

# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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## OAIC Biostatistics Core Supported Projects Due Date: January 16, 2007

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The Older Americans Independence Center (OAIC) of the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions is soliciting proposals from faculty members who seek to utilize resources of the Center's Biostatistics Core. The OAIC was funded by NIA in 2002 to support the development of interdisciplinary research across the institution to identify causes and develop treatments, or approaches to prevention, for the syndrome of frailty in older adults. The Biostatistics Core was established to provide resources for study design and hypothesis development; the collection, housing, securing, and documentation of study data; and the conduct of statistical analyses to efficiently and validly address researchers' scientific aims. Resources available in this core are particularly targeted, but not limited, to support of studies initiated by junior investigators.

The Biostatistics Core can provide data management and statistical support to research related to frailty and aging. It will do so by providing infrastructure and personnel necessary to develop data collection and archiving systems and conduct statistical analyses within pre-existing research projects. Particularly sought are studies with DNA and clinical data which would benefit from support from the OAIC Biostatistics Core, and that define and evaluate systemic dysregulation states that may underlie frailty or propose interventions on frailty. Studies with high priority for Biostatistics Core support are those that: (1) seek to address questions that are strongly directed toward revealing the etiology, prevention, or treatment of the consequences of frailty, and the potential for research translation to these ends; (2) stand to benefit from high-level statistical reasoning or infrastructure input, and not only routine support, so as to maximize the impact of our Core's resources on the research in question; and (3) the questions asked could not be addressed without Core support.

Collaboration requested may range up to 50% effort of a statistical analyst or database programmer and 10% effort of a Ph.D.-level statistician or senior data manager.

Proposals should include hypotheses, specific aims and rationale for the proposed study; requested resources, and explanation of their anticipated impact along lines (1)-(3) above; time-line; and a clear description of the parent study design and data to be analyzed or collected. 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**. Criteria will include that proposals are of high quality, that is with soundness of primary research design, feasibility, and the likelihood for the research to have meaningful health impact; 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 July 1, 2007. The proposal should be submitted via email to OAIC Administrator, Mr. Brian Buta, at [bbuta1@jhmi.edu](mailto: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@jhsp.edu](mailto:kbandeen@jhsp.edu).

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