**Request for Proposals**

**Research Education Component Core – Mount Sinai Claude D Pepper Older Americans Independence Center**

The purpose of the Mount Sinai Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center (OAIC) is to improve independence for older adults with serious illness and to create a research environment conducive to research aimed at improving the care of these individuals and families. A core component of the Pepper Center is to provide support for junior investigators to perform innovative and significant research aimed at improving the care of older adults in the fields of geriatrics and/or palliative medicine.

The goal of the Research Education Component (REC) Core of the Mount Sinai OAIC is to provide support for junior faculty with an interest in improving the care of older adults with serious illness. The core also can be used to support educational activities and training experiences faculty need to assure success and to promote the development of future research leaders. Candidates for REC support include: junior investigators who are immediately out of training and are not ready for an external Career Development award (i.e. support for those junior investigators in the “pre-K” stage); investigators preparing or waiting for funding decisions on career development awards (NIH or foundation); and individuals who are transitioning off of a Career Development Award but have not yet reached independence and need additional support as they apply for an R01 grant or similar mechanisms.  Funds from the REC can be used for salary support, research activities, or education/training activities. Requests should be for a period of 12 months, should not exceed $50,000, and requests for renewal will be considered in future years. More than one award may be given.

Applications for funding from the REC is a two step process:

1. Interested applicants should send a two-page letter of intent outlining their background in research, research interests, description of research projects and mentor(s), and how the project aligns with the goals of the OAIC. Candidates should specifically describe what the funds are to be used for – salary support, research projects, educational activities, or a combination of the three – as well as how these activities support their career goals. Candidates should supply their NIH-style biosketch as well as that of their primary mentor. The REC leaders will review the letters of intent to decide which applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal.

2. Applicants who are invited to submit a full 5-page proposal should describe their career plan and proposed research project. Proposals should include a description of the applicant’s qualifications and career development plan (demonstrate commitment to improve the care of older adults with serious illness, provide evidence of potential to become an independent investigator, describe how the award will contribute to applicant’s objectives, and provide a summary of career development activities that will facilitate candidate’s development as a researcher). Applications should also include a description of the research plan, including background and significance, innovation, and research design and methods.  (References are not included in the page limit.) Include an additional page for the budget and justification (5 page proposal + 1 page budget).

Timeline for Proposals:

May 24, 2017  – Request for Proposals released

June 9, 2017  – Letter of intent is due by 5pm

June 16, 2017  – Selected applicants invited to submit full proposal

July 7, 2017  – Full proposal due by 5pm

An additional call for proposals will be sent out in the Fall/Winter of 2018.

For more information please contact Dr. Nathan Goldstein, REC Co-Director at Nathan.Goldstein@mssm.edu.

Application materials should be submitted to Ashleigh Manning at Ashleigh.Manning@mssm.edu

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