**Request for Applications:** Center for Healthy Aging and the Stein Institute for Research on Aging at UC San Diego 2023 Pilot Grant Program

February 21, 2023

The Center for Healthy Aging and the Stein Institute for Research on Aging (CHA/SIRA) 2023-24 pilot grant program solicits proposals for innovative research projects. We are an integrated, multi-disciplinary, cross-campus group that aims to advance and promote health and well-being in the field of healthy aging through research, education, and community outreach. The purpose of the pilot funding is to foster early-stage research focused on ideas that are related to the study and promotion of healthy aging. These awards are designed to help investigators generate pilot and feasibility data to support future extramural grant applications.

**Proposal Due Date:** April 30, 2023 at 5pm PST

**Theme:** The focus of these pilot projects should be related to: 1) understanding the factors that impact healthy aging; or 2), Advancing innovative strategies for promoting healthy aging. . Healthy aging is broadly defined as: maintaining or promoting physical, mental, and cognitive health to promote well-being and quality of life in older age.

We encourage investigators to take advantage of the resources that CHA/SIRA has to offer, including:

 -Existing data from our longitudinal life-span aging cohort, the Successful Aging Evaluation Study (SAGE). The SAGE study is a prospective cohort study of 1,800 randomly selected, demographically representative of San Diego, community-dwelling individuals age 20 to over 100 years. The SAGE study is comprehensive mail-in survey that has 10 years of longitudinal data collected in domains of: physical activity, health behaviors, aging attitudes, emotion and well-being, physical and lifestyle functioning, diet and nutrition, psychological characteristics and traits, sexual health, social functioning and social engagement, spirituality, stress and coping, and wisdom.

-A novel, first of its kind “living lab” in the Belmont Senior Living community on Nobel Drive, just a few miles from the La Jolla campus. This lab is embedded in the senior living community on the 6th floor in a studio apartment and provides researchers with an opportunity to collaborate with residents. Proposals with plans to utilize the living lab space will be considered.

- The UCSD Geroscience lab provides support for aging biomarkers research, including biospecimen collection and processing. The Geroscience lab has a particular focus on mitochondrial bioenergetics, but can also facilitate research investigating other biological hallmarks of aging. The lab also supports basic assessments related to the physical, cognitive, and sensory abilities of older adults.

**Eligibility:** All UC San Diego faculty members can apply for Pilot funds. Early career investigators, and those new to aging research, are particularly encouraged to apply. UC San Diego Postdoctoral fellows and individuals with pending faculty appointments must include a letter of support from a faculty mentor.

**Project Duration:** The funding for this program is for one year. Funding is expected to begin 7/1/2023. Unless a no-cost extension has been approved, projects must be completed by 6/30/2024.

**Budget:** Budgets for projects can range from $20,000 to $40,000.

**Application Requirements:**

* One page cover letter
* Up to three page proposal including the following sections: Specific aims, background/significance, innovation, approach, analytical plan, and anticipated timeline.
* Up to 500 words describing how this pilot award will be used enhance existing research and support a future grant application
* References
* Budget and justification
* Investigator(s) NIH biosketch or CV
* Letters of collaboration and/or support (if relevant)

**Formatting:**Use an Arial, Georgia, Helvetica, or Palatino Linotype, a font size of 11 points or larger and single-spaced with a one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) for all pages.

**Deadline for Submission:** April 30, 2023 at 5pm PST

**Submission:** Proposals should be submitted electronically as a single PDF file to our email healthyaging@ucsd.edu

**Review Process**: Proposals will be reviewed by the Center for Healthy Aging steering committee members. Notification of funding will be made by May 31, 2023.

Information on resources available through SAGE, Living Lab, and Geroscience can be found at:
<https://healthyaging.ucsd.edu/research/pilot-program.html>

Investigators interested in applying may contact Dr. Anthony Molina (ajmolina@health.ucsd.edu), Interim Stein Institute Scientific Director, to discuss project relevance and CHA/SIRA research resources.

We look forward to receiving your proposals. Please contact Danielle Glorioso (dglorioso@ucsd.edu), the Executive Director of the UC San Diego Center for Healthy Aging and the Stein Institute for Research on Aging with any questions.