Pilot Awards
for The Use of Complementary and Integrative Health Methods to Support Deprescribing of Benzodiazepine Receptor Agonists

US DEPREScribing RESEARCH NETWORK

USDeN Pilot Core
Amanda Mixon, MD, Sandra Simmons, PhD, and Joseph Christodoulou, MPH
Disclosures

• No relevant disclosures

• Thank you!
  • NIA R24 AG064025
  • Scientific Advisory Board
  • Raha Shahroodi, Haley Shiff, Jonathan Norton, Joseph Christodoulou
What is the network?

**Leadership & Administration Core**
CO-PIs: C. Boyd, MD; M. Steinman, MD

**Scientific Advisory Board**

**Executive Committee Core Co-Directors**

**Investigator Development Core**
J. Tija, MD
K. Boockvar, MD
A. Zullo, PharmD

**Data & Resources Core**
E. Bayliss, MD
S. Dublin, MD, PhD
L. Pieper, MBA

**Stakeholder Engagement Core**
C. Sarkisian, MD
N. Brandt, PharmD
C. Reyes

**Pilot & Exploratory Studies Core**
S. Simmons, PhD
A. Mixon, MD
J. Christodoulou, MPH

**Working Groups**
T. Fried, MD
S. Gray, PharmD
E. Bayliss, MD
S. Dublin, MD
Five pillars

- Investigator development
- Stakeholder engagement
- Data and resources
- Working Groups
- Funding for pilot studies and grant-planning activities
  - New funding mechanism to support integrative health methods for deprescribing
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 to senior researchers. Junior researchers are welcome to participate as co-investigators

• Projects should provide key preliminary data, proof of concept, or developmental work that prepares a clear pathway to future, larger-scale studies.
Scope of Pilot Awards
Scope of Pilot Awards: Overview

- Complementary and integrative health (CIH) modalities to support deprescribing of benzodiazepines and/or non-benzodiazepine, benzodiazepine receptor agonists (i.e., the “Z drugs”) in older adults.

- One-time funding opportunity as an administrative supplement award to USDEN from the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health.
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/](https://deprescribingresearch.org/about-us/what-is-deprescribing/)
Scope of Pilot Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pilots should:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have a direct and clear relationship to deprescribing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benzodiazepine Receptor agonists in older adults</td>
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<tr>
<td>Be relevant to the care of older adults</td>
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<tr>
<td>Demonstrate a clear pathway for a future large-scale grant (e.g., NIH or AHRQ</td>
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<tr>
<td>R01, major PCORI award, or other)</td>
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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 organizations
- 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

• Applicant organizations must be registered with System for Award Management (SAM) and have a Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering Systems (DUNS) number
Available Funds
Available Funds

• Up to $160,000 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

• Estimated distribution in April or May 2023 for use over a 1-year period

• 4 planned awards
Submission Materials
## Letters of Intent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Details to include: Research team, aims, approach, stakeholder engagement, and/or grant-planning activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further directions: <a href="https://deprescribingresearch.org/network-activities/grant-opportunities/">https://deprescribingresearch.org/network-activities/grant-opportunities/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit online: <a href="https://form.jotform.com/202587295984169">https://form.jotform.com/202587295984169</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Formatting: 1 page, ½” margins, 11-point Arial font
Due Monday, November 14, 2022, 11:59 PM (PST)
## Required Sections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sections</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Study Aims</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stakeholder Engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Approach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Future Directions</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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.)

Maximum of 6 pages (including cover), ½” margins, 11-point Arial font
Due Friday, December 16, 2022, 11:59 PM (PST)
# Stakeholder Engagement

## Required Components

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of stakeholders</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Details on their engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information on how they will inform work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timeline of their study-related activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Settings and methods of engagement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please see https://www.pcori.org/engagement/engagement-resources for additional information on engaging stakeholders.*
## Required Supplemental Materials

Half-page project description in lay terminology for stakeholders

NIH-style biosketch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Forms:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Budget summary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Budget justification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Scope of work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• F&amp;A rate agreement</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Subrecipient commitment form (if applicable)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Does not count toward 6-page limit)
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

https://deprescribingresearch.org/network-activities/grant-opportunities/
# Key Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letters of Intent (required):</td>
<td>Monday, November 14, 2022, 11:59 PM (PST)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full application:</td>
<td>Friday, December 16, 2022, 11:59 PM (PST)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards announced:</td>
<td>February 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beginning of funding for selected awards:</td>
<td>April or May 2023</td>
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Scoring Criteria
# Reviewers’ Scoring Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories:</th>
<th>Description:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall Impact</td>
<td>The likelihood for the project to lead to an RO1 or equivalent trial.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Innovation</td>
<td>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).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific Rigor of Approach</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feasibility</td>
<td>The feasibility of completing the research within the one-year time frame and allocated budget.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigators and Environment</td>
<td>The qualifications of the investigator(s) to conduct the study and conduciveness of the research environment to maintain a successful project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Categories:</td>
<td>Description:</td>
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<td>----------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential to Lead to Larger-Scale Work</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevance to Aging</td>
<td>The relevance of the application to deprescribing efforts impacting older adults.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stakeholder Engagement</td>
<td>How stakeholders will: Relate to the study topic (i.e. experience, motivation, etc.), be recruited and selected, intersect with study aims and objectives, compensated for their time and efforts, and be meaningfully engaged with the grant planning process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>The appropriateness of the proposed research to be successfully implemented by available funds. <strong>This is also not scored.</strong></td>
</tr>
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Expectations and Resources for Awardees
Expectations and Resources

- Year End Progress Report
- Present Work at the Annual Meeting
- Yearly Online Surveys After Award Period
Additional Expectations and Resources

- Quarterly Calls with Pilot Core
- Calls with Stakeholder Engagement Core
- Optional USDeN Webinars and Work-in Progress Seminars
- Optional use of USDeN Consultation Services
USDeN Annual Meeting

• Annual Meeting occurred by in-person on May 11\textsuperscript{th}, 2022 in Florida
• Approx. 100 people attended.
• Featured speakers: Barbara Farrell, Amy Linsky, Kristin Zimmerman, and Matt Maciejewski
• Recordings of these featured talks on deprescribing can be found on our website!

4th Annual Meeting: May 3\textsuperscript{rd} 2023, Long Beach California (Prior to AGS)
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

Applications reviewed on a rolling basis – apply now!
Upcoming Webinar: Oct. 21, 2pm ET

Dr. Amanda Mixon, MD, MSPH: board certified internist and Associate Professor in the Section of Hospital Medicine

Dr. Sandra Simmons, PhD: Professor of Medicine in Geriatrics, Director of the Center for Quality Aging

Both Dr. Mixon & Dr. Simmons are research scientists at the VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System and faculty at VUMC.

Register on our website!