

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

OAIC Biostatistics Core Development Project Due Date: January 16, 2007

The Biostatistics Core of the National Institute on Aging-supported Older Americans Independence Center (OAIC) of the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions is soliciting proposals from faculty members who seek support for conducting research in statistical and epidemiological methods that would propel the mission of identifying causes and developing treatments for the syndrome of frailty in older adults¹. The OAIC was established in 2003 to bring together interdisciplinary working groups from across the institution in order to achieve this mission. Resources available are particularly targeted to support studies initiated by investigators who are junior or seek to establish a new focus in research on frailty and aging.

Proposals may address any challenge related to frailty and aging. However, particularly sought is research that addresses: (1) the empirical or mathematical definition of processes of multisystemic biological dysregulation that may underlie frailty; (2) creating a science of translation: i.e. defining the extent to which observational data may inform causal processes underlying or devolving from frailty, taking into account data limitations such as measurement error in predictors, missing measures, censoring, and competing risk, this offering sufficient evidence for translation of knowledge into clinical or population-based intervention (3) the derivation of inferences with highly multivariate outcomes or predictors, as is challenged by questions involving genetic and genomic data, gene-environment interactions, and comorbid diseases; (4) challenges of designing and conducting intervention studies in frail and older individuals for whom dropout, compliance, selection, and thus generalizability may present particular challenges.

Support requested may range up to \$30,000 for a one-year period.

Proposals should include hypotheses, specific aims and rationale for the proposed study; a statement of its relevance to the OAIC mission; requested resources; and time-line. Please also refer to the Submission Guidelines on the website (address below). Preliminary proposals should be **no more than five pages** and are **due by January 16, 2007**. Those deemed meritorious will be followed up by subsequent interviews. Final selection and notification of funding is targeted for March 1, 2007. Funding would begin approximately July 1, 2007. The proposal should be submitted via email to OAIC Administrator, Mr. Brian Buta, at bbuta1@jhmi.edu. For background information on frailty, please refer to the bibliography posted on the website.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss the appropriateness of proposed scientific goals. Please direct any questions about scientific/research issues to Karen Bandeen-Roche, PhD, Director, OAIC Biostatistics Core, at kbandeen@jhsph.edu.

Website address: <http://www.jhsph.edu/agingandhealth/Pepper/RFPS/index.html>
