NIMLAS Annual Pilot Project Competition:
Request for Pilot Project Applications

Release Date: August 4, 2023
Pre-proposals Due: September 11, 2023
Invited Full Proposals Due: October 9, 2023

The **Network for Innovative Methods in Longitudinal Studies of Aging (NIMLAS)** is pleased to announce its second annual pilot project competition. NIMLAS is funded by an R24 grant from the National Institute on Aging, and support for the pilot projects will come from this grant. This call for pilot projects seeks proposals to conduct methodological research in one of the following four thematic research areas of NIMLAS: (1) Creation of new data on aging minority populations; (2) Design or analytic techniques for addressing attrition in longitudinal studies of aging; (3) New technologies for capturing measures of relavence to aging research (e.g., passively collected measures of physical activity); and (4) Innovative methodologies for obtaining consent for data collection. In 2023, NIMLAS expects to fund three (3) methodological pilot projects with a primary focus on at least one of the four thematic areas listed above. Proposals that address multiple thematic areas are also encouraged.

Eligibility
NIMLAS seeks proposals from researchers who are interested in methodological development related to longitudinal studies of aging and have submitted their information to join NIMLAS ([Network Application Form](#)). Priority will be given to early career researchers and junior faculty who have recently joined NIMLAS.

Budget
Projects will be supported for one year, from December 1, 2023 – November 30, 2024. Applicants may request up to **$50,000 in direct costs** and up to **$64,000 in total costs (including any indirect costs on top of the direct costs).** Expenses covered as part of direct costs can include salary and associated fringe costs, research staff (data analyst, research assistant), data collection costs, travel costs, and materials and supplies (including computer software) necessary for the proposed research.

Other Requirements
Pilot project recipients will be expected to present results at the **third annual NIMLAS plenary meeting**, to be held in **February 2025**, and to cite NIMLAS as a source of funding support for any publications or presentations that emerge from funding (Award #1 R24 AG077012-01). Annual reporting of pilot outcomes to NIMLAS is required.

Expected Outcomes
Pilot projects typically result in multiple conference presentations and at least one published paper. Often pilot recipients go on to submit successful grant applications to NIA related to their pilot work. Pilots also may lead to new data resources, study cohorts, or protocols.

Priority/Review Criteria

1. Priority will be given to projects that emphasize one or more of the four major thematic research areas of NIMLAS.

2. Priority will also be given to projects that seed innovative research, have the potential to produce publications that advance the network's research themes, are likely to serve as a foundation for external funding (e.g., NIH R03, R21, R01), and can be completed over a 12-month period.

3. The NIMLAS review committee will rate each pre-proposal based on significance, innovation, expected outcomes, and relevance to the theme of the call, and will determine which applicants will be invited for full proposals. Full proposals will then be evaluated by independent NIMLAS members on significance, innovation, expected outcomes, relevance, and approach, very similar to the review of NIH proposals.

Pre-proposals. To be considered for a full proposal, please submit a pre-proposal in Word or PDF format to **nimlas-inquiry@umich.edu**. The pre-proposal should include the following: 1) a description of the research activity (one-page limit, excluding references); 2) a preliminary budget and justification (two-page limit); and 3) an NIH biosketch (four-page limit). The description should cover the following topics: the significance of your research question, how your research is novel, a brief overview of the approach you plan to use, and expected outcomes.

Full proposals. If you are invited to submit a full proposal, please submit the following:
1) Cover letter;
2) Abstract;
3) Specific Aims (1 page limit);
4) Research Strategy (2 page limit, excluding references) that covers significance, innovation, approach, and outcomes and includes a brief statement as to how your pilot is related to one of the four major NIMLAS research areas;
5) PHS Budget pages and justification;
6) An NIH biosketch; and
7) For projects with human subjects research, complete applicable sections of the PHS human subjects and clinical trials information form.

Deadlines
Submit pre-proposals by **Monday, September 11, 2023.**
Invited full proposals will be due **Monday, October 9, 2023.**
Funding decisions are expected to be made in **November 2023.**
Funded projects will be required to submit Human Subjects approval or request exemption from a relevant Institutional Review Board by **December 1, 2023**.

Please note that funding is contingent upon NIA approval, IRB approval, and, for projects with a foreign component, foreign clearance by the US State Department.

Any questions may be directed to the NIMLAS staff at **nimlas-inquiry@umich.edu**.