



Longer Life Foundation:

An RGA/Washington University Partnership

***Call for Applications:
Developmental Research Awards - 2018***

Background:

A joint enterprise of Washington University in Saint Louis School of Medicine and Reinsurance Group of America, Incorporated (RGA), the Longer Life Foundation has as its mission:

To study factors that assist in predicting mortality and morbidity of selected populations and to research methods to promote improvements in longevity and health by analyzing the effects of changes in medicine and advances in public health practices.

Scope of work:

The Foundation announces the 2018 Call for Applications for Washington University faculty for Pilot and Feasibility Research Projects addressing topics related to the Foundation mission, as stated above. We are looking to fund research studying determinants of long-term prognosis for common ailments in the public. Preference is given to clinical research that involves new discovery, rather than implementation of existing therapeutic strategies. We also fund studies that research methods to improve disease prognosis or prevent ailments from occurring thereby improving quality and quantity of life. However, these studies should involve patients with a disease that is either known to shorten life expectancy or poses a significant risk for shortening life. We are interested in individual pilot and feasibility studies as well as pilot projects that are a component of larger or established studies, such as analyses of existing databases.

General areas of interest, with topics of special interest, include *but are not limited to*:

- Mechanisms or interventions that prevent disease and promote longevity
- Prognosticators of disease progression, survival and longevity
- The impact of common co-morbid conditions on outcomes in diseases that shorten the lifespan
- Cancer screening and tumor markers
- Physical and cognitive/mental impairments in older adults and their effect on disease severity and survival
- Obesity and its impact on health

- Application of new technologies to questions related to the Longer Life Foundation mission
- Applications from researchers with international collaborators are encouraged

Criteria for evaluation:

Following are several criteria that are considered in review of Longer Life Foundation grants. One or more of these criteria should be included in each application. No one of them is more important than the other. Strong proposals might emphasize some more than others.

- Applicable to broad audiences or populations
- Enhances length or quality of life
- Practical: results can be used to prognosticate a particular disease or risk factor or improve diagnosis of disease
- Innovative: new technology or direction, not just refinement of an existing procedure or approach
- Preventive approach, including primary prevention of a particular disease or disability and prevention of sequelae or complications of disease

More information on the Longer Life Foundation and a listing of studies that have been funded in the past can be found at the Foundation's website: www.longerlife.org.

Who is eligible?

- Young investigators with at least two years of research experience who are interested in longevity-related research and have yet to obtain independent funding.
- Established investigators who are developing a new direction in research on determinants of health and longevity.

Investigators must have an MD, a PhD, or a similar degree in their field, and must have an affiliation with Washington University in Saint Louis. Post-doctoral fellows are not eligible.

Awards:

In 2018, four to five grants will be funded. The project period is October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019. The amount of funding for each grant is between \$20,000 and \$50,000 (**direct costs**). Following the review of proposals for scientific merit, budgets may be negotiated with individual investigators. A second year of funding may be requested and requires submission of a competing renewal application in the 2019 grant cycle, demonstration of satisfactory progress, and justification for a second year of funding.

Terms of awards:

All applications must have appropriate institutional regulatory approval submitted with the proposal. Grantees will meet with the Chairman of the Scientific Review Committee at the beginning of the project period to discuss their study, and again at six months to review their progress and future plans for the research. Grantees are required to submit a final report at the completion of their study, or a progress report after a year of funding if a no cost extension is requested and approved. This report will be posted on the Longer Life Foundation website. Grantees are asked to inform the Longer Life Foundation when their research is published, and all publications should acknowledge support from the Longer Life Foundation: A RGA/Washington University Partnership.

Dates:

- Letters of Intent are due by February 20, 2018
- Decisions regarding approval to submit a formal application will be provided by April 20, 2018
- Applications are due by May 31, 2018
- Notification of awards will be made by September 4, 2018
- Funding begins October 1, 2018

Application Procedure:

Investigators interested in applying for funding **MUST** submit a Letter of Intent, and only those investigators whose letters pass that level of review will be invited to submit a full application. All Letters of Intent will be reviewed by the Scientific Review Committee and the Foundation's Advisory Group. Decisions to invite an investigator to submit or not submit a full application are based upon the relevance of the research to the Foundation's mission and the number of grants that can be awarded that year. All investigators are given feedback on the decision made on their Letter of Intent.

Letter of Intent

Letters of Intent are due by February 20, 2018. The letter should include the following:

1. One- to two-page description, including project title, aims, method of approach, relevance to the Mission of the Longer Life Foundation, and the Scope of Work.
2. NIH-format biographical sketch

The Letter of Intent and biosketch should be submitted as a SINGLE electronic file.

Please submit to both:

Dan Zimmerman MD at: dzimmerman@rgare.com

David Alpers MD at: dalpers@wustl.edu with a cc to rhauck@wustl.edu

Letters of Intent will be reviewed and feedback will be provided by April 20, 2018.

Applications

Applications are due May 31, 2018. The application should be submitted in a SINGLE electronic file and must include:

1. Title
2. Abstract

3. Summary and description in lay language
4. NIH-format biographical sketch
5. Please provide information on other support
6. Research plan (6 pages maximum excluding references and budget). Please include:
 - i. Specific Aims
 - ii. Scope of work and relevance of project to the mission of the Foundation
 - iii. Background and significance
 - iv. Preliminary data or progress report if applying for a second year of funding
 - v. Research design and methods
7. Plans for obtaining additional extramural funding arising from the proposed studies
8. References
9. Budget and budget justification
9. OSRS Institutional Official Approval letter

Additional instructions:

- Applications should be submitted electronically in a **SINGLE** file.
- Format: single-spaced, 11- or 12-point font
- Header: title and investigator's name

Please submit to both:

Dan Zimmerman, MD at: dzimmerman@rgare.com

David Alpers, MD at: dalpers@wustl.edu with a cc to rhauck@wustl.edu

Applications must be submitted before midnight Central Time, May 31, 2018.

For a copy of the Regulations Governing Grants from the Longer Life Foundation or additional information, please email Rachel Hauck at rhauck@wustl.edu.