Pilot and Grant Planning Awards
Information for Potential Applicants

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. Tjia, 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
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.
Types of Awards

- Pilot Award
- Grant Planning Award

For full descriptions, refer to: https://deprescribingresearch.org/network-activities/grant-opportunities/
Scope of Pilot Awards
### Scope of Pilot Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pilots should:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have a direct and clear relationship to deprescribing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be relevant to the care of older adults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrate a clear pathway to future grants, research opportunities, and/or career development focused on deprescribing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
USDeN Awardees
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 Medication Prescribing-Related Outcomes for the Vulnerable Elderly In Transitions (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

• Interdisciplinary Deprescribing via Telehealth in Home Health Care: An Intervention Development Study (Jinjiao Wang, PhD, RN; Assistant Professor, University of Rochester, School of Nursing)

• Empowering people living with dementia and their caregivers to initiate deprescribing conversations by developing the PRIME (PReparing people living with dementia and their caregivers to Initiate deprescribing conversations about MEdications) tool (Dr. Nagham J Ailabouni, BPharm (Hons), University of South Australia)

• Novel Methods for Estimating the Effects of Deprescribing using Observational Data (Matthew Duprey, PharmD, PhD, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Brown University School of Public Health)

• Intensity of Heart Failure Pharmacotherapy among Older Adults (Min Ji Kwak, MD, MS, DrPH, Assistant Professor, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston)

• Deprescribing thyroid hormone replacement therapy in older adults with dementia (Maria Papaleontiou, MD, Assistant Professor, University of Michigan)
Pilot Awards--Year 4

- Impact of Medication Therapy Management for Potentially Inappropriate Medications (Anna Hung, PharmD, PhD, MS, Assistant Professor)
- Perspectives of Older Adults with Chronic Pain and Primary Care Providers on Opioid Deprescribing (Timothy S. Anderson, MD, MAS, Assistant Professor)
- Measuring quality of life in deprescribing trials (Wade Thompson, PharmD, MSc, PhD, Assistant Professor)
- Understanding the Attitudes toward Deprescribing and Knowledge and Views of Non-Pharmacological Pain Management among Community-Dwelling Older Adults with Multiple Chronic Health Conditions (Hyunjin Noh, PhD, MSW, Associate Professor)
- Deprescribing of Antidementia Drugs for People with Dementia Enrolled in Hospice (Lauren Hunt, PhD, RN, FNP-BC, Assistant Professor)
Researchers submitted a total of 23 applications last year. USDeN, through the National Institute on Aging (NIA) R24 initiative, awarded 5 projects.

- 1 application was a grant-planning project and 0 received funding.
- 22 applications were pilot projects and 5 received funding.
“The [USDeN Pilot] Core suggested including questions in my survey about health literacy and affordability of medications, which was very useful.”

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

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

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

Feedback from Awardees

“The pilot core was helpful and incredibly supportive throughout the project, especially considering the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.”
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
• 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 2023 for use over a 1-year period

• 3-6 awards per year
First Funding Mechanism: Pilot Award

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funding will be provided primarily but not exclusively to junior investigators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposed study provides preliminary data, proof of concept, or developmental work that provides a clear pathway to future larger-scale studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Different study designs are encouraged, including pilot research that may lead to future clinical trials, observational studies, and/or in-depth qualitative evaluation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Second Funding Mechanism: Grant Planning Award

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Funding will be provided primarily but not exclusively to more established investigators</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Researcher must be focused on grant planning activities that will lead to a larger research proposal</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Submission Materials
# Letters of Intent

## Required, especially when:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Requesting more than the budget cap or &gt;1 year of funding (in special circumstances) and/or seeking feedback</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Details to include: Research team, aims, approach, and/or grant-planning activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further directions:</td>
<td><a href="https://deprescribingresearch.org/network-activities/grant-opportunities/">https://deprescribingresearch.org/network-activities/grant-opportunities/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit online:</td>
<td><a href="https://form.jotform.com/202587295984169">https://form.jotform.com/202587295984169</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Formatting:** 1 page, ½” margins, 11-point Arial font  
**Due** Monday, December 12, 2022, 11:59 PM (PST)
Pilot and Grant Planning Awards: Requirements

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

Maximum of 5 pages (including cover), ½” margins, 11-point Arial font
Due Friday, January 27, 2023, 11:59 PM (PST)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Additional Required Sections:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Details about grant planning activities, including aims and approaches for larger-scale study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding mechanisms (i.e., how work will lead to grants, publications, etc.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Stakeholder Engagement—
Needed for Both Pilot and Grant Planning Award Applications
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
Engaging Stakeholders in Research

The goal of the Stakeholder Engagement Core is to maximize the relevance and impact of research on deprescribing by engaging a range of stakeholders and community partners. A guiding principle is to involve stakeholders and community partners both with the research itself and in developing culturally-centered messages to address community concerns and misconceptions about deprescribing. To enhance this goal, the network has convened a Stakeholder Engagement Council to facilitate connections between investigators and stakeholders for network-supported research and through stakeholder-facing messaging.

https://deprescribingresearch.org/network-activities/engaging-stakeholders-in-research/
## Required Supplemental Materials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Materials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Half-page project description in lay terminology for stakeholders</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NIH-style biosketch</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Budget Forms:</strong></td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Junior investigators:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• One-page mentoring plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Mentor’s letter of support</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Does not count toward 5-page limit)
Submit Online

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

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
# Key Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letters of Intent (required)</td>
<td>Monday, December 12, 2022, 11:59 PM (PST)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full application</td>
<td>Friday, January 27, 2023, 11:59 PM (PST)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards announced</td>
<td>May 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginning of funding for selected awards</td>
<td>August 2023</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Scoring Criteria
# Reviewers’ Scoring Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories:</th>
<th>Description:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall Impact</td>
<td>The likelihood for the project to lead to a sustained, powerful influence on the research field.</td>
</tr>
<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, conduciveness of the research environment to maintain a successful project, and thoroughness of a mentoring plan for junior investigators.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Reviewers’ Scoring Criteria (Continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories:</th>
<th>Description:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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 for grant-planning projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevance to Aging</td>
<td>The relevance of the application to deprescribing efforts impacting older adults.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relevance to Priority Areas</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>The appropriateness of the proposed research to be successfully implemented by available funds. This is also not scored.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
Junior Investigator Intensive Program

- The US Deprescribing Research Network seeks applicants for its 2023 Junior Investigator Intensive Program in deprescribing research

- 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

- Request for applications released soon with a February 2023 due date

- Visit deprescribingresearch.org for more information
Previous Webinar: Oct. 11, 2022

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.

USDeN-Funded CIH Interventions to Support Deprescribing of Benzodiazepine Receptor Agonist Pilot Award Application Information Session


Register on our website!
USDeN Annual Meeting

- Annual Meeting occurred by in-person on May 11th, 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 3rd 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!