

## UCONN OLDER AMERICANS INDEPENDENCE CENTER (PEPPER CENTER) FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

### Pilot and Exploratory Studies Core (PESC) Call for Letters of Intent

The goal of the UConn Pepper Center Pilot and Exploratory Studies Core (PESC) is to develop and support innovative pilot and exploratory studies that will enhance function and independence in older adults while also advancing knowledge in the field of *Precision Gerontology*.

We are seeking **Letters of Intent (LOIs)** for 1-year pilot and exploratory studies that are relevant to the UConn Pepper Center theme of *Precision Gerontology* and that will support future grant applications. We welcome a variety of research approaches, ranging from biological to clinical/behavioral to health services/community-based research. **LOIs are due by January 10, 2024 and those invited to submit a full application will be notified by February 2, 2024.** Other key dates are listed below.

Full-time UConn and JAX faculty are eligible to apply for PESC funding. Priority will be given to junior faculty/early-stage investigators as well as established investigators pursuing aging-related research (relevant to *Precision Gerontology*) as a new area of research. Individuals from diverse backgrounds, including underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, individuals with disabilities, and women are encouraged to apply.

Investigators may request up to \$50,000 (direct costs) for a 1-year pilot project. Funding for selected pilot projects is expected to begin on July 1, 2024.

Those interested in applying for PESC funding **are strongly encouraged** to visit the UConn Pepper Center website to learn more about the theme of *Precision Gerontology* and the UConn Pepper Center Cores.

<https://health.uconn.edu/pepper-center/>

Those seeking to apply for UConn PESC funding must submit the following by **January 10, 2024**:

1. A **1-page** Letter of Intent (LOI) that includes:
  - a. Brief description of the Specific Aims, Significance, and Approach;
  - b. Statement as to how the proposed study aligns with the UConn Pepper Center theme of *Precision Gerontology*;
  - c. Statement of how the proposed study will utilize the UConn Pepper Center Resource Cores.
2. On a **separate page**, a brief budget and timeline
3. NIH Biosketch for Principal Investigator.

<b>Key Dates</b>	
Due date for letter of intent (LOI)	January 10, 2024
Invitations for full proposal issued	February 2, 2024
Due date for full application	March 18, 2024
Notification of funding decisions after external review	May 15, 2024
Earliest anticipated start date	July 1, 2024

Those planning to submit a LOI are encouraged to contact the PESC Leaders:

Dr. Lisa Barry  
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Dr. Blanka Rogina  
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