

**University of Pennsylvania Institute on Aging
Letter of Intent Request for**

Alzheimer's Disease Therapeutics Accelerator Projects

The University of Pennsylvania Institute on Aging (IOA) is pleased to announce a Letter of Intent (LOI) request for collaborative projects that focus on developing next-generation therapies for Alzheimer's disease (AD). These projects will be supported by a research grant obtained by the co-Directors of the IOA from the Delaware Community Foundation.

For the first time, drugs that target the molecular pathology of AD have demonstrated the ability to slow the progression of this devastating disease, propelling the field into a new era of molecular therapies that will require a precision medicine-based approach. This funding opportunity will capitalize on the many strengths of Penn investigators, linking mechanistic discovery with translational innovation.

This award will support projects that focus on AD therapeutics including projects that address comorbid pathologies in the setting of Alzheimer's disease. Both basic science and translational projects are eligible. However, basic science projects will only be considered if they focus on therapeutic development; projects that focus on mechanisms of disease without work towards a therapeutic will not be supported. Biomarker projects will be considered only if they describe evidence that they are directly related to enhancing existing or novel therapeutics.

Leaders for these proposed projects may reside in any of Penn's 12 schools and priority will be given to projects that work across labs. Applicants are strongly encouraged to include a patient-facing clinical researcher to enhance the likelihood of future translation. Applicants who are IOA members will receive special preference and all applicants are encouraged to become members. Select teams of investigators will work collaboratively with the IOA to further develop their project(s).

Each project may request funds for up to \$250,000 in total costs (direct costs will be \$227,300 after a 10% indirect cost is applied). We anticipate that funds will be used over 1 to 2 years. Exceptional projects may request additional funding after the initial funds have been spent. Salary support for Project Leaders should be commensurate with their effort needed to execute the project.

Letters of Intent (LOI) can be up to 1 page long and must include:

1. Name(s) of the Project Leader(s) with contact information (including email address)
2. Title of proposed project
3. Overarching goal of project
4. Abstract OR one paragraph description of the project
5. Explanation of the project's potential to result in or enhance AD therapeutics

LOIs will be accepted on a rolling basis and must be emailed to Kathy Jedrziwski, IOA Deputy Director at jedrzmk@penndelawarefoundation.org. We anticipate funding several projects through 2027.

For more information, contact Kathy Jedrziwski, jedrzmk@penndelawarefoundation.org