

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

NACC New Investigator Award for ADC-affiliated researchers **FY2019 (7/01/2019–6/30/2020)**



The National Alzheimer's Coordinating Center is requesting applications for New Investigator Projects in FY2019 (July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020) to support New Investigators as they further their career development by engaging in research related to AD and other neurodegenerative diseases in research related to AD and other neurodegenerative diseases. The maximum total funding for each project will be limited to \$135,000 *inclusive of indirect costs*. The project timeline can cover one or two years; however, because the funds will be awarded in the first year, the project's budget must be for a single year.

Eligibility: Researchers must be affiliated with an ADC. New Investigators are defined as post-doctoral fellows and assistant professors (MD or PhD), within five years of rank, and not already having had an R01; those of higher or lower academic rank are not eligible to apply.

Focus of project: **New Investigator proposals are not required to focus solely on the secondary analysis of NACC data;** however, projects involving NACC data in some way will be viewed more favorably. Projects that allow the investigator to visit and/or collaborate across Centers to meet with experts or obtain study-specific data will also be viewed favorably.

NACC consultation is still offered; however, it is expected that the New Investigator will have or will obtain the skills and knowledge to carry out the study on their own or with the team that they assemble.

Mentoring: While a formal mentoring relationship with a senior investigator is not required, applications that propose a formal mentoring plan will be viewed more favorably.

HOW TO APPLY:

1. Contact NACC consultants: naccmail@uw.edu or (206) 543-8637

- For projects using NACC data, this is **required**, to allow us to determine whether NACC data can address the intended research question.
- For other projects, this is **not required**; however, we are happy to respond to questions about the grant application forms and budget forms and about the scope the project must fit.

2. Submit a letter of intent.

This is not required but is strongly encouraged, as it helps NACC plan the Scientific Review Session. Indicate the research topic to be addressed, outline the basic plan of action, and include the New Investigator's email address and phone number. The letter of intent must be submitted online at <https://www.alz.washington.edu/NONMEMBER/GRANTS/grantsub.html>.

3. Write the research plan.

Prepare a research plan that emphasizes methods and uses the following outline format. **DO NOT SKIP ANY SECTIONS.** Applications missing any of the following will be returned to the PI with no further review taking place. The completed research plan should be inserted at the end of your application packet.

- A. Research question/hypothesis and brief rationale (*approximately one-half page*)
- B. Background (*approximately one page*)

- C. Overall significance of the research (*approximately one-half page*)
- D. Methodological development and innovative strategies (*two-page maximum*)
- E. Analytic approach; describe the analysis plan in detail for each specific aim that will be used to produce the results. Please include a brief statement of representative data analysis projects for which you have conducted the analysis yourself in the past; include the study design, software used and statistical techniques applied. Include a brief summary of the statistical analysis you expect to conduct to evaluate your hypotheses/research aims, including details about the types of estimates (e.g., odds ratios), statistical methods, and statistical software to be used. We understand that hypotheses and research aims may change over time, but please summarize your expected analysis based on your proposed research aims. (*three-page maximum*)
- F. If using NACC data, include the potential data elements to be used as dependent and independent variables; additional data collection, if needed (*no page limit*)
- G. Mentoring plan, if applicable (*one page*)
- H. ADC site visit/collaboration plan, if applicable (*one page*)
- I. Citation list (*no limit*)

4. Prepare an application packet.

Applications must be prepared and submitted as a single PDF file via online submission. All forms packets should include the following PHS 398 form pages (NACC-customized versions are posted on our website at <https://www.alz.washington.edu/NONMEMBER/GRANTS/JI/newap.pdf>).

Please collate in this order:

- Form page 1 — face page. The Center Director must be listed as the PI on the face page, with the New Investigator and any mentor(s) listed in the multiple PI section on the continuation page. (The initial proposal does not have to be signed, but if the project is awarded funding, then a face page signed by a grants official will be required. Funding will be awarded to the Center Director, not the New Investigator; see section titled “Budget considerations” on page 3.)
- Form page 2 — Description, Performance Sites, Key Personnel, Other Significant Contributors.
- Form page 4 — Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period (funding can be for one year or spread over two years). The Center Director and mentor are asked not to request FTE on the application.
- Form page 5 — Budget Justification.
- Biographical Sketch Format page (for the New Investigator and mentor only).
- Resources Format page.
- Checklist Form page.
- A signed letter of support from the Center Director must be submitted and must include:
 - 1) verification that the New Investigator has received appropriate training in the responsible conduct of research, as mandated by DHHS; and
 - 2) confirmation that the Director accepts responsibility for disbursing awarded funds to the New Investigator and tracking project costs. (See sample letter on page 4.)
- THE RESEARCH PLAN FOLLOWS THE ABOVE FORMS.

5. Submit the application packet.

The application packet must be submitted online at:

<https://www.alz.washington.edu/NONMEMBER/GRANTS/grantsub.html>

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

November 19, 2018: Letter of intent (optional)

January 21, 2019: Application packet due

For more information, contact NACC at naccmail@uw.edu or (206) 543-8637.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

NACC New Investigator Award FY2019

Award guidelines

- To qualify as a NACC-funded New Investigator Project, the applicant must meet the definition of a New Investigator — that is, post-doctoral fellows or assistant professors (MD or PhD, within five years of rank and not already having had an RO1; those of higher or lower academic rank are not eligible to apply.
- New Investigators must be certified by the ADC Director as representing the ADC.
- Successful New Investigator Projects will be hypothesis-driven and will address a scientific question outright. Investigations of reliability or validity or diagnostic/data standardization are also acceptable.
- New Investigators must abide by the NIH Public Access Policy and must include the NACC grant number (U01 AG106976) on all publications and presentations resulting from the work.
- If using NACC data, New Investigators must abide by the NACC data-use agreement, available at <http://www.alz.washington.edu/NONMEMBER/datause.html>.
- If using NACC data, analysis results must be approved by NACC (submit for approval at <http://www.alz.washington.edu/NONMEMBER/PUBSUBMISSION/pubssubshort.html>) before submission to an appropriate peer-reviewed journal within six months of the end of the funding period.

Budget considerations

- The maximum project award will be \$135,000 inclusive of indirect costs. Proposals may be submitted for projects of up to two years in length, but total funding will not exceed this maximum. For two-year projects, the total funding will be awarded the first year of the project, with the year one remainder allowed as carryover into year two.
- NACC may provide consultation with the investigator and mentor concerning NACC data elements, study design and a statistical analysis plan, at no charge to the project. However, completion of the analyses is the responsibility of the investigator. NACC will not conduct any analyses for these applications other than help in providing data sets to assess sample size and feasibility.
- If the project is awarded funding by the Steering Committee, NACC will distribute the award to the Center Director as part of the Center's annual NACC subaward. The Director will be responsible for redistributing the funds internally (via an appropriate internal accounting mechanism) to the New Investigator and for tracking these project costs independently of expenditures associated with other NACC projects in the same funding cycle.

Review process

The NACC Scientific Review Committee will meet in late February or early March to provide initial review of each application's scientific merit based on the overall scientific impact of the study, and specifically on each study's significance, investigator, innovation, approach, and environment. The NACC Steering Committee will meet May 4, and will make final funding decisions based on scientific merit scores and reviews from the Scientific Review Committee. (NACC faculty and staff do not score applications nor choose applications to be funded.)

For an explanation of the core review criteria used in scoring, please go to:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-0D-09-025.html>

SAMPLE LETTER OF SUPPORT

NACC New Investigator Award FY2019

Walter A. Kukull, PhD, Director
National Alzheimer's Coordinating Center
University of Washington
4311 11th Ave NE Ste 300
Seattle, WA 98105

Re: Application for New Investigator funding

Dear Bud:

I am pleased to write to you in support of the grant application titled “[name of project],” which is being submitted by [name of New Investigator] for NACC funding. As the Director of the [name of ADC], I fully support this application.

[Name of New Investigator] is certified in the protection of human subjects, as mandated by DHHS, and has completed our university's comprehensive requirements to conduct this research in a responsible manner.

I am aware of the consortium grant policies established by the National Institutes of Health, and if this project is approved by the NACC Steering Committee, I will accept responsibility for disbursing the awarded funds to [name of New Investigator] and tracking project costs.

If I may be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

[Name of Center Director]