BACKGROUND

Innovations in Healthy Aging (IHA) is a university-wide, University of Arizona Health Sciences (UAHS) led strategic initiative. IHA offers a unique opportunity to build robust partnerships with researchers and experts from diverse fields across the university to bring creative solutions to health and wellness challenges across the lifespan.

The current call for proposals is the third of three calls for FY 2021-2022 and will support interdisciplinary teams to address the challenges in and barriers to healthy aging. This call for proposals will be funded in April 2022.

DESCRIPTION OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

IHA is soliciting proposals from faculty and researchers across UArizona to address Grand Challenges in Healthy Aging. Possible areas of inquiry could include but are not limited to the impacts of nutrition and/or physical activity, and/or education on healthy aging; developing the human-environment-technology interface for healthy aging and wellbeing outcomes; intergenerational relationships; exploring factors that promote longevity; ageism and its impacts on health and wellbeing; identifying pathways that impact the development or progression of Alzheimer’s (and other neurodegenerative diseases) and/or frailty; and other topics.
While not restricted to Grand Challenges and multi-college/interdisciplinary teams identified in IHA Research Workshop(s), applicants are encouraged to attend and participate.

Awards of up to $100,000 will be made to seed these projects, to support graduate research assistants, post-doctoral fellows, faculty % effort, and associated supplies/equipment. The seed funded grants are intended to obtain preliminary data that will be used to support applications for extramural funding.

IHA supports the excellence of UArizona’s early-career investigators and mid-career investigators who are interested in realigning their research interests to include aging, and strongly encourages faculty with novel research ideas to apply to this opportunity. In alignment with the source of funding (Strategic Initiative), important required components are that the proposals must be integrated and interdisciplinary, solution-oriented, and must advance knowledge aimed at improving health across the lifespan. They also need to benefit Arizona and align with the university’s strategic initiative goals.

ELIGIBILITY

The IHA Grand Challenges in Healthy Aging Seed Grants are open to University of Arizona eligible Principal Investigators/Project Directors/Co-Principal Investigators (hereafter called “PI designation”). For more information on whether you meet the PI designation, please visit the Research site at https://research.arizona.edu/administration/getting-started/principal-investigator-project-director-co-principal. Please note that in general, IHA Grand Challenges in Healthy Aging Seed Grants are designed for Tenured/Tenure Eligible Faculty; Continuing/Continuing Eligible; Career Track; and Research Scientists.

REQUIRED PROPOSAL ELEMENTS

To facilitate the evaluation of proposals, complete and upload a PDF proposal narrative of up to four-pages that includes the following information:

- **Topic Area**
- **Title**
- **Summary:** What you are trying to do and why does it matter? Please minimize jargon.
- **Intro/Background:** Describe the problem space you are trying to explore.
  - What is the problem you are trying to solve and why is it important?
  - What is the current state of the field of healthy aging and what are the limitations to current approaches, or important problems or critical barriers to ensuring or enhancing health and wellbeing across the lifespan?
- **Impact:** Describe the impact your project will have within the field of healthy aging.
  - If you succeed, what difference do you think it will make?
  - How will the project impact the field of healthy aging?
• **Methods/Approach:** Identify and describe the scientific phenomena and/or important problem under consideration. Outline your research plan and summarize the methodologies you will be employing. Please incorporate the answers to the following questions within your description.
  
  o What methodologies will you be employing?
  o What is new and/or innovative about your approaches?
  o What are the advantages of your proposed methodologies over existing ones?

• **Investigators:** Provide a brief description of the investigative team, including areas of expertise, and respective contributions to the project.

• **Alignment with SI:** Note the project’s alignment with UArizona Strategic Initiative and potential benefits to State of Arizona.

• **Timeline and Feasibility:** Please include a description of the timeline during which the project will be performed and the feasibility for completing within the timeline.

• **Also required is a brief description of the potential for future extramural funding and details on the identified extramural funding source (i.e., a current RFA, FOA, NOSI) that will be pursued as a result of the data obtained through this seed funding.**

OTHER REQUIRED INFORMATION (UPLOADED)

• **Bibliography:** Not included in the 4-page proposal limit

• **Biographical sketch for PI:** Upload as single PDF, not to exceed 5 pages

• **Biographical sketch for Co-Investigator(s):** Upload as single PDF, not to exceed 5 pages

• **Budget and budget justification:** Upload the budget as an Excel file. Maximum Budget: $100,000, to provide, for example, faculty % effort, support one (or more) graduate research assistant(s), or post-doctoral fellow(s), and associated supplies/equipment

REQUIRED FORMATTING

The maximum 4-page proposal must have 1” margins and use 11 pt. Arial or Times New Roman font. For additional guidelines please refer to the Proposal Preparation Guide (PPG) for Awards in FY22.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The proposals will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

• **Significance:** How will successful completion of the aims change current concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or experiences related to healthy aging? What new knowledge will be obtained?
• **Innovation:** How does the application challenge and/or seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, sensors, or interventions? What makes this project unique, noteworthy? How will existing knowledge be advanced?

• **Approach:** Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses rigorous, well-reasoned, and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Have the investigators demonstrated the rigor of the proposed analyses? If the project is in the early stages of development, will the strategy establish feasibility, and will particularly risky aspects be managed? Is the project feasible in the proposed timeline? Is the potential for future extramural funding described? Are potential extramural funding opportunities specifically identified?

• **Investigators:** Are the PIs, collaborators, and other researchers well suited to the project? If Early-Stage Investigators or those in the early stages of independent careers, do they have appropriate experience and training? If established, have they demonstrated an ongoing record of accomplishments that have advanced their field(s)? If the project is collaborative or multi-PI, do the investigators have complementary and integrated expertise; are their leadership approach, governance and organizational structure appropriate for the project?

• **Likelihood of leading to successful extramural funding.**

The proposals will be reviewed by a panel of relevant experts. Funding decisions will be made by **April 30, 2022**.

**QUESTIONS**

Any questions regarding the Innovations in Healthy Aging Grand Challenges in Healthy Aging Seed Grants should be directed to Annisa Westcott ([annisa@arizona.edu](mailto:annisa@arizona.edu)).