



Request for Applications

Applications Due December 10, 2021 by 5pm CST
(Anticipated funding to begin in the summer of 2022)
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 FY2021 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.

Applications will be submitted through *ProposalCentral* and more detailed instructions and specific links will be provided soon.

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 FY2021 grant cycle is particularly interested in, but not limited to:

- Collaborative proposals that include more than one TARCC member institution
- Proposals that utilize the TARCC database
- Collaborative proposals that add to or leverage the existing Longitudinal Hispanic Cohort Study
- Fellowship training programs to prepare culturally competent researchers
- Developmental, pilot, and interdisciplinary projects
- 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.
- Biology and biomarkers of disease, and their impact on prevention, progression, and prognosis
- Mechanisms through which health disparities, health behaviors, and/or environmental factors influence development, diagnosis, and/or progression of neurodegenerative conditions
- Advances in neuroimaging as applied to dementia and aging
- Dementia care and caregiving research
- Multidimensional diagnostic/statistical prediction models
- Advances in early detection and assessment of cognitive decline and disease
- Advances in therapeutic interventions for treatment, prevention, and/or mitigation
- Use of technology in advancing dementia assessment and monitoring

Proposals that utilize the existing TARCC database and biosamples, and applications by researchers from diverse cultural and scientific backgrounds are particularly encouraged.

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 1-4 years

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

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

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

Predoctoral Fellowship Grant – up to \$40,000 (direct costs*) per year for 1-4 years

**Indirect funds are capped at 10% of Modified Total 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 an eligible position within a TARCC member institution. 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. 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. 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.

For an Investigator Initiated Research Grant, principal investigators can be at any stage of their career.

For a Collaborative Research Grant, principal investigators can be at any stage of their career. 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 Assistant or Associate Professor level and within 10 years of completion of their terminal degree (e.g. PhD, MD, etc.).

For the Postdoctoral Fellowship Program 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. Postdoctoral Fellows should have clinical responsibilities and be able to accomplish a TARCC-related research project in the period proposed. Applications may include a specific named fellow for consideration, however, this is not required. The program is designed to support both individual fellows and/or institutional training programs. 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 research funding. Duplication of prior training of the Postdoctoral Fellow will not be supported. This program is not restricted to American citizens.

For the Predoctoral Fellowship Program Grant, the fellows appointed under this program must be currently enrolled in an academic program at a TARCC member institution pursuing an MD, PhD, PsyD, DO, PharmD, or other doctoral degree in a clinical field related to Alzheimer's disease and related disorders. Predoctoral Fellows should have clinical responsibilities and be able to accomplish a TARCC-related research project in the period proposed. Applications may include a specific named fellow for consideration, however, this is not required. The program is designed to support both individual fellows and/or institutional training programs. This program is not restricted to American citizens.

Application Submission Guidelines

TARCC will provide support for approved 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. For Research Grants, funds can be utilized to support research staff, purchase necessary small equipment and supplies, and support of other direct research-relevant expenditures. Tuition, fees, and other academic support expenditures are allowed for Fellowship grants only. For both Research and Fellowship grants, funds can be utilized for travel to present findings at appropriate scientific meetings (max = \$3k/year). Additionally, 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 (approx. = \$1k/year).

Application Guidelines

Applications will be submitted through *ProposalCentral* and more detailed instructions and specific links will be provided soon. Application materials 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 timeline

(Fellowships) Clinical training plan, research training plan, career development plan, and descriptions of primary program training faculty and environment

Additional required submission materials include, but not included in the 5-page limit, include: Abstract, detailed budget and budget justifications, institutionally approved subcontracting documents (as applicable), and NIH-style biosketches.

Inquiries and questions about the Funding Priorities or Application process can be addressed to TARCC@UTSouthwestern.edu.