

New CHAI Pilot Funding Opportunity!

Robert N. Butler Columbia Aging Center Pilot Awards to Advance Measurement of Healthy Aging

Request for Proposals

Applications Due: Wednesday, July 8, 2026, 5 pm EST

OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE

The Robert N. Butler Columbia Aging Center (CAC) announces a new pilot grant series as part of the Columbia Healthy Aging Initiative (CHAI). The CAC Pilot Awards to Advance Measurement of Healthy Aging are designed to foster innovations in measurement science that can inform a next generation of cohort studies to understand the etiology and course of healthy aging. We welcome proposals from all branches of science and from across the Columbia University community. Responsive proposals will develop and/or validate novel measurements of healthy aging, including population-level measures, survey scales, psychometric assessments, physical and cognitive performance tests, biochemical assays, composite indices, and/or methods to collect data or biospecimens.

CUIMC HEALTHY AGING INITIATIVE (CHAI) was launched in 2023 with the participation of all four CUIMC schools. The goal of CHAI is to extend healthspan and create healthy longevity for all. To achieve this, CHAI will forge a comprehensive understanding of healthy aging through new discoveries and their integration into universal prevention and care. This will build health equity and unleash the potential of our longer lives.

AWARD DETAILS

Amount: \$33,000 per award (total costs)

Anticipated number of awards: 3

Application Deadline: July 8, 2026

Start Date: October 1, 2026

Duration of Funding: 1 year

ELIGIBILITY

Assistant, associate, and full professors across Columbia University schools are eligible to apply.

REVIEW CRITERIA

The primary criteria for a successful award is the project's potential to advance the science of measurement of healthy human aging, particularly within the context of population-based cohort studies. Projects that contribute to development of new investigators or transition of experienced investigators into this research space will be prioritized.

APPLY HERE: tinyurl.com/CHAIPilotsRound2 *Google log in required to complete form*

QUESTIONS?

Please contact the Columbia Aging Center: Emma Kaishian, ek3138@cumc.columbia.edu.

