



DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (DP) Request for Proposals Alzheimer Disease Research Center (ADRC)

Invitation:

The USC Alzheimer Disease Research Center (ADRC) invites clinical and basic science USC faculty to submit applications for a 1-year development project (DP), due **October 27, 2025**.

Research Themes:

In this RFA, we seek proposals for new basic, clinical and psychosocial approaches that inform pathogenesis, and advance prevention, and treatment of early cognitive impairment in humans and animal models. We encourage the development of new approaches to intervention and translational research from preclinical to early phase human clinical trials.

Our USC NIA-funded Center <https://adrc.usc.edu> has a research focus and specific expertise on factors that modify the effect of *APOE* ϵ 4 on cognitive decline and ATN(vi) biomarkers. However, applications which address the broader topic of Alzheimer disease and related disorders (ADRD) are welcome.

Criteria for Review: The following will be considered in evaluating the merit of a proposal:

- Soundness of scientific principles
- Novelty of the scientific approach
- Scientific merit
- Likelihood of providing new and valuable insights into possible causes or treatment of Alzheimer's disease
- Synergy with USC ADRC themes
- Background and experience of the investigator(s)
- Adequacy of resources and environment
- Appropriateness of the budget for the proposed work
- Strong likelihood that the developmental project work will lead to subsequent extramural peer reviewed funding

Eligibility: The Development Project is primarily designed for three categories of investigators: 1) junior USC faculty member – instructor or assistant professor or 2) post-doctoral students at USC with an identified mentor. The mentor should have active funding and a potential plan to support the postdoc in career development. A project may also be awarded to a 3) more senior USC investigator who has experience in areas other than AD research, but who wishes to work in the AD research field or to test a new hypothesis, method, or approach that is not an extension of ongoing AD research. If you have applied for a development project in our center in the past, you are welcome to reapply. If you are a faculty member and have questions about eligibility for submitting applications, please contact Helena Chui MD (helena.chui@med.usc.edu) or Hussein Yassine MD (hyassine@usc.edu). If you are a post-doctoral student, please contact Hussein Yassine (hyassine@usc.edu) or Duke Han PhD (dukehan@usc.edu). For general questions, contact Tiffany Kolchins, (tiffany.kolchins@med.usc.edu).

Prior to submission, applicants must 1) identify a USC ADRC collaborator/sponsor (member of the Executive Committee, see next page) to learn about available resources and to receive help in guiding the research question and specific aims, and 2) consult the ADRC Data Core statistician, Xinhui Wang PhD (xinhuiwa@usc.edu) to ensure the scientific rigor of the proposed study design and statistical methods.

Potential development projects go through a 2-step review process: 1) submission of a 3-page proposal and NIH biosketch that are reviewed by the ADRC executive committee and the ADRC External Advisory Board, 2) final projects will be selected for funding by the executive committee and submitted to the NIA program office for approval.

Budget: We plan to fund four (4) one-year projects at **\$75,000 direct costs** each, at least one of which will be to a junior investigator who will be designated as an ADRC Research Education Core (REC) Scholar. If selected, funding **will start March 2, 2026**. Please contact Helena Chui MD (helena.chui@med.usc.edu) or Hussein Yassine MD (hyassine@usc.edu) with questions regarding the application procedures including budget.

Timetable:

Before Monday, October 27, 2025 – Consult with the ADRC Data Core statistician, Xinhui Wang PhD (xinhuiwa@usc.edu) to ensure the scientific rigor of the proposed study design and statistical methods.

Monday, October 27, 2025 – Applications due. Please submit an NIH biosketch and 3-Page proposal due to ADRC to helena.chui@med.usc.edu and tiffany.kolchins@med.usc.edu. Include the title of study, investigator(s), ADRC collaborator/sponsor, scientific rationale, specific aims, methodology, study duration. Also include a proposed budget and justification for the \$50,000-\$75,000 in direct costs. Post docs need to include a mentor letter, with mentor active funding information and a brief plan to develop the career of the post doc.

Monday, November 17, 2025 – Announcement of Finalists.

Monday, December 15, 2025 – Final version of Finalist's proposal due to helena.chui@med.usc.edu and tiffany.kolchins@med.usc.edu

Monday, March 2, 2026 – First \$50,000 awarded

Tuesday, September 8, 2026 – Second \$25,000 awarded, contingent on satisfactory progress report.

ADRC Executive Committee: Contact any of the following for collaboration/ sponsorship.

Core	Core	Email
Admin Core	Helena Chui, MD	helena.chui@med.usc.edu
	Arthur Toga, PhD	toga@usc.edu
	Hussein Yassine, MD	hyassine@usc.edu
(ADRC Administrator - Grants Management)	Michelle Aranda, MPH	michelle.aranda@med.usc.edu
(ADRC Administrator – Program Management)	Tiffany Kolchins	tiffany.kolchins@med.usc.edu
Clinical Core	Lon Schneider, MD	lschneid@usc.edu
	Elizabeth Joe, MD	alizabeth.joe@med.usc.edu
Data Core	Arthur Toga, PhD	toga@usc.edu
	Xinhui Wang, PhD	xinhuiwa@usc.edu
	Daniel Nation, PhD	danation@usc.edu
Pathology Core	Annie Hiniker, MD, PhD	anne.hiniker@med.usc.edu
	Deborah Hawes, MD	dhawes@chla.usc.edu
Outreach Recruitment Education (ORE) Core	Maria Aranda PhD, MSW	aranda@usc.edu
	John Ringman MD, MS	john.ringman@med.usc.edu
Biomarker Core	Robert Rissman, PhD	r.rissman@usc.edu
Imaging Core	Arthur Toga, PhD	toga@usc.edu
Research Education Component (REC)	Hussein Yassine, MD	hyassine@usc.edu
	Duke Han, PhD	dukehan@usc.edu