

UTHealth[®] Houston

Institute on Aging



Cores and Priorities of the Institute

UTHealth Houston Institute on Aging brings together researchers, clinicians, and educators to improve health and quality of life for older adults. We support this mission through five cores:

Executive Director

Aanand Naik, MD



Clinical Research and Innovations

Director: Rafael Samper-Ternent, MD, PhD
Pilots and implements better models of care



Geroscience

Director: Andrew Pickering PhD, MA
Promotes biology of aging and geroscience research



Clinical Informatics and Decision Support

Director: Amy Franklin, PhD
builds age-friendly digital tools for care



Education and Training

Director: Rachel Jantea, MD, MS
Prepares the next generation of providers



Elder Mistreatment TEAM

Director: Jason Burnett, PhD
Advances prevention and policy to protect vulnerable older adults.



<https://www.uth.edu/aging/about/core-programs/>

Funding and Opportunities

Harry E. Bovay, Jr. Foundation Annual Symposium on Aging Research Pitch Competition (opening soon)

This competition awards funds for junior faculty members intended to support pilot studies in aging research. The primary objective of these awards is to provide preliminary funding for aging related research, that will enable researchers to develop their projects and enhance their prospects for securing larger extramural grants.

3 awards, \$15,000 \$12,000 and \$7000

Translational Research Pilot Grant (Closed for 2025)

The Institute on Aging seeks proposals exploring hypotheses regarding how to enhance resilience in the face of social adversity, and how experiences of social adversity across the lifespan affect biological aging processes to increase susceptibility to disability, morbidity, and mortality among older adults. In this context, social adversity includes a range of exposures and experiences associated with biological and clinical stress activation. 3 awards Funding for one year with total annual direct costs up to \$20,000

Roybal Center for Elder Mistreatment Intervention Research (Closed for 2025)

Proposals must focus on stages 0-2 of the [NIH Stage Model of Behavioral Intervention Development](#) and must be supported by a clearly defined mechanism. All proposals must be a clinical trial with adequate statistical power to test mechanism of behavior change and/or efficacy of the intervention, or they will be evaluated as nonresponsive.

UTHealth Houston Retiree Organization (UTHRO) Endowment for Healthy Aging (Closed for 2025)

This \$10,000 grant opportunity is intended to support pilot studies in gerontology by junior faculty at UTHealth Houston. We encourage submissions from investigators conducting innovative, interdisciplinary research aligned with the mission of the UTHealth Houston Institute on Aging. Full details, including proposal criteria and application instructions, are outlined in the attached RFP document.

<https://www.uth.edu/aging/funding-opportunities>

Seminars

Carmel Dyer, MD Lecture Series (every 3rd Monday at noon)

This monthly lecture series brings together leading innovators in geroscience, clinical research, and healthcare practice to share cutting-edge advancements in aging research and care.

Upcoming events

September 15th noon, Julia Hiner, MD, Updates on the state of affairs of geriatrics education and training in medicine and nursing.

September 25th 1:30pm Steve Austad, PhD The 150-year-old (Wo)man: how soon? How desirable? - Institute on Aging Lecture Series

October 20th noon Samiran Ghosh Adaptive Designs in Clinical/Intervention Trial: A Brief Tour and Some Recent Developments

October 23rd noon Virginia Green Live with Robotics as You Age - Smart Apartment

or more information on upcoming lectures and speakers, please email ioa@uth.tmc.edu



Symposia

Annual Symposium on Aging Research (February 2026)

This is a basic science-focused event supported by the Phyllis Gough Huffington Endowed Lectureship and attracts a host of researchers and participants. The symposium gives attendees an opportunity to highlight ongoing translational aging research and to foster the development of emerging technologies.

The Aging to Perfection Dyer Lecture (September 9th)

This event honors the accomplishments of the late UTHealth Houston Consortium on Aging Executive Director Carmel Bitondo Dyer, MD, who devoted her career to enhancing health care for older adults. Hosted by UTHealth Houston Vice President of Community Engagement and Joan and Stanford Alexander Chair in Gerontology Holly Holmes, MD, MS, the series of lectures raises awareness and support for aging programs at UTHealth Houston.

Hot Topics in Aging Research (March 13th)

With generous support from the Phyllis Gough Huffington Foundation, Hot Topics in Aging delivers a wonderful conference on interprofessional education in geriatrics to health care professionals and community members throughout Houston.

or more information on upcoming lectures and speakers, please email ioa@uth.tmc.edu



AGING TO PERFECTION
LECTURE SERIES

in honor of Carmel Bitondo Dyer, MD

