<u>**Request for Applications:**</u>
<u>**2024-25 Rutgers Krieger Klein Alzheimer's Research Center Pilot Grant Program**</u>

Introduction: The Rutgers Krieger Klein Alzheimer's Disease Research Center in the Brain Health Institute is excited to announce our 2024-25 pilot grants program, via a generous gift from the "**Remember Me$_{inc}$, Fighting Alzheimer's" Foundation**. This initiative aims to foster collaborative, interdisciplinary research focusing on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD) within the Rutgers community. By supporting projects at the intersection of basic science and clinical research, we aim to accelerate the development of therapies and interventions for ADRD.

The mission of the AD Research Center is founded in a patient-centered philosophy and aims to find treatments and interventions to prevent, delay and treat ADRD. Our center's research program also aims to identify novel early indicators of cognitive decline.

Objectives:
1. **Advance Translational Research:** Proposals should outline a clear path towards translating research findings into clinical applications.
2. **Promote Collaboration and Interdisciplinary Approaches:** We encourage collaborative efforts across diverse fields such as medicine, molecular biology/genetics, and computational sciences. Specifically, the center is interested in methods of fostering communication across disciplines; and in developing opportunities for junior researchers to partner with more senior researchers.
3. **Development of pilot data:** Proposals should generate pilot data that can lead to sustained funding from external agencies such as NIH or the Alzheimer's Association.
4. **Areas of special interest:** Proposals that address therapeutics focused on prevention of ADRD, and minority populations are of particular interest.

The successful application for this pilot grant will describe how the proposed work will make impactful and innovative contributions to understanding ADRD and ultimately lead to improved outcomes for individuals with ADRD and their caregivers, even if improved outcomes are not a specific aim of the proposed project.

Eligibility:
The PIs for this funding opportunity should be full-time Tenure-Track or Tenured faculty affiliated with Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences (RBHS). Early-career investigators and those without prior NIH funding are particularly encouraged to apply. Multidisciplinary teams and collaborative partnerships within Rutgers are highly encouraged. Faculty with part-time or visiting appointments are not eligible.

Funding and Duration:
A single pilot grant will be awarded, for one year, with funding capped at $50,000 in direct costs. A second year of $50,000 may be considered based on the progress towards the first year's aims.

Budget Guidelines:
Pilot award funds cannot be used for PI salaries. Funds can be budgeted for post-doc, student and research technician stipends and salaries (Please consider the significant overhead costs associated with salaries). Funding from the grant can be used by awardees in many ways, including but not limited to stipends, training funds, tuitions, trainee travel costs, or training related expenses. Funds cannot be used for faculty salary, memberships, travel to meetings of professional societies, food, drink, or lodging, or for the purchase of books or subscriptions. No indirect costs or overhead are permitted. PI salaries are also NOT allowed Funding can be used for direct research expenses such as personnel, supplies, equipment, and essential resources.

Review Process:
All grant applications will first undergo review by the Krieger Klein Alzheimer's Disease Research Center's administrative team to ensure compliance with outlined regulations. Applications failing to meet administrative requirements will be denied outright. Those meeting requirements will then undergo external review by NIH

study section reviewers, for scientific quality, and receive a priority score. Subsequently, an internal committee will evaluate them to allocate funds in line with long-term ADRD research development strategies.

Please adhere to NIH formatting guidelines, including (1) Font: Arial 11 point. (A smaller type size may be used for figures and graphs but must be legible.) (2) Margins: Use at least one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left and right) for all pages.

Applications will be assessed based on the following criteria:
1. Significance of the proposed research including the potential translation to the clinical realm.
2. Innovation
3. Scientific evidence supporting the hypothesis
4. Approach
5. Adequacy of the budget in relation to objectives, methods, approach, procedures, and data analysis proposed
6. Probability of securing future outside funding

At the conclusion of the review process, all applicants will be formally notified of the outcome of their application as soon as possible but no later than 8/15/2024.
The Center's internal committee will decide on funding for a 2nd year based on achievements of first-year goals.

Additional Requirements:
The pilot grant recipient must submit a final progress report within 2 months after the award period concludes. This report should detail publications and grant applications, along with attained results and their significance. Additionally, the principal investigator (PI) must orally present study findings at the Annual Krieger Klein Alzheimer's Disease Research Center symposium. As a commitment to the Center's translational objectives, the applicant must spend two days shadowing a clinician treating ADRD patients and their families.

Award Process:
The awarded proposal recipient will need to submit a RAPSS Funding Proposal and proof of University's FCOI compliance. If applicable, IRB and IACUC approvals will also need to be submitted post-award using the Just-In-Time (JIT) approach. These forms and approvals are not required at the time of initial grant application submission; however, awardees must submit these items before the funds from the grant award are disbursed.
The award announcement will be made in 8/15/2024.

Application:
Full applications must be received by 5 p.m. ET, 6/15/2024.
The application must be submitted to **ADRD@bhi.rutgers.edu** as a single PDF file and titled: LastName_FirstName_ADRDPilot.pdf.
Application requirements

Please adhere to stylistic guidelines and section content according to NIH- SF424 application instructions, https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/forms-h/general-forms-h.pdf

1. Cover Page- All applications must include the Cover page (Title, PI(s), institutions, Project Abstract, etc.) and the Submission Check List accompanying this announcement.
2. Abstract - Limited to 250 words
3. Specific Aims (1 page)
4. Research Plan (3 pages)- This section should:
    1. Explain the significance of the issue that the proposed project attempts to address including its potential translation to the clinical realm.
    2. Explain how the proposed project challenges current research.

3. Describe any innovative approaches or methodologies to be developed or utilized, or explain any improvements or new applications of current approaches or methodologies.
4. Detail the strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the proposed project.
5. Identify potential problems.
6. Detail benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims.
7. Describe the strategy for translating pilot project findings into extramural research funding including the anticipated timeline

5. Plan for second funding year (1 page, if applicable)
6. Literature Cited
7. Vertebrate Animals (if applicable)
8. Protections for Human Subjects (if applicable)
9. Inclusion of Women, Minorities, and Children (if applicable)
10. Budget (including budget justification)
11. NIH-style biosketches for each PI
12. Facilities & Resources
13. Major equipment available for project (if applicable)

For any further inquiries, please contact ADRD@bhi.rutgers.edu.

2024-2025 Rutgers Krieger Klein Alzheimer's Disease Research Center Pilot Grant Program

Cover Page

Title of Project	

Names of Investigators	Rank/ Title	Department/School/University Affiliation	E-mail address	Phone

Submission Checklist (*put an "X" in column on right to confirm inclusion or "NA" – not applicable*)	
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