

YALE PEPPER CENTER

INSTRUCTIONS FOR LETTER OF INTENT FOR REC AND PESC 2024-2025

- **Career Development Awards:** Funding provides salary and/or research support for junior faculty within five years of their initial Yale faculty appointment; the proposal must focus on the Yale Pepper Center theme (described below*). Faculty must have 75% protected time for research, with the exception of surgeons and other procedural specialists, such as interventional cardiologists and interventional radiologists, who must have 50% protected time. For all applicants, the career development plan must support the goal of becoming an independently funded investigator. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. In-person attendance at seminars and didactic sessions organized by the Yale Pepper Center, which occur 2-3 times per month during the academic year, is a requirement of this award.
- **Pilot/Exploratory Studies:** Funding may be used for any type of pilot project that will support subsequent grant applications, with the goal of advancing our understanding of the etiology, diagnosis, treatment or prevention of common geriatric health conditions, as described in the Pepper Center theme*. If you have been awarded a PESC in the last 5 years, please reach out to the Core Leaders before starting your LOI.

Applicants with LOIs that are selected to move forward will receive instructions for full proposals that will be due in mid-December. Full proposals will receive external review, and projects selected for funding will begin July 1, 2025.

1. Complete the cover page
2. Letter of intent (2 pages):
 - Specific aims and hypotheses
 - Research strategy:
 - Significance of proposed research
 - Innovation
 - Approach
 - One paragraph on how the proposed project fits within the Yale Pepper Center Theme*
 - Plans for subsequent funding
 - Timeline
 - NOTE: Career Development Award candidates must also include an additional 1-page description of their career goals and career development plans and provide the name and qualifications of their proposed mentor(s).
3. Budget and justification page (not included in 2-page limit):
 - **Career Development Awards.** Funding for up to two years with a maximum of \$45,000 (direct costs) per year for salary, project, and educational support. Individuals who have K awards or other federal career development awards may not use the Pepper funds for salary support.
 - **Pilot/Exploratory Studies:** Funding for one year with a maximum of \$40,000 (direct costs).
4. Biosketch: Provide an NIH Biographical Sketch (5-page limit) for the applicant (and senior faculty mentor(s) for Career Development Award applicants).

5. Send via email to: denise.acampora@yale.edu by 5 P.M., Tuesday, October 1st
Phone: (203) 688-5238

* **Yale Pepper Center theme:** The broad unifying theme of the Yale Pepper Center is the investigation of multifactorial geriatric health conditions. This theme encompasses (1) single health conditions with multiple contributing factors or with multiple relevant outcome domains and (2) multiple conditions occurring simultaneously. **A defining criterion for Yale Pepper Center support is that, regardless of the condition or type of research, the work acknowledges, and accounts for, the multiple factors determining health in older adults.** The conceptual underpinning of this theme is that both single conditions and multiple coexisting conditions are determined by the co-occurrence of multiple predisposing and precipitating factors; these conditions and factors, in turn, affect the individual in a range of health outcomes. The predisposing factors may be at the genetic, molecular, physiologic, impairment, disease, or socio-demographic levels, while the precipitating factors may include behavioral, environmental, social, medical, psychological, and/or other triggers. The Yale theme requires designs and models (e.g. molecular, animal, and statistical) that inform the study of multiple, simultaneously interactive, factors and outcomes. It is not sufficient to state that the condition you are studying is multifactorial. Rather, you must explicitly describe how your approach is multifactorial. As a related **subtheme, the Yale Pepper Center also aims to advance the science of clinical decision making in the face of trade-offs and multiple competing outcomes.** This includes developing strategies to elicit older persons' health outcome priorities. The scope of work to be supported by the Yale Pepper Center encompasses basic, translational, epidemiological, clinical trial, health services, informatics, and gerontologic biostatistics research.

Criteria for Review: In addition to standard criteria, including the significance of the research, innovation, and quality of the approach, major consideration will be given to the likelihood that the project will lead to independent funding. This assessment will be based both on the project and the qualifications of the investigator.

Timeline of the submission and award Process:

October 1, 2024	Deadline for LOIs
October 23, 2024	Invitations sent for to submit full proposal
December 11, 2024	Deadline for full applications
July 1, 2025	Funding begins

If you have questions about how your project fits with the theme, you may contact Dr. Al Shaw (albert.shaw@yale.edu) for studies related to the biology of aging or Dr. Terri Fried (terri.fried@yale.edu) for patient-oriented research studies.