

Request for Application

RCCN Scholars Program in Multidisciplinary Research

The goal of the NIA's [Research Centers Collaborative Network \(RCCN\)](#) is to bring together researchers from the 7 NIA Centers programs to foster the development of cross-center collaborations around issues important to the health and well-being of older adults.

The RCCN Scholars program will target early career faculty with an interest in multidisciplinary aging research. Advanced clinical and postdoctoral fellows will also be considered. Scholars will participate in a longitudinal mentoring and support program to build knowledge and confidence in pursuing a multidisciplinary research program. A secondary goal is to build connections among the scholars to promote multidisciplinary collaboration.

Format: Three 2-hour virtual meetings and one ½ day in-person meeting over the course of one year.

Virtual meetings/webinars will feature presentations from experts on collaborative research with opportunities for discussions and Q&A.

The in-person meeting will prioritize interactive activities (e.g., Data Blitz, Consultancies,). Senior researchers will participate and serve as mentors/advisors. The in-person meeting will be in conjunction with a RCCN Workshop, and scholars will also be invited to participate in the workshop.

Scholars will be invited to provide input on topics and activities for in-person and virtual meetings.

Group Size: 8-10 scholars

The RCCN Scholars Program sessions will primarily focus on issues central to multidisciplinary research. It will not focus on topics that are typically covered in typical disciplinary career development / mentoring programs.

Topics will be based on Scholars' needs and preferences and may include, for example:

- Networking / communicating across disciplines
- Understanding the roles, functions and interactions with other NIA Center Programs to help facilitate network development
- Developing interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research questions
 - Exposure to methods used in different disciplines
- Team Building/Team Science
 - Identifying which team members you need
 - Relationship building
 - Understanding roles and responsibilities
 - Sharing credit
 - Common pitfalls
- Finding niches within programmatic grants
- Engaging with large on-going research studies
- Preparing and administering grants involving multiple institutions

Eligibility Requirements:

- Clinical and postdoctoral fellows and early-stage investigators as defined by the NIH (<https://grants.nih.gov/policy/early-investigators/index.htm#definition>)
- Must be employed at a non-profit institution in the United States
- Demonstrated interest in multidisciplinary aging-related research
- Be affiliated with an NIA Center Program or interested in collaboration/interaction with an NIA center program

Application: Interested candidates should submit their application to elizabeth@afar.org. Please complete the application and upload one PDF that includes the following: (1) [Application](#) and (2) An NIH-style biosketch.

Deadline: Submit the application to elizabeth@afar.org **no later than Monday, May 1 at 5pm ET**. No late submissions will be accepted.

Timeline:

RFA Announcement: March 2023
Applications Due: May 1, 2023
Award Announcement: Mid-May 2023
Program Start Date: September 2023

Please contact Elizabeth Pritchett-Montavon with any questions at elizabeth@afar.org