



**NEW HORIZONS IN ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND
RELATED DEMENTIAS (ADRD)
PILOT FUNDING PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

SPONSORED BY:
FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY'S
CHRISTINE E. LYNN COLLEGE OF NURSING,
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE,
INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN HEALTH AND DISEASE INTERVENTION,
STILES-NICHOLSON BRAIN INSTITUTE,
AND THE DAVID AND LYNN NICHOLSON CENTER
FOR NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASE RESEARCH

PURPOSE & SCOPE

The goal of the FAU New Horizons in Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) Pilot funding program is to encourage transformative, new directions in interdisciplinary ADRD studies that will ultimately lead to future extended funding and a broad base for ADRD research at FAU. Applications are being solicited for **studies in humans or with human derived data, cells or biological materials** that will 1) engender transformative directions in ADRD research; 2) document the ability of a new interdisciplinary team to collaborate in ADRD research; 3) establish the promise of new ADRD research initiatives; 4) generate critical preliminary data needed for the preparation and submission of extramural (NIH or equivalent) grant proposal submission(s); and 5) lead to peer-reviewed publications.

A total of \$100,000 in funds have been committed for this program. It is anticipated that three awards will be made, in the range of \$25,000 to \$50,000 each. Awards will begin on March 1, 2023 and end on August 31, 2024 (18-month award period).

REQUIREMENTS

- Proposals should demonstrate an interdisciplinary approach to the research proposed and include at least two units/colleges at FAU (each with a designated PI).
- Applications should articulate the potential for the proposed work to collect preliminary data for an extramural grant application and publication(s).
- Faculty may participate in multiple proposals but may only serve as lead PI on one application.
- It is strongly encouraged, but not required, to involve at least one student (paid) in the proposed research.
- Expected outcomes for each award:
 - By the end of the award period:
 - o At least 1 peer-reviewed publication submitted and under review.
 - o Presentation of progress/findings at an internal FAU ADRD event, and, if possible, at an external scientific meeting.
 - Within a year of the end of funding:
 - o Submission of an extramural research grant proposal to NIH or equivalent agency.
- Progress and Final Reports must be submitted on due dates, as indicated below. The Progress Report will be reviewed by administrators from the sponsoring units, and in the event that the Progress Report is not received, or if sufficient progress is not evident, the pilot award may be terminated and remaining funds forfeited.
- Project activities that involve the use of human subjects, biohazards or other compliance areas cannot be conducted until approved compliance verification (i.e., protocol approval) has been acquired and evidence of approval submitted to program administrators (email nursingresearch@health.fau.edu). If approved protocol(s) is/are not in place by the 6-month mark (August 31, 2023), the award may be terminated and funds forfeited.

BUDGET

Funding may provide support for research supplies, small equipment (less than \$5,000), and the salary of research team members, including students and staff. All FAU full-time faculty are eligible to apply, but salary support for any faculty members associated with the project is not allowed. Support for at least one student is desirable, but not essential; regardless, should demonstrate sufficient effort to complete the project. Up to \$2,000 can be utilized for travel to study sites or for one or more team members to present research findings from the project at a scientific conference. Budgets may not include indirect costs. Please use the budget template provided, as indicated below.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

An electronic file of the completed packet must be submitted to the Office of Nursing Research email address (nursingresearch@health.fau.edu) by 5 p.m. on January 16, 2023. The Associate Dean for Research or Director for each PI must be cc'ed on the submission email. Late applications will not be accepted. Any deviations from formatting guidelines will also result in a rejected application.

Proposal Packet:

- Format for all documents:
 - Arial 11 pt. font, single-spaced text, and 0.5" margins. For additional guidance, you may refer to this document.
 - With the exception of the Cover Page, which should be in PDF format, all other documents should be submitted in Word format.
- Cover Page (1 page):
 - Project title
 - A list of PIs. For each PI, 1 sentence description of role on the project, rank, college/department, and contact information.
- Proposal narrative (5 pages total, not including references):
 - Specific Aims (1/2 page max)
 - Background and Significance (1 page max)
 - Research Strategy (2 pages max)
 - Innovation/Intellectual Merit
 - Approach and Experimental Design
 - Brief timeline
 - Multi-PI leadership plan and Environment (1/2 page max)
 - Discuss the respective roles of each of the PIs on the project and how their expertise will contribute to study execution.
 - Briefly explain environment/resources that will be available for the project.
 - Statement of planned submission of future proposal/publication(s) (1 page max)
 - Discuss how pilot data will provide the basis for a future extramural grant proposal submission and publication(s). Provide link to target extramural funding opportunity.
- Compliance Plan (1 page max)
 - A plan for acquiring IRB or IBC approval, if the project involves human subjects or biohazards.
- References (no page limit)
- Budget (no page limit - use included template for budget)
- NIH or NSF style Biosketch for all senior personnel (5 page maximum/Biosketch)

REVIEW PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA

Applications will be evaluated by a panel of reviewers from the sponsoring entities (two reviewers per entity). Evaluation criteria include: scientific merit; strength of significance, innovation, and approach; study team qualifications and evidence of promising collaboration; adequate available resources; likelihood of generating data that will result in competitive extramural funding and publications; appropriateness of budget and compliance plan.

Interviews may be conducted with applicants to make final award decisions; in this event, applicants will be contacted to arrange a mutually convenient date/time. Awards will be announced the week of February 13, 2023.

Awards cannot scientifically overlap with current funding. Awarding would be precluded by another award covering the same area, garnered at the time of the New Horizons pilot award.

REPORTS DUE

When received, Progress Reports and Final Reports will be shared with administrators from each of the sponsoring units.

- Progress Report
 - o A Progress Report shall be submitted via email to the Office of Nursing Research and Scholarship (nursingresearch@health.fau.edu) by November 30, 2023 and include the following: a discussion of the components of proposed grant activities that have been completed and objectives met, and any involvement of students.
- Final Report
 - o A Final Report shall be submitted via email to the Office of Nursing Research and Scholarship (nursingresearch@health.fau.edu) by September 30, 2024 and include the following: a discussion of the proposed grant activities that were completed and objectives met; involvement of students; date on which external grant proposal(s) was/were submitted, and to which funding opportunity and agency; publication(s) that were submitted and outcome (ex: submitted; under review; accepted for publication; published, etc.)

In the event of extenuating circumstances, a 1-year no-cost extension must be requested at least 30 days prior to award end date. Provision of unspent funds will depend on existing university policies on carry-forward accounts at the time of the requested extension.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact nursingresearch@health.fau.edu with any questions.