

Aging Gene Discovery (AGeD) Collaborative NSC Pilot Awards

This notice of funding opportunity solicits applications for Pilot Awards of high potential impact that will be supported through a novel pilot program that integrates specialized resources across the Nathan Shock Centers (NSC) of Oklahoma (OK), the University of Washington (UW) and the Jackson Laboratory (JAX). **The goal of this program is to help investigators in aging and age-associated diseases identify new genes and gene networks that control aging and age-associated disease processes.** We achieve this by:

1. Performing whole-genome CRISPR genetic screens—in which individual genes are knocked out, one at a time, in mouse or human cells (for a total of 20,000 mouse or human genes)—to identify new candidate genes and gene networks that regulate aging or age-associated diseases. This is done at the **Oklahoma Nathan Shock Center CRISPR Whole-Genome Screening Core;**
2. Testing genes identified in CRISPR whole-genome screens for their role in aging and/or age-associated dysfunction or disease phenotypes in invertebrate models (*C elegans* and yeast) at the **UW Nathan Shock Center Invertebrate Models of Aging Core;**
3. Generating a genetically engineered mouse model to further test genes identified in CRISPR whole-genome screens for their role in aging and/or age-associated dysfunction or disease using unique resources of the **Jackson Laboratory Nathan Shock Center Animal and Phenotyping Core.**

Early-stage investigators focusing on aging and/or geroscience research (the latter as the study of processes linking aging to the etiology of age-associated dysfunction and disease) or senior investigators initiating new research programs in aging/geroscience research are encouraged to apply. Projects will be evaluated based on their potential impact, how well they capitalize on the integration across centers, and the likelihood of attracting federal or other external funding. Interested investigators are encouraged to reach out early to leaders of the above cores to discuss the project and whether it is appropriate for this multi-NSC pilot program. This consultation is required for applications to be considered. Awards will typically range from \$38,000 to \$75,000, depending on the complexity of the project and reagent costs, among other factors. Reviewers will also consider how the project supports the investigator's career growth and helps position them as leaders in aging and geroscience research. For mid-career and senior investigators, the focus will be on the impact of the research and its potential to further career advancement and start a new research direction in their laboratories.

The unique partnership across the OK, UW and JAX NSCs is separate from individual pilot projects that are offered by each center.

Application Deadline: March 23, 2026. Funding starts in May 2026.

Please submit applications and inquiries to: uwhalo@uw.edu