April 9th, 2014

The Center for Demography of Health and Aging has funding in its center grant to allow for a limited number of pilot research projects. Generally our funds can be used to support a research/project assistant or to provide limited summer support for faculty to develop a research topic that should lead to a future grant proposal to NIA. These pilots are allocated with the expectation that they will lead to the formulation of a larger project, and RO3, RO1 or other funding mechanisms. They are not designed to support work that is about to be completed or to continue research on already funded projects (unless these, themselves, can lead to additional funding). NIA keeps a tight accounting and considers the ‘return’ rates per pilot awarded when making funding decisions.

We are opening up a competition for these funds for the period 2014-2015. Since we have not yet received information about the Center’s proposal for renewal for an additional five-year cycle nor about the amount of future funding, we cannot set in advance the number of pilot proposals we will be able to fund, if any. Last year we made five awards, each consisting of not more than the equivalent one 50% one year RA. As we did last year, for this round of pilot projects we will assign priority to proposals that require direct work on biomarkers, population and genetics, or population and the microbiome, and more generally research on relations between social contexts, behaviors and biological determinants.

Those who are interested in competing for these funds are asked to submit a 1-2 page proposal with a description of your research idea and what funding you are requesting by no later than May 15th, 2014. Please submit your proposal to Jeff Petersen. A committee of three CDHA Steering Committee members will evaluate and rank the proposals and a final decision will be made by CDHA Director in consultation with this committee. In the event we are able to fund new pilot projects we will need to submit the project description, IRB approval, budget, and Bio Sketch to NIA for approval of each pilot project.