UCDAVIS HEALTH | Alzheimer's Disease Research Center

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE CENTER

DEPARTMENT OF NEUROLOGY

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

1651 Alhambra Blvd, Suite 200-A SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95816

DATE: JANUARY 12, 2026

TO: PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS

SUBJECT: UC Davis Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, Development Project RFA

REQUEST FOR APPLICATION UCD ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH CENTER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The University of California, Davis Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC) invites eligible applicants to apply for Development Project funding sponsored by the National Institute on Aging (NIA) Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC), contingent upon NIA renewal of the ADRC P30 grant. The ADRC P30 allocates $100,000 to fund Development Projects for basic or clinical biomedical, translational, epidemiological, caregiving, educational, or behavioral research for the period July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027. This research program is available to researchers studying Alzheimer's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease Related Dementias (AD/ADRD).

Inquiries about this RFA or the ADRC should be directed to Charles DeCarli, M.D. at cdecarli@health.ucdavis.edu, Rachel Whitmer, Ph.D. at rawhitmer@health.ucdavis.edu, Lee-Way Jin, M.D. at lwjin@health.ucdavis.edu; or Delia Roberts at daroberts@health.ucdavis.edu.

I. ACTION TIMETABLE	**DATES**
Due date and time for applications	March 31, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. (Pacific Time)
Completion date for evaluation of proposals by the Review Panel	April 30, 2026
Notification of awards	May 22, 2026
Earliest anticipated start date	July 1, 2026

II. BACKGROUND

The NIA funds 34 Alzheimer's Disease Research Centers at major medical institutions across the United States that serve as major sources of discovery into the nature of AD/ADRD and in the development of more effective approaches to prevention, diagnosis, care, and therapy. They contribute significantly to the development of shared resources that support dementia-relevant research, and they collaborate and coordinate their research efforts with other NIH funded programs and investigators.

Based in the UC Davis School of Medicine, Department of Neurology, the UC Davis ADRC has been continuously funded by the NIA for nearly 34 years. During this period, ADRC has awarded nearly 50 Development Project Awards to clinicians and scientists totaling over $1.5 million.

The Development Project is intended to give investigators the opportunity to develop preliminary data sufficient to provide the basis for an application for independent research support. It is designed for postdoctoral (with faculty appointment by 7/1/2026) or junior faculty level investigators but may be awarded to a more senior investigator whose research interest is primarily in areas other than AD/ADRD research and who want to work in the dementia research field or who wants to try a new hypothesis, method, or approach that is not an extension of ongoing AD research. Investigators are eligible only once for Development Project support unless the additional proposed Development Project constitutes a real departure from the investigator's ongoing research. The Development Project term may be extended beyond one year in length upon successful completion of periodic reviews.

III. OBJECTIVES

The ADRC supports research which contributes to an improved understanding of AD/ADRD. Therefore, applicants are invited to submit research proposals with a focus on AD/ADRD directed toward basic or clinical biomedical, translational, epidemiological, caregiving, educational, or behavioral research. These awards are designed as Development Projects, which are aimed at generating data to support future research applications.

Examples of possible Development Projects are:

1. A study based on data in the National Alzheimer's Coordinating Center (NACC) data set to determine the feasibility of conducting larger studies in the future. https://www.alz.washington.edu/WEB/researcher_home.html

2. A study proposed by a new investigator, with an interest in research in AD, before the study has developed to the point of being suitable to apply for individual grant support.

3. Functional, mechanistic, or pre-clinical activities designed to move a basic discovery towards a translational endpoint in the future.

An example of unacceptable Development Project would be clinical trials. Investigators interested in clinical trials should consider applying through the NIA Alzheimer's Disease Pilot Clinical Trials FOA.

IV. RESOURCES

Development Project applicants are encouraged to use the following resources:

1. The UCD ADRC provides investigators with well-characterized human subject (study subjects and control subjects) information, family information, brain tissue, brain images, biospecimens (DNA, Plasma, serum, RNA, and postmortem CSF from select subjects), and data. Study protocol feasibility assessments, IRB application consultation, and biostatistical services are available.

    a. Requests for brain tissue can be submitted to Brittany Dugger, Ph.D. at bndugger@health.ucdavis.edu.

    b. Requests for biospecimens can be submitted to Lee-Way Jin, MD at lwjin@health.ucdavis.edu.

    c. Requests for ADRC Data or Biostatistical Support can be submitted to Danielle Harvey, Ph.D. at djharvey@health.ucdavis.edu.

d. Investigators interested in basic research study protocol feasibility may contact Lee-Way Jin, MD at lwjin@health.ucdavis.edu.

e. Investigators interested in a clinical research study protocol feasibility assessment may contact Martha Forloines, Ph.D. at mrforloines@health.ucdavis.edu.

f. Development Project applicants are encouraged to present their research proposals at an ADRC research meeting for feedback prior to submission. Please contact Anna Schmidt at agschmidt@health.ucdavis.edu to schedule a presentation.

2. The **National Alzheimer's Coordinating Center (NACC)** functions as the centralized data repository, and collaboration and communication hub for the National Institute of Aging's (NIA's) Alzheimer's Disease Research Centers (ADRC) Program, which currently includes 36 centers across the United States. NACC is home to one of the largest, oldest, and most powerful Alzheimer's datasets, built in collaboration with more than 42 Alzheimer's Disease Research Centers (ADRCs) throughout the US over the past 20+ years. A mission to modernize data collection, integration, and sharing to advance Alzheimer's research. All NACC data is freely available to researchers. https://naccdata.org/

3. **National Centralized Repository for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (NCRAD)** is a biorepository operated by Indiana University with funding from the National Institute on Aging (NIA). We store biospecimens for research that focus on the etiology, early detection, and therapeutic development for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD). NCRAD provides sample banking, accessing, and study coordination services to support ADRD research. https://ncrad.iu.edu/

4. The **Standardized Centralized Alzheimer's & Related Dementias Neuroimaging (SCAN)** provides researchers with up-to-date information on the number of participants with SCAN-compliant PET and MR images and the total number of images submitted by each ADRC to SCAN. Researchers can request SCAN data collected from all participating ADRCs, including summary, QC, and analysis (volumes and SUVRs) data. Researchers can also access defaced SCAN images via the data request system. https://scan.naccdata.org/

V. APPLICATION INFORMATION

A. FUNDING SCOPE AND TIME PERIOD

The ADRC P30 parent grant allows a maximum of $100,000 (direct costs) per year for Development Projects. During Academic Year 2026-2027 the ADRC intends to award 2 applicants a **maximum of $50,000 (direct costs)** each. Indirect costs will be applied at the current U.S. Health and Human Services approved rate. Development Project awards are contingent on the renewal of the UCD ADRC P30 grant for the July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2031 term. The amount of the Development Project awards is subject to change depending on availability of NIA funding awarded to the parent grant or if the applicant is from an outside institution.

ADRC Faculty and Administrative Director will conduct reviews throughout the year to determine if the project is meeting goals as expected. ADRC may deploy resources such as expertise consultation, timeline adjustments/extensions, or financial support, as merited.

B. APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Investigators of Development Projects must be eligible to hold Principal Investigator status on NIH funded projects at the University of California, Davis or other academic institution in the United States.

Projects may involve multiple investigators, but the maximum award as stated above still applies.

Applicants who have previously received awards from the ADRC are not eligible to apply.

VI. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The application shall use the current **PHS 398 form.** The research plan (i.e., sections 1 – 4) should not exceed five pages. Instructions for using the PHS 398 form shall be followed except as specifically noted below. This website provides downloadable forms and instructions for the new PHS 398 forms: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html
Attachments, appendices, and exhibits should be used sparingly.

A. FACE PAGE (NIH 398 fp1)

Fill in completely. The initial project period is for one year. Indirect costs will be applied at the current U.S. Health and Human Services approved rate. If the applicant is from another institution, please contact Delia Roberts (daroberts@health.ucdavis.edu) for further instructions. **UC Davis institutional approval by the Office of Research is not required for internal applications.**

B. PROJECT ABSTRACT (Description and Personnel – NIH 398 fp2)

Provide an abstract or summary of the proposal in compliance with PHS 398.

C. BUDGET AND BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

1. Prepare a detailed line-item budget for the contract period (not to exceed 12 months) using the NIH format in the PHS 398 instructions and the Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period.

2. Funds may be used for the costs of personnel, equipment, subcontracts/ consultants, and general expense.

3. The budget should include effort and personnel costs for the principal investigator.

4. Prepare a brief budget justification explaining the proposed costs.

5. The initial contract period shall be for one year.

D. BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Include a biographical sketch of all key personnel. Please use the NIH Biographical Sketch form: *NOT-OD-26-018: NIHs Implementation of Common Forms for Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support for Due Dates on or after January 25, 2026*
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E. RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Provide a statement of the resources and facilities of the applicant using PHS 398 forms.

F. RESEARCH PLAN

The proposal should contain a narrative limited to the PHS 398 format. Instructions given with this form, including the sections on 1) Specific Aims; 2) Background and Significance; 3) Preliminary Studies; and 4) Research Design and Methods should be followed. Sections 1 through 4 should not exceed 5 pages. PHS 398 instructions for the remainder of the proposal, including section on human and animal subjects, should be followed, as applicable.

G. PHS INCLUSION ENROLLMENT REPORT

If the project proposal includes human subjects, the proposal must include the PHS Human Subjects and Clinical Trials Information form.

H. LITERATURE
Please limit the literature cited to 2 pages.

I. LETTERS OF SUPPORT
At a minimum, the application should include a letter of support from the investigator's Department Chair. Additional letters of support may be included and will be considered in evaluating the application.

VII. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A. Submit a proposal as specified in Section VI guidelines above.
B. Submit the proposal in PDF format to Delia Roberts at daroberts@health.ucdavis.edu
C. Proposals must include the names and contact information for eight reviewers who have expertise in the application's subject matter.
D. Proposals must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. (PT), March 31, 2026.
E. Proposals do not require institutional approval from the UC Davis Office of Research.

VIII. REVIEW PROCESS

Applications satisfying the conditions in the RFA will be forwarded to the Review Panel, which includes members of the Alzheimer Disease Research Center Executive Committee**.** Additionally, external reviewers with expertise in the subject matter of the proposals submitted will be sent applications for external written review.

Each proposal will be evaluated using the following criteria:

1. The purpose of this program is to stimulate research and provide new funding to new investigators in the direction of studies of AD/ADRD. Thus, factors which will be important include: (a) the likelihood that the proposal will successfully compete for further funding (b) the quality of data generated by the project which could be used for publication (c) the potential for follow-up studies to be performed if the work is accomplished successfully (d) the investigator's interest and commitment to the field of Alzheimer's disease research and (e) the ability of the investigator to achieve successful outcomes in bringing the project to fruition as documented in letters of support for the investigators by their department, mentors and peers. Thus, it is very important for the investigator to clearly state where the results of the work will lead, and what sort of subsequent work will be performed on a larger scale project to follow up on the Development Project results.

2. The overall scientific merit of the proposal. Applications will be evaluated by a panel of three or more reviewers who have technical expertise in the field of applicant's research.

3. The goal of this program is to bring new investigators into the field of dementia research, not to support well funded existing laboratories already studying AD/ADRD. The principal

investigator must meet the criteria for a new investigator. For purposes of this application, a new investigator is defined as one who has not previously received federal research support or who has not received support for research related to AD/ADRD. The budget should include effort and personnel costs for the principal investigator.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. Grantees are required to provide the ADRC with a progress report, due by April 1, 2027, including a description and assessment of the work accomplished as well as subjects enrolled, if appropriate. An Inclusion Enrollment Report is also required indicating gender and ethnicity of those enrolled, if applicable.

2. Grantees are expected to participate in site visits and conferences as deemed necessary by the ADRC for monitoring, evaluating or promoting the Development Project program.

3. Research utilizing human or animal subjects must be reviewed and approved by the relevant Institutional Review Board committees prior to the project start date.