



Pilot and Grant Planning Awards Information for Potential Applicants

US DEPRESCRIBING RESEARCH NETWORK

USDeN Pilot Core

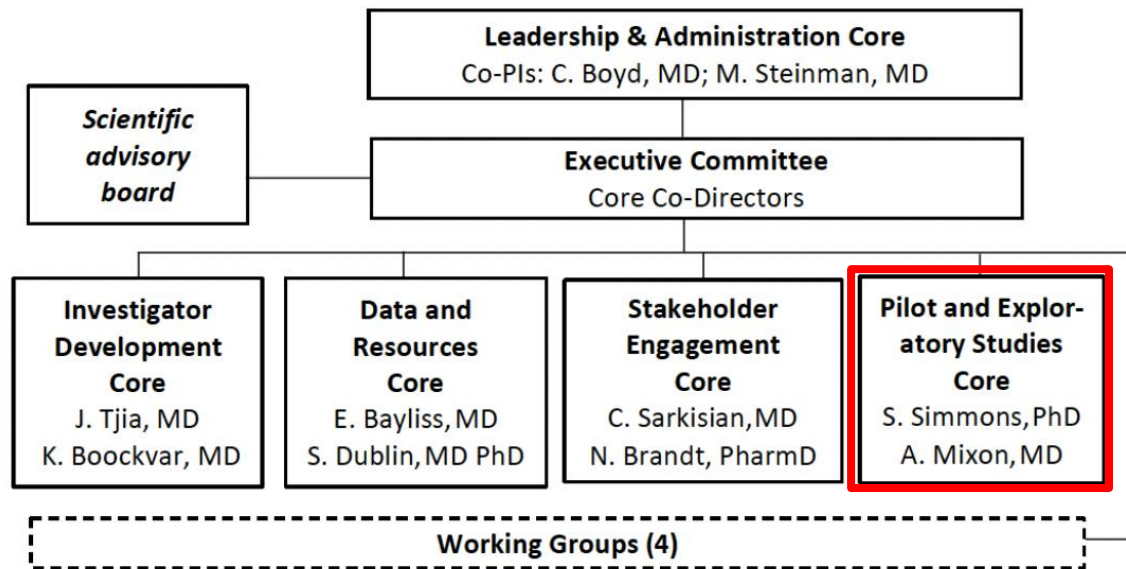
Amanda Mixon, MD, Sandra Simmons, PhD, and Joanna Gupta, MEd

Disclosures

- No relevant disclosures
- Thank you!
 - NIA R24 AG064025
 - Scientific Advisory Board
 - Joanna Gupta, Raha Shahroodi, Jonathan Norton



What is the network?



Five pillars

- Investigator development
- Stakeholder engagement
- Data and resources
- Working Groups
- Funding for pilot studies and grant-planning activities

Purpose of Awards



- Support early-stage research in deprescribing that has high potential to develop into future larger projects
- Funding for pilot projects will be provided primarily, but not exclusively, to junior investigators and
- Funding for grant-planning projects will be provided primarily to more senior researchers.
- Projects should provide key preliminary data, proof of concept, or developmental work that prepares a clear pathway to future, larger-scale studies.



US Deprescribing Research Network

Advancing Research to Optimize Medication Use Among Older Adults

Investigator Initiated Proposal Guidelines (USDn IIP 2020)

The U.S. Deprescribing Research Network is a collaborative research network with the overall goal to support development of investigators studying deprescribing for older adults and to catalyze a range of high-quality, clinically impactful research in this area. The challenges of excessive medication use, medication-related harms, and values-driven decision-making are especially pressing for older adults, particularly those with multiple chronic conditions. Solutions to these challenges require attention to geriatric principles, including (but not limited to) clinical complexity and multimorbidity, transitions across multiple providers and sites of care, older adults' values and priorities, and the shifting balance of medication benefits and harms in late life. Our overarching aim is to expand the quality, quantity, and translational impact of deprescribing research. Pilot grants up to \$60,000 in total costs (direct plus indirect funds) for a one-year period will be awarded to applicants seeking to further research efforts in this field as detailed in the following sections.

- 1) **Background:** Deprescribing is an essential component of safe and effective health care for older adults. Even with the most intensive efforts, it is difficult to prevent older adults from being started on medications that may cause more harm than benefit. In addition, medications that were once helpful for older adults may no longer be advisable to continue, either because the person has developed adverse effects, or because their clinical conditions, overall health, and/or goals of care may have changed since the medication was first prescribed.
- 2) **Research Objectives:** This funding opportunity is for studies designed to expand the quality, quantity, and translational impact of deprescribing research targeting older adults. Funding will be provided primarily, but not exclusively, to junior investigators whose studies provide key preliminary data, proof of concept, or developmental work that provides a clear pathway to future, larger-scale studies.
- 3) **Population of Interest:** The study must focus on deprescribing efforts impacting older adults and may include an emphasis on patients with multiple chronic conditions, including those with special vulnerabilities, such as dementia.
- 4) **Research Methodology:** Research is needed in a broad range of areas which include, but are not limited to, delineating the clinical outcomes of deprescribing, identifying behavioral and communication techniques that can constructively engage patients on this topic, determining the effectiveness of deprescribing interventions, and addressing the needs of underserved groups. Different study designs are needed to answer these questions – from pilot research that may lead to future clinical trials, to observational studies, to in-depth qualitative evaluation.
- 5) **Funds available:** Maximum period of performance is one year. The anticipated total award (directs + indirects) for this grant opportunity is a maximum of \$60,000. If indirect cost rates have been negotiated, indirect costs are to be budgeted in accordance with the organization's negotiated rate. The combined budgeted total costs will not exceed \$60,000 or use an indirect cost rate exceeding each organization's negotiated rate. The possibility of funding exceeding \$60,000 or a period greater than one year may be considered with special permission; initiate such a request as early as possible through an email to admin@deprescribingresearch.org.

RFA Investigator Initiated Proposal – November 2019

Types of Awards



- Pilot Award
- Grant Planning Award

For full descriptions, refer to:

<https://deprescribingresearch.org/network-activities/grant-opportunities/>



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RFA Investigator Initiated Proposal – November 2019

Scope of Pilot Awards

Scope of Pilot Awards

Pilots should:

Have a direct and clear relationship to deprescribing

Be relevant to the care of older adults

Demonstrate a clear pathway to future grants, research opportunities, and/or career development focused on deprescribing

Scope: Definition of Deprescribing

‘Deprescribing is the process of withdrawal, dose reduction or substitution of an inappropriate (high risk, unnecessary, low benefit) medication, supervised by a health care professional with the goal of managing polypharmacy (also relevant for those without ‘polypharmacy’) and improving outcomes.’

- University of South Australia

See also: <https://deprescribingresearch.org/about-us/what-is-deprescribing/>

Priority Areas

This funding cycle:

Deprescribing in a variety of care settings, such as home health and hospice

Point-of-care tools to help clinicians, patients, and caregivers to stop or reduce medications

Patient-important outcomes in deprescribing

Priority Areas (New to this Cycle)

This funding cycle:

A collaboration between USDeN and The AGING Initiative will fund one application focused on both deprescribing and multiple chronic conditions in older adults.

Proposals responding to this priority area will undergo a joint review process by both USDeN and The AGING Initiative. Applicants may apply to both USDeN and The AGING Initiative but may not receive funding from both organizations.

Visit <https://deprescribingresearch.org/network-activities/grant-opportunities/> and <https://theaginginitiative.wordpress.com/pilot-projects/> to learn more.

Scope: Definition of Multiple Chronic Conditions

‘A robust research agenda will be required to better understand the growing population of complex “high-need, high-cost” individuals, the vast majority of whom are elderly, and to lay the groundwork for effective interventions to address the multifaceted needs of these individuals. In addition, the science of MCCs must transition from simply describing the extent of the problem to pursuing studies that address specific aspects of care and the resulting outcomes for these medically complex individuals.’

- Tisminetzky M, Bayliss EA, Magaziner JS, et al. Research Priorities to Advance the Health and Health Care of Older Adults with Multiple Chronic Conditions. *J Am Geriatr Soc*. 2017;65(7):1549-1553.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5507733/>

USDeN Awardees

Most Recent Application vs Award Rate

Researchers submitted a total of 19 applications last year. USDeN, through the National Institute on Aging (NIA) R24 initiative, awarded 5 projects.

- 2 applications were grant-planning projects and 0 received funding.
- 17 applications were pilot projects and 5 received funding.

Pilot Awards--Year 1

- Decisions about Anticoagulation in Patients with Atrial Fibrillation and Dementia (Greg Ouellet, MD, MHS, Yale University)
- Older Adults' Attitudes and Preferences about how Deprescribing Recommendations are Discussed (Ariel Green, MD, MPH, PhD and Nancy Schoenborn, MD, Johns Hopkins University)
- Intensification and Deintensification of Glucose-lowering Therapies Among Older Adults with Diabetes Mellitus and Multiple Chronic Conditions (Jen Kuntz, PhD, Kaiser Permanente Northwest)



Pilot Awards--Year 2

- Improving **M**edication **P**rescribing-**R**elated **O**utcomes for the **V**ulnerable **E**lderly **I**n **T**ransitions (IMPROVE-IT): A Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial (Justin Lee, MD, BScPhm, McMaster University)
- Deprescribing Bisphosphonates in Nursing Home Residents with Dementia (Joshua, Niznik PharmD, PhD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)
- A National Physician Survey of Perspectives on Deprescribing Diabetes Medications for Older Adults (Scott Pilla, MD, MHS, Johns Hopkins University)
- Psychological and Clinical Factors that Predict Intent to Deprescribe Medications Among Older Adults (Sarah Vordenberg, PharmD, MPH, Regents of the University of Michigan)



Grant Planning Awards--Year 2

- Planning for NIA R21/R33 Grant- Patient Driven Deprescribing to Enhance Successful Aging (Ranjit Singh, MD, MBA; Robert Wahler, PharmD, “Team Alice”- The Research Foundation for SUNY on behalf of the University of Buffalo)
- Goal-directed Deprescribing and its Effect on Self-management in Community-Dwelling Older Adults with Multiple Chronic Conditions (Sarah Szanton, PhD, MSN, Johns Hopkins School of Nursing)



Pilot Awards--Year 3

- Deprescribing Thyroid Hormone Replacement Therapy in Older Adults with Dementia. (Maria Papaleontiou, MD, University of Michigan)
- Intensity of Heart Failure Pharmacotherapy Among Older Adults. (Min Ji Kwak, MD, DrPH, The University Of Texas Health Science Center at Houston)
- Empowering People Living with Dementia and their Caregivers to Initiate Deprescribing Conversations by Developing the PRIME (**P**Reparing People Living with Dementia and their Caregivers to **I**nitiate Deprescribing Conversations about **M**edications) tool. (Nagham Ailabouni, PhD, University of South Australia)



Pilot Awards--Year 3

- Interdisciplinary Deprescribing via Telehealth in Home Health Care: An Intervention Development Study. (Jinjiao Wang, PhD, RN, University of Rochester)
- Novel Methods for Estimating the Effects of Deprescribing using Observational Data. (Matthew Duprey, PhD, Brown University School of Public Health)



“The [USDeN Pilot] Core suggested including questions in my survey about health literacy and affordability of medications, which was very useful.”

“This program is a great way for junior investigators to get a project up and running with the great infrastructure provided by USDeN.”

“I definitely benefited from the pilot funds as well as discussions with the USDeN stakeholder engagement council.”

“The guidance and feeling part of a community was really useful.”

“The Pilot Core provided me with great suggestions and advice throughout the entire year.”

Feedback from Awardees

“The pilot core was helpful and incredibly supportive throughout the project, especially considering the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.”

“The expertise of the researchers involved in the overall network and the pilot core are valuable to anyone interested in deprescribing research.”

Eligibility Criteria

Applicant Eligibility

- Hold a Doctoral degree (MD, PhD, PharmD or equivalent)
- Employed as faculty, research scientist or equivalent position by start date of award
- Work in a college, university, medical or nursing school, or other fiscally responsible institution registered with System Award Management (SAM)
- Only one application per individual but two or more are allowed from the same institution



Applicant Eligibility Continued

- Eligible researchers at non-US institutions will be considered, but articulate how the proposed research will apply outside the home country, including the U.S.
- Applicants from under-represented racial and ethnic groups, socioeconomically-disadvantaged backgrounds, as well as individuals with disabilities encouraged to apply



Available Funds

Available Funds

- Up to \$60,000 in total costs (direct + indirect)
 - Indirect costs charged by recipient institution's federally negotiated rate
 - Foreign organizations may charge no more than 8% of modified total direct costs
- Distributed in August or September 2022 for use over a 1-year period
- 3-6 awards per year



First Funding Mechanism: Pilot Award

Funding will be provided primarily but not exclusively to junior investigators

Proposed study provides preliminary data, proof of concept, or developmental work that provides a clear pathway to future larger-scale studies

Different study designs are encouraged, including pilot research that may lead to future clinical trials, observational studies, and/or in-depth qualitative evaluation.



Second Funding Mechanism: Grant Planning Award

Funding will be provided primarily but not exclusively to more established investigators

Researcher must be focused on grant planning activities that will lead to a larger research proposal



Submission Materials

Letters of Intent (Required)

Details:

- Include research team, aims, approach, and/or grant-planning activities
- Indicate if the proposal is applicable to the priority area of deprescribing among older adults with multiple chronic conditions
- Include a description of planned stakeholder engagement
- Explain requests greater than the budget cap and/or requests for >1 year of funding

Letters of Intent (Required)

Details:

- Formatting: 1 page, ½” margins, 11-point Arial font
- Due: Friday, November 12, 2021, 11:59 PM (PST)
- Submit LOI's online:
<https://deprescribingresearch.org/network-activities/grant-opportunities/>
- Email questions to:
admin@deprescribingresearch.org

ABOUT US

NETWORK ACTIVITIES

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Timeline for applications:

Request for applications released

Request For Applications (RFA) » [Pilot Award or Grant Planning Award](#)

Webinar for applicants
(optional but encouraged)

October 14, 2021 – [click here](#) to view link and register

Letter of intent
(required)

November 12, 2021

[Submit a LOI](#)

Application due date

January 28, 2022

Pilot and Grant Planning Awards: Requirements

Sections	Pilot	Grant Planning
Study Aims	✓	✓
Significance	✓	✓
Innovation	✓	✓
Approach	✓	✓
Future Directions	✓	✓
Stakeholder Engagement	✓	✓

Maximum of 5 pages (including cover), ½” margins, 11-point Arial font
Due Friday, January 28, 2022, 11:59 PM (PST)

Grant Planning Award

Additional Required Sections:

Details about grant planning activities, including aims and approaches for larger-scale study

Funding mechanisms (i.e., how work will lead to grants, publications, etc.)



Required Supplemental Materials

Half-page project description in lay terminology for stakeholders

NIH-style biosketch

Budget Forms:

- Budget summary
- Budget justification
- Scope of work
- F&A rate agreement

Junior Investigators:

- One-page mentoring plan
- Mentor's letter of support

Fellows and Post-docs:

- Confirmation of faculty status



(Does not count toward
5-page limit)

Submit Online

<https://deprescribingresearch.org/network-activities/grant-opportunities/>



US Deprescribing Research Network

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Grant Opportunities

The network funds pilot and exploratory studies, grant planning activities, and small collaboration grants. The goals of these grant programs are to support early-stage research in deprescribing that has high potential to develop into future large projects, to catalyze research in areas that are of particular importance to the field, to support junior investigator development, and to promote collaborations that will lead to future research projects.

- [Pilot awards](#)
- [Grant planning awards](#)
- [Collaboration awards](#)
- [Learn about network grantees and their projects](#)

Investigator Development

Grant Opportunities

Engaging Stakeholders

Data and Resources

Working Groups

Key Dates

Letters of Intent (required):	Friday, November 12, 2021, 11:59 PM (PST)
Full application:	Friday, January 28, 2022, 11:59 PM (PST)
Awards announced:	Early May
Beginning of funding for selected awards:	August or September 2022

Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder Engagement: *Participation from at least one stakeholder, either in an advisory capacity or as a full member of the research team, is required.*

Stakeholders may include patients, caregivers, front-line clinical providers, health systems administrators and leaders, or others depending on the focus of the project.

It's important to:

- include a detailed description of your stakeholder(s),
- how they relate to the study topic in terms of their organizational affiliation (if applicable),
- Include background and relevant experience, motivation for participating, and projected activities.

Describe how you will incorporate meaningful engagement: with one or more stakeholders or stakeholder groups that informs some aspect of the research process — including topic selection, study design, conduct of research, and/or final dissemination of results.

Detail how:

- selected stakeholders and engagement goals intersect with study aims and objectives.
- stakeholders were/will be recruited and selected

Include:

- a budget compensation plan that outlines how stakeholders will be compensated for their time and efforts.
- a timeline of stakeholders' expected study-related activities along with information about planned compensation for their involvement, which should be further specified in the budget plan/justification pages.

Potential Pitfalls:

- Misidentifying all scientific/clinical research team/partners as stakeholders.
- Lack of appropriate or no compensation.
- Lack of clear explanation how stakeholder (s) connect to project – specific role, type and level of direct involvement.
- Lack of varied stakeholder (s) representation

Resources

Stakeholder Engagement Materials:

General Information:

<https://deprescribingresearch.org/network-activities/engaging-stakeholders/>

Stakeholder FAQ: https://deprescribingresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/USDen-Stakeholder-engagement-FAQ_FINAL.pdf

Stakeholder Webinar:

<https://deprescribingresearch.org/network-activities/investigator-development/webinars/>



Scoring Criteria

Reviewers' Scoring Criteria

Categories:	Description:
Overall Impact	The likelihood for the project to lead to a sustained, powerful influence on the research field.
Innovation	The degree to which the research addresses a topic that is relevant and important, fills gaps in knowledge, and/or seeks to shift current shortcomings in deprescribing, including any novel concepts, methodologies or intervention(s).
Scientific Rigor of Approach	The description of study aims and objectives, population and/or community to be served, and study design, methodology, as well as planned analysis are all clear and appropriate. This may also include descriptions of any potential problems and alternative strategies as well as any applicable preliminary studies.
Feasibility	The feasibility of completing the research within the one-year time frame and allocated budget.
Investigators and Environment	The qualifications of the investigator(s) to conduct the study, conduciveness of the research environment to maintain a successful project, and thoroughness of a mentoring plan for junior investigators.

Reviewers' Scoring Criteria (Continued)

Categories:	Description:
Potential to Lead to Larger-Scale Work	The likelihood the proposed work will lead to larger-scale projects that expand the quality, quantity, and translational impact of deprescribing initiatives. The description of future publications, grants, and career advancement milestones are included as are potential funding mechanisms and submission timelines for grant-planning projects.
Relevance to Aging	The relevance of the application to deprescribing efforts impacting older adults.
Relevance to Priority Areas	The potential focus by an applicant on a priority area listed in the RFAs as well as earlier in this presentation. This is not scored as all topics related to deprescribing in older adults are welcome.
Budget	The appropriateness of the proposed research to be successfully implemented by available funds. This is also not scored.

Resources and Expectations for Awardees

Resources for Pilot Awardees

Resources	USDeN	AGING Initiative
General Support	Access to pilot core leaders	AGING Admin Core GRIL Library: https://www.peppercenter.org/public/gril.cfm
Stakeholder Engagement	Access to stakeholder engagement core leaders	Access to AGING Patient and Caregiver Council
Webinars	Optional USDeN Webinars and Work-In Progress Seminars	Optional AGING Initiative Webinars
Consultation	Consulting Service: Access to 1 hour of Deprescribing Expert's Time	Consulting Service: One-on-One consulting with patient/caregiver expert and MCCs research experts

Expectations for Project Updates

Year End Progress Report

Present Work at the
Annual Meeting

Yearly Online Surveys After
Award Period

Junior Investigator Intensive Program

- During this Fall, 2021 USDeN will be seeking applicants for its Junior Investigator Intensive Program in Deprescribing Research. The program will create a cohort of emerging leaders who are committed to pursuing research training and collaborative opportunities related to deprescribing
- Program components:
 - Monthly webinars by leading deprescribing investigators
 - Virtual work-in-progress meetings with US and international peers
 - Career development activities during the USDeN annual meeting and throughout the year
 - Access to all USDeN resources
- Visit <https://deprescribingresearch.org/network-activities/investigator-development/> for more information



Collaboration Grants

Awards to incubate topic- and site-specific collaborative efforts related to deprescribing



- Small grants (\$500-\$5,000)
- Examples: (1) convening a mini-summit of investigators in a geographic area; (2) seed funding for geographically-diverse investigators wishing to collaborate
- Application includes brief proposal and budget justification

USDeN Collaboration Grant Submission

Please complete all fields and refer back to the application instructions for guidance. Upload application as one document (.pdf, .doc, or .docx). If you encounter any problems with your submission, please email admin@deprescribingresearch.org

First name *

Last name *

Email *
example@example.com

Institution *

Applications reviewed on a rolling basis – apply now!

USDeN Annual Meeting

Mark Wednesday, May 11th
on Your Calendars for our
2022 USDeN Annual
Network Meeting in
Orlando, Florida



USDeN 2022 Annual Network Meeting

The US Deprescribing Research Network is delighted to announce that our 2022 Annual Network Meeting will be in-person on **Wednesday May 11th** in Orlando, Florida in conjunction with the American Geriatrics Society's Annual Meeting. Please save the date in your calendars! We look forward to seeing you there next spring. Additional information will be posted here on our website as it becomes available.

DeprescribingResearch.org



US Deprescribing Research Network

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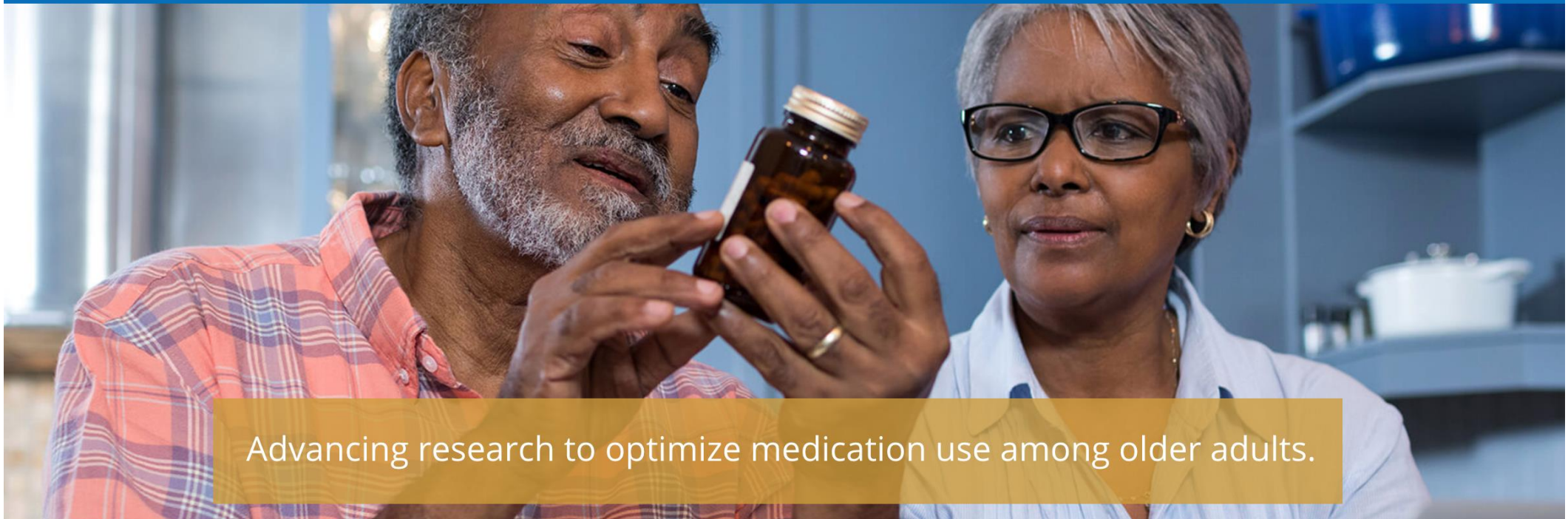
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Advancing research to optimize medication use among older adults.