Request for Applications

**Application Due Date Delayed to Friday April 3, 2020 by 5pm CST**

(anticipated funding to begin in the summer of 2020)

Submit completed application materials to TARCC@UTSouthwestern.edu

Late applications will not be considered

The Texas Alzheimer’s Research and Care Consortium (TARCC) is a collaborative research effort funded by the State of Texas as part of the Darrell K Royal Texas Alzheimer’s Initiative. TARCC is committed to excellence in Research and Care for Texans in an attempt to identify risk factors, diagnostic and prognostic indicators, and eventually, find a cure for Alzheimer's Disease (AD) and related disorders in our lifetime, and to expand the strategies aimed at combatting the epidemic of AD and related neurodegenerative disorders.

TARCC is now pleased to announce its FY2020 Request for Applications (RFA) as part of a research program to support an innovative, translational-based research structure across the state of Texas, and to ensure that a diverse pool of well-trained clinician-scientists are available in Texas to aid in the fight against Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders. This RFA is designed to support scientists at TARCC member institutions: Baylor College of Medicine, Texas A&M University Health Science Center, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, University of North Texas Health Science Center, UT Health Science Center–San Antonio, UT-Austin Dell Medical School, UT Southwestern Medical Center, UT Health Science Center–Houston, UT Medical Branch at Galveston, and the UT Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine.

**Funding Priorities**

TARCC is interested in novel, innovative, and cutting-edge approaches to the study of Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders. The TARCC FY2020 grant cycle is particularly interested in, but not limited to:

- Collaborative proposals including more than one TARCC member institution
- Collaborative proposals that increase participation of diverse and underserved populations
- Studies of MCI and AD in Hispanics
- Biomarkers of disease onset/progression/differentiation
- Multidimensional diagnostic/prediction models
- Advances in neuroimaging
- Advances in assessment of cognitive decline
- Advances in early detection
- Use of technology in advancing dementia assessment and monitoring
- Advances in therapeutic interventions

Applications that include Clinical and Basic research are encouraged.

Priority will be given to proposals that utilize the existing TARCC database and biosamples.
**Funding Mechanisms**

**Investigator Initiated Research Grant** – up to $200,000 (direct costs*) per year for 1-4 years

**Collaborative Research Grant** – up to $250,000 (direct costs*) per year, per Member Institution, for 1-4 years

**Junior Investigator Grant** – up to $150,000 (direct costs*) per year for 1-2 years

**Postdoctoral Fellowship Program Grant** – $100,000 (direct costs*) per year for 1-2 years

*Indirect funds will be capped at 10%. The combined total of indirect costs for the main budget and subcontract budget (if applicable) cannot exceed 10% of the combined direct costs.

*Requests for funding in excess of these amounts per year should seek pre-approval from TARCC by submitting a request to TARCC@UTSouthwestern.edu.

**Eligibility**

For all Funding Mechanisms, the principal investigator (PI) must hold a faculty position within a TARCC member institution. Proposals may include investigators at non-TARCC institutions or organizations, but the prime award must be issued to the TARCC member institution. PIs can possess degrees in any field as long as the topic of the application is relevant to human studies of neurodegeneration. The PI must demonstrate a track record of productivity appropriate for their proposed research goals.

For a **Junior Investigator Grant**, principal investigators must be at the Assistant or Associate Professor level and within 10 years of completion of their terminal degree (e.g. Ph.D., M.D., etc.).

For the **Postdoctoral Fellowship Program Grant**, the principal investigator must have an MD, PhD, PsyD, DO, PharmD, or other doctoral degree in a clinical field related to Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders. Fellows should have clinical responsibilities and be able to accomplish a TARCC-related research project in the period proposed. Fellows must have received their terminal advanced degree within the past five years at the time of their appointment, and have not previously received substantial, independent research funding. Duplication of prior training of the Fellow will not be supported.

**Application Submission Guidelines**

TARCC will provide support for projects requiring 1-4 years of funding as specified in the Funding Mechanisms listed above, pending achievement of milestones. TARCC reserves the right to allocate funds as deemed appropriate based on the quantity and quality of the applicant pool, and the results of the external scientific review. Funds can be utilized to support research staff, purchase necessary small equipment and supplies, and support other direct research-relevant expenditures. Funds can be utilized for travel to present findings at an appropriate scientific meeting (max = $3k/year).

Additionally, awardees should budget for and will be expected to present their TARCC-funded research at an annual TARCC conference. Please note that any investigator funded by TARCC will be required to share data and samples with the centrally-managed TARCC Cores.
Application Guidelines

Applications are expected to use the following guidelines. Use 11-point font or larger text (Arial, Helvetica, or Times New Roman) with no more than 15 characters and six lines per inch. Use standard paper size (8.5 x 11) and at least 0.5 inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) for all pages.

1) **Cover Page.** See attached cover page example.

2) **Abstract.** Please include a brief Project Summary/Abstract in a single attached page. Limit length to 30 lines or less of text. Please note that this Project Summary/Abstract will be viewable to the public on the TARCC website if approved for funding. Include the project’s broad, long-term objectives and specific aims. Include a description of the research design and methods for achieving the stated goals. Do not include confidential or proprietary information or trade secrets. Write in plain language, so a scientist in another area or even a non-scientist can understand the importance of the project.

3) **Scientific Narratives.** Investigator Initiated, Collaborative, and Junior Investigator Grant Applications should follow NIH-format style and are limited to 6 pages inclusive of the following required sections: Specific Aims, Research Strategy, Environment and Available Resources, Human and/or Animal Protections, Data Management and Sharing Plans, and Specific Deliverables and Timeline. Postdoctoral Fellowship applications, also limited to 6 pages, should include a clinical training plan, a research training plan, a career development plan, and descriptions of primary program training faculty demonstrating a record of training fellows in this environment. Other sections can be included but must fit within the 6-page limit. The Literature Cited section does not count towards page limits.

4) **Detailed Budget(s) and Budget Justification(s).** For a Collaborative Research Grant, one TARCC member institution should submit the application as the lead institution and include the other TARCC member institution(s) as a subcontract(s).

5) **Institutionally-approved subcontracting documents,** as required.

6) **Biosketches.** NIH-style biosketches (5-page limit) should be submitted for all PIs, Collaborating Investigators, and Key Personnel.

The application should be submitted in one PDF format with a clearly identifiable name that include the PI’s last name. Inquiries and questions about the application process can also be addressed to TARCC@UTSouthwestern.edu.
Texas Alzheimer’s Research and Care Consortium 2020 Grant Program
Grant Application Cover Page
Due Date: March 20, 2020 by 5pm CST

Please select application type:
_____ Investigator Initiated Research Grant
_____ Collaborative Research Grant
_____ Junior Investigator Grant
_____ Postdoctoral Fellowship Grant

Name: ____________________________________________

Institution and Department: ______________________________________________________

Mailing Street Address: __________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip: _________________________________________________________________

Telephone: ______________________ Email: ______________________________

Application Title: ______________________________________________________________

Required Signatures:

_________________________________  ____________________________________________
Principal Investigator  Institutional Official

Name: ____________________________
Title: ______________________________
Email: ______________________________
Phone: ______________________________

APPLICANT ORGANIZATION CERTIFICATION AND ACCEPTANCE: I certify that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may be subject to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. I agree to accept responsibility for the scientific conduct of the project and to provide the required progress reports if a grant is awarded as a result of this application.