OBJECTIVES: The National Institutes of Health (NIH), Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Centers (OAICs) program supports applications for centers of excellence in geriatrics research and research education, to increase scientific knowledge leading to better ways to maintain or restore independence in older persons. The OAIC awards are designed to develop or strengthen awardee institutions’ programs that focus on and sustain progress on a key area in aging research related to the mission of the OAIC program.

The OAIC awards are designed to develop or strengthen awardee institutions’ programs that focus on and sustain progress in a key area of aging research. Applicants should identify an area of focus in which progress could contribute to greater independence for substantial populations of older persons and offer opportunities for education in aging research. This area of focus should be a common theme around which all proposed OAIC activities are organized. NIA’s expectation is that an OAIC, in a given area of focus, will:

- Provide intellectual leadership and innovation;
- Facilitate and develop novel multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research strategies;
- Stimulate incorporation of emerging technologies, methods, and scientific advances into research designs, as appropriate;
- Provide research education for future leaders in geriatric research;
- Stimulate translation between basic and clinical research (e.g., research to develop or test interventions or diagnostic tests based on new findings from basic aging research or other basic research or studies to improve understanding of mechanisms contributing to clinical or functional findings);
- Promote translation of clinical research findings into practice in relevant healthcare settings (see also "Health Services Research as an Area of Focus" below);
- Collaborate substantially with other OAICs on multi-center projects such as integrating data systems, supporting multi-center observational studies, and providing infrastructure to support multi-site clinical trials, including pragmatic trials;
- Interface where possible with the NIA Research Centers Collaborative Network (RCCN) and other NIA-funded programs and centers (e.g., Resource Centers for Minority Aging Research (RCMARs), Centers on the Demography and Economics of Aging, Edward R. Roybal Centers for Translation Research in the Behavioral and Social Sciences of Aging, Alzheimer's Disease Centers (ADCs), Nathan Shock Centers);
- Leverage institutional resources, including other NIH-supported programs and centers, to achieve the OAIC’s aims with efficiency; and
- Serve as a source of advice and collaboration to other investigators locally and on a large scale regarding technology, methodology, analysis, or other expertise.

An OAIC may select an area of research focus from a broad range of topics, including but not limited to:

- Aging–related issues concerning a specific condition contributing to loss of independence in older persons (e.g., role of aging changes in the etiology of the condition; special issues in the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of the condition in old age; complications, disability, or symptoms from the condition found principally in older persons).
• Causes, assessment, prevention, and treatment (including rehabilitation) of a specific type of disability in older persons.
• Causes, prevention, and treatment of geriatric syndromes (e.g., sarcopenia, falls, incontinence) that are related to multiple pathologies and/or disabilities.
• Specific aging-related physiologic changes, other risk factors, and/or interventions (e.g., physical activity) that affect risk for multiple conditions or disabilities in old age.
• Interactions of multiple diseases, disabilities, and interventions (e.g., medications) in older persons and their relationship to risk of morbidity, progression of disability, and efficacy of prevention or treatment strategies.
• Factors contributing to amelioration or delay of multiple deleterious aging changes by modulating risk factors or fundamental aging mechanisms.

FUNDING INFORMATION: Up to $6,600,000 for up to 5 separate awards.

This FOA does not require cost sharing as defined in the NIH Grants Policy Statement.

INTERNAL SELECTION PROCESS: BUMC can submit one application. Interested applicants should email the following materials combined into a single PDF file to Diana Lehman at dlehman@bu.edu by Monday, July 22. If you are a BMC investigator and wish to apply for this opportunity, please contact Jennifer Fleming, Director of Foundation Relations and Government Grants at jennifer.fleming@bmc.org by July 15.

• Letter of recommendation from the appropriate Department Chair or a senior researcher;
• A brief (one-page) statement by the candidate describing his or her significant scientific work and immediate research plans;
• Up-to-date CV.

An internal review committee of medical campus faculty will review internal proposals and select the final candidate.

DEADLINES: Internal Materials Due: Monday, July 22, 2019 | NIH Deadline: Monday, Sept. 2, 2019

In requesting to be considered for this limited submission funding opportunity, you are making a commitment, if selected, to submit your proposal to the sponsor in a timely manner and to Sponsored Programs in accordance with the Proposal Submission Policy.