REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

RUSH FACULTY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

RUSH ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE CENTER

INTRODUCTION:

With the generous support of the dean of the Rush Medical College, the Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center (RADC) is pleased to announce the Rush Faculty Scholars Program. The RADC has generated numerous resources that support dozens of grants at Rush, across the country and around the world. The Rush Faculty Scholars Program will provide one Rush faculty, in partnership with one or more RADC faculty members, funding to leverage RADC resources to support an application for external funding.

ELIGIBILITY:

The proposed principal investigator must hold a primary faculty appointment in a department at Rush University. The faculty can be at any level (junior, mid-career or senior) and from any department from any of the three colleges. The goal is to leverage RADC resources to bring additional external dollars, preferably NIH, to Rush. This is construed broadly and includes, but is not limited to, using RADC data, biospecimens or other relevant resources, leveraging study findings in collaboration with RADC investigators for related grants, e.g., translate observational findings for a clinical trial. Applications may be in any field of study, including but not limited to aging and dementia.

Junior or new investigators, i.e. investigators at any faculty level who have not successfully competed for federal funding are encouraged to apply. *All applicants must identify and confirm on the grant application the participation of a RADC Collaborator before the grant is submitted. If applicant is an RADC faculty member, listing another RADC Collaborator is optional.

Applicants are encouraged to reapply if previous applications were not funded. Applicants who successfully received this award in a previous year are only eligible to apply for a second award if the applicant's first award led to external grant funding (please provide details in application).

METRIC of SUCCESS:

The only metric of success will be the submission of a grant proposal for external funding by the end of the year or soon thereafter (preferably to the NIH), i.e., the funding deadline that immediately follows the expiration of the Scholars funding.

AMOUNT AND DURATION:

The maximum funding will be $70,000 directs for each award for a one-year period. This will cover one day a week (20% FTE) of salary support (up to the NIH salary cap of $228,000) plus fringe benefits, with the remaining funds for other study expenses. The PI is not required to spend the dollars on his/her salary. The dollars should be budgeted in whatever way is most likely to result in a meritorious proposal capable of competing for external, preferably NIH, funding.
The RADC will support mentorship and provide statistical support if needed. No indirect costs are allowed.

Recipients of the award may apply for a competitive renewal based on year one progress and a letter

of support from the RADC collaborator. If applicant is internal to the RADC, letter of support can come from someone inside or outside of the RADC. Funding is available for up one award.

DEADLINE

Applications must be received at the address below on or before 8 AM CST, **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30**, 2026. It is anticipated that funding decisions will be made by December 31, 2026, and the award started on January 1, 2027. IRB approval or exemption will be required before funds are released for use.

APPLICATIONS:

There is no printed application form. All application materials 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 level of effort for the Scholar 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.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES in current NIH format should be provided for the proposed Scholar.

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 6 pages (single spaced). The application sections and lengths are: SPECIFIC AIMS (1 page), RESEARCH STRATEGY which includes Significance, Innovation and Approach (5 pages), HUMAN SUBJECTS (1 page), LITERATURE CITED (1 page). A PROJECT NARRATIVE and ABSTRACT following NIH guidelines should also be included and will not count towards the page limit.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT of up to one page each from the Department Chair or Section Director ensuring the RADC that the Scholar will have 20% FTE of time free to work on the project and that any salary support above the salary cap will not be taken from these funds directly or indirectly, e.g., reduction of Scholar FTE.

REQUIRED: A letter from the main RADC collaborator/mentor stating that s/he is committed to and will help foster the success of the Scholar and the proposed science is required. Details of the collaboration/mentoring should be included in the collaborator/mentor's letter and application. Further, an approved RADC request for data or specimens is required. Requests can be submitted through the RADC Research Resource Sharing Hub: https://www.radc.rush.edu. For applicants internal to the RADC, follow the standard RADC grant submission procedures.

ABOUT THE RUSH ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE CENTER (RADC):

The RADC conducts five longitudinal community based-cohort studies in diverse communities in and outside the Chicago area with a large common core of data at the item level. In addition to clinical data, there are in-vivo and ex-vivo imaging, and a large autopsy collection. There is also an ongoing study of ICU delirium and COVID, a small number with neuropathology, and a legacy study of HIV and aging with stored bloods and neuroimaging data.

The participants are deeply phenotyped with the following types of data and biospecimens:

*survey (e.g., experiential and psychological risk factors, health and financial decision making, health and financial literacy, decision styles)
*clinical (e.g., cognitive and motor function)
*biofluid (e.g., serum, plasma, cryopreserved lymphocytes)
*neuroimaging (e.g., structural (in-vivo, ex-vivo) and functional MRI biomarkers
*biomedical devices (e.g., actigraphy, sleep, digipen)
*Pathology specimens, (e.g., brain, spinal cord, dorsal root ganglion, muscle, nerve, bone)
*Post-mortem brain pathology data
*Deep omic data from brain and blood
*Medicare records

Information on the cohorts and data can be queried at https://www.radc.rush.edu.

Information on RADC investigators can be found at
https://www.rushu.rush.edu/research/departmental-research/radc-faculty-and-staff

CRITERIA FOR SELECTING APPLICATIONS FOR AWARD:

All applications will be reviewed and ranked for merit by peer review. Final recommendation will be made by the Director and Executive Committee of the ADRC. The application review criteria include:

1. Scientific merit of the application and the likelihood it could compete for external funding.

2. Feasibility of the investigator to successfully carry out the proposed work and to submit a grant proposal by the end of the year or the first NIH grant proposal deadline following the end of the scholar's funding year; or the end of year two when applicable.

3. Plan and strength of collaboration/mentoring from the ADRC deemed necessary for success.

HUMAN SUBJECTS APPROVAL:

Applicants should follow the applicable human subjects regulations of Rush University Medical Center.

DATA SHARING:

Data sharing is of great interest to the RADC and 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
Director, RADC Operations
1750 W. Harrison, Suite 1000
Chicago, Illinois 60612
Anne_Barz@rush.edu

FACE SHEET
Rush Faculty Scholars Program
CY2027

Title of the proposed project:

Faculty Scholar
Name and highest degree:
Position title:
Department/division:
Address:
Telephone number:
Email:

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

RADC Collaborator
Name:

Total Funding Requested:

Are you applying as a junior investigator?
□ Yes
□ No

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