



2025 Translational Research in Aging, Postdoctoral Research Program Application Guidelines

The proposed project should be translational research in aging and have a mentor skilled in aging research.

The application must be prepared using a font size of 11 Arial, six lines per inch, on standard paper with at least half-inch margins. Applications that are incomplete and/or do not adhere to the page limitations (especially in Part 2: Research Proposal) will not be considered. All final applications require a mentor.

Please submit a full application to kathytasker@hsl.harvard.edu by **5:00 PM on Friday March 14, 2025**.

Letters of support must be electronically sent by email to kathytasker@hsl.harvard.edu by **5:00 PM Friday March 14, 2025**. The last name of the applicant should be the subject of the email and the attached document.

Citizenship Status: This Program is funded by a grant from the National Institute on Aging and requires that the candidate be a **US citizen or permanent resident** at the time the application is being submitted.

Application Package must include the following sections in the following order

1. Application Cover Sheet

2. **Abstract:** Please provide an abstract of the proposal. The abstract must not exceed 300 words.

3. **Candidate Information (1 page)**

(a) Candidate's Background, Career Goals and Objectives: Please describe your past research accomplishments, career development goals, and plans to contribute to the field of aging. Please keep in mind that the purpose of this award is to train future academic leaders in the field of aging who will ultimately translate their discoveries into future clinical interventions, practices, or policies that improve the quality of life and care of elderly people. For example, saying only that you will attend gerontology grand rounds would not be considered an adequate plan for entering the field of aging.

Career Development Plan/Training Activities During Award Period: *The career development plan has equal weight to the research plan. Candidates must clearly demonstrate a plan to build a research career in aging research and a continued commitment to a future in translational aging research.*

Please describe your career development plan and include milestones, timelines and benchmarks. Please include any training or coursework that you will participate in to develop the necessary knowledge and research skills in scientific areas relevant to your career goals. Please also include training plans on responsible conduct of research and participation in the Advanced Aging Research Training Seminar Series (AARTSS) at Hebrew SeniorLife:

<https://www.marcusinstituteforaging.org/resources/harvard-translational-research-aging-training-program> . Please discuss course opportunities with your mentor. Coursework in the responsible conduct of research (RCR) is an NIH requirement. Please work with your mentor's home institution to determine what RCR training you will require and where to register for the coursework. Additional coursework or participation in diversity, equity and inclusion seminars is also required. Please see the following websites for offerings:

Equity and Social Justice Series – Office for Diversity Inclusion & Community Partnership
https://dicp.hms.harvard.edu/equity_and_social_justice

Voices in Leadership: <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/voices/>

4. **Research Plan (4 pages excluding references cited)**

Organize the Research Strategy in the specified order, using the instructions provided below. Start each section with the appropriate section heading – *Specific Aims, Significance, Innovation, Approach*. References cited are **not** included in the page limit.

- a) ***Specific Aims***: List the specific aims of the project
- b) ***Significance***: Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses. Explain how the proposed project is translational to clinical practice or policy and will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, care planning and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields. Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.
- c) ***Innovation***: Explain how the application challenges current research or clinical practice paradigms. Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
- d) ***Approach***: Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted. Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims. If the project is in the early stages of development, describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address the management of any high risk aspects of the proposed work. Be sure to include a discussion of sample size and power and provide a timeline.
- e) Please provide a **timeline with milestones** for your research plan described above

Primary Mentor Letter (1-2 pages): Provide a letter of Support from the primary mentor that indicates the mentor's ability and willingness to provide the candidate with:

- Training in aging research
- Appropriate resources and learning environment to conduct the proposed project
- Future opportunities for independent grant support and/or a faculty position
- If this project is leveraging an existing grant, *please include a section of the letter differentiating the work proposed in the application from the mentor's parent grant.*

5. **Additional Letter (Please provide only one additional letter)**

Provide a second letter of support from a prior supervisor or research mentor who can attest to the candidate's potential and motivation to pursue a research career in aging.

6. **Curriculum Vitae (no page limit)**:

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kathy Tasker at Kathytasker@hsl.harvard.edu