

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

RUSH ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH CENTER REQUEST FOR DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECT APPLICATIONS

INTRODUCTION:

The Rush Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (Rush ADRC; P30AG072975) is funded by the National Institute on Aging, and, as part of its program, invites applications for developmental projects in Aging, Alzheimer's disease and Alzheimer's disease related dementias (AD/ADRD) research. The primary goal of this funding is the development of research and researchers focused on AD/ADRD that will lead to publications, extramural research applications, or other resources useful to the applicant and scientific community. Applications that are aligned with the goals and theme of the Rush ADRC are strongly encouraged. The scientific focus of the Rush ADRC is mixed pathologies and cognitive transitions in community-based cohorts at high-risk for dementia. Projects fitting the center's theme are strongly encouraged, but applicants are not confined to those topics.

ELIGIBILITY:

The proposed principal investigator may be a student/resident or fellow/instructor or hold a faculty appointment at a United States university, medical center or other non-profit organization and the award must be administered through his/her organization. Preference will be given to investigators that are early stage/new investigators. In general, investigators are only eligible to be funded by this mechanism once. However, investigators may apply for a second developmental project providing the second project represents a new area of research rather than an extension of prior research. The second proposal must be accompanied by a statement (up to one page) detailing the results of the first developmental project and how the second pilot/developmental project represents a new research direction. Clinical trials are not allowable under this RFA.

Rush Investigators: Rush Investigators may apply for funding in any area of aging and Alzheimer's disease research. Preference will be given to projects that utilize participants, biospecimens and/or data from the Rush ADRC Religious Orders Study Core, Rush Clinical Core, or Latino Core.

Investigators at other institutions: Investigators affiliated with other federally-funded Alzheimer's Disease Research Centers are also encouraged to apply. Preference will be given to projects that utilize participants, biospecimens and/or data from the Rush ADRC Religious Orders Study Core, Rush Clinical Core, or Latino Core (see enhancing collaborative research, next page).

Investigators may also be from institutions without a federally-funded Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.

AMOUNT AND DURATION:

The maximum allowable funding will be \$60,000 for a one-year period. Awards cannot be renewed but may be extended on an as needed basis. No indirect costs are allowed. Funding is available for one award.

DEADLINE

Applications must be received at the address listed below on or before 5PM CST, Wednesday, September 30, 2026. It is anticipated that funding decisions will be made by October 30, 2026. Funding will commence for successful applications pending approval of NIA program Staff and pending receipt of the next cycle of funding for the Rush ADRC.

APPLICATIONS:

There is no printed application form. All applications must be compiled into one pdf file and submitted electronically. A FACE SHEET must be included. The application face sheet to be used can be found on the last page of this document.

A BUDGET should be provided on the second page and should be divided into itemized personnel expenses with level of effort specified for each person and itemized non-personnel expenses. Budget justifications should follow on a separate page. Both the budget and the budget justification must be submitted on the NIH PHS398 forms.

PRESENTATION OF RESULTS will be made at an annual RADC Investigator Meeting in Chicago in 2028. The PI should plan to present and, if from out of town, should budget travel funds to Rush for the presentation. These meetings are usually held in late spring.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES should be provided for all key personnel. Applicants are required to use Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae (SciENcv) to complete the Biographical Sketch Common Form.

The Body of the application should follow the general format of an application for a grant from the National Institutes of Health but must not exceed 10 pages (single spaced). The application sections and lengths are: SPECIFIC AIMS (1 page), RESEARCH STRATEGY which includes Significance, Innovation and Approach (7 pages), HUMAN SUBJECTS (1 page), LITERATURE CITED (1 page). If your project is proposing to use human subjects, please also include a TARGETED ENROLLMENT TABLE. The table will not count towards the 10 page limit. A PROJECT NARRATIVE and ABSTRACT should also be included and will not count towards the page limit.

ENHANCING COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH:

The Rush Alzheimer's Disease Research Center is particularly interested in supporting early-stage investigators and fostering collaborative research projects that take advantage of clinical data and biologic specimens provided through the Religious Orders Study Core, Rush Clinical Core, and/or Latino Core to address generalizability of mixed pathologies across populations. Applicants are also encouraged to use data from the National Alzheimer's Coordinating Center, which maintains a database of clinical evaluations, and neuropathology data and MRI imaging when available (<http://www.alz.washington.edu/>) and/or samples from the National Centralized Repository for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (NCRAD, (<https://ncrad.iu.edu/>))

Information regarding available Rush ADRC data and biospecimens can be found at the Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center website (www.radc.rush.edu). Investigators are encouraged to work closely with a member of the Rush ADRC and should seek input from the Rush collaborator as early in the process as possible in order to maximize use of data or biospecimens and foster future collaborative projects. Investigators seeking use of Rush ADRC resources should complete a web-based request for ADRC resources (www.radc.rush.edu) in advance of submitting a project application. Questions regarding access and completion of this form should be directed to Annie Barz, MS, Administrator, Rush ADRC (Anne_Barz@rush.edu).

RESUBMISSIONS

Applicants not funded may resubmit their proposal one time. The application should be accompanied by a one page introduction to respond to the critiques. Material changes to the text should be highlighted.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE AWARD:

All applications will be reviewed and ranked for merit by a scientific panel using criteria similar to NIH reviews. Final recommendations will be made by the Directors of the Rush Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, and the proposal must be approved by NIA program staff prior to release of funds. The application review criteria include:

1. Scientific merit of the application.
2. Degree to which the proposed work will allow development of an early or new investigator and/or enhance other Rush ADRC research activities.
3. Merit of the application as a pilot study, especially likelihood that the proposed work will open new directions in the field and/or lead to further successful research. Awards are not intended to serve as a source of continuing support for existing research programs.
4. Perceived ability of the investigator (s) to successfully carry out the proposed work.
5. Preference will be given to early or new investigators. Studies using Rush ADRC resources will be particularly responsive.

HUMAN SUBJECTS APPROVAL:

Applicants should follow the applicable human subjects regulations of their individual institutions. Applicants should be prepared to have the proposal reviewed by the Rush University Medical Center Institutional Review Board prior to the time an award is made.

REPORTING:

At the conclusion of the funding period, a brief scientific report summarizing results must be submitted including a copy of any proposal or plans for additional funding arising wholly or in part from this award. An administrative report summarizing expenditures must also be submitted. A copy of the primary data must be made available for data sharing (timing will be negotiated with the investigator). Each should be one page. The contact person noted below should be informed of publications, including abstracts, arising wholly or in part from the award either during or following the funding period. Publications should acknowledge the support of the Rush Alzheimer's Disease Research Center and cite grant P30AG072975.

Investigators will also be required to present their findings at an annual RADC research meeting which typically takes place in Chicago in May or June. If the investigator is located out of town, the investigator may wish to budget for travel to Rush to present. Hybrid options to present will be available.

METRIC OF SUCCESS:

Rush ADRC developmental projects are intended to develop research and researchers in the field of AD and ADRD. The metrics of success include submission for additional funding of a grant (NIH or foundation) and/or publication of findings in a peer reviewed journal and/or indication of future career trajectory in ADRD research or industry. Please keep this in mind when writing the proposal as it will have a major influence on the priority score. All publications that are a direct result of this funding must reference the Rush ADRC using the following citation or similar wording: "Research reported in this publication was supported by the Rush

Alzheimer's Disease Research Center with funding from the National Institute on Aging under award number P30AG072975.”

DATA SHARING:

Data sharing is of great interest to the Rush ADRC, NIH (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/data_sharing/), and NIA (<https://www.nia.nih.gov/research/dn/alzheimers-disease-genomics-sharing-plan>). If new data are generated from RADC resources, these data must be shared with the RADC to be repurposed in the precompetitive space. Please refer to the RADC Data and Resource sharing policy for more information (<https://www.radc.rush.edu/requests.htm>).

CONTACT:

Please send applications electronically to:

Annie Barz, MS

Administrator, Rush Alzheimer's Disease Research Center

1750 W. Harrison, Suite 1000

Chicago, Illinois 60612

Anne_Barz@rush.edu

FACE SHEET
Rush Alzheimer's Disease Research Center Developmental Project Application
2026

Title of the proposed project:

Principal Investigator
Name and highest degree:
Position title:
Institution:
Department/division:
Address:
Telephone number:
Email:

Principal Investigator's Administrator
Name:
Position title:
Institution:
Department/division:
Address:
Telephone number:
Email:

Total Funding Requested:

A statement of whether the proposed research overlaps in whole or in part with any ongoing efforts or any submitted proposals:

Cohorts to be used in the proposal (select all that apply):

Rush ADRC Cohorts:

- ☐ Religious Orders Study (ROS)
- ☐ Rush Clinical Core (CC)
- ☐ Latino Core (LATC)

Rush non-ADRC Cohorts:

- ☐ Memory and Aging Project (MAP)
- ☐ Minority Aging Research Study (MARS)

Other:

☐ Please specify: _____

Request for RADC Resources:

Request # _____