



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

Garrison Institute on Aging

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The Garrison Institute on Aging (GIA) is pleased to announce the outcome of the new Collaborative Seed Grant Program in Aging that was made possible by the generous support of Dr. Steven Berk, Dean, School of Medicine, and Executive Vice President.

More than 10 strong applications were received and evaluated initially by a committee of GIA members. Each application was then assigned to two expert reviewers not affiliated with GIA. Based on the assessments by the reviewers and GIA, 7 applications were selected for funding.

The successful applications include three proposals for studies in human subjects and four basic science research projects. The collaborative teams of basic scientists, clinicians, public health and community outreach specialists are based in 9 departments of 4 TTUHSC schools (School of Medicine, Cell Biology and Biochemistry, Family and Community Medicine, Immunology and Molecular Microbiology, Internal Medicine, Neurology, Pharmacology and Neuroscience; Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Public Health; School of Nursing; and School of Health Professions) and the Garrison Institute on Aging.

- “Mind your heart: the association of heart/vascular aging with mild cognitive impairment using data from project FRONTIER”. Principal Investigators: Duke Appiah, GSBS, and Gabriela Arandia, SOM, GIA; Co-Investigator: Nandini Nair, SOM, and Annette Boles, GIA.
- “Biopsychosocial predictors of cognitive stability, decline, and resilience in a sample of older, rural-dwelling West Texans: a retrospective cohort study using data from project FRONTIER”. Principal Investigator: Gabriela Arandia, SOM, GIA; Co-Investigators: Duke Appiah, GSBS, and Annette Boles, GIA.
- “Alzheimer’s disease and urinary tract infection: nursing home workflow encompassing CNA, LVN, and PCP communication”. Principal Investigators: Alyce Ashcraft, SON, Donna Owen, SON, and John Culberson, SOM.
- “Impact of mitochondrial fission protein DRP1 on autophagy/mitophagy pathway under tauopathies conditions”. Principal Investigator: Maria Manczak, GIA, SOM; Co-Investigator, Igor Ponomarev, SOM, GSBS.
- “Host defense amyloids in the brain”. Principal Investigator: Gail Cornwall, SOM; Co-Investigator: Hemachandra Reddy, SOM, GSBS, SHP.
- “Role of aberrant Wnt/Ca2+ signaling in Alzheimer’s disease and cancer”. Principal Investigators: Kevin Pruitt, SOM, GSBS, and Josh Lawrence, GSBS, GIA, SOM.
- “Role of mitochondrial dysfunction in changing inflammatory factors in aging mice subjected to chemotherapy-induced pain sensitivity”. Principal Investigator: Josee Guindon, SOM, GSBS; Co-Investigators, Maria Manczak, SOM, GIA, and John Culberson, SOM.

GIA looks forward to collaborating with the teams of investigators on their multidisciplinary projects that are designed to generate external funding, advance knowledge, and improve management of aging-related health issues, including Alzheimer’s disease.