Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research (MCUAAAR) Request for Scholar Mentoring and Funding Opportunity FY2019-2020

The Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research is one of the Resource Centers for Minority Aging Research (RCMAR) funded by the National Institute on Aging. This Center is a collaborative effort between the University of Michigan, Program for Research on Black Americans, the Wayne State University, Institute of Gerontology, and the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine and School of Social Work. One of the Center’s major goals is to identify and mentor junior investigators who are committed to research careers involving research with older African Americans. Junior investigators from all academic departments and professional schools (e.g. Social Work, Public Health, Nursing, Medicine, Psychology) are eligible for this program. This is an opportunity for junior faculty investigators to join a community of scholars and faculty working on issues related to preparing the next generation of researchers to address racial and ethnic influences on aging related social and behavioral science.

As part of the mentoring process we fund pilot scholar studies. Proposals are sought to support junior investigator-initiated research projects that would be developed into independent NIH-funded projects. Collaborative research projects that involve faculty from more than one department, school or institute are also encouraged. Faculty and research scientists/investigators are eligible to apply for this award. The program is for early-stage researchers who hold an academic rank or appointment equivalent to Assistant Professor.

Proposals for behavioral and social science research that focus on the health of older African-Americans are encouraged from all academic disciplines that address issues relevant to this topic. Proposals should recognize the importance of a person’s earlier and present life stages as they relate to the specific research question of interest. Some examples of issues that may be investigated include: quality of life, stress and coping, health effects of prejudice and discrimination, caregiving, social support, family life, cognition, mental disorders, morbidity and mortality, health care utilization, work and retirement.

Funds are available for the period of August 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020. Individual requests may not exceed $20,000 in direct costs. Funds cannot be used to support senior faculty salaries or to purchase equipment. Studies involving human subjects must be approved by institutional review board prior to release of funds.

Each proposal must contain the following information:

a. The name and contact information of each investigator.
b. NIH Biographical Sketch of each investigator.
c. Description of Proposed Research (not to exceed 5 single spaced pages, excluding references). This should include the following sections: Specific Aims, Research Strategy, Significance, Innovation, Approach and References.
d. Budget.
e. Budget justification (one page).
f. Other current grant support.
g. Name and contact information of a mentor who agrees to provide substantive or methodological guidance throughout the grant period.
h. NIH biographical sketch of the investigator’s mentor.
Only applications in Arial 11-point font or larger will be accepted.

The completed application must be received by December 15, 2018. It is expected applicants will be notified by March 1, 2019. All application materials should be emailed as one single PDF attachment to Ms. Minti Henderson (U-M), minti@umich.edu and Ms. Carol Talbott (WSU), talbott@wayne.edu.