



**WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY
REGIONAL INSTITUTE ON AGING
CALL FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY PROPOSALS
Fall 2018**

Sustaining physical, cognitive, psychological, and social well-being across the life span has become a central focus for aging research. Issues related to well-being in older adults cross many systems, including physiological, cognitive, social, organizational, environmental, and community systems. **Because of the multidimensionality of aging, interdisciplinary research is critical to a full examination of challenges facing older adults.**

The Regional Institute on Aging (RIA) at Wichita State University is pleased to announce a new funding opportunity for **interdisciplinary faculty research** that addresses issues related to well-being in older adults. This funding opportunity is supported by a gift from the estate of Evelyn Cassat. Funding will be provided for two interdisciplinary research projects at WSU that contribute to knowledge and practice related to well-being in older adults. The maximum funding amount for each of two proposals is \$20,000 for a 12-month period. Proposals may be either for foundational research or for applied research (see definition below). **Projects must actively involve faculty members at WSU from at least two distinct disciplines and more than one college.**

WHAT DOES “INTERDISCIPLINARY” MEAN?

One definition of interdisciplinary research is:

...any study or group of studies undertaken by scholars from two or more distinct scientific disciplines. The research is based upon a conceptual model that links or integrates theoretical frameworks from those disciplines, uses study design and methodology that is not limited to any one field, and requires the use of perspectives and skills of the involved disciplines throughout multiple phases of the research process.¹

The aim of an interdisciplinary approach to aging is to develop an integration of perspectives and methods that traditionally are thought of as from separate fields in order to create new understandings of and new solutions to problems facing older adults. This focus on innovative partnerships for interdisciplinary research in aging is reflected in recent papers published in academic journals, with studies examining topics including criminal justice and geriatric

HOW TO APPLY

1. *Cover page and executive summary (submit as one file)*

- a. This short document (**three-page maximum**) should concisely describe the project. The first page is a cover page that will include **ONLY** the title of the proposed project, the names of the principal investigator and co-principal investigator(s), their departments and contact information, and the names of any other research team members and departments. The remaining two pages provide a succinct overview of the project that allows RIA to clearly understand what you are trying to accomplish. **Tell us why this project is important to well-being in older adults and describe the importance to the project of the academic disciplines involved.**
- b. Include concise information about the need for the project, project objectives, methods, total cost, departments involved, undergraduate researcher participation, and amount requested from RIA. **If the proposed study is technical in nature, please use lay terminology in the Executive Summary.** This summary should be written so that it can be understood by readers who are not familiar with your area of study or jargon used in your discipline.

2. *Proposal narrative (submit as one file)*

- a. The proposal narrative (**15-page maximum**) provides an opportunity to describe your project thoroughly and to demonstrate clearly your proposal's relationship(s) to sustaining well-being in later life. Please address the following:
 - i. Project research questions, aims, and objectives
 1. Clearly state the study's hypotheses or specific research questions.
 2. Provide clear, concise, and complete objectives.
 3. Describe the contributions from the different disciplines represented by researchers and how they are important to the study.
 - ii. Project significance
 1. Clearly describe the importance and relevance of the proposed project to sustaining physical, cognitive, psychological, or social well-being into later years.
 2. Provide a literature review, describing existing knowledge related to the study's aims and methods.
 3. Describe how the project complements or extends existing knowledge.
 4. Describe the specific anticipated contribution(s) to knowledge in this field.
 - iii. Proposed methods: please describe
 1. Research design;
 2. Study hypotheses or research questions;
 3. Sequence of the investigation;
 4. Sample size, how it was determined, and a discussion of how participants will be identified and/or recruited. If statistical data analysis will be used, include a power analysis for sample size;

5. Eligibility and exclusion criteria for participants;
 6. Types of data to be obtained;
 7. Data analyses planned;
 8. Data interpretation planned;
 9. Ethical issues regarding use of human subjects, if applicable.
- iv. Dissemination of results
 1. Please describe specifically plans for dissemination of research results, including products, tools, reports, briefs, policy research papers, professional journals, conferences, etc.
 2. Describe the target audiences for dissemination of findings.
 - v. Personnel
 1. Provide biographical information about the principal investigator(s) and other key personnel involved in the project.
 2. Undergraduate researchers
 - a. Describe how undergraduate researchers in this project will be recruited, selected, compensated, and integrated into the project.
 - b. Show how the undergraduate researcher's experience will fit the following WSU applied learning criteria:
 - i. Mirrors or embodies knowledge and practice in real world situations;
 - ii. Prepares student for a career or post-graduate education;
 - iii. Involves development or creation of a work product, service, or idea;
 - iv. Includes occupationally focused work;
 - v. Applies learned program skills;
 - vi. Engages populations outside the classroom.
3. ***Budget, budget narrative, and timeline (Submit line item budget separately as one file; submit the narrative and timeline together as a separate file)***
 - a. Line item budget includes all expenses and income, including grant funds requested from RIA **and funds received and/or requested from other sources** for this project. Please include the percentage of time allocated for project staff.
 - b. The budget narrative describes how the budget related to the proposed project activities. Budget narratives should include a description for each line item identified in the budget. If the principal investigator(s) are engaged in other projects, identify the percentage of time and compensation from these projects.
 - c. The timeline corresponds directly to the activities that are described in the proposal.

TERMS OF AWARD

If awarded, the grantees agree to the following terms.

1. Funds must be used within one year from the date of the award.
2. All research team members must be current in the appropriate required institutional training.
3. All projects must have been approved by the WSU Institutional Review Board prior to commencement of research activities.
4. Grant recipients will present or publish results at the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Forum at WSU, and are encouraged to pursue external presentation and dissemination opportunities as well.
5. Grant recipients are expected to participate in undergraduate student research workshops and programming whenever possible.
6. Grant recipients must acknowledge funding from the WSU Carl and Rosina Cassat Regional Institute on Aging Grant in any presentations or publications that result from the research conducted through the grant.

HOW TO SUBMIT

Format:

1. Please use either Arial, Calibri, or Times New Roman font with a font size no smaller than 11 and margins on all sides of 1 inch.
2. The executive summary and the proposal narrative may be single spaced.
3. Please name all files with your last name in lower case followed by RIA followed by file identifier, e.g. "smith_RIA_exsumm.docx" or "smith_RIA_budget.xlsx." See specific file names below.
4. The executive summary should be submitted as a separate file, either Microsoft Word or PDF. This file should be named "yourlast name_RIA_exsumm.docx"
5. The proposal narrative section may be submitted in Microsoft Word or PDF files. This file should be named "yourlastname_RIA_proposal"
6. The line item budget file may be submitted either as a Microsoft Excel or a PDF file. This file should be named "yourlastname_RIA_budget"
7. The budget narrative and timeline file may be submitted in Microsoft Word or PDF files. This file should be named "yourlastname_RIA_timeline"
- 8. Note: you will be submitting 4 files in total; there will be no more than 4 files submitted. Please submit all 4 files at the same time.**

Transmitting files:

1. Email all 4 files named as shown above, plus a completed research proposal routing form, to Dr. Richard Muma, Provost and Professor, richard.muma@wichita.edu.
2. All files must be received by Dr. Muma by 5 PM on Friday, December 21, 2018. Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted or reviewed.

REVIEW PROCESS AND CRITERIA

A double blind review process will be used, with both applicants and reviewers anonymous to each other. All documents will be de-identified before review. The applications will be reviewed by a small ad hoc committee of WSU and community reviewers.

JUDGING CRITERIA

The review committee will consider the following criteria during the selection process:

1. The proposal is clear and understandable to readers outside the investigator's specific field.
2. There is a clear contribution to the research literature on well-being in older adults.
 - a. There is a clear explanation of the significance of the project relative to existing knowledge, the value of the project, and the new knowledge, understanding, or insight that will be gained from the proposed project.
 - b. Interdisciplinarity has a clear impact on the structure of the research project and the interpretation of the outcomes.
3. The proposal is strong and clearly focused.
 - a. There is a clear focus on the central research questions, and the research questions are clearly tied to well-being in older adults.
 - b. The proposal clearly states the aims of the project.
 - c. Design and methods proposed are appropriate for the research questions. There is a clear discussion of how the methods will be implemented and how all data will be obtained. Human subject participation is addressed with highest concerns for ethical treatment.
 - d. The timeline is appropriate and feasible for the work proposed.
 - e. The budget is appropriate and feasible for the work proposed.
4. Undergraduate research participation is documented and important.
 - a. Undergraduates are involved in substantial ways as researchers in the project. Compensation is provided for undergraduate researchers, and undergraduate researchers participate in dissemination of the results.
5. The budget is appropriate and clear.
 - a. The requested budget is clear and necessary for the completion of the project.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

An interim scientific progress report and financial report are required six months after the start of the award. Final scientific progress and financial reports are due within 60 days of the end date of the award.

FURTHER QUESTIONS?

Direct questions to: richard.muma@wichita.edu

¹ Aboelela, S. W., Larson, E., Bakken, S., Carrasquillo, O., Formicola, A., Glied, S. A., Haas, J. and Gebbie, K. M. (2007), Defining Interdisciplinary Research: Conclusions from a Critical Review of the Literature. *Health Services Research*, 42: 329–346. doi: 10.1111/j.1475-6773.2006.00621.x