

*** Request for Pilot projects for the Emory Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center (OAIC) 2020 proposal*****

A team of investigators from Emory SOM, NHWSON and RSPH are preparing a NIA P30 Older Americans Independence Center application due in late October. The Emory OAIC theme will **focus on revealing new strategies to reduce health disparities and promote healthy aging of all older Americans by understanding the development of geriatric syndromes in diverse older persons with common chronic condition clusters.** The team is seeking applications from interested investigators to be included in the application being prepared. We will include up to 5 proposed pilot/exploratory projects.

Background: Geriatric syndromes such as falls, urinary incontinence, dementia, and frailty, frequently occur in persons with multiple chronic conditions. Multiple chronic conditions affect three out of four adults over the age of 65 in the United States, with underrepresented populations disproportionately experiencing multiple chronic conditions as they age. Geriatric syndromes differ in their pathogenesis from the traditional linear model of disease development (i.e. a single risk factor leads to early and then advanced disease) because these syndromes occur in the context of multiple risk factors and contributing conditions that frequently have synergistic effects. Geriatric syndromes are strongly associated with increased morbidity, disability, poor health outcomes, and often, increased mortality. Approaches to better understand the complex interplay between risk factors and the development of geriatric syndromes in the context of comorbid conditions continue to advance. For example, combining emerging techniques in vascular function, biomarker assessment, and community-level factors with data from longitudinal cohort studies including diverse populations aging with common chronic conditions such as HIV, cardiometabolic disease, and mild cognitive impairment, provides an unprecedented opportunity to determine new targets for interventions to prevent or delay the onset of geriatric syndromes. **We propose to create a cross-cutting research and training infrastructure that enhances understanding of geriatric syndromes in the context of chronic conditions that disproportionately affect underrepresented older adults.**

Responsive applications: We are seeking applications that fit the overall theme, can be completed in 1-3 years, and require no more than \$100,000 in direct costs per year. Pilots can include basic science, translational studies, and health services research. Examples of such studies include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Preliminary testing of an intervention focusing on safety, feasibility, or determination of optimal sample size, time course, or dosage to promote functional independence in older people living with multiple chronic conditions and geriatric syndromes
- Studies on prevalence, incidence, risk factors, and outcomes of geriatric syndromes in underrepresented populations.
- Studies on molecular, cellular, or system biology mechanisms of multiple chronic conditions and/or geriatric syndromes especially in underrepresented populations
- Studies encompassing the whole spectrum from secondary data analysis to proof of concept studies on psychosocial factors, social determinants of health, resiliency, and other environmental factors affecting chronic conditions and geriatric syndromes.

Submissions are due to Naquia Mitchell (naquia.mitchell@emory.edu) by **Friday, September 4, 2020** and should include the following:

- NIH biosketch of the Project Lead
- 1-page project description including the Project Title, Project Lead, Senior/Key Personnel, and a structured abstract of the project (background, aims, methods, and fit with the Emory OAIC theme).

Applications will be reviewed and Project Leaders of those projects selected for inclusion in the October submission notified by **September 11, 2020**. If the NIA application is selected for funding, each pilot project would receive up to \$100,000 in annual direct costs per year for 1 to 3 years depending on scope. For inquiries regarding the upcoming Emory OAIC application, please contact Camille Vaughan, MD, MS at camille.vaughan@emory.edu.