The goal of the AGING Initiative is to bridge the Health Care Systems Research Network (HCSRN) with the Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Centers (OAIC) to create a national resource to nurture and advance an interdisciplinary research agenda focused on older adults with multiple chronic conditions (MCCs).

We are seeking one-year pilot project proposals to support activities that will increase the likelihood of successful future research proposals focused on older adults with MCCs. These include, but are not limited to the following priority areas:

1. Methodological issues relevant to analyses of the health impact or treatment of MCCs including the validity of empirical measures.
2. Methods to address inferential issues in observational data on treatment effects.
3. Novel methods to use information contained in electronic health records to construct new measures relevant to MCCs, their treatments and outcomes.
4. Public health and health care cost impacts of specific combinations of MCCs in defined older populations.
5. Effectiveness and safety of different therapeutic options for patients with specific combinations of MCCs.
6. Alterations in safety or effectiveness of a treatment for one condition related to the presence of one or more coexisting conditions.
7. Understanding health and access disparities related to MCCs.
8. MCCs and COVID-19: impact on morbidity and mortality in older adults.

**Letter of Intent (LOI) Requirements**

1. Specific Aims (one page)
2. Biosketch of proposed principal investigator (new NIH format)

**Study Team Requirements:** This opportunity is available to investigators affiliated with HCSRN research centers and/or the OAICs, as well as current or former AGING MCCs Scholars. Full specification of the study team is not required in the LOI. If invited to submit a full application, we encourage the inclusion of an early career investigator on the research team (e.g., someone who has not been PI of a large-scale NIH grant). Collaborations between HCSRN and OAIC affiliated investigators are also encouraged but not required.

Approval of your Letter of Intent is required to submit a full proposal for the Pilot Projects Program.

**Additional Information**—This one-year project will have a maximum of $40,000 budget (total costs). Up to 3 grants will be awarded in this cycle. More information about the AGING Initiative and the pilot grants can be found on our website: [https://theaginginitiative.wordpress.com/pilot-projects/](https://theaginginitiative.wordpress.com/pilot-projects/). There you can also register for the informational webinar, which will describe and address questions on the pilot project grants. All queries should be addressed to Christopher Delude at [Christopher.Delude@meyersprimary.org](mailto:Christopher.Delude@meyersprimary.org).

**LOI Review Criteria**—In addition to the standard NIH scientific review criteria, pilot project review criteria include: (1) study relevance to older adults with MCCs and/or their caregivers; (2) leveraging OAIC-related data and/or the unique features of the HCSRN and its data; (3) methodological rigor and validity of findings (4) likelihood that the proposed study will be completed within one year; and (5) likelihood that the project will lead to submission of future research proposals.

**Due Date**—Completed letters of intent should be submitted electronically no later than 11:59 PM EDT/8:59 PM PDT on **November 13, 2020** at [https://arcsapps.umassmed.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=4HCLCAP3RY](https://arcsapps.umassmed.edu/redcap/surveys/?s=4HCLCAP3RY).

**Review and Notification Schedule**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOI Submission Due Date:</th>
<th>11/13/2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Invitations Sent for Full Applications:</td>
<td>12/18/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Applications Due (by invitation only)</td>
<td>02/26/2021</td>
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Note that start of funding is contingent on completion of human subjects review (after winning proposals are announced).