TEXAS RESOURCE CENTER
ON MINORITY AGING RESEARCH

Texas Resource Center for Minority Aging Research
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS - PILOT PROJECTS

University of Texas Medical Branch & University of Texas San Antonio
Resource Center for Minority Aging Research (RCMAR)
Supported by Grant Number P30 AG059301 from the
National Institute on Aging/National Institutes of Health

Funding will support 1-year Pilot Projects
$40,000 in direct costs for the period 07/01/2026-06/30/2027

The Texas RCMAR is a partnership between the University of Texas Medical Branch and the University of Texas San Antonio (K. Markides and F. Riosmena, MPIs), in close collaboration with the University of Texas at Austin. The purpose of the Texas RCMAR is to provide infrastructure that facilitates the development of researchers and research on the health and aging of under-represented populations. While our Center has a special focus on the Hispanic population in the United States as well as in Latin America, we also aim to provide support for research on other groups in Texas and the United States more broadly.

Who Should Apply

We encourage applications from faculty who are interested in conducting research on health and aging (broadly defined) and particularly of under-represented populations. We provide support for junior faculty, but we will consider applications from mid-career faculty moving their research toward the study of aging in under-represented populations.

Pilot funds are to be used to jumpstart or further support key parts of the applicant's research *agenda* on the themes above (as opposed to one-off projects). Funded applicants will be part of a small cohort of scientists receiving mentorship and training on aging research, including the development of a subsequent grant application to the National Institute on Aging (NIA) -and more specifically, the Behavioral and Social Research Division- or other relevant funding agencies based on the pilot project as long as they are related to social and/or behavioral research.

Pilot projects that use existing data resources for behavioral and social research on aging are encouraged. See https://www.nia.nih.gov/research/dbsr/data-resources-behavioral-and-social-research-aging

Up to four investigators called 'RCMAR Scientists' will be selected based on:

- Quality of proposed research
- Alignment of the proposed research with the RCMAR focus on behavioral and social science research in a priority area related to aging and/or health disparities in older adults
- Alignment of the proposed research with the investigator's long-term career goals
- Relatedness of the proposed research to the Texas RCMAR mission
- Likelihood that the proposed research would lead to subsequent National Institute on Aging (NIA)-funded projects
- Investigator's experience, training, and record of accomplishments
- Multi-disciplinary mentoring team (potential mentors included on page 5 below)

Application Process

- Proposals should be submitted to this link and are due by **March 15, 2026.**
- Decisions will be made by **April 10, 2026.**
- The start and end dates for pilot projects are **July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027.**

The Full Proposal should include:

- Project Summary (3 pages)
  - Specific aims
  - Significance
  - Innovation
  - Investigators, including:
    A. A brief description of the applicant scientist and their role in the project, and
    B. Identification of proposed mentor(s) and a brief statement about their involvement and the role they will play in conducting the pilot project
  - Data and methods
  - Brief timeline that documents the feasibility of completing the pilot project in the pilot period
  - Plans for future funding, including how this pilot project will inform the applicant's research agenda, and how it will lead to larger funding by the National Institutes of Aging/NIH or another agency

- Additional Documents (no overall page limit):
  - Citations/References
  - Budget and budget justification
  - Biosketches for key personnel (applicant, mentors, and other key personnel), in the most current format. Each biosketch should not exceed 5 pages.
  - Letter(s) of Support
    A. The Institutional Letter of Support (required) from the applicant's department chair or division chief confirms that the applicant has a junior- or mid-level faculty appointment between 07/01/2026 and 06/30/2027 and adequate 'protected time' during that period to conduct the proposed pilot project, attend monthly RCMAR lectures, and events.

B. Additional Letters of support (optional) can be included from community partners/partnering organizations. This is appropriate for proposals involving primary data collection.

Full proposals and supporting documents will be forwarded to the NIA/NIH for final approval. Each awarded Pilot Principal Investigator must also ensure compliance with NIH Financial Conflict of Interest requirement and secure IRB institutional approval prior to receiving NIA/NIH approval.

Proposal Format

Font and Line Spacing:
- Must be 12 points or larger, with lines singled spaced
- Recommended fonts:
    - Arial
    - Georgia
    - Helvetica
    - Palatino Linotype
    - Times New Roman

Paper Size and Margins:
- Use paper (page) size no larger than standard letter paper size (8 ½" x 11").
- Provide at least one-half inch margins (½") — top, bottom, left, and right — for all pages. No applicant-supplied information can appear in the margins.

Proposal Components

- Budget and justification must be included as separate pages, preferably following the formats provided in the links below:
    - [NIH SF424 (R&R Budget Form) Instructions – G.300](#)
    - [R&R Budget Form](#)
- NIH-style biosketches for key personnel:
    - [Biosketch Format Pages, Instructions and Samples](#)
    - [Blank Non-Fellowship Biosketch](#)

For questions regarding pilot applications, please contact: Rebeca Wong, PhD (wongr3@uthscsa.edu) and Emily Nicklett, PhD, MSW (emily.nicklett@utsa.edu).

More information about the Texas RCMAR—including current RCMAR Scientists and Mentoring Faculty is available at: https://www.utmb.edu/rcmar/home

<p align="center">**Texas RCMAR Pilot Proposals - FAQs**</p>

1) **Mentors**

Do mentors need to be affiliated with the RCMAR?
We encourage applicants to work with at least one mentor/co-mentor who is affiliated with the Texas RCMAR. If you have questions about mentors, please see suggestions in the list (next page) or contact Emily Nicklett at emily.nicklett@utsa.edu

2) **Timeline**

When should IRB approval take place?
IRB approval must be granted before NIA can approve the proposed project. This means way <u>before</u> the proposed start date, which is 7/1/26.

3) **Budget**

What is the project period?
All expenses need to occur between 07/1/26 and 06/30/27.

What is the Indirect Cost rate? Is that included in the grant amount?
The IDC rate is 8%, which is not included in the $40,000 pilot grant amount.

Should conference participation be part of the budget? What are the rules around this?
Scientists will be expected to attend and participate in Texas RCMAR events, such as virtual lectures and webinars. Participation in other conferences (e.g., GSA, PAA, ICAA) is required, and this can be part of your budget. If you plan to include conference participation in your budget, please be sure the conference falls within the budget period for the pilot project (7/1/26-6/30/27). Presentation of the proposed work is not required to participate in a conference; participation in conference networking activities constitutes a justifiable use of funds.

4) **General Resources for Grant Proposal Preparation**

Where can I go for information on how to prepare my proposal?
Applicants should reach out to their mentors for guidance in preparing the pilot proposal. The following are examples of resources offered by the NIH to prepare larger grant proposals:

https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/format-and-write/write-your-application.htm

https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/prepare-your-application

https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/write-research-plan

5) **Page Limits**
What is included in the 3-page limit for the full proposal?
The following elements should be included in the Project Summary (3 pages): Specific aims, significance, innovation, investigators, data and methods, brief timeline, and plans for future funding. References, budget, budget justification, biosketches, and letters of support do not count toward this page limit. There are no page limits for the references, budget, budget justification, or letters of support. Each biosketch should not exceed 5 pages.

Faculty Main Mentors and Co-Mentors for the 2-Year Structured Mentoring Teams	
Name & Affiliation	**Research Focus**
Soham Al Snih, MD, PhD (UTMB) Professor, Population Health & Health Disparities	Rheumatology, obesity, minority (Hispanic) health, physical function
Jacqueline L Angel, **PhD** (UT Austin) Professor of Sociology & Public Policy	Dementia and community care, health trajectories among Latinos, health care coverage
Abbey Berenson, MD, PhD (UTMB) Professor Obstetrics & Gynecology	Women's cancer prevention, Women's health,
Brian Downer (UTMB), Associate Professor, Population Health & Health Disparities	Social and cultural context, dementia and cognitive decline, healthcare utilization, quality and outcomes of care
James S. Goodwin, MD (UTMB) Professor, Geriatrics & Palliative Medicine	Comparative effectiveness research, barriers to health care delivery
Jill Fleuriet, PhD (UTSA) Professor, Anthropology	Cultural and medical anthropology, sociocultural determinants of health, healthcare and well-being
Terrence Hill, PhD (UTSA) Professor, Sociology	Social epidemiology, social psychology of health and illness
Jeffrey Howard, PhD (UTSA) Professor, Public Health	Trauma, accelerated aging and premature mortality, veterans' health, maternal health, environmental/mass casualty epidemiology
Yong-Fang Kuo, PhD (UTMB) Professor & Chair, Biostatistics and Data Science	Biostatistics, comparative effectiveness research
Elizabeth Lyons, PhD, MPH (UTMB) Associate Professor & Chair, Dept of Nutrition, Metabolism, and Rehabilitation Sciences	Technology to improve physical activity, mHealth
Kyriakos Markides, PhD (UTMB) Professor, Population Health & Health Disparities	Aging and health in the Mexican American population, minority aging
Neil Mehta, PhD, MSc, MA (UTMB), Professor & Chair, Epidemiology	Demography, sociology, epidemiology, chronic disease, health disparities, health behaviors
Emily Nicklett, PhD, MSW (UTSA), Associate Professor, Social Work and Public Health	Social and environmental gerontology, chronic disease (type 2 diabetes), falls, health promotion, CBPR approaches
Amelie Ramirez, PhD (UTSA), Professor and Chair, Population Health Sciences	Population health, cancer, social determinants of health, clinical trials, health communications, tobacco prevention
Fernando Riosmena, PhD (UTSA), Professor, Demography & Sociology	Hispanic and immigrant Health; chronic health and aging disparities
Rogelio Saenz, PhD (UTSA), Professor, Sociology and Demography	Demography, race, health disparities, aging
Erica Sosa, PhD (UTSA), Professor, Public Health	Hispanic health, diabetes and obesity prevention
Elizabeth Vaughn, DO, MPH, RD (UTMB) Professor, General Internal Medicine	Hispanic health, diabetes interventions, community outreach
Alejandro Villasante-Tezanos, PhD (UTMB), Assistant Professor, Dept of Biostatistics & Data Science	Survey analyses, omics analyses, clinical trials, observational studies
Rebeca Wong, PhD (UTSA), Professor, Department of Population Health Sciences	Economics and demography of aging among Mexicans, Immigrant health
Xiaohe Xu, PhD (UTSA), Professor, Sociology	Population health (chronic disease, health behaviors, intimate partner violence), sociology of the family
Xiaoying Yu, PhD (UTMB), Assoc Professor, Dept of Biostatistics & Data Science	Medicare beneficiaries, HIV survivors, cervical cancer, caregiving, clinical trials

UTMB: University of Texas Medical Branch; UTSA: University of Texas at San Antonio