

C. Faster Diabetes, Memory, and Aging Scholar at the Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team

Release Date: February 15, 2024

Key Dates

Letter of Intent receipt date: March 15, 2024, submitted to Tracy Kemp @ tkemp1@d.umn.edu

Application receipt date: May 15, 2024, submitted to Tracy Kemp @ tkemp1@d.umn.edu

Funding announced: June 15, 2024

Project start date: August 1, 2024

Purpose

The purpose of this funding is to support an MK-MDT Guest Scholar Award to a UMN faculty member to conduct research or activities that create a deeper understanding of the links between diabetes, aging, and dementia in rural and/or Indigenous populations. This award does not require in-person residency in Duluth but travel to the MK-MDT facilities is encouraged as is a virtual presence.

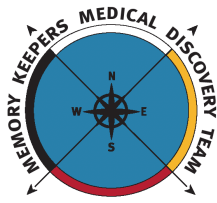
Funds associated with this award can be used to support pilot research aligned with the MK-MDT Mission, Vision and Values for a community-engaged research approach or to consolidate knowledge from work already undertaken. We encourage applicants with a background of research related to diabetes, dementia, and aging to apply. We will also accept applications from faculty who want to expand their research into this area. These applicants should clearly state the reasons for their new interest in this area and their plans for continuing this work after the grant period. Applicants must develop a tangible product such as pilot study findings for larger NIH grant, publication(s), etc.

The Guest Scholar will have access to and benefit from the team science activities of the MK-MDT as well as the well-developed community engagement infrastructures the MK-MDT has in place. The award recipient is encouraged to connect with our community engagement team and our Indigenous Elder Advisor and Rural Advisor in residence.

During the award year the Scholar will provide updates on their progress and results of the project through an appropriate format, and provide a seminar on their findings to faculty, staff and/or the donor on the Duluth campus in cooperation with the Director of MK-MDT. Applicants must be UMN faculty members in good standing. This Scholar opportunity is made possible through an endowment from C. Faster. All work conducted under the auspices of this appointment must acknowledge the funding source (C. Faster Diabetes, Memory, and Aging Scholar at the Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team).

Eligibility Requirements

The award will be used to support faculty at the University of Minnesota, in any college or campus, who are pursuing new research questions that focus on the social, cultural, environmental and/or biological connections between diabetes and dementia in older rural and/or Indigenous adults. All interested faculty from across the



University are invited to apply. Award recipients must agree to become affiliate faculty of the MK-MDT upon receipt of the award. Part of the purpose of this award is to develop a cadre of faculty with ongoing affiliations with the MK-MDT that extend to the future.

Budget Considerations

A budget not exceeding \$40,000 must be submitted with the application. Funds can be used to support:

- Salary support for University faculty (no more than 10% of the NIH cap), research staff, postdocs, students, and other trainees;
- The purchase of non-capital equipment under \$1000, general and lab supplies, and software that are required to achieve the aims of the proposal.
- Lab or clinical expenses
- Compensation of research participants
- Data analysis
- Travel for professional development related to the proposed project or travel related to the research
- Travel and activities to support community engagement
- Travel for on-site visits, activities and meetings at the MK-MDT in Duluth.

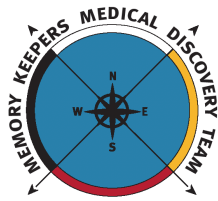
Funds cannot be used to support:

- Subawards to other institutions
- Indirect costs

Application Procedures

Applications must include the following components and utilize the same font and margins as NIH submissions:

1. Letter of Intent (less than ½ page) to include a statement of your University appointment and proposed project title.
2. Cover Page (1 page) to include title, abstract, the name and home department of the principal investigator.
3. Proposal (3 pages) to include a Statement of the Hypothesis to be tested and a list of Specific Aims. Proposals must also contain a Background and Significance section, description of the impact the study will have on the field of study and on your career, and how the project will align and integrate with MK-MDT mission and projects. Given the three-page limit, there is not an expectation that details of specific analyses will be included. Include references (not included in the page limit).
4. Timeline (2 pages) for outcomes, benchmarks, and deliverables over the duration of the project, which will be used to demonstrate continued progress during the requested funding period.
5. Proposals involving human samples (1 page): If the proposal includes obtaining any samples from humans (either from a stored sample set or prospective collection), please provide details of what samples will be used and if applicable, a diagram of the proposed clinical trial with supporting text to explain the nature of the trial. Further, this section should include details on size calculation, statistical methodology to assess the results of the trial, and how accessible the patient population will be. Proposals that involve a clinical trial are encouraged to use established infrastructure resources in the medical School, including CTSI (CRSC, biospecimen repository, informatics consultation, BDAC, etc.) and services of the Institute for Health Informatics (IHI).



6. Budget with justification using the PHS398 budget procedures and forms. Funds will only be allocated for University of Minnesota expenses; subawards to other institutions will not be allowed.
7. Current NIH biosketch for PI
8. By 12pm on May 15, 2024, complete and route a Proposal Routing Form (PRF) for signatures. The PRF should NOT be processed by the Sponsored Projects Administration (SPA). Awards will be set up as non-sponsored accounts. The sponsor name is C. Faster Diabetes, Memory, and Aging Scholar at the Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team with a start date of 8/1/2024.

Review Considerations

Upon receipt, applications will be reviewed for completeness by a committee comprised of members from Memory Keepers Medical Discovery Team and from external departments. Incomplete and/or nonresponsive applications or applications that exceed space limitations will be returned to the applicant for revision. Applications that are complete and responsive to this RFA will be evaluated for scientific and technical merit by June 15, 2024.

1. Significance: Does this study address an important problem? If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge be advanced? What will be the effect of these studies on the concepts or methods that drive this field?
2. Investigators: Is the investigator well suited to carry out this work? Is the proposed work appropriate based on the experience level of the principal investigator and other researchers? If there is a small team, does it have the required experience to achieve the aims?
3. Innovation: Does the project employ novel concepts, approaches, or methods? Are the aims original and innovative in a single field or more broadly? Does the project challenge existing paradigms or develop new methodologies or technologies?
4. Approach: Is the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics? How will the applicant manage risk?
5. Collaboration: How will this project complement ongoing projects or introduce new opportunities for collaboration at MK-MDT? How does this project promote the mission of MK-MDT?
6. What is the likelihood that the project, once completed, will result in a highly competitive NIH R-series grant application? How will the environment in which the project is being completed contribute to the project's success?

Inquiries

Inquiries concerning this RFA are encouraged. The opportunity to clarify any issues or questions from potential applicants is welcomed. Direct inquiries regarding eligibility or the review considerations should be directed to Lysie Radovich @ lradovic@d.umn.edu. Questions related to submitting the proposal or general questions on the application process should be submitted to Tracy Kemp @ tkemp1@d.umn.edu.