OAIC COORDINATING CENTER
EARLY CAREER SCHOLARS EXCHANGE PROGRAM
Request for Applications

RFA release date: June 15, 2026
Application Deadline: September 14, 2026

The OAIC Coordinating Center is offering an inter-OAIC exchange opportunity to up to 2 scholars per year. Career-development can be enhanced by the early development of collaborative, professional networks, and exposure to diverse conceptual viewpoints and operational methods beyond those available at a single institution.

Scholar Visit Length and Content:
A scholar visit will vary from 2-3 days to up to a few weeks depending on need. Details on Pepper Centers that are offering to host a scholar and various types of experiences that can be pursued can be found on the OAIC national website (https://peppercenter.org/public/dspExchange.cfm).

- Shorter visits would emphasize:
  - presenting on-going research to get feedback from new points of view
  - building relationships with other early career scholars to begin building a professional peer-network
  - building relationships with established scientists to deepen conceptual understanding
  - linking to additional resources
  - establishing mentoring relationships
  - learning about the way research is conducted in diverse settings

- Longer visits would include the goals above but would emphasize activities that:
  - require a longer duration of residence including working on a manuscript with data from the hosting OAIC
  - participating in or observing study or intervention visits in on-going studies
  - learning a new lab technique or procedure

Funding to be provided:
The OAIC CC plans to support up to 2 early career faculty scholar visits per year based on their needs for travel and accommodations while visiting the OAIC of their selection. The funding will cover travel and accommodations for the scholar participating in the exchange.

How to Apply:
To begin the initial stages of the application, process please see the steps outlined below.

- Step One: Scholars should reach out to identify potential mentors at the institution of interest and develop an agreement as to the particulars of the visit. The initial point of contact at the hosting OAIC is provided in the details on the website page.

- Step Two: Complete the online application form at the link here: **https://redcap.school.wakehealth.edu/surveys/?s=DFDC94RP738X8CDJ**
  Applications details will be required, including the following:
  A) Name of Applicant and basic contact information
  B) OAIC they are requesting to attend and length of stay required
  C) Abstract
  D) Body of the Application (3 Page Limit):
     a. Rationale for the visit
        Narrative should describe enrichment that the candidate would receive, the significance of this for career development, and the strength of the host OAIC expertise and experiences to be offered in meeting candidate goals above and beyond those available at the home institution
     b. Content of the visit
     c. Candidate Narrative
  E) CV or Biosketch
  F) Letter(s) of support from proposed Host OAIC mentor(s) and Director; specifically, a brief statement from the Host OAIC Director agreeing to host the visit and provide their support.
  G) Letter(s) of support from Home OAIC mentor and/or Director
  H) Budget
  I) Approximate time for the experience: Visits should occur within the second half of the 2026 calendar year

Review process
These applications will be reviewed by a selection panel nominated annually by the Directors Committee, with per-cycle replacements as needed to avoid conflicts of interest. The process will be led by the Early Career Working Group.

Selection criteria will include, among others, scientific merit, critical need for techniques, mentoring that is unavailable at the candidate's home institution, and commitment from the sponsoring OAIC. After the visit has been completed, the CC will ask both the visiting OAIC scholar and the hosting OAIC to evaluate the visit.

We anticipate that decisions will be communicated by November 2, 2026.

Queries should be directed to the Working Group Leader, Karen Bandeen Roche (kbandee1@jhu.edu).