September 3, 2013

Dear Colleague:

Again this year, the University of Maryland Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center (UM-OAIC) is providing one-year pilot project funding. This funding is to provide start-up support for quality research proposals of high relevance to the Center’s overall theme, the restoration of functional independence and the prevention of functional declines and cardiometabolic risk factors that put older adults with chronic disease at risk for disability and cardiovascular disease prevention through integrated, multimodal exercise rehabilitation strategies. Please circulate this announcement to other faculty in your department or school.

Areas of research: Proposals should be in areas relevant to the Center theme, focusing on, but not limited to: mechanisms and treatments of chronic diseases (e.g. stroke, diabetes, kidney, pulmonary and neurodegenerative diseases), mobility disability; the epidemiology of aging and recovery from chronic disabling conditions such as hip fracture, prostate, breast or other cancer rehabilitation, HIV and other disability-and chronic disease related rehabilitation research in the elderly. Other areas include: community translational aging and rehabilitation research; muscle metabolism and exercise physiology; and fMRI and other imaging.

Funding: The Center will consider funding 1-2 small pilot projects with budgets ≤$10,000 and 3-4 larger pilot projects with budgets up to $30,000. Already funded pilot project PIs may apply for a second year of pilot project funding. Those PIs must meet the requirements detailed below, and also provide a brief status report of their currently funded pilot project. A pilot investigator may use the funds for technical support, but not for investigators’ salaries. Additionally, human subjects (IRB) or IACUC approval is required after funding is received.

Application Process: To apply for this funding, interested pilot project investigators need to submit a NIH Biosketch of the principal and co-investigator and a two- three page letter of intent that contains the following: 1) a specific description of how the project relates to the theme of the center; 2) a statement on how the pilot funding will advance the investigator’s future research; 3) a narrative of the proposed research which includes a brief background justifying the hypothesis and aims, primary outcomes, methods and analyses, and the timeline for the completion of the research within 1 year; 4) a list of the potential collaborating mentors and associated center core leaders; and 5) a description of the core services that will be required to conduct the research. Letters of intent are due by 5 PM on October 4, 2013 in WORD format.

Interested applicants must discuss their project and develop collaborations with a center core leader to assure compatibility. For more information about the UM-OAIC’s mission and core services, please visit http://peppercenter.umaryland.edu. To submit a letter of intent, please send it electronically in WORD format to Anne Sullens at asullens@grecc.umaryland.edu. The pilot projects that show promise will be invited to submit a five-page application. Below is the tentative timeline for pilot project applications:
Letter of intent due by October 4, 2013
Notification October 11, 2013
Pilot project applications due by February 3, 2014
Decision notification by May 1, 2014
Funded pilot projects start July 1, 2014 or upon NIA release of funds

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Anne Sullens at 410-605-7000 x5425 or by e-mail at asullens@grecc.umaryland.edu.

Sincerely,

Mary Rodgers, PT, PhD
Pilot and Exploratory Studies Core Leader
University of Maryland OAIC
George R. Hepburn Dynasplint Professor & Chair
Dept of Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Science

Andrew Goldberg, MD
PI University of Maryland OAIC
Professor of Medicine
Head Division of Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine
Department of Medicine

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>UM-OAIC Core Investigators</th>
<th>Area of Research</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andrew P. Goldberg, M.D.</td>
<td>Metabolism and Applied Physiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leslie Katzel, M.D., Ph.D.</td>
<td>Applied Physiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Macko, M.D.</td>
<td>Translational Research and Applied Physiology, Neurorehabilitation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jay Magaziner, Ph.D., M.S. Hyg.</td>
<td>Translational Research and Epidemiological Methods, Hip Fracture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Rodgers, P.T., Ph.D.</td>
<td>Rehabilitation Biomechanics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alice Ryan, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Muscle Biology and Applied Physiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Sorkin, M.D., Ph.D.</td>
<td>Biostatistics and Epidemiology</td>
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