

Venture Discovery Fund (VDF) Request for Applications 2021

The **Richman Family Precision Medicine Center of Excellence (RC)** announces the availability of two pilot grants in amounts up to \$150,000 for projects to be completed over 2 years. These grants are intended to accelerate development and translation of novel approaches to treating Alzheimer's and related disorders (ADRD). The VDF, supported by private philanthropy, will fund developmental projects grounded in the principles of Precision Medicine, emphasizing collaboration across fields.

ELIGIBILITY: VDF awards target **full-time Johns Hopkins faculty** working in collaboration with at least one RC investigator (<https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/inhealth/precision-medicine-centers/alzheimers>). Collaboration with investigators at the National Institute on Aging intramural program at Bayview are considered. At least one RC investigator should be part of the collaboration as PI, Co-PI, or Co-I. The RC team particularly encourages applicants to make use of RC infrastructure such as clinical databases, imaging or biomarker datasets, as well as biological samples. Establishing new collaborations in applying the principles of precision medicine to the AD field is encouraged*. Applicants need not currently be working in the ADRD field. Faculty at all ranks are eligible to apply. Priority will be given applications with a strong potential for future funding from NIH, foundations, or companies.

APPLICATION PROCESS: Provide a one-page cover letter, to include project timeframes, as well as the following sections in one PDF file (e.g., Jones_RC_VDF2021.pdf):

1. Specific aims, background, preliminary data, proposed research (4 pages)
2. Discussion of how the project fits the principles and methods of precision medicine (1 page)
3. Discussion of promotion of collaborations, potential for external funding, future plans (2 pages)
4. NIH Biosketches for key personnel
5. NIH overall budget and justification (limit \$75,000 direct costs annually for no more than 2 years)
 - a. No F&A will be provided
 - b. Salary for faculty and staff in any JH Department may be included, consistent with the aims.
 - c. Well justified supply costs are allowed
 - d. The justification should clarify if there are other, specific sources of funding that will be utilized to complement and ensure the successful completion of the project

REVIEW PROCESS: Applications will be peer-reviewed and then evaluated by the RC's scientists. They will be judged on scientific merit, innovation, adherence to the principles & methods of precision medicine, as well as likelihood of establishing long-term collaborations, and obtaining outside funding.

EXPECTATIONS: Awardees are expected to provide the RC with a progress report on each anniversary of funding, as well as a final report, no later than 3 months after the end of funding. They are expected to present the results of the project as an open presentation to the Johns Hopkins scientific community within six months of the end of funding, under the auspices of the RC.

TIMELINES: Submissions are due no later than **30APR21** with funding starting **01JUL21**.
Email to: kostas@jhmi.edu (cc: ragarw19@jhmi.edu) with subject line: **RC VDF Application**.

* For more information about the RC's Vision of Precision Medicine in ADRD as well as available data and other resources please email the director, Dr. Lyketsos: kostas@jhmi.edu.