#)
- NIH-style biosketches for key personnel:
 - [Biosketch Format Pages, Instructions and Samples](#)
 - [Blank Non-Fellowship Biosketch](#)

For questions regarding pilot applications, please contact: Rebeca Wong, PhD (wongr3@uthscsa.edu) and Emily Nicklett, PhD, MSW (emily.nicklett@utsa.edu).

More information about the Texas RCMAR—including current RCMAR Scientists and Mentoring Faculty is available at: <https://www.utmb.edu/rcmar/home>

Texas RCMAR Pilot Proposals - FAQs

1) Mentors

Do mentors need to be affiliated with the RCMAR?

We encourage applicants to work with at least one mentor/co-mentor who is affiliated with the Texas RCMAR. If you have questions about mentors, please see suggestions in the list (next page) or contact Emily Nicklett at emily.nicklett@utsa.edu

2) Timeline

When should IRB approval take place?

IRB approval must be granted before NIA can approve the proposed project. This means way before the proposed start date, which is 7/1/25.

3) Budget

What is the project period?

All expenses need to occur between 07/1/25 and 06/30/26.

What is the Indirect Cost rate? Is that included in the grant amount?

The IDC rate is 8%, which is not included in the \$40,000 pilot grant amount.

Should conference participation be part of the budget? What are the rules around this?

Scientists will be expected to attend the national RCMAR conference for networking (additional funding will be available; this need not be included in the budget). Participation in other conferences (e.g., GSA, ICAA) is encouraged, but not required, and this can be part of your budget. If you plan to include conference participation in your budget, please be sure the conference falls within the budget period for the pilot project (7/1/25-6/30/26). Presentation of the proposed work is not required to participate in a conference; participation in conference networking activities constitutes a justifiable use of funds.

4) General Resources for Grant Proposal Preparation

Where can I go for information on how to prepare my proposal?

Applicants should reach out to their mentors for guidance in preparing the pilot proposal. The following are examples of resources offered by the NIH to prepare larger grant proposals:

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/format-and-write/write-your-application.htm>

<https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/prepare-your-application>

<https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/write-research-plan>

5) Page Limits

What is included in the 3-page limit for the full proposal?

The following elements should be included in the Project Summary (3 pages): Specific aims, significance, innovation, investigators, data and methods, and plans for future funding. References, budget, budget justification, and biosketches do not count toward this page limit. There are no page limits for the references, budget, or budget justification. Each biosketch should not exceed 5 pages.

Faculty Main Mentors and Co-Mentors for the 2-Year Structured Mentoring Teams

Name & Affiliation	Research Focus & Funding
Soham Al Snih, MD, PhD (UTMB) Professor, Population Health & Health Disparities	Rheumatology, obesity, minority (Hispanic) health, physical function
Jacques Baillargeon, PhD (UTMB) Professor & Chair <i>ad Interim</i> , Epidemiology	Men's health, testosterone & prostate cancer, epidemiology
Abbey Berenson, MD, PhD (UTMB) Professor Obstetrics & Gynecology	Women's cancer prevention, Women's health,
Brian Downer (UTMB), Associate Professor of Population Health & Health Disparities, Gerontology	Social and cultural context, dementia and cognitive decline, healthcare utilization, quality and outcomes of care
Ginny Garcia Alexander (UTSA), Associate Professor, Sociology and Demography	Health disparities, social demography, religion and health, quantitative methods
James S. Goodwin, MD (UTMB) Professor, Geriatrics & Palliative Medicine	Comparative effectiveness research, barriers to health care delivery
Jill Fleuriet, PhD (UTSA) Professor, Anthropology	Cultural and medical anthropology, sociocultural determinants of health, healthcare and well-being
Terrence Hill, PhD (UTSA) Professor, Sociology	Social epidemiology, social psychology of health and illness
Yong-Fang Kuo, PhD (UTMB) Professor & Chair, Biostatistics and Data Science	Biostatistics, comparative effectiveness research
Elizabeth Lyons, PhD, MPH (UTMB) Associate Professor & Chair <i>ad Interim</i> , Nutrition, Metabolism, and Rehabilitation Sciences	Technology to improve physical activity, mHealth
Kyriakos Markides, PhD (UTMB) Professor, Population Health & Health Disparities	Aging and health in the Mexican American population, minority aging
Neil Mehta, PhD, MSc, MA (UTMB), Associate Professor, Demography	Demography, sociology, epidemiology, chronic disease, health disparities, health behaviors
Emily Nicklett, PhD, MSW (UTSA), Associate Professor, Social Work and Public Health	Social and environmental gerontology, chronic disease (type 2 diabetes), falls, health promotion, CBPR approaches
Amelie Ramirez, PhD (UTHSCSA), Professor and Chair, Population Health Sciences	Population health, cancer, social determinants of health, clinical trials, health communications, tobacco prevention
Fernando Riosmena, PhD (UTSA), Professor, Demography & Sociology	Hispanic and immigrant Health; chronic health and aging disparities
Rogelio Saenz, PhD (UTSA), Professor, Sociology and Demography	Demography, race, health disparities, aging
Erica Sosa, PhD (UTSA), Professor, Public Health	Hispanic health, diabetes and obesity prevention
Elizabeth Vaughn, DO, MPH, RD (UTMB) Associate Professor, General Internal Medicine	Hispanic health, diabetes interventions, community outreach
Alejandro Villasante-Tezanos, PhD (UTMB), Assistant Professor, Department of Biostatistics & Data Science	Survey analyses, omics analyses, clinical trials, observational studies
Rebeca Wong, PhD (UTHSCSA), Professor, Department of Population Health Sciences	Economics and demography of aging among Mexicans, Immigrant health
Xiaohe Xu, PhD (UTSA), Professor, Sociology	Population health (chronic disease, health behaviors, intimate partner violence), sociology of the family