Request for Applications

Applications Due January 10, 2024 by 5pm CST
(Anticipated funding to begin in the 7/1/2024)

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 2023 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 basic and translational researchers, and clinician-scientists are available in Texas to aid in the fight against Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders.

This RFA is open to applications from 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
- 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, including clinical and basic science proposals. The TARCC 2023 grant cycle is particularly interested in, but not limited to:
- Developmental, pilot, and high-risk/high-reward projects. TARCC projects should allow investigators to obtain preliminary data that will support future and larger applications.
- Proposals from Junior Investigators and Investigators new to dementia research. Applications from researchers from diverse cultural and scientific backgrounds are particularly encouraged.
- Proposals that utilize the TARCC database and/or biosamples
- Collaborative training proposals to prepare culturally competent clinical researchers
- Collaborative proposals that add more than one TARCC member institution
- Collaborative proposals that add to or leverage the existing Longitudinal Hispanic Cohort Study
- Collaborative proposals that add to or leverage the existing Brain Bank
- Biology and biomarkers of disease, and their impact on prevention, progression, and prognosis
- Advances in therapeutic interventions for treatment, prevention, and/or mitigation
- Advances in early detection and assessment of cognitive decline and disease
- Advances in neuroimaging as applied to dementia and aging
- Studies that increase representation of diverse and underserved populations
- Studies of how social, cultural, and biological factors, and their interactions, influence disease risk, progression, and outcomes. Studies with a focus on sex and gender differences are encouraged.
- Mechanisms through which health disparities, health behaviors, and/or environmental factors influence development, diagnosis, and/or progression of neurodegenerative conditions
- Multidimensional diagnostic/statistical prediction models
- Dementia care and caregiving research
- Use of technology in advancing dementia assessment, monitoring, and caregiving

Please note that any investigator funded by TARCC will be required to share data and samples with the centrally managed TARCC Cores, as appropriate.
Funding Mechanisms

**Investigator Initiated Research Grant** – up to $200,000 (direct costs*) per year for 1-2 years

**Collaborative Research Grant** – up to $150,000 (direct costs*) per year, per Member Institution, for 1-2 years

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

*FTE is capped at 50% for PI of Junior Investigator project

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

*Indirect funds are capped at 10% of Modified Total Direct Costs.

*FTE is capped at 25% for PI, Co-PIs, and Co-Investigators

*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 an eligible position within a TARCC member institution (see eligibility requirements below). Each TARCC member institution’s policies will govern what kind of position is qualified to apply for and hold a grant at any particular TARCC member institution. PIs can possess advanced degrees in any field as long as the topic of the application is relevant to neurodegeneration. The PI must demonstrate a track record of academic productivity appropriate for their proposed research goals.

Proposals may include investigators at and funding to non-TARCC institutions or organizations, but the prime award must be issued to the TARCC member institution. In addition, the primary responsibility for oversight of the project (intellectual content, methodology, interpretation and dissemination of results, etc.) must reside with the TARCC member institution, regardless of the participation of other collaborating institutions or how the budget is divided.

For an Investigator Initiated Research Grant, principal investigators can be at any stage of their career but must hold a faculty position at any of the TARCC member institutions.

For a Collaborative Research Grant, principal investigators can be at any stage of their career (holding a faculty position at any of the TARCC member institutions). This application must include more than one TARCC member institution. One TARCC member institution should submit the application as the lead institution and include the other TARCC member institution(s) as a subcontract(s).

For a Junior Investigator Research Grant, principal investigators must be at the Instructor, Assistant or Associate Professor level and within 10 years of completion of their terminal degree (e.g. PhD, MD, etc.). Applicants at the Instructor level must supply a letter of support from their Department Chair expressing an intent to develop the applicant’s continued faculty career at the TARCC member institution.

For the Postdoctoral Fellowship Training Grant, the fellows appointed under this program must have an MD, PhD, PsyD, DO, PharmD, or other doctoral degree in a clinical field related to Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders. This training program is designed to support an individual fellow’s clinical training in a field related to AD and other neurodegenerative disorders. A clinical research project may also be proposed in the application, but is not required. Applications from basic scientists are welcome but they should include a clinical component. Postdoctoral 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 funding in dementia care or research. Duplication of prior training of the Postdoctoral Fellow will not be supported. This program is not restricted to American citizens. A detailed statement of mentorship from the mentor(s) is required for all postdoctoral fellowship applications.

Application Submission Guidelines

Applications will be submitted through ProposalCentral. The application will be limited to 5 pages, to include the following sections:

- **Research Grants** - Specific aims, research strategy, environment and resources, human and/or animal protections, data management and sharing plans, and specific deliverables and timelines.

- **Fellowship Grants** - Clinical training plan, research training plan, career development plan, and descriptions of primary program training faculty and environment.

Additional required materials to be uploaded (but are not included in the 5-page limit) are: bibliography, detailed budget justification, institutionally approved subcontracting documents as applicable (budget, budget justification, scope of work, and letter of commitment signed by the Authorized Organization Representative – for each subcontracting institution), and NIH-style biosketches (limit 5 pages each).

Other requirements, such as the abstract and overall budget, will be found as text fields, drop-downs, or forms within the
ProposalCentral application. Also, within the ProposalCentral application under “download templates and instructions,” you will find the most recent NIH biosketch template and a budget template to be used for subcontracting sites.

TARCC will provide support for approved projects requiring 1-2 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.

Research and Fellowship awardees should budget for and will be expected to present their TARCC-funded research at an annual TARCC conference in Austin Texas. Please remember to budget approximately $1,000 per year for this travel.

Inquiries and questions about the application and award process can be addressed to TARCC@UTSouthwestern.edu.

Inquiries and questions from investigators at TARCC member institutions about funding priorities or specific projects can be addressed to the Steering Committee representative at each institution:

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