



Pilot Awards-- Information for Potential Applicants

US DEPRESCRIBING RESEARCH NETWORK

Pilot and Scientific Discovery Core

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Stakeholder Engagement Core

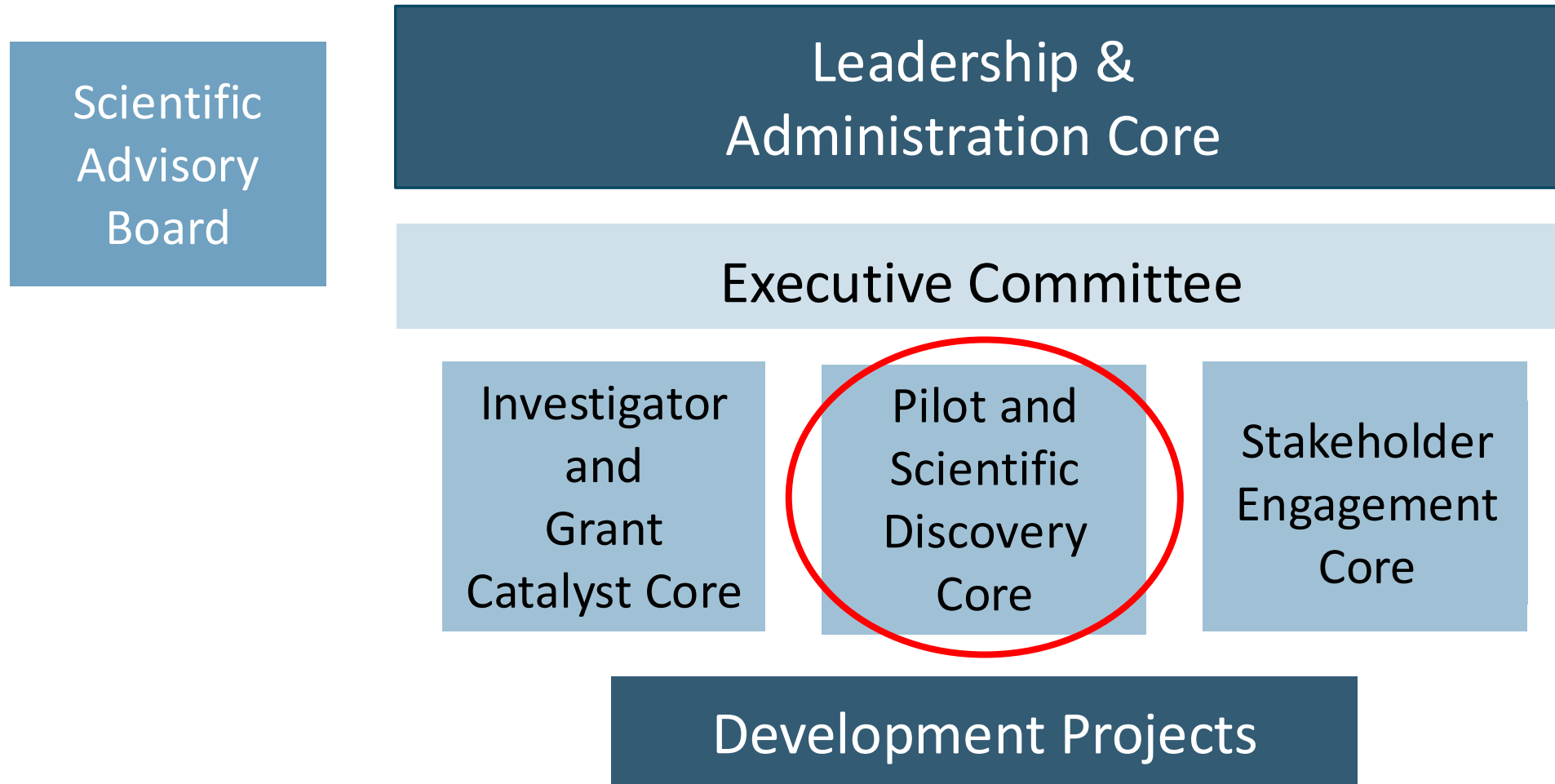
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Disclosures

- No relevant disclosures
- Thank you!
 - NIA R33AG086944
 - Scientific Advisory Board
 - Raha Shahroodi, Jonathan Norton



USDeN Organizational Structure



Purpose of Awards



- Expand the quality, quantity, and translational impact of deprescribing research targeting older adults.
- Funding for pilot projects will be provided primarily, but not exclusively, to junior investigators.
- Projects should provide key preliminary data, proof of concept, or developmental work that prepares a clear pathway to future, larger-scale research studies.

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



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

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, including those with vulnerabilities e.g. frailty and/or Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD)

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

Deprescribing in a variety of care settings

Patient-important outcomes in deprescribing

Health disparities with a focus on identifying opportunities to reduce disparities in deprescribing

Behavioral and physiologic or health systems mechanisms that influence deprescribing

Clinical criteria to identify patients most likely to benefit from deprescribing interventions

Potential AI tools to support deprescribing

USDeN Awardees

Pilot Awards - Year 1 (2024 – 2025)



Sustained de-escalation of anti-TNF medications in older adults with rheumatoid arthritis

Jiha Lee, MD, MHS

University of Michigan



Racial and ethnic disparities in prescribing and deprescribing low-value medications in older US Veterans

Aimee Pickering, MD, MS

University of Pittsburgh

Pilot Awards - Year 2 (2025 – 2026)



Designing and Pilot Testing an Educational Intervention to Equip Nurses for Engaging Osteoporotic Fracture Patients in Deprescribing Benzodiazepines and Z-Drugs
Michelle Keller, PhD, MPH
University of Southern California



Deprescribing Potentially Inappropriate Medications in Age-Friendly Health Systems
Nicholas Schiltz, PhD
Case Western Reserve University



Impact of a pharmacist-led series of N-of-1 trials evaluating the effect of deprescribing antimuscarinic overactive bladder medications on cognitive function and quality of life of individuals with Parkinson disease
Thanh Phuong Pham Nguyen, PharmD
University of Pennsylvania

Pilot Awards - Year 3 (2026 – 2027)



Developing a communication intervention to improve deprescribing among older adults overtreated for diabetes

Nancy Schoenborn, MD, MHS
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine



Brief Perioperative Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Behavioral Therapy to Enhance Postoperative Pain Management and Promote Deprescribing in Older Adults

Jenna Wilson, PhD
Brigham and Women's Hospital



The Pause Project: Promoting Thoughtful Benzodiazepine Use for Insomnia in Cancer Patients Through an Automated EMR Intervention

Eric Zhou, PhD
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Most Recent Application vs Award Rate

- 20 Letters of intent submitted
- 10 Invitations to apply
- 3 Awards funded

“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.”

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

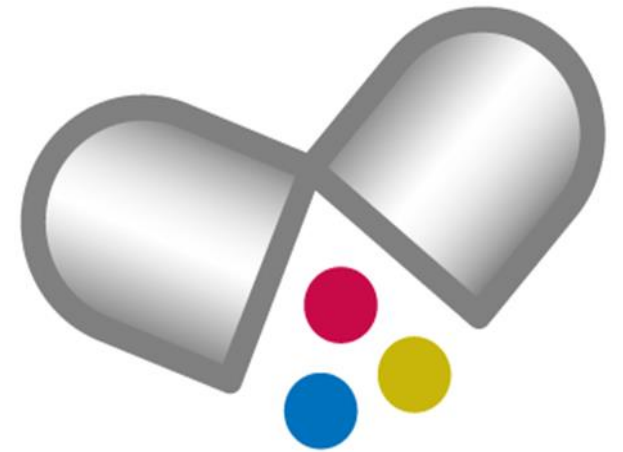
- Hold a Doctoral degree (MD, PhD, PharmD, DNPs, or equivalent)
- Employed as faculty, research scientist or equivalent position by start date of award
- Work in a college, university, medical or nursing school, or other fiscally responsible institution registered with System Award Management (SAM)
- Eligible institutions include U.S. colleges, universities, medical or nursing schools, or other fiscally responsible organizations. Non-US Institutions are not eligible to apply nor receive funds as part of a sub-contract award.



Available Funds

Available Funds

- Up to \$30,000 in direct costs (direct + indirect not to exceed \$50,000)
 - Indirect costs charged by recipient institution's federally negotiated rate
- Distributed in May 2027 for use over a 1-year period
- 2-3 awards per year



Study Designs

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

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



Submission Materials

Letters of Intent Is Required

Page 1: Administrative data	Pages 2-3: Summary
a) Applicant/PI Name and Academic Rank b) If Junior/Early-Stage Investigator, name of Primary Mentor c) Other Key Personnel and Project Roles d) Institution e) Project Title f) Alignment with Priority Areas	a) Research objective/aims b) Significance c) Target population and planned sample size d) Target clinical setting e) Research plan/study design f) Intervention and comparison group (if applicable) g) Stakeholder engagement plan h) Feasibility in 1 yr i) Advancement of career, next steps

LOI Submission → Review

- Formatting: 3 pages, ½” margins, 11-point Arial font
- Submit through web-based portal:
<https://deprescribingresearch.org/network-activities/grant-opportunities/>
- Due September 18, 2026, 11:59 PM (Pacific ST)
- LOIs will be reviewed.
- Notification of LOIs invited to submit a full application will be by September 29, 2026.

Full Proposals

- 5 pages max (including cover page), ½" margins, 11-point Arial font. References not included in page count.
- Cover page = Page 1
- Order of sections = Pages 2-5
 - Study aims
 - Significance
 - Stakeholder engagement
 - Innovation
 - Approach
 - Future aims

Required Supplemental Materials*

Half-page project description in lay terminology for non-researchers and its relevance to stakeholders

NIH-style biosketches of PI, primary mentor, Co-Is

Budget Forms:

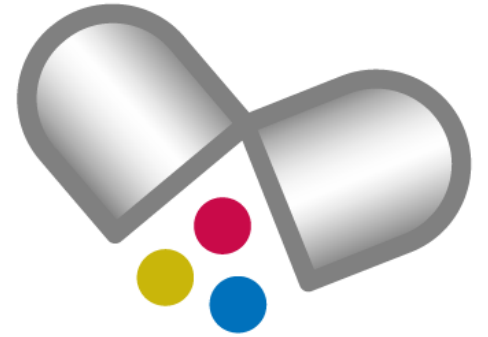
- Budget summary
- Budget justification
- Scope of work
- F&A rate agreement

Junior investigators:

- ≤ 1 page mentoring plan
- Mentor's letter of support
- Faculty status at beginning of award



*Does not count toward
5-page limit



Stakeholder Engagement

Needed for Pilot Award Applications



Stakeholder Engagement

- **Participation from at least **two** stakeholder types,**
 - either in an advisory capacity or as a full member of the research team, is required unless there is a compelling case why this is not feasible or informative.
- **Except when there is a compelling case**
 - otherwise, stakeholders must include older adults, patients, and/or caregivers, and at least one additional community partner, front-line clinical providers, health systems administrators or 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.



Stakeholder Engagement

- **Describe how you will incorporate meaningful engagement:**
 - with one or more stakeholders or stakeholder groups that inform 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 Seen within Proposals

- Misidentifying all scientific/clinical research team/partners as stakeholders.
- Lack of appropriate compensation or no compensation.
- Lack of a clear explanation of how stakeholder(s) connect to the project—specific role, type, and level of direct involvement.
- Lack of varied stakeholder(s) representation such as the lack of older adults and/or caregivers involved.

Stakeholder Resources

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



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.



What does stakeholder engagement got to do with it?



Deprescribing from an Older Adult and Caregiver Perspective: A Conversation

Investigator Development

Grant Opportunities

Engaging Stakeholders

Data and Resources

Working Groups

Research in Dementia

Webinars

Consultations

Annual Network Meeting

Submit Online as 1 PDF

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



US Deprescribing Research Network

Join the Network



ABOUT US

NETWORK ACTIVITIES

NEWS

RESOURCES

MEMBERSHIP

FOR PATIENTS

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):	September 18, 2026 11:59 PM (PST)
Invitations to submit full application:	September 28, 2026
Full application:	November 13, 2026 11:59 PM (PST)
Awards announced:	April 2027 (or earlier)
Beginning of funding for selected awards:	May 2027

Full Proposals are reviewed by a scientific panel as well as stakeholder council.

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 Research Studies	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.
Stakeholder Engagement	The impact of stakeholder engagement on the research process, description of stakeholders, proposed setting and methods for stakeholder engagement.
Relevance to Aging	The relevance of the application to deprescribing efforts impacting older adults.
Budget	The appropriateness of the proposed research to be successfully implemented by available funds. This is also not scored.

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

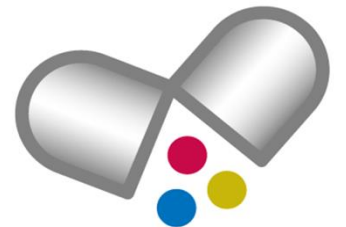
Calls with Stakeholder
Engagement Core

Optional USDeN Webinars

Optional use of USDeN
Consultation Services

Grant Catalyst Scholars Program

- The US Deprescribing Research Network seeks applicants for the third cohort of the Grant Catalyst Scholars Program
- Eligible participants: MD, PhD, PharmD or equivalent (e.g., DO, DPT) ***who plan to submit a deprescribing-related grant proposal in 2027.***
- Preference will be given to applicants who are in earlier stages of a research-focused career (e.g., up to 5 years in a research-oriented faculty position, not yet received an R01 or tenure).
- Program components:
 - Virtual work-in-progress meetings with US and international peers and a core curriculum focused on successful grant writing
 - Career development activities during the USDeN annual meeting and throughout the year
 - Access to all USDeN resources
- Request for applications released soon
- Visit deprescribingresearch.org to stay up to date



AGS / USDeN Annual Meeting

Mark **Wednesday, May 19** on your calendars for the USDeN Annual Network Meeting in collaboration with AGS in Atlanta, Georgia!

Abstract Submission Deadline

Submit your abstract to AGS by **December 2, 2026, 11:15pm ET**

Late-breaking abstracts may be accepted - stay tuned!

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DeprescribingResearch.org

Questions? Email us at admin@deprescribingresearch.org



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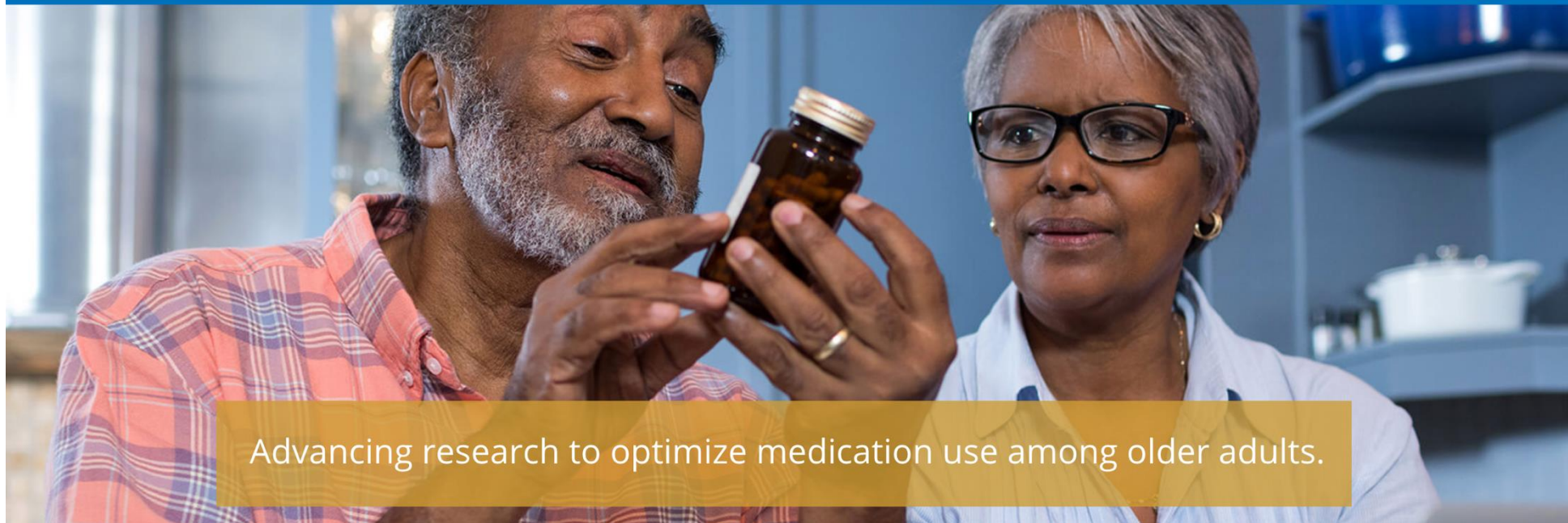
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Advancing research to optimize medication use among older adults.