Proposal to Establish
The Ohio State University Institute on Aging

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Introductory Letter from the Directors

As a land-grant institution, The Ohio State University (OSU) is entrusted with the responsibility to conduct research, education, and services that benefit the public. Today, that responsibility includes addressing the urgent and growing needs of our aging population.

In 2024, we launched an environmental scan to better understand the current landscape of aging research, education, and service activities across the OSU campus. Our goal was to define areas of strength, barriers to growth, and opportunities for synergistic advancement. We engaged with representatives from over a dozen colleges to map key stakeholders, resources, and initiatives focused on aging populations. We also met with representatives from the Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Aging, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), and patient support groups to gain insight into the needs and gaps experienced by older adults within our community. These efforts led to the formation of a multidisciplinary internal OSU Executive Committee (**Appendix A**), composed of dedicated individuals from across the university, who generously contributed their time and expertise to help shape the foundation for this proposal to create an Ohio Institute on Aging.

We were struck by the breadth and depth of aging-related expertise and initiatives already underway at Ohio State. We identified more than 25 collaborative groups, core resources, and centers engaged in aging-focused research, education, clinical practice, and outreach. This diversity is rare in the field of aging, where institutions often concentrate on a single dimension, such as basic science, clinical care, or community engagement. However, this breadth also presents a challenge: connecting these diverse areas of engagement does not occur organically. We discovered a significant disconnect among key stakeholders, many of whom had never previously met. A recurring theme was the need for a centralized resource — a hub where aging researchers and practitioners can find collaborators, grow their ideas, and access the support necessary to amplify their impact.

This proposal outlines the steps required to build on these connections and establish a world-class, multidisciplinary Ohio Institute on Aging. Our focus is on strengthening the human infrastructure and institutional resources needed to better leverage existing expertise, address current gaps, ~~align more closely with community needs, expand~~ and organize interdisciplinary teams for large external funding ~~and philanthropic~~ opportunities. Because aging touches nearly every aspect of life, we envision an institute with potential membership from all 18 colleges and schools at OSU.

We are at a societal inflection point, where older adults now outnumber younger populations. Establishing the Ohio Institute on Aging is not only timely — it is essential to ensure that the Ohio State University continues to lead in serving the evolving needs of our communities.

Christin Burd, Ph.D. Carolyn J. Presley, M.D. M.H.S. Ashley Rosko, M.D.

Executive Summary

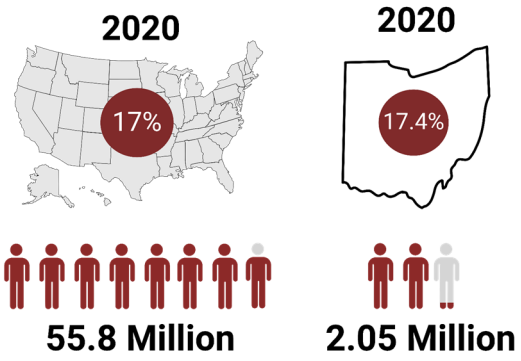
Purpose: To establish the first Ohio State University Institute on Aging to address the growing needs of our aging population through interdisciplinary research, education, clinical care, and community engagement.

Rationale: Aging research has become a forerunner for scientific innovation. The field of aging is fertile ground for discovery, poised to revolutionize our understanding of human biology, attenuate the effects of chronic health conditions, and achieve healthy aging.

Why Now? Ohio is among the top 10 states with rapidly aging demographics. OSU is well-positioned to integrate scientific efforts to promote healthy aging and attenuate age-related disease. OSU faculty expertise spans colleges and diverse areas of research required to tackle a complex challenge like aging.

Mission: To create a university-wide, integrative Institute on Aging that fosters cross-disciplinary aging research, enhances clinical care, and expands educational and community engagement opportunities.

U.S. & Ohio Population 65+ years



OSU Aging Expertise & Resources

- 50+ faculty from 13 colleges (Arts and Sciences, Dentistry, Education and Human Ecology, Engineering, Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Medicine, Nursing, Optometry, Pharmacy, Public Affairs, Public Health, Social Work, and Veterinary Medicine)
- Broad knowledge base spanning basic science, translational, clinical, and community-based research
- Established leadership in aging science, including 25+ centers/collaborative programs
- Integration of aging-relevant core facilities, resources, or biobanks
- Growing portfolio of age-related grants, contracts, and clinical trials
- Aging-related research collaborations with industry, academic, private, and state sponsors
- Unique, multidisciplinary clinical teams providing transformative care for the OSU community

Key Objectives

Phase I: Build collaborative infrastructure and aging-related research.

- Provide pilot funding for new, interdisciplinary aging science
- Create shared resources to increase accessibility and awareness of ongoing projects, existing infrastructure, available expertise, and support for collaborative research.
- Develop ***coordinated*** plans to engage outside institutions, government policy makers, private organizations to advance aging science.
- Lay the groundwork, including resources and team science, to enable a competitive P30 application.
- ~~Increase aging-related translational, clinical, and community research~~
- ~~Facilitate resource integration~~

- ~~Foster existing and new collaborations~~

~~**Phase II:** Synergize and strengthen age-related clinical education and community outreach.~~

- ~~Amplify aging-related advocacy, outreach, and engagement~~
- ~~Advance aging-related learner development and education~~
- ~~Establish a university-wide Age-Friendly ecosystem~~

Sustainability: Build and sustain a culture of excellence that attracts, engages, and supports top faculty, staff, and learner talent under the direction of the Institute on Aging Enterprise for Research, Innovation, and Knowledge.

Introduction

The Ohio State University, a premier 21st-century land-grant institution, has a multifaceted mission encompassing education, research, and service. The university fosters a culture of innovation built on expertise, ideas, and resources to enhance communities locally and globally. Through comprehensive research, outreach programs, and medical center operations, Ohio State consistently serves the community while honoring its rich heritage and shared values as a land-grant institution.

The community served by the university is experiencing a transformative demographic shift, opening doors to new opportunities and growth. Populations worldwide, including in the United States and Ohio, are aging at an unprecedented pace (**Figure 1**). Currently, 10.4% of the world's population is 65 years and older and in the next decade, this proportion is expected to rise to 13.12%, representing more than 1.1 billion people 65+.[1] Older adults are the fastest-growing age demographic and the number of Americans aged 65 and older is anticipated to exceed 78 million by 2035.[1]

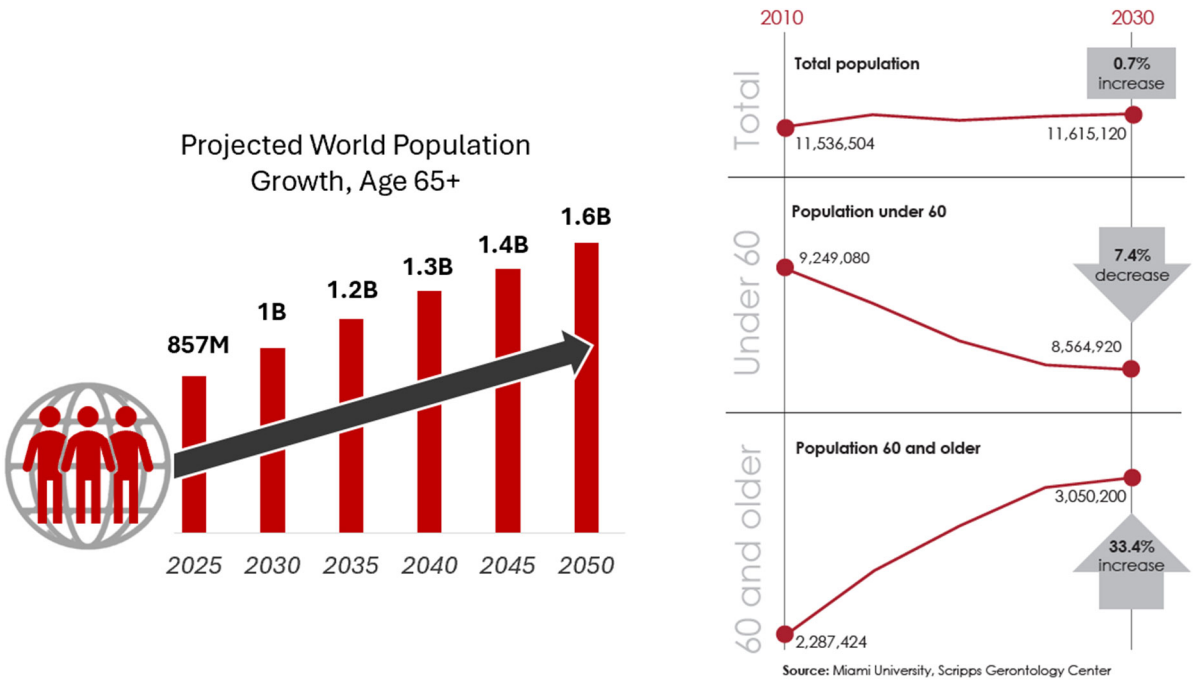


Figure 1. Anticipated expansion of the older adult population (2025-2035). *Left*, Projected growth of the World population 65 years and older based on estimates from the United Nations.[1] *Right*, Projected changes in the demographics of Ohioans between 2010 and 2030.[2] Image Source: Miami University, Scripps Gerontology Center

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[1] World Population Prospects 2024. United Nations. Accessed May 6, 2025. https://population.un.org/wpp/.
[2] 2023-2026 State Plan on Aging. Ohio Department of Aging. Published August 1, 2022. Accessed March 18, 2025. State-Plan-2023-2026-Full-Document.pdf.

Ohio is among the top 10 states with rapidly aging demographics. By 2050, more than 2.9 million older adults will reside in Ohio, constituting 25% of the state's total population (**Figure 1**).[2] The projected increase in Ohioans aged 85 and older is particularly significant, as they will be the primary drivers of this demographic shift. This trend is not merely a statistical phenomenon but represents a fundamental restructuring of society with far-reaching implications for healthcare systems, economic stability, and social infrastructure.

Such a substantial demographic shift underscores the imperative need for research, education, clinical infrastructure, and community programs that address the complex needs of our aging population. The Ohio State University is well-equipped to spearhead these initiatives through its extensive research expertise, commitment to collaboration, and active community involvement. This approach aims to foster innovative technological and scientific advancements, educational programs, healthcare models, and business practices that will benefit both older residents of Ohio and the global community.

Meeting the Unique Needs of Older Adults

Aging research has become a forerunner of scientific innovation. Both private and public sectors view the field as fertile ground for discovery, poised to revolutionize our understanding of human biology, enhance health span, and attenuate the effects of chronic health conditions. Aging is characterized by numerous biological changes that alter physiology. Examples include changes in circulating hormones (e.g., menopause), physique (e.g., bone density, muscle mass), the immune system, and even the gut microbiome. These shifts affect nearly every aspect of life, including cognition, nutritional needs, physical function, drug metabolism, and risk of chronic disease. Importantly, the aging process varies widely among individuals and is shaped by a complex interplay of genetic, lifestyle, and environmental factors. Older adults can also face unique psychosocial and financial challenges due to retirement, disability, healthcare inequity, and ageism.

These challenges emphasize the need for cross-disciplinary efforts to address the needs of a growing older adult population. Whether through devices to track and improve physical function, tailored nutritional interventions (e.g., functional foods), artificial intelligence to integrate complex data, genomics integration of age-related diseases, in multi-disciplinary clinical models, or community-focused research; Ohio State has the expertise to enhance the health and well-being of older adults.

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[2] 2023-2026 State Plan on Aging. Ohio Department of Aging. Published August 1, 2022. Accessed March 18, 2025. State-Plan-2023-2026-Full-Document.pdf.

Geroscience and Age-related Diseases

Beyond addressing the features of natural aging, the growing field of Geroscience aims to prevent or attenuate age-associated chronic conditions such as cancer, diabetes, fibrosis, cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, dementia, and frailty through health interventions.

*The **Geroscience hypothesis** states that since aging is an underlying risk factor for most chronic diseases, interventions (environmental, physical, nutritional, or pharmaceutical) that limit aging will prevent or ameliorate many chronic conditions that can result in loss of function and frailty.*[3]

Geroscience principles are founded on decades of basic science research that have identified genetic, environmental, physical, and pharmaceutical interventions extending the healthy lifespan of model organisms. However, testing these interventions in humans has been challenging. Many therapeutic interventions identified are derived from natural products with poor pharmacologic properties. Additionally, the field has yet to identify biomarkers predictive of long-term outcomes across multiple cohorts. Without clear measures of efficacy, studies must rely on a battery of molecular biomarkers and multidisciplinary teams capable of holistically assessing an individual's health. Successful clinical trials also require collaboration between experts in the basic science underlying the Geroscience hypothesis and clinical practitioners who understand the unique needs of older adults.

Ohio State is well-positioned to become a next-generation leader in Geroscience clinical trials. The university's expertise in aging biology, drug development, cell and gene therapy, chemistry, pharmacology, functional foods, aging biomarkers, and multidisciplinary clinical models support this ambition.

Existing Institutional Positioning

The Ohio State University is uniquely poised to become a global leader in aging research. Unlike other institutions that focus on either basic science, cognitive, clinical, or community-based aging research, OSU is home to researchers who excel across all these areas. A growing portfolio of aging-related grants, contracts, and resources spans multiple colleges and departmental units. However, these efforts have been siloed, lacking the infrastructure needed to capitalize on the breadth of expertise that would distinguish OSU as the leading authority for cutting-edge aging research.

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[3] Austad SN. The Geroscience Hypothesis: Is It Possible to Change the Rate of Aging? In: Sierra F, Kohanski R, editors. Advances in Geroscience. Cham: Springer International Publishing; 2016. p. 1-36.

Critical opportunity. The Ohio State University Institute on Aging will unite and support aging-related research across campus by creating comprehensive resources, knowledge banks, and infrastructure to strengthen existing programs and amplify interdisciplinary science. The Institute on Aging will develop centralized databases and cloud platforms for paired molecular and phenotypic geroscience data. Importantly, the Institute on Aging will foster interdisciplinary collaboration and drive innovations among OSU teams that do not traditionally or organically interface. ~~The Institute will augment current educational and mentorship opportunities for aging researchers, students, staff, and trainees.~~ A coordinated strategy to further existing strengths, address unmet needs, and integrate current resources will help attract and retain faculty, secure diverse funding sources, and increase clinical trials. Ultimately the interdisciplinary teams will allow for collaborative funding models to sustain the Institute infrastructure.

Box 1. OSU Aging Expertise & Resources

- 50+ faculty from 13 colleges (Arts and Sciences, Dentistry, Education and Human Ecology, Engineering, Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Medicine, Nursing, Optometry, Pharmacy, Public Affairs, Public Health, Social Work, and Veterinary Medicine)
- Broad knowledge base spanning basic science, translational, clinical, and community-based research
- Established leadership in aging science, including 25+ centers/collaborative programs
- Integration of aging-relevant core facilities, resources, or biobanks
- Growing portfolio of age-related grants, contracts, and clinical trials
- Aging-related research collaborations with industry, academic, private, and state sponsors
- Unique, multidisciplinary clinical teams providing transformative care for the OSU

The Ohio State University Aging Portfolio

Faculty Expertise

Faculty involvement in aging-related research spans 13 OSU colleges, including Arts & Sciences, Dentistry, Education and Human Ecology, Engineering, Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Medicine, Nursing, Optometry, Pharmacy, Public Affairs, Public Health, Social Work, and Veterinary Medicine, with emerging collaborations within the Moritz College of Law and the Fisher College of Business. However, the wide-ranging and interdisciplinary nature of unanswered questions in aging research creates opportunities for all 18 colleges and schools to actively contribute to the Institute on Aging. Current faculty research strengths include the areas of aging biology, brain and neuromuscular aging, cancer (Oncogeriatrics), caregiver support, social science, health and rehabilitation sciences, nutrition and food science, and education and learner integration (**Figure 2**). The subsequent section provides detailed descriptions of these established and emerging programs.

Figure 2. Examples of Existing Ohio State Aging Resources. CAFFRE: Center for Advanced Functional Foods Research and Entrepreneurship; CBI: Chronic Brain Injury Program; CCBI: Center for Cognitive and Behavioral Brain Imaging; CCBS: Center for Cognitive and Brain Sciences; CHASCC: Center for Healthy Aging, Self-Management and Complex Care; CHILL: Cognitive Health in Late Life Lab; CNAR: Center for Neurobiology of Aging and Resiliency; FCS: Family and Consumer Sciences; GIS: Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization; HRS: Health and Rehabilitation Sciences; IBBI: Institute of Brain, and Immunology; LIFT Lab: Leading Improvement-Focused Teams Lab; MDRC: Memory Disorders Research Center; MS: Multiple Sclerosis; NRL: Neuropsychology Research Lab.

Existing Collaborative Groups, Centers, and Institutes

A major goal of the Ohio State University Institute on Aging is to connect, amplify, and integrate the existing aging expertise and resources on campus. Bringing these teams together under a common mission will enhance collaboration across disciplines, optimize resource use, increase efficiency, expand funding opportunities, and ultimately make a greater impact. These diverse groups, collaborative programs, centers, institutes, and core facilities are categorized into seven themes and summarized below (**Figure 2**).

Aging Biology

The Aging Biomarkers Core *(ABC, Led by C.E. Burd PhD)*

The ABC was founded in 2024 to support Geroscience research across the university. The core offers state-of-the-art aging biomarker analysis and consultation. Technologies available through the Aging Biomarkers Core include Nanostring profiling of senescent cell markers, epigenetic clocks, serum cytokine profiling, T cell subset analyses, and quantification of T cell receptor excision circles. When paired with comprehensive clinical data, these molecular measures provide powerful tools for generating mechanistic hypotheses and assessing the efficacy of age-related interventional trials.

The Lung Aging Program *(College of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine, Led by A. Mora MD, M. Rojas MD)*
The Lung Aging Program was established to promote advances in the biology of aging lung research and facilitate innovative and efficient translational research focused on lung diseases associated with aging. The program is a part of multi-institutional efforts funded through pharmaceutical collaborations, awards from the NIA (U01, U54), and the Hevolution Foundation. Members of the Lung Aging Program leverage multi-modality omics approaches to comprehensively map and understand the mechanisms driving senescent cell accumulation in aging human lungs, and to explore rational serotherapeutic strategies for treating Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis and other age-associated diseases. Active partnerships include the Davis Heart and Lung Research Institute (DHLRI) and the Departments of Microbial Immunity & Infection, Physiology & Cell Biology, Surgery, Chemistry and Biochemistry, and Biomedical Informatics.

The Ocular Aging and Trauma Laboratory *(College of Engineering, Department of Biomedical Engineering, Led by M. Reilly PhD)*
The Ocular Aging and Trauma Laboratory focuses on understanding the biomechanical mechanisms that contribute to age- and trauma-related issues affecting the eye and visual system. The lab employs both experimental and computational methods to investigate phenomena across a range of scales, from the molecular to organ level. The goal is to leverage these approaches, along with biochemical and optical techniques, to gain mechanistic insights and develop diagnostics and treatments for visual impairments resulting from aging and trauma. Ultimately, the lab aims to simulate various aspects of the aging process in laboratory settings to enhance our understanding of natural aging.

Cancer

The OSUCCC Oncogeriatrics Program *(James Comprehensive Cancer Center, Led by: A. Rosko MD, C.J. Presley MD MHS, C.E. Burd PhD)*
The OSUCCC-James Oncogeriatrics Program is the leading center in the region for integrated, personalized care for older adults with cancer. This program is built around four main pillars: multi-disciplinary clinical care, translational aging science, training and education, and community outreach. The multi-disciplinary Cancer and Aging Resiliency (CARE) Clinics include a specialized BreastCARE clinic, led by N. Williams MD, as well as a longitudinal supportive CARE-Pall program, directed by E. Stevens DO. A dedicated 7-member team focuses on age-specific care that encompasses various aspects such as pharmacy (addressing polypharmacy and drug-drug interactions), audiology (managing hearing loss and pain), social work/case management (providing social support, safety, addressing financial toxicity, and maintaining independence), cognition (conducting formal memory screenings), physical therapy (evaluating functional capacity, falls, and physical reserve), dietetics (assessing dietary needs, weight loss, and food insecurity), and oncology (enhancing quality of life, symptom management, and addressing geriatric syndromes). The CARE team utilizes

validated clinical instruments to assess deficits in each of these domains for both research and clinical purposes. Since its establishment in 2016, the OSUCCC-James CARE clinics have served over 4,322 patients, resulting in 10,804 unique visits and more than 2,000 downstream referrals. The opening of expanded clinical space, designed specifically for the CARE team in 2023, has increased both clinical capacity and patient access. The CARE clinics also provide the only training for physicians and allied health professionals in comprehensive geriatric assessment for cancer care. The Oncogeriatrics Program hosts educational symposiums such as the Aging Science Grand Rounds and the Annual Symposium, collaborates with the State of Ohio on the Cancer Control Plan and the State Plan on Aging, and engages with the community through seminars and networking panels. It also serves as a home for over 50 cancer and aging researchers across the OSU campus.

Geriatric Oncology Dental Clinic *(College of Dentistry, Led by X. Chen, DDS, PhD)*
The Geriatric Oncology Dental Clinic, located in Postle Hall, provides comprehensive dental care for older adults with complex medical histories, such as comorbidities, chronic conditions, or cancer treatments, such as radiation. Cancer treatments may cause or exacerbate problems in the mouth. Understanding this, the clinic uses an interdisciplinary approach, which includes public education, palliative care, and oncology, in addition to dental care.

Caregiver Support and Social Science

Age-Friendly Innovation Center *(AFIC, College of Social Work, Led by H. Dabelko-Schoeny MSW PhD FGSA, M. Sheldon MSW LISW-S)*
The AFIC is a pioneering initiative housed within the OSU College of Social Work that unites members of the university and stakeholders in the aging community to conduct research, education, and community engagement activities. As the nation's first university-based center to address the diverse needs, opportunities, and challenges associated with age-friendly communities, the AFIC leverages the resources, partnerships, and intellectual capital of OSU, combined with the expertise of older residents, to transform our communities into more livable spaces for everyone. Since 2016, AFIC has engaged 200 students from 19 disciplines in research, training, and service endeavors.

Golden Buckeye Center for Dementia Caregiving *(College of Nursing, Led by M.B. Happ PhD RN FGSA FAAN, K. Rose PhD RN FGSA FNAP FAAN)*
The Golden Buckeye Center for Dementia Caregiving in The Ohio State University College of Nursing provides caregivers with a variety of training opportunities, resources, and services to support individuals living with dementia. The center is staffed by world-renowned experts and researchers who offer educational materials and conduct research aimed at enhancing connection, competence, and confidence among family members and formal care partners throughout Ohio. The objectives of the Golden Buckeye Center include establishing a unique, care partner-focused center, providing information and access to dementia caregiving

resources, offering both virtual and in-person training for caregivers, clinicians, and employers in collaboration with national and community-based organizations, and conducting research on effective interventions and cost-effective outcomes that are vital for supporting family caregivers, clinicians, and employers.

The John Glenn College of Public Affairs *(College of Public Affairs, Led by T. Brown PhD)*
The John Glenn College of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University works to improve public governance and policymaking through education, research, and professional development. It houses the Ohio Education Research Center and the Battelle Center for Science, Engineering and Public Policy. The college is staffed by world-renowned experts and researchers who explore investigations aimed at enhancing connections and embracing diverse perspectives while generating solutions to critical public problems. Faculty collaborative research specialties include public finance and budgeting, policy analysis and evaluation, public management and leadership, and regional and urban economics, policy and governance. Aging-related research areas include housing, consumer finance, and home equity borrowing for older adults (Dr. S. Moulton), middle-aged and late-life workforce and education policy for state and national governments (Dr. J. Hawley), healthcare and financial burdens for vulnerable populations, such as older rural adults (Dr. W. Xu), and evidence-based communication for elderly consumers in financial distress (Dr. C. Loibl).

Economic Security of Older Adults *(John Glen College of Public Affairs, S. Moulton, PhD)*
An interdisciplinary team of OSU faculty in public policy (S. Moulton), economics (M. Brown and D. Haurin), and consumer science (C. Loibl) conducts research at the intersection of economic security and health and well-being in older age. Recent collaborators include faculty from the College of Medicine (J. Joseph) and Department of Sociology (R. Dwyer). The research team includes post-doctoral scholars as well as graduate student research assistants and full-time research staff. Research projects frequently leverage large administrative panel datasets that link indicators of financial well-being from credit report data to other administrative datasets to measure outcomes, including medical records data from the OSU Medical Center. Research projects also utilize large social surveys such as the Health and Retirement Study.

Completed and ongoing studies examine a range of topics that connect the financial lives of older adults with indicators of psychological and physical well-being, including: (1) the role of housing wealth and home equity borrowing on psychological stress, cost-related adherence to medications, and disease progression in older age; (2) the financial consequences of the onset of chronic disease (separately, diabetes and cancer) in older age; and (3) the effects of the death of a partner in older age on the financial health of the surviving older adult. Over the past decade, the team has secured more than $3 million in funding to study these topics from federal agencies (US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Social Security

Administration), private foundations (MacArthur Foundation), and corporate sponsors (Huntington Bank).

The Center for Aging Families and Institute for Population Research *(CAF and IPR, College of Arts and Sciences, Led by Sarah Hayford, PhD)*
The Center for Aging Families (CAF) supports research on the demography and economics of aging families in Ohio, with a focus on aging family health and well-being. The group assembles 20+ OSU faculty affiliates across 11 departments and colleges (primarily social and behavioral sciences and health colleges), as well as connecting groups at Bowling Green State University and Purdue University. In 2025, the working group received an NIA P30 infrastructure grant in which OSU serves as the lead institution. CAF builds on the infrastructure of the Institute for Population Research, a university center dedicated to supporting research on population dynamics and population health, including aging and health across the life course.

The Center for Healthy Aging, Self-Management, and Complex Care *(CHASCC, College of Nursing, Led by K. Wright PhD, RN, APRN-CNS, PMHCNS-BC, FNAP, FAAN)*
The CHASCC brings together a community of internationally renowned nurse scientists, scholars, clinicians, and educators dedicated to advancing knowledge and responding to the issues of complex care, self-management, and health promotion among vulnerable and aging populations. Center scientists study the interplay between cognitive impairment and critical or chronic illnesses, seeking to determine the best approaches for self-management and health promotion. The Center comprises 16 tenure-track faculty members who have active research programs focused on care delivery for adults of all ages in various settings. Their work aims to improve cognitive and physical recovery and outcomes in critical illness and to address the healthcare needs and wellness of refugee and immigrant populations. The Center hosts weekly work-in-progress meetings led by faculty or PhD students, along with monthly research forums presented by faculty, both from within and outside the College.

Education and Learner Integration

Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (*GWEP; College of Nursing, Led by: Mary Beth Happ PhD, RN, FGSA*)
The Ohio State College of Nursing is the Central Ohio Educational Hub for the Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program funded by a grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The goal of GWEP is to educate and train healthcare workers to provide age- and dementia-friendly care for older adults through integrated geriatric and primary care models. The program establishes reciprocal partnerships between academic, primary care, nursing home, and community organizations to transform clinical training in a way that fosters age- and dementia-friendly care. Participants in the program receive education and interprofessional geriatrics training and include students, residents, fellows, faculty, and preceptors from underserved, rural, and tribal communities. During the

current funding period, the Ohio GWEP will reach over 2,800 trainees through educational and simulation experiences as well as didactic and clinical training.

Office of Geriatrics and Gerontology *(OGG, College of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health, Led by C. Nguyen PhD, ABPP)*
The mission of the Office of Geriatrics and Gerontology (OGG) is to foster the cost-effective delivery of high-quality health and social services to society's older citizens through innovative teaching, interdisciplinary research, and community consultation. As a central hub for aging education, OGG leads a wide array of educational initiatives.

OGG is at the forefront of integrating cutting-edge simulation experiences—both hands-on and through immersive VR/AI technologies—into its curriculum. These dynamic tools are designed to complement traditional learning and cultivate foundational empathy-based training experiences. By simulating the physical, cognitive, and emotional challenges of aging, these experiences enhance workforce readiness and provide transformative learning opportunities for students, faculty, and community learners alike.

Signature programs include the Series in Applied Gerontology Education (OSU S.A.G.E.), a three-course online certificate program tailored for professionals across sectors who interface with aging populations, and Topics in Gerontology, a modular, web-based program that sees over 800 module completions annually by caregivers and service providers.

OGG also plays a vital role as a "dot connector" across disciplines, facilitating interdisciplinary collaboration and community outreach initiatives related to aging. The office actively engages with university departments, state and local agencies, and national organizations to promote holistic, inclusive approaches to aging education and services. Events like the 2023 Aging Summit exemplify this commitment, bringing together over 100 stakeholders to strategize on better serving and understanding aging communities.

Ongoing partnerships, such as with the American Association of Service Coordinators and the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging, further OGG's mission to elevate aging education and support systems. The OGG website offers access to standardized screening tools, career resources, and educational content for those interested in aging-related careers.

Aging Minor and Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Aging *(College of Medicine, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Led by J. Krok-Schoen PhD)*
The Aging Minor and the Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Aging prepare undergraduate students to pursue graduate and workforce opportunities in fields with an aging focus, such as medicine, health and rehabilitation sciences, nursing, psychology, social work, policy, speech and hearing, and geriatrics. The objectives of the minor are to educate students to recognize and value the interprofessional nature of aging and to apply knowledge to future occupations with older adults. The Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Aging

provides an opportunity for graduate and professional students to develop focused expertise in the care of older adults through foundational experience in gerontology. The program offers exposure to a diverse array of disciplines, emphasizing their interconnectedness within the field of aging studies.

T32 Training in the Biology of Aging and Lung Diseases *(College of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, Led by A. Mora MD, R. Mallampalli MD)*
With the global rise in aging populations, there is an urgent need to train physician-scientists and biomedical researchers specializing in the intersection of pulmonary disease and aging biology. This NIH-funded T32 postdoctoral program provides three years of structured training focused on understanding the role of aging and cellular senescence in both acute and chronic lung diseases. This multidisciplinary program combines mechanistic studies of pulmonary disease and aging with clinical and translational research. Its goal is to prepare postdoctoral MD and PhD fellows to become future leaders in the field, advancing innovative research at the interface of aging and lung health.

Center for Cognitive and Brain Sciences *(CCBS, College of Arts and Sciences, Led by A. Leber PhD)*
Established in 1989, The Center for Cognitive and Brain Sciences (CCBS) foster interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation in cognitive science and cognitive neuroscience across the university and beyond. Through a variety of programs and events, CCBS supports research, education, and community engagement. Signature initiatives include the Undergraduate Summer Institute, which offers professional development workshops led by Ohio State faculty for students engaged in cognitive and brain science research, and the annual CogFest, featuring an undergraduate poster session and competition. The Center also hosts a distinguished colloquium series with external experts, provides funding for invited speakers and workshops, and organizes an annual fall research retreat. Additionally, CCBS engages younger learners through a week-long summer camp for high school students, promoting early interest in the cognitive and brain sciences.

Health, Behavior, and Rehabilitation Sciences

Health Systems, Outcomes, and Lifestyle Interventions *(College of Medicine)*
Faculty experts throughout the College of Medicine are dedicated to advancing implementation science, promoting safe, physically active lifestyles, and optimizing treatment outcomes for older adults. Their work spans a range of interdisciplinary focus areas, including fall prevention and mobility (C. Quatman-Yates), cancer survivorship and exercise/relaxation interventions (K. Buck, R. Benzo, J. Krok-Schoen, C. Presley), evidence-based clinical care practices (L. Juckett), and emergency care and delirium (L. Southerland). Collectively, these scholars contribute to the development and implementation of innovative strategies aimed at improving health outcomes for older adults.

Biomechanics and Musculoskeletal Injury *(HRS, College of Medicine, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences)*

The Biomechanics and Musculoskeletal Injury research group, housed within the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, conducts pioneering research focused on skeletal health, biomechanics, and injury prevention in aging populations. Faculty expertise spans key areas such as skeletal health and aging (M. Agnew), injury biomechanics and aging (J. Bolte), and injury prevention strategies (A. Chaudhari). The group also leads the Injury Biomechanics Research Center (IBRC), an interdisciplinary hub comprising engineers, anatomists, anthropologists, computer modelers, and technicians dedicated to advancing the understanding of injury mechanisms and thresholds.

The LIFT Lab *(College of Medicine, Department of Orthopedics, Led by C. Quatman MD PhD, C. Quatman-Yates PT DPT PhD)*

The Leading Improvement-Focused Teams (LIFT) Lab's mission is to be a trailblazer in advancing aging science and practice that leads to measurable, scalable improvements in health system outcomes, specifically for older adults. By conducting innovative and actionable research, the LIFT Lab delivers top-quality education, engages in pioneering collaborations, and provides transformative consultation services. The LIFT Lab leads a range of innovative projects, including community-based fall prevention initiatives, health promotion and rehabilitation efforts across diverse healthcare settings, and the development of quality improvement infrastructure. It also collaborates in a statewide initiative with the Ohio Department of Medicaid and the Ohio College of Medicine Government Resource Center to maximize the impact of existing resources and drive population-level improvements, with a particular focus on advancing health equity tailored to the unique needs of each region.

Institute of Brain, Behavior, and Immunology *(IBBI, Led by L. Pyter PhD)*

Established in 1996, the Institute of Brain, Behavior, and Immunology (IBBI) conducts pioneering mind-body research aimed at improving individual and community health. IBBI's interdisciplinary team includes experts in immunology, virology, psychiatry, psychology, endocrinology, molecular biology, behavioral science, oncology, and neuroscience. Together, they form one of the world's largest groups of psychoneuroimmunology researchers. IBBI's aging-related research spans several key areas, including: neuroinflammation (R. Barrientos, J. Godbout, O. Kokiko-Cochran), insulin resistance and cachexia (M. Belury), stress, inflammation, and accelerating aging (L. Christian, J. Kiecolt-Glaser, W. Malarkey), age-related chronic illness (C. Emery), and surgical prehabilitation (M. Humeidan). In addition, IBBI investigators led the NIH-funded *Multidisciplinary Academic Research Training in Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Sciences* (MARTDOCS) program, which supports both pre- and post-doctoral training.

The Division of Pharmaceutics & Pharmacology *(College of Pharmacy, Led by R. Govindarajan, DVM, PhD)*

The Division of Pharmaceutics and Pharmacology is one of four divisions in the College of Pharmacy, and their researchers are leaders in the use of state-of-the-art technologies to conduct research centered around four major themes: Cancer Therapeutics, Cell Protective Therapies, Drug Delivery Systems, and Drug Toxicity. These four major themes support the mission of the division, which is the discovery and development of drug therapies for the treatment of human disease. An expert team of interdisciplinary faculty supports the division. Aging-related research interests include the development of safe and effective prescription medications for older adults, the reduction of drug-drug interactions (M. Donneyong), and geriatric pharmacoepidemiology focused on older adults experiencing pain and neurodegenerative diseases (Y. Wei).

Neuroscience and Cognition

The Cognitive Health in Late Life Lab *(CHILL, College of Arts of Sciences, Department of Psychology, Led by J. Grant, PhD)*

The mission of the CHILL Lab is to promote brain health in communities at greatest risk for cognitive aging and dementia. Current research areas include 1) the early detection of cognitive decline, 2) the primary prevention of cognitive decline by reducing the risk of dementia via a community-based, multidomain, non-pharmacological interventions, and 3) the secondary prevention of cognitive decline by helping individuals with mild cognitive impairment delay dementia and compensate for memory loss via cognitive rehabilitation. Members of the CHILL Lab administer memory screenings to community members to help detect early signs of memory loss and connect individuals to healthcare services for dementia.

Center for Neurobiology of Aging and Resiliency *(CNAR, College of Medicine, Department of Neurology, Led by O. Harari, PhD)*

The Center for Neurobiology of Aging and Resiliency (CNAR) is a translational research center within the Neurological Research Institute, which focuses on understanding and optimizing the aging of the nervous system. CNAR aims to translate research discoveries into improvements in health span and function in older adults using multidisciplinary and integrative approaches. Three areas of focus include: healthy aging and resiliency, age-related neurodegeneration, and aging with a neurological disorder.

Chronic Brain Injury Program *(CBI, Enterprise for Research, Innovation, and Knowledge, Led by J. Godbout, PhD)*

The Chronic Brain Injury Program (CBI) is a university-wide interdisciplinary research center addressing the invisible epidemic of brain injury through innovative assessments, novel recovery strategies, and systems change. One of the CBI's missions is to promote

collaboration and engagement among convergent research teams. Aging after injury is a critical theme that spans the center's four research areas and ten dimensions of wellness.

Center for Cognitive and Behavioral Brain Imaging *(CCBI, College of Arts and Sciences, Led by R. Prakash, PhD)*
The Center for Cognitive and Behavioral Brain Imaging (CBBI) is an interdisciplinary research group dedicated to exploring the connections between brain function and behavior through the development and dissemination of knowledge gained via research and advanced Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) imaging (structural T1-weighted imaging, diffusion tensor imaging, functional MRI). CCBI researchers hold diverse expertise in areas such as anxiety, autism, childhood traumatic brain injury, chronic stroke, decision making, depression, developmental disability, emotion, health and wellbeing, memory, multiple sclerosis, neural responses to media, neuroscience of choice, occupational health, perceptual learning, pediatric stroke, reading and language, comprehension, social interaction and visual attention. Examples of member laboratories with an aging focus include:

The MINDSET Lab (MRI Investigation of Neurodegenerative Disease, Stress Effects, and Traumatic Brain Injury), led by J. Hayes, investigates how trauma may contribute to the development of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

The Buckeye Brain Aging Lab, led by S. Hayes, explores how lifestyle factors influence cognition and brain function across the lifespan, including in individuals with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) and neurodegenerative conditions such as Alzheimer's disease.

The Aphasia Lab, led by S. Harnish, studies predictors of treatment outcomes in individuals with aphasia and strategies to enhance therapeutic effectiveness.

The Clinical Neurosciences Lab, led by R. Prakash, examines the impact of psychosocial lifestyle interventions such as physical activity and mindfulness meditation on cognitive and emotional functioning in both clinical and healthy populations.

Health and Rehabilitation Sciences: Neuroscience Research *(College of Medicine, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences)*
The neuroscience research group in the OSU School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (HRS) includes faculty members specializing in diverse aspects of aging biology. Areas of active investigation include assistive technology (C. DiGiovine), health services delivery for autistic adults (B. Hand), and mobility and balance in aging and neurodegenerative disease (D. Kegelmeyer, A. Kloos).

The Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and Neuroimmunology Center *(College of Medicine, Department of Neurology, Led by T. Gyang MD)*

The Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and Neuroimmunology Center is home to world-renowned clinicians, researchers, and educators specializing in MS. The center leverages the latest diagnostic tools, disease-modifying therapies, symptomatic treatments, and rehabilitative interventions to prevent MS relapse and slow or halt neurological decline. The center's research portfolio includes experts in neuroimmunology (B. Segal), age-related alterations in oligodendroglia (C. Harrington), biological aging (Y. Zhang), and neural correlates of cognitive dysfunction (R. Prakash). The affiliated Aging with MS Clinic, led by Y. Zhang, MD, features a dedicated team of neuropsychologists, social workers, pharmacists, and physical therapists who collaborate to address aging-related concerns, including functional capacity, bladder function, nutrition, cognition, mood, social support, and medication management. With integrated research, the clinic seeks to improve quality of life and prevent disability in aging adults with MS.

Neuropsychology Research Laboratory *(NRL, College of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health, Led by C. Nguyen, PhD, ABPP)*

The OSU Neuropsychology Research Laboratory (NRL) conducts longitudinal research studies to better understand the relationship between neurocognition, aging, and health. Faculty interests include the neuropsychology of aging, dementia, neurodegenerative diseases, and lifespan approaches to understanding mood disorders. NRL faculty members contribute to science education, training, practice, and policy development through professional roles in regional, national, and international societies.

Ohio State Memory Disorder Research Center *(MDRC, College of Medicine, Department of Neurology, Led by D. Scharre, MD)*

The Ohio State Memory Disorder Research Center is dedicated to conducting high-quality research and providing exceptional patient care to improve the diagnosis and treatment of dementia, Alzheimer's disease, and other age-related memory disorders. The Research Center collaborates with the Memory Disorders Clinic, which conducts over 2,500 patient visits each year. Since its founding, the Center has led groundbreaking research in dementia and cognitive disorders using medications and devices, including those targeting amyloid, tau, inflammation, synaptic damage, and abnormal behaviors. Current investigations address issues related to health disparities and interventions focused on diet, exercise, and cognitive activities. The Memory Disorder Research Center has conducted over 200 dementia-related clinical trials in the past 30 years.

Nutrition and Food Science

OSU Extension's Family and Consumer Sciences *(FCS, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, and the College of Education and Human Ecology, Led by P. Bebo MS, RDN)*

The Ohio State University Extension's FCS Program serves thousands of people throughout Ohio each year by delivering the highest quality, research-based educational programs focused on building healthy people, healthy finances, and healthy relationships. As part of the larger OSU Extension organization that includes 4-H Youth Development, Agriculture and Natural Resources Community Development, FCS reaches across populations in all 88 counties of Ohio.

Diabetes and Metabolism Research Center *(DMRC, College of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine, Led by W. Hsueh, MD and K. Stanford, PhD)*

Ohio State University Medical Center's Diabetes and Metabolism Research Center conducts clinical trials and basic research to prevent, manage, and cure diabetes. The Center collaborates across clinical divisions to foster a team approach to develop innovative procedures such as islet cell, pancreas, and kidney transplantation. DMRC researchers tackle a diverse range of metabolically influenced age-related comorbidities, including cardiovascular disease (K. Baskin, R. Bruno, E.D. Lewandowski, K. Townsend), cardiac arrhythmias (V. Fedorov, T. Hund), cancer (L. Cao, Z. Cruz-Monserrate, D. Guo, A. Hummon, M. Mihaylova, R. Wang, D. Spakowicz, M. Belury), regenerative medicine (D. Gallego Perez), and diabetes (J. Hu, O. Ziouzenkova, J. Volek, K. Townsend, K. Stanford, M. Belury). Clinical trials headed by DMRC investigators address diabetes, osteoporosis, and other metabolic syndromes. The DMRC is also home to an NIH-funded postdoctoral training program in cardiometabolic science led by W. Hsueh and S.A. Smith.

Center for Advanced Function Foods Research and Entrepreneurship *(CAFFRE, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, Led by Y. Vodovotz, PhD)*

The Center for Advanced Function Foods Research and Entrepreneurship (CAFFRE) is an interdisciplinary group of scientists, medical professionals, and policy experts representing eight colleges across the OSU campus. CAFFRE's mission is to catalyze the research and development of novel functional foods and components to enhance health. CAFFRE researchers are engaged in every aspect of functional food development, from crop and ingredient characterization to mechanistic preclinical studies, sensory evaluation, digestion and absorption analysis, packaging innovation, and clinical trials. Their work includes investigations into functional foods enriched with phytochemicals known for their potential anti-aging effects, such as resveratrol, isoflavones, and anthocyanins. Further studies investigate dietary supplements and functional foods aimed at alleviating age-related disease symptoms, enhancing health outcomes, and improving quality of life.

Foods for Health Research Initiative *(FFH, Enterprise for Research, Innovation, and Knowledge, Led by D. Peterson, PhD)*

The Foods for Health Research Initiative (FFH) at The Ohio State University advances interdisciplinary research linking agriculture, food, and human health. FFH builds and supports a campus-wide community of more than 100 investigators across 11 colleges and 40+ departments through strategic communications, networking events, ideation sessions, and seed grant investments. FFH research is organized around three pillars - Food & Crop Improvement, Food Perception & Behavior, and Precision Nutrition - and spans plant and food metabolomics, sensory nutrition, microbiome science, and diet–health intervention studies. FFH projects focused on the role of nutrition in an aging population include studies examining how dietary bioactives and metabolic signatures influence neurocognitive outcomes and how food-based interventions can mitigate inflammation and oxidative stress associated with cognitive decline. These interdisciplinary collaborations exemplify FFH's role in connecting basic and clinical scientists to translate discoveries in food and nutritional biochemistry into strategies that promote healthy aging and cognitive resilience.

Health and Rehabilitation Sciences: Nutrition Research *(College of Medicine, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences)*

The School of Health and Rehabilitation's Nutrition Research group includes faculty experts dedicated to addressing nutritional challenges across diverse populations. Their research focuses on combating nutritional deficits linked to health disparities (I. Adams), advancing cancer chemoprevention and promoting healthy survivorship (K. Roberts, C. Spees), and examining dietary patterns associated with chronic disease (C. Taylor). A key initiative of the group is the HOPE Lab, led by C. Spees, in collaboration with the OSU Waterman Agricultural and Natural Resources Laboratory, the Comprehensive Cancer Center, multiple OSU colleges, and community partners. The HOPE Lab delivers biobehavioral interventions that empower vulnerable populations to adopt evidence-based dietary and lifestyle practices, with the goal of improving health outcomes and reducing the risk of chronic diseases such as cancer.

Funding growth and opportunities

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) is the primary source of support for aging-related research funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Growing awareness of the expanding needs of the aging U.S. population has driven an increase in NIA funding. At Ohio State, total NIA funding grew from $1.5M across 6 projects in 2014 to $15.9M across 36 projects in 2024 (across all grant type applications, **Figure 3**).[4] This ten-fold increase reflects growing faculty interest and expertise in aging over the past decade.

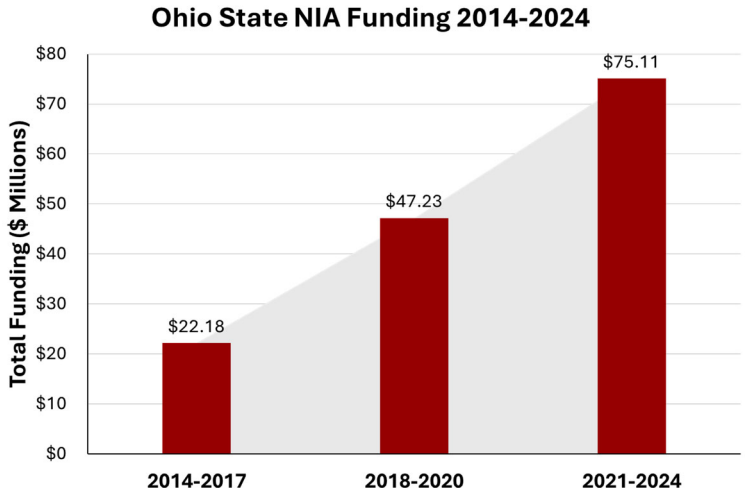

Figure 3. Total funding and number of active NIA projects at Ohio State University (2014–2024).
Funding amounts are shown in millions of U.S. dollars. Inclusive of all colleges. Data are current as of May 2025.

The funding landscape for Geroscience research is broad and maintains an exponential trajectory in many different areas, such as cognition and neurodegenerative diseases, Oncogeriatrics, mobility, sociology, health span extension, financial wellness, and adaptation research. Thus, it is expected that the proposed work of the Institute on Aging will attract significant extramural federal funding for the foreseeable future. Further, according to LongevityTechnology, a website dedicated to advancements in longevity and health technology, a 2024 investment report on the aging and longevity market revealed that total financing surged to $8.49 billion, up from $3.82 billion in 2023.[5] As the aging population continues to grow, funding in this area is expected to increase. This trend positions the Ohio State University Institute on Aging to attract substantial financial support from both foundation and industry partners, reinforcing Geroscience as one of the most fundable fields in life sciences.

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[4] NIH RePORTER. National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Accessed March 12, 2025 https://reporter.nih.gov/search.

[5] Annual longevity investment report 2024. Longevity.Technology. Accessed May 27, 2025. Annual longevity investment report 2024 Archives - Longevity.Technology

Leveraging Ohio State's deep expertise and robust infrastructure, the university offers a distinctive foundation with the potential to become a global leader in aging research. To advance this opportunity and exploit emerging prospects across the aging continuum, Ohio State will need to include expertise across multiple colleges in a more comprehensive and complete way. To do so, it will be critical to develop a formalized structure and effective support through an Institute on Aging. The Institute will foster a cohesive environment that empowers cross-college university faculty to address the complex clinical challenges of aging research—spanning basic, translational, and clinical domains. It will also support faculty and trainee recruitment, enhance operational efficiency, advance physician training, and promote innovative business models to maximize impact. Achieving these goals requires a bold, enterprise-wide approach.

Additional Opportunities for Growth

Aging science is a central focus of the NIH and numerous external bodies. Examples of current programmatic and individual funding opportunities include:

National Institutes of Health (NIH) Funding

NIH P30 Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Centers

Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Centers (OAICs) are NIA-funded hubs of excellence in geriatrics research and career development focused on building scientific knowledge to maintain and restore independence in older adults. There are currently 15 OAICs in the United States; however, none are in Ohio (**Figure 4**). New applications are submitted in staggered cycles, with three rounds occurring every five years.
https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AG-25-020.html

NIH P30 Nathan Shock Centers of Excellence

Nathan Shock Centers (NSCs) serve as national resources for advancing research in the biology of aging, offering expertise in the design, execution, and interpretation of studies using cutting-edge aging metrics. Each center includes an administrative core, a research development core that supports pilot and feasibility projects, and at least two specialized research cores focused on distinguishing areas such as biomarker development, gerotherapeutics, or comparative biology. Outreach and education are central to the mission of Nathan Shock Centers, which organize conferences, public engagement events, webinars, and other educational programs. There are currently eight Nathan Shock Centers in the U.S., with new application opportunities offered every five years—the most recent issued in 2024.
https://www.nia.nih.gov/research/dab/nathan-shock-centers-excellence

NIH Institutional Training Grants

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) supports institutional training grants that provide research stipends and educational programs for predoctoral, postdoctoral, and medical

students involved in aging-related research. The goal of these programs is to foster the growth and development of the next generation of aging researchers. Currently, the NIA portfolio includes 45 training grants: 8 support summer research for medical students (T35), and 37 fund full-time predoctoral and postdoctoral fellows (T32). The NIA posts notices of funding opportunities for the T35 and T32 programs annually.

Foundation, Non-Profit, and Society Funding

Select examples include:

American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR)

AFAR supports biomedical research spanning basic science to early-stage translational studies focused on human aging and health span. Since its founding, AFAR has granted $212,500,000 to researchers and students in aging research. AFAR provided approximately $12,500,000 to more than 60 investigators in 2023.

Hevolution Foundation

The Hevolution Foundation funds research to extend healthy human lifespan and advance the understanding of aging processes using diverse scientific approaches and tools. They have partnered with AFAR to create the Hevolution-AFAR New Investigator Awards in Aging Biology and Geroscience Research. This funding provided three-year awards of $375,000 each to up to 36 investigators in 2023 and 2024.

Alzheimer's Association

As the largest nonprofit funder of Alzheimer's research, the Association is dedicated to advancing critical research on treatment, prevention, and ultimately, a cure. The Association committed a record $109 million in total annual research spending, the largest allocation since the organization's founding, including more than $76 million in grants for new scientific investigations. These grants represent proposals ranked highest by a three-tier peer-review process in a highly competitive field. As the world's leading nonprofit funder of Alzheimer's and dementia research, the Association is currently investing more than $430 million in over 1,110 active projects in 56 countries, spanning six continents.

Clinician-Scientists Transdisciplinary Aging Research (Clin-STAR)

The Clin-STAR program provides a national platform for clinicians pursuing careers in aging research, with the goal of improving patient-centered care for older adults across specialties and disciplines. Clin-STAR provides various funding opportunities, including an Aging Research Development and Training Award, which provides up to 4 awards, each up to $50,000 in direct costs for early-career clinician-scientists conducting aging-related research. Beyond direct awards, Clin-STAR also sponsors other funding opportunities such as travel

funds for clinician-scientists, mini-sabbatical support, and outreach funds, although specific dollar amounts for these initiatives may vary.

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

AHRQ works to improve the quality, appropriateness, and effectiveness of health services, including care for older adults, through a broad base of scientific research and the promotion of best practices in clinical and health systems. AHRQ's total funding has fluctuated over the years, with an FY 2025 request of approximately $513 million, reflecting both discretionary and mandatory sources. The FY 2025 budget emphasizes various research areas, including patient safety, digital healthcare research, health services research, and dissemination of findings to enhance healthcare quality and efficiency.

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

PCORI funds comparative clinical effectiveness research to help individuals make informed healthcare decisions and improve healthcare delivery and outcomes. Research is guided by input from patients, caregivers, and the broader healthcare community. From FY 2020 to FY 2029, funding from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Trust Fund is expected to grow from $275.5 to approximately $399 million. In FY 2024, PCORI’s Board of Governors approved three new Topic Themes: cancer, metabolic and endocrine health, and sensory impairment and disability. These complement the existing themes, which include cardiovascular health, maternal morbidity and mortality, intellectual and developmental disabilities and rare diseases, among others.

American Aging Association (AGE)

AGE is a nonprofit organization promoting biomedical aging research and geroscience. AGE supports efforts to slow the aging process, extend health span, inform the public about research progress, and foster the career development of trainees and scientific members. AGE provides various funding opportunities but does not publicly disclose a total funding amount. However, the association provides an AGE VOYAGER Grant up to $5,000 for trainee members to support travel, workshops, and hands-on experiences in aging research.

Longevity Science Foundation (LSF)

The LSF is a global 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to preventing chronic and age-related diseases by funding critical scientific research aimed at extending healthy human lifespan. The LSF has committed to distributing over $1 billion over the next ten years for longevity research. This allocation is intended for research projects, institutions, and various initiatives that focus on extending the human lifespan, prioritizing therapeutics, personalized medicine, AI, and predictive diagnostics.

Benchmarking Data

In partnership with the strategic development team, we identified and mapped the current Pepper and Nathan Shock Centers across the United States (**Figure 4**). Other aging programs in Ohio include Bowling Green State University's Optimal Aging Institute, the Cleveland Clinic Center for Geriatric Medicine, and the Miami University Scripps Gerontology Center. There is currently no NIH-funded Pepper Center or Nathan Shock Center in Ohio (**Figure 4**).

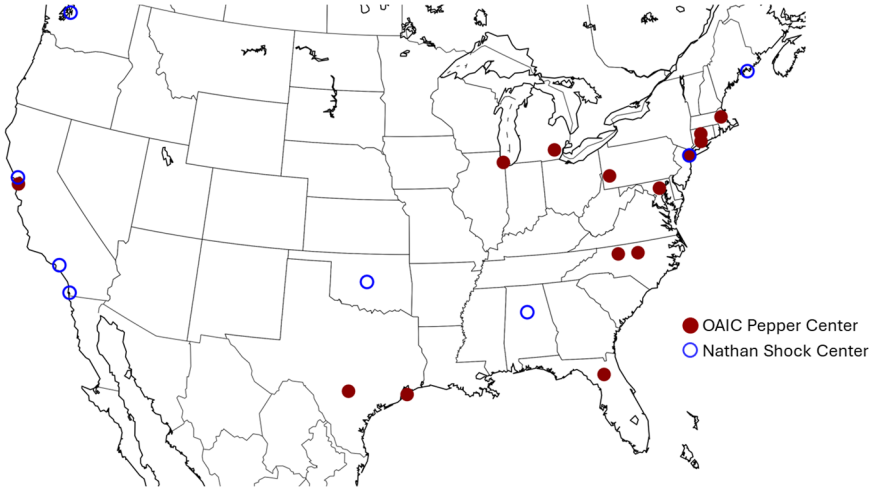

Figure 4. Landscape of NIA-funded Aging Centers Across the United States. **OAIC Pepper Centers (red dots):** Brigham and Women's (Boston, MA), University of California (San Francisco, CA), University of Connecticut (Farmington, CT), Duke University (Durham, NC), University of Florida (Gainesville, FL), Johns Hopkins (Baltimore, MD), University of Maryland (Baltimore, MD), University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI), Yale (New Haven, CT), Wake Forest (Winston-Salem, NC), University of Texas (San Antonio and Galveston, TX), Northwestern (Chicago, IL), Mount Sinai (New York, NY), University of Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh, PA). **Nathan Shock Centers (blue circles):** Albert Einstein (New York, NY), Jackson Laboratories (Bar Harbor, ME), University of Alabama (Birmingham, AL), University of Oklahoma (Oklahoma City, OK), University of Washington (Seattle, WA), and University of Texas (San Antonio, TX). The other two centers are collaborative consisting of the Salk, University of California, and Sanford Burnham (San Diego, CA) and University of Southern California and the Buck Institute (Los Angeles/Novato, CA). Note that some dots overlap.

Rationale for an Institute on Aging

The university excels in research, clinical, educational, and community programs that address specific challenges faced by older adults. However, these efforts are currently fragmented and siloed, failing to meet the scale of the challenge. Creating an Institute on Aging would centralize these efforts by providing the necessary organizational structure and leadership to tackle complex issues collaboratively and comprehensively. Such a multi-disciplinary approach is what is needed to bring Ohio State to the top of the national and global stage. With substantial investment in aging-related research, an Ohio State Institute on Aging could achieve the mission and programmatic objectives described below.

Mission

A university-wide plan was developed in consultation with stakeholders from various colleges interested in advancing community-based, educational, technological, scientific, and medical opportunities in aging research (**Appendix A**). There was shared agreement that an Institute structure is required to become a national and global leader in this area. The Ohio State University Institute on Aging has the following mission:

Establish an integrative university-wide Institute to grow and facilitate interdisciplinary aging research~~, clinical care, and community outreach to~~ that will transform aging science and promote healthy aging.

The mission of The Ohio State University Institute on Aging aligns directly with the following Strategic Plan of the OSU Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge (ERIK):

- Inspire a culture of research, innovation and knowledge excellence
- Be globally renowned for discoveries, knowledge generation and creative expression
- Lead development of impactful solutions to critical societal and community challenges through partnerships, innovation and entrepreneurship
- Create and sustain dynamic infrastructure and capabilities that drive discoveries
- Continuously increase operational excellence to enable shared and individual success

Below, we summarize the objectives of Institute on Aging ~~aspects of research, clinical care, community engagement, and education that form the foundation of The Ohio State University's Institute on Aging mission~~ and define areas of impact that will advance the strategic plan of the Institute and University.

Programmatic Objectives

~~A phased approach is currently planned based on the prioritization of known university gaps in aging basic and translational geroscience research.~~

~~Phase II focuses on amplification of current university strengths. Phases will be completed sequentially or concurrently depending on bandwidth of the Institute co and deputy directors.~~

The objectives for Phase I (years 1–3) of the Institute on Aging focus on addressing a key strategic gap in Ohio State's aging portfolio: the persistence of disciplinary silos that limit collaboration and impede translation across discovery, clinical, and population-based research. To overcome these barriers, the Institute will promote strategic partnerships in university areas of established strength, particularly cancer, cardiovascular, and neuroscience research, to foster integrative approaches that distinguish OSU nationally and competitively position the university for future NIA P30 applications.

A general timeline for achieving these goals is as follows:

Year 1: Infrastructure and team development (website, investigator database, resource documents, benchmarking tools), governance documents including Patterns of Administration, pilot awards

Year 2: Research database build, NIH P30 grant benchmarking, healthy aging cohort development

Year 3: Formal NIH P30 strategy, Rollout of research database targeting cancer, neuroscience, and cardiovascular disease, Design of aims for Institute Phase II

The main objectives of Phase I of the OSU Institute on Aging are:

~~1. **Build the collaborative framework and resources to support interdisciplinary aging research at The Ohio State University.**~~

1. **Build a cohesive, university-wide framework and shared resources to advance interdisciplinary aging research and support strategic progress toward P30 development**
   Researchers will be aware of and know how to engage with the diverse aging resources across campus. The main goal of this objective is to conduct activities that foster collaboration, awareness, and access to aging-related resources. Examples include access to research tools, core services, target and control populations, relevant knowledge banks, and infrastructure to obtain preliminary data for publications and grants.

2. **Increase aging-related basic, translational, clinical, and community-based research, investigator-initiated trials, and inventions.**
   Expansion of aging scholarly development through education, scientific discovery and translation, development of aging-specific repositories, and access to human, animal, and population cohorts.

~~The main objectives of Phase II of the OSU Institute on Aging are:~~

~~1. **Advance aging-related advocacy, outreach, and engagement.**~~
   ~~*Increase coordination and engagement with statewide aging networks, including government, external institutions, private organizations, aging community advisory groups, and older adult allies and advocates. Create a centralized resource to coordinate information dissemination, community engagement, and college-partnered philanthropic development activities focused on aging-related research.*~~

~~2. **Expand and disseminate aging-related learner development and education.**~~
   ~~*Strengthen and expand the aging curriculum and number of involved learners. Connect learners with educators from diverse disciplines to provide unique, comprehensive learning opportunities that will drive workforce development, healthcare quality, undergraduate and graduate education, and aging-related innovation.*~~

3. **Continued development of a University-wide Age-Friendly Ecosystem**

   Prioritize the health and well-being of older adults in Ohio and beyond by improving collaboration across the university, state of Ohio, and surrounding community to gain certification across all six sectors of the Age-Friendly Certification Framework (**Figure 5**).

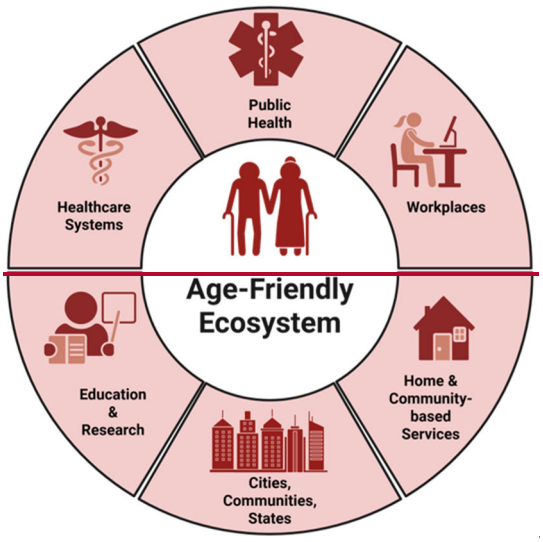

Figure 5. Six sectors of the Age-Friendly Ecosystem.[6]

Institute on Aging Defined Activities and Outcomes

PHASE I (Years 1-3)	
Objective 1: Build a cohesive, university-wide framework and shared resources to advance interdisciplinary aging research and support strategic progress toward P30 development.	
Activities	**Outcomes**
Administrative Infrastructure	
• Creation of Institute governance documents • Regular Institute administrative and operational meetings • Centralized administrative office • Map existing infrastructure, identify gaps to meet core requirements (administrative, clinical, data management, and statistics) • Establish engagement with NIH for pre-application requirements, consultation and timeline • ~~Create a centralized contact list for Development~~	• Framework for institute-wide communication among aging researchers (SOPs, centers, collaboration ops.) • OSU investigator involvement in aging-related meetings, policy, and grant review will increase and grow across campus • Completed framework for P30 application • ~~Options for an Institute on Aging philanthropic fund~~
Institute Web Resource	
• Create a member database • Collate an Institute resource list (biorepositories, infrastructure, grants, inventions, centers, training, human subjects research) • Develop institutional resource documents and pre-award support to facilitate grant submission	• Aging researchers will report regular use of the Institute webpage to find collaborators, resources, and funding materials. • Collated facilities and resource documents to support grants incorporating aging research
Institute Data Integration and Dissemination	
• Database of aging-related research projects, grants, inventions, ~~training opportunities,~~ and clinical trials.~~ and their community/Central Ohio impact~~	• Tracking infrastructure for aging-related OSU research projects, grants, inventions, training opportunities, and clinical trials • ~~Dissemination of aging-related research briefs for community access~~
Research Team Development	

• Establish investigator team integration and cross-core leadership for joint protocol development (P30)
• Annual retreat & research-in-progress seminars
• Pilot awards for interdisciplinary research
  ○ 50% with connections to cardiovascular, neuroscience, or cancer
• Develop and provide support to mine complementary datasets & databases (consolidated IRBs)
  ○ 50% with connections to cardiovascular, neuroscience, or cancer
• Expand aging biomarkers core services
	• Asset inventory and theme development for P30 application
	• New interdisciplinary research teams with a focus on expanding aging investigator collaborations with neuroscience, cardiovascular, and cancer
	• 10% increase in submitted aging-related OSU publications & abstracts by year 3
	• 10% increase in submitted aging-related OSU grants & subcontracts by year 3
	• Integration of aging biomarkers into clinical studies will increase 5% per year over the established baseline

~~**Faculty & Learner Research Development**~~	
• ~~Faculty recruiting for informatics, senotherapeutics, translational aging research, geriatrics~~ • ~~Aging biostatistical training workshop~~	• ~~Increase OSU expertise in current research gaps~~
Objective 2: Increase aging-related basic, translational, clinical, and community-based research, investigator-initiated trials, and inventions.	
Activities	**Outcomes**
Facilitate Research Participant Recruitment	

• Partner with the Clinical and Translational Science Institute to identify and connect externally with community cohorts • Partner with state agencies including the Ohio Department of Aging and other allies/advocates for aging research • Collate a list of Ohio organizations with age-friendly initiatives/objectives • ~~Seminars or leaders invited to talk about the methodology of recruitment and how to improve enrollment (staff versatility, recruiting methods)~~ • ~~Network with rural/non-metropolitan liaisons to increase opportunities to participate in research~~	• Establish the written framework for research expansion into the community • Increase access to older adult control and case populations • ~~Increase aging adult (>65+) recruitment to pragmatic participatory clinical trials~~ ○ ~~**+10%** in-network participants~~ ○ ~~**+10%** out of network participants~~ ○ ~~**+10%** community organizations~~ • ~~Increase community-based and rural older adult participatory research~~ • ~~Increase community-wide webinars disseminating discoveries to practitioners and community members~~
Access to Aging Mice	
• Internal aging mouse pilot funding ○ 50% with connections to cardiovascular, neuroscience, or cancer	• Increased access to aged mouse colonies for use in the generation of preliminary data for grants, and completion of high-impact papers.
~~**Expand Translational Research Resources**~~	-
• ~~Reduce barriers to translation science by offering pilot awards, accessibility (office hours with the OSU DDI, Institute Leaders, and Consultants for investigator-initiated and pre-clinical studies)~~	• ~~Increase the number of aging-related invention disclosures~~ -
Research Database Development	
• Clinical informatics project to track & report older adult human-centric research enrollment & barriers across colleges • Generate and collate a list of OSU research equipment relevant to aging research • Generate and collate a list of OSU utilized Geriatric Assessment tools, including those specific to cancer, neuroscience, and cardiovascular aging science	• Aging-related research equipment clinical repositories (lending library, centralized resources, facilities & resource list) • Institutional clinical trial dashboard specific to older adults with an initial focus on cancer, neuroscience, and cardiovascular aging science • Centralized database/dashboard of Geriatric Assessment tools

~~**PHASE II**~~	
~~**Objective 1: Advance aging-related advocacy, outreach, and engagement**~~	
~~**Activities**~~	~~**Outcomes**~~
~~**Community Integration**~~	-
• ~~Standing meeting with the Ohio Department of Health, Department of Aging and other regional entities~~ • ~~Aging community health forum: alignment with external institutions/universities on aging~~	• ~~Increase formal proposals for state funding~~ • ~~Creation of a community advisory board~~
~~**Outreach Information Repository**~~	
• ~~Create and maintain a centralized external website~~	• ~~Online directories for aging-related funding opportunities, stakeholders, and advisory councils.~~

• Collate a list of Ohio organizations with age- friendly initiatives/objectives (liaison activity)	• A centralized resource of community organizations
Objective 2: Expand and disseminate aging-related learner development and education	
Activities	**Outcomes**
Infrastructure for Aging Trainee Development	
• Create standing working groups for T32/T35 development • Strengthen and expand aging minor and related educational programs at OSU	• T32/T35 grant applications • A centralized database of student/trainee opportunities for age-related curriculum across the university (undergraduate, graduate, medical students, residency, fellows) • A centralized database of community learning opportunities for age-related curriculum (e.g. community agencies, caregivers, community members at large)
Educational Forums	
• Annual Trainee/Staff Colloquium to train on geriatric assessments/measures • Engagement with the Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education (OAGE) and OSU Workshop (annual meeting vs. recurrent)	• Geriatric Curriculum Workshop • A centralized database of staff learning opportunities and gaps in age-related curriculum (CE, CME, Allied Health Professionals)
Objective 3: Continued development of a University-wide Age-Friendly Ecosystem	
Activities	**Outcomes**
Standardize & Disseminate Interdisciplinary Clinical Care	
• Create a working group to establish standards of practice for interdisciplinary care • Create a working group to implement and disseminate standards of practice for interdisciplinary care	• Create IP for aging healthcare delivery standards of practice • Publish standards of practice
Community & University Integration	
• Annual Community Aging Symposium (internal/ external)	• Creation of an on-line Aging Ohio network/consortium
Integrated Age-Friendly Development and Expansion	
• Expand the Age-Friendly Innovation Center (AFIC) Research Scholar Program & recruit scholars • Establish Age-Friendly Ecosystem working groups to prioritize remaining certifications amongst the six age-friendly sectors • Expand the section of Geriatrics to Division level	• Age-Friendly verification/accreditation (university, public health system, employer certification) • Sustainable Age-Friendly administrative advisory board/oversight body for each sector (university, communities, healthcare system, workforce) • Division of Geriatrics • Annual reports of existing programs (i.e., Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)

Criteria for Institute Membership

The OSU Institute on Aging will bring together experts from diverse fields to create a unique, multidisciplinary Institute. The categories of membership are faculty, trainee, staff, and external members. Membership is extended to, or requested by, a candidate. Candidates must meet requirements that are designed to be inclusive and mutually beneficial to the Institute (i.e., bolstering the missions of the Institute and associated faculty). Members must participate in the research, clinical care, outreach, or educational missions of the Institute on Aging. Participation should include basic, translational, clinical, or human-centric research, education development or oversight, philanthropic or business activities related to aging science, or efforts to improve aging healthcare delivery. Further, members are expected to participate in a minimum number of Institute activities, such as seminars, workshops, committees, advocacy, and outreach events. Critically, members must collaborate for scholarly activity. Membership is reviewed biannually for ongoing participation and activity. Membership of the OSU Institute on Aging is approved by a majority vote of the Institute on Aging Internal Advisory Committee and must meet one of the following criteria:

- Contributes to Institute grant proposals as a principal investigator, co-investigator, or advising faculty.
- Contributes to Institute resource development efforts in business, intellectual property, operational efficiencies, philanthropy, policy, or proposal review.
- Contributes to the development, oversight, or execution of Institute curriculum, courses, or workshops. Hosts seminars.
- Serves as mentor or committee member to a trainee engaged in aging research.
- Serves on the Institute Advisory Committee (IAC).
- Serves as a community liaison for the Institute.
- Serves as an Institute consultant for study design and/or analysis.

Faculty member. Faculty members from any college associated with The Ohio State University are eligible for Institute on Aging membership. Institute faculty must have an expressed interest or area of expertise in aging-related areas, including programs that advance the development and application of aging research. Faculty members must be Ohio State faculty (e.g., principal investigator, research scholar, research associate) responsible for research, clinical care, or education. Research faculty members must be actively involved in basic, translational, or human-centric research related to aging science. Other faculty members can be involved in advancing aging programs through legal, clinical, educational, policy, or business-related interests (e.g., operational excellence, intellectual property development, public-private partnership development, regulatory excellence, innovative business development, community advocacy, philanthropy).

Trainee member. Undergraduate, graduate, or professional students at The Ohio State University with an interest in aging research, clinical care, education, or programmatic development are eligible for trainee membership. Post-graduate trainees, including those in research, clinical, or internship programs, who have an interest in aging research are also candidates for trainee membership. Trainee members will collaborate with a faculty member in their area of research, clinical care, or educational interest related to aging.

Staff member. Staff involved in the support of at least one faculty member and their aging program(s) are candidates for membership. Staff members can assist with multiple aging-related programs, if appropriate.

External member. Individuals actively involved in aging research, clinical care, or education who are not primarily affiliated with The Ohio State University may be appointed as external members of the Institute on Aging. This category of appointment requires IAC approval. While external members may participate in seminars and other center activities, they are not eligible to receive financial benefits (e.g., pilot awards).

Membership Review Procedures

The Directors of The Ohio State University Institute on Aging, with support from the Internal Advisory Committee (IAC), will conduct biannual reviews of member participation to assess the following criteria:

- Serve as a mentor/advisor to at least one aging scientist, physician, or research trainee, ideally demonstrating cross-college involvement
- Serve as an Institute on Aging liaison or acting IAC member
- Contribute to an Institute grant proposal as a principal investigator, co-investigator, collaborator, or advisor
- Collaborate with other Institute on Aging members from different departments or programs as evidenced by co-publications and grants
- Receive external federal, industry, foundation, or philanthropic funding to support aging-related research
- Contribute to the Institute on Aging resource development efforts in business, industry, intellectual property law, operational efficiency, education, policy, or community engagement
- Contribute to Institute on Aging curriculum, seminars, and workshops
- Serve as an Institute on Aging consultant for study design, analysis, and regulatory processes

If a member fails to meet the eligibility criteria for two consecutive years and does not provide documentation of valid extenuating circumstances, the IAC may revoke their membership in the Institute on Aging. Once membership is rescinded, the individual will lose access to certain benefits and privileges, including eligibility to apply for seed grants and awards, operational and regulatory support for proposal development, and consulting services. Membership may be reinstated after a minimum of one year of demonstrated compliance with the eligibility criteria and submission of a formal petition to the IAC.

Institute Inaugural Faculty

A complete listing of potential Institute on Aging faculty is provided in **Appendix B**. These faculty have interest and expertise in aging research, programmatic development, education, and community engagement. Accompanying letters from Deans, Chairs, and Program Directors are provided in **Appendix C**.

Administration

Institute Administrative Structure

The Institute on Aging will report directly to the Executive Vice President of the Enterprise for Research, Innovation, and Knowledge (ERIK). Its organizational structure (**Figure 6**) is designed to support infrastructure that bridges the university's strengths in basic, translational, and community-based aging research and education.

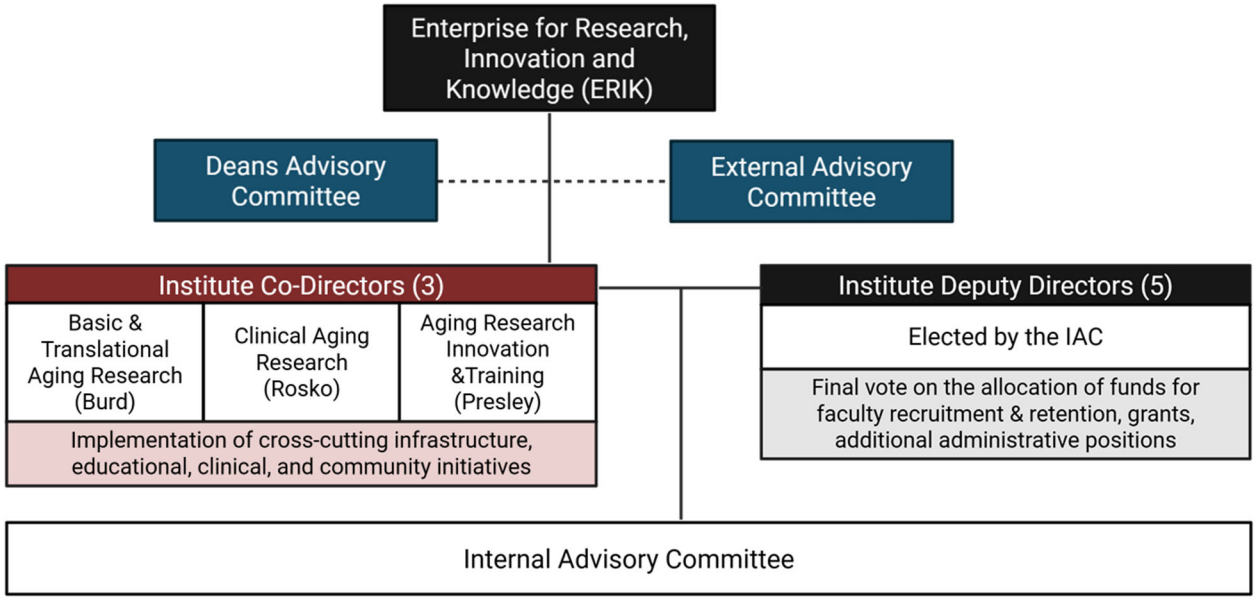

Figure 6. Institute on Aging Organizational Chart.

Existing Aging Programs

The goal of the OSU Institute on Aging is to amplify and facilitate diverse, cross-college aging research. Therefore, specialized University and College programs with an aging focus will not be governed by the Institute. The Institute will support these programs by serving as a central hub to increase visibility of the wide range of aging research at OSU. The Institute will also facilitate collaborations across campus units through access to administrative support, seed and training grants, and educational programs that promote university-wide aging initiatives.

Institute Co-Directors

The Institute on Aging embraces a dynamic leadership model, rotating every five years to reflect the diverse expertise across colleges. This structure is intentionally designed to remain agile, foster innovation, and promote adaptability in a rapidly evolving field. New Institute Co-Directors will be elected one year in advance to allow time for training and ensure a smooth transition. For the first 5 years, the Institute will be led by three inaugural Co-Directors with complementary expertise: Christin Burd, Ph.D., (Professor, Departments of Molecular Genetics, Cancer Biology and Genetics, College of Arts and Sciences), Ashley Rosko, M.D., (Professor, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Hematology, College of Medicine, and Carolyn Presley M.D., MHS (Associate Professor, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Medical Oncology, College of Medicine). The Co-Directors will be supported by a dedicated research administrator. Shared responsibilities of the Co-Directors include:

- Oversight of website and database development
- Management of programmatic infrastructure
- Hiring and supervision of programmatic support staff
- Programmatic data collection and reporting
- ~~Philanthropic development~~
- Organization of grant review committees
- Coordination of Internal and External Advisory Committee meetings
- Fiscal stewardship and reporting
- Planning the Annual Scientific Meeting
- Facilitation of cross-cutting research, clinical care, ~~education, and outreach programs~~and programmatic development
- Execution of strategic initiatives that advance the Institute's mission and objectives
- Implementation of non-administrative funding, faculty support, and membership decisions made by the Internal Advisory Committee and Deputy Directors

Acknowledging the complexity of the co-director leadership model, the leaders have agreed to grant Dr. Burd sole decision-making authority in situations requiring urgent action or when

consensus among the Co-Directors cannot be reached. Upon conclusion of their 5-year term, the Co-Directors will be offered a standing appointment to the IAC or EAC. Specific duties of each Co-Director are detailed below.

Director of Basic and Translational Aging Research. Christin Burd, Ph.D., will serve as the inaugural Director of Translational Aging Research. In addition to the shared activities listed above, the Director for Basic and Translational Aging Research will work with stakeholders across the university to:

- Promote initiatives that bridge basic science discoveries, intellectual property development, and the clinical/community implementation of aging research.
- Provide strategic and scientific leadership for the Aging Biomarker Core, including oversight of staffing, budgeting, billing processes, infrastructure development, website content, and the design and validation of new assays.
- Advise and support investigators wishing to use aging-related biomarkers in their research.
- Coordinate with institutional cores and shared resources to ensure efficient access to technologies and services that support aging research.
- Lead initiatives to expand aging-related basic and translational research funding, including the development of ~~pre- and post-doctoral training grants,~~ programmatic grants~~,~~ and cross-college proposals.
- Facilitate the formation of multidisciplinary research teams to pursue large-scale, collaborative projects.
- Provide study design and grant writing support for basic and translational scientists pursuing age-related research grants.
- ~~Engage with philanthropic and industry partners in collaboration with other Institute on Aging leaders to cultivate external funding and sponsorship opportunities.~~
- Represent the Institute on Aging in internal and external scientific forums, contributing to the visibility and impact of translational aging research at Ohio State.

Director for Clinical Aging Research. Ashley Rosko, M.D., will lead clinical trial research and database development to advance the inclusion of aging adults in human subject research, focusing on Institute integration with the Colleges of Nursing, Engineering, Public Affairs, Pharmacy, Arts and Sciences, Food, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, and Medicine (Cancer). Responsibilities of the Director for Clinical Aging Research include:

- Develop and implement strategies to position the Institute on Aging as the global leader in clinical trial research.

- Build research platforms, aging databases, and informatics to facilitate human subjects/population research and collaborations.
- Manage Institute staff appointed to support clinical~~, community~~, and human subject research.
- Work in collaboration with the clinical trial offices/IRB to lead and support the development of a clinical trial dashboard to facilitate the university-wide enrollment of older adults in therapeutic and non-therapeutic clinical trials.
- ~~Work with University Colleges, the OSUCCC, and ERIK on philanthropic development.~~
- Facilitate integration of the Institute on Aging with statewide initiatives to develop and collaborate on projects and policy with the Ohio Department of Health and Ohio Department of Aging.
- Manage day-to-day Institute on Aging clinical research integrative operations.
- Develop recruitment strategies to increase the number of physicians, allied health professionals, and learners engaged in aging-specific clinical research.
- Increase the number of aging publications and research applications produced by members of the Institute on Aging.
- Expand cross-collaboration among departments and colleges to achieve the Institute on Aging's mission through workshops, seminars, and colloquia.

Director for Aging Research Innovation and Training. Carolyn Presley, M.D.MHS, will lead resiliency research, supportive care integration, interprofessional education, and clinical training for the Institute on Aging. She will be the primary contact for human subjects, population, and implementation research for the Colleges of Optometry, Dentistry, Social Work, Public Health, Veterinary Medicine, Medicine (non-cancer), and the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. Responsibilities of the Co-Director include:

- Collate and connect groups to accelerate and amplify aging resiliency and supportive care research infrastructure across the university.
- ~~Expand and further develop clinical training for interprofessional education and intellectual property collaborative curriculum in collaboration with the associate vice chancellor for Interprofessional Practice and Education.~~
- Support NIA grant collaborations (cross-cutting) focused on resiliency and supportive care research.
- Develop a strategic plan for national geriatric aging research collaborations.
- ~~Work with University Colleges and ERIK on philanthropic development.~~
- Increase the number of aging research ~~trainee~~ applications (young investigator awards, external funded grant applications, NIA funding).

- ❖ Expand collaborations across colleges to advance aging-related research innovation, and intellectual property as liason to the RAPTIC program.

Internal Advisory Committee (IAC)

Deans and Directors of University Centers/Institutes/Schools whose priorities and expertise align with the Institute on Aging's strategic goals may appoint one representative to serve on the Internal Advisory Committee (IAC). In the first year, these units will consist of the Colleges of Arts and Science, Dentistry, Education and Human Ecology, Engineering, Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Nursing, Social Work, Medicine, Optometry, Pharmacy, Public Affairs, Public Health, and Veterinary Medicine. In addition, a single representative may be appointed by leaders of the following key partners: School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, the Center for Advanced Functional Food Research and Entrepreneurship, Ohio State Extension, the Age-Friendly Innovation Center, the Comprehensive Cancer Center, the Center for Cognitive and Brain Sciences, the Center on Healthy Aging, Self-Management and Complex Care, the Clinical and Translational Science Institute, the Neurological Institute, and the Institute of Brain, Behavior, and Immunology. Requests for additional unit representation on the IAC will be reviewed and voted on annually by current IAC members.

Members of the IAC will commit to attending bi-annual meetings, participating in the review of grant and award applications, relaying Institute announcements to their units, and contributing to subcommittees involved in carrying out the missions of the Institute. Units not meeting these commitments will be surveyed about their desire for continued participation and asked to appoint a new representative.

The IAC will convene bi-annually to review Institute progress, strategic priorities, and policy. The first charges of the IAC will be to:

- ❖ Elect a five-member panel of Deputy Directors from the IAC
- ❖ Nominate and vote on initial Institute members and membership terms
- ❖ Decide on a model for electing future Institute on Aging Co-Directors, including term limits that allow for a rotating leadership structure and built in succession plans for the long-term sustainability of the Institute
- ❖ Nominate and rank candidates for the External Advisory Committee (EAC)

The IAC will guide strategic initiatives aligned with the Institute's academic mission and long-term research goals. Any IAC member may propose amendments to the Institute's bylaws and strategic objectives. Changes require discussion and a 75% affirmative vote from a quorum of the IAC.

Deputy Directors

Five members of the IAC will be elected by their peers to serve as Deputy Directors. These individuals should collectively represent all areas of strategic development. Deputy Directors will serve renewable 3-year, renewable terms.

Together, the five Deputy Directors and the three Co-Directors will make final decisions regarding the allocation of reviewed funding applications, faculty recruitment and retention support, and Institute-sponsored faculty attachments. Approval of any decision requires a 75% affirmative vote (i.e., at least 6 out of 8 members in favor).

Requests from the Co-Directors for additional infrastructure or staffing funds will be reviewed and voted on exclusively by the Deputy Directors.

External Advisory Committee (EAC)

The composition of the External Advisory Committee will reflect the interests of the Institute on Aging faculty, affiliated Colleges, and the University. Following the approval of the Institute on Aging, the IAC will nominate and rank independent aging specialists as potential members of an External Advisory Committee (EAC) ~~of independent aging specialists~~. Examples of appropriate independent aging specialists external to Ohio State include members of relevant government organizations (e.g., FDA, Ohio Department of Aging), non-profit organizations (e.g., AARP, AFAR, John A. Hartford Foundation), academic leaders (e.g., leaders of NIA P30 programs, Scripps Gerontology Center), and industry experts (e.g., TruDiagnostic, Altos, Calico). Invited members of the EAC will provide specialized knowledge and insights to the organization without exercising direct governance authority. The EAC will also guide institutional direction, market positioning, and long-term strategy, while facilitating connections to key regional, national, and international partnerships.

Members will serve 3-year, renewable terms. The appointment of new or replacement members requires approval by a majority vote of the current IAC.

The EAC will work with the Co-Directors and ERIK leadership to:

- Support the development and implementation of the Institute's strategic plans.
- Engage in outreach efforts within the University and broader community.
- Conduct and assist in responding to annual performance reviews of the Institute.

Deans Advisory Committee (DAC)

Deans of OSU Colleges participating in the Institute on Aging will be invited to serve on the Institute's Deans Advisory Committee (DAC). The DAC will convene annually to provide guidance on leveraging university resources and community connections to advance the

Institute's mission. Membership consists of College Deans and the Comprehensive Cancer Center Director. Deans may serve for the duration of their appointment, if they choose.

DAC members will collaborate with the Institute Co-Directors and ERIK leadership to:

- ❖ Support the development and implementation of the Institute's strategic initiatives.
- ❖ Promote outreach and engagement across the University and broader community.
- ❖ Participate in and contribute to the Institute's annual performance review process.

Summary of Leadership Positions, Powers, and Appointments

Position (n)	Major Roles & Responsibilities	Powers	Initial Appt.	Subsequent Appts.
Co-Directors (3)	• Administrative management • Institute reporting & communications • Cross-college programmatic development • Enactment of IAC/Deputy Director initiatives	Management of Administrative Fund allocations Shared voting rights with Deputy Directors	5 years	Rotating schedule with election criteria TBD by the IAC
Deputy Directors (5)	• Participation in bi-annual IAC and quarterly Director's meetings • Participation in faculty recruitment, grant review • Participation in relevant Institute initiatives	Voting on faculty recruitment, institute-sponsored attachments, final funding decisions Oversight of administrative budget	3 years	IAC-elected position
IAC (23)	• Participation in bi-annual IAC meetings • Participation in Institute initiatives and grant review • Communication of Institute initiatives with represented college/unit	Formulation and voting on Institute policies, directives and governance	3 years	Appointed by the unit Dean or Director
EAC (TBD)	• Provide ongoing guidance regarding institute strategy and directives • Participate in annual EAC meetings and provide a summary report	No direct governance	3 years	Nominated by the IAC
DAC	• Provide ongoing guidance regarding institute strategy and directives • Participate in IAC/DAC meetings and provide a summary report	No direct governance	N/A	N/A – Appt. consistent with University role

Budget

Overarching Programmatic Support

Strategic alignment

To position The Ohio State University as a national leader in aging research, it is essential to build upon the strengths of existing university initiatives. Achieving this vision requires

targeted fiscal investment to support the development of a robust, interdisciplinary research team. This team will serve as the foundation for a comprehensive aging research program that integrates expertise across colleges and disciplines.

The proposed funding will support the following goals:

- ❖ Foster interdisciplinary collaboration among faculty with expertise in aging.
- ❖ Advance innovative research that addresses the biological, clinical, and societal impacts of aging.
- ❖ Attract and retain top-tier researchers and scholars dedicated to aging science.
- ❖ Enhance the University's national visibility and competitiveness for external funding in aging research.
- ❖ Translate research findings into practice to improve the health and well-being of older adults in Ohio and beyond.

Funding Sources

In 2024, the College of Medicine, CCC, and ERIK made an initial investment of $2,250,000 ($750,000 over 3 years, FY24-27) to support the development of an Institute on Aging. Funds not appropriated during this period will be carried forward for future investments. An additional university investment, aligned with the Education for Citizenship 2035 strategic plan, allocates ~~$1,000,000 for faculty recruitment and retention and $500,000~~ $750,000 for operations and core services, each year for 3~~5~~ years, totaling $2,250,000~~$7,500,000~~. Beyond this ~~$9,750,000~~ $4,500,000 initial internal investment, the Institute's future funding strategy includes a diverse portfolio of sources, including extramural grant funding, philanthropic support, and fee-for-service (e.g., Aging Biomarker Core). These efforts will involve collaborative partnerships with affiliated colleges, the CCC, OAA, and ERIK.

Anticipated Institute Budget

~~**1. Faculty recruitment and retention** (~$1,000,000 per year)~~

~~Interdisciplinary faculty recruitment and retention expenses to be shared with tenure initiating units and stakeholder colleges. Targeted areas for faculty recruitment include, but are not limited to informatics, senotherapeutics, translational aging research, and geriatrics.~~

~~**2.**~~**1. Pilot awards, travel awards** (~$245,000~~$222,000~~ per year)

Competitive IAC-reviewed pilot awards for multi-disciplinary research, aging mice, training, and conference travel.

~~**3. Curriculum development FAA** (~$25,000 per year, starting in year 3)~~

~~An administrative supplement is planned to begin in year 3 for an elected IAC member who will lead the development and implementation of new educational activities for the undergraduate, graduate, staff, and community populations.~~

~~4.~~2. Operations and administrative personnel (~$590,000 per year)

- Co-Director Faculty Administrative Attachments (3)
- Business Administrator or Strategic Planning Analyst
  Responsible for daily operations operational and financial oversight, budget forecasting, fiscal monitoring, meeting and workshop planning, agenda development, correspondence, reporting, and administrative support for the institute leadership.
- Informatics Specialist (0.5 FTE)
  Performs database development and maintenance, data quality and integrity checks, and tracks the composition of Institute resources.
- Research Manager
  Specific focus on aging-related grants preparation. Works collaboratively to organize and supplement applications for aging-related research across campus in the central Institute on Aging programmatic office. Oversees CRC team integration.
- Clinical Research Coordinator (CRC)
  Provides dedicated staff for project start-up and REDCap development.
- Aging Biomarkers Core (ABC) Manager
  Oversees and executes studies for the ABC, assists faculty with IRB protocols, study design and logistics. Develops new assays. Composes letters of support for grants.

~~5.~~3. Institute Programmatic Support (~$85,000 per year + $70,000 for space renovations in year 1)

- Staff Space Renovations
  For renovation and furnishing of a ~800 ft^2 centralized staff space in Pomerene Hall or similar location.
- Staff Space Fees
  Covers University fees for maintaining ~800 ft^2 of centralized staff space in Pomerene Hall or similar location.
- University Website Setup and Hosting Fees
  Covers University costs for Institute website development and hosting.
- Symposia, Meetings, and Retreats

Includes space rental, A/V support, food, and materials for Institute meetings and retreats.

- Aging Biomarker & Neuroimaging Core Support
  Provides support for activities that build the offerings, integration, or capabilities of OSU Aging Biomarker and Neuroimaging Shared Resources.

Example Yearly Line-Item Institute Budget

All line items, except space renovations, are based on average annual investments during the Institute's first ~~five~~ three years.

Line Item	Yearly Budget
~~**Faculty Recruitment and Retention**~~	~~**$1,000,000**~~
Pilot and Travel Awards	~~**$220,000**~~ **$245,000**
Pilot research awards	~~$200,000~~ $215,000
Travel and training awards	~~$12,000~~ $10,000
Aging animal supplements	$20,000
~~**Curriculum Development FAA**~~	~~**$25,000**~~
Operations and Administrative Personnel	**$590,000**
Co-Director FAA	$125,000
Business Admin./Strategic Planning Analyst	$130,000
Informatics Specialist (0.5 FTE)	$90,000
Research Manager	$65,000
Clinical Research Coordinator	$71,000
Aging Biomarkers Core Manager	$83,000
Aging Biomarkers Core Director	$25,000
Programmatic Support	**$155,000**
Pomerene Hall or similar Space Renovation (Year 1)	$70,000
Pomerene Hall or similar Staff Space (~800 ft^2)	$19,000
University Website Setup & Hosting Fees	$3,600
Symposia, Meetings, and Retreats	$42,000
Aging Biomarker & Neuroimaging Core Support	$20,000

Sustainability and Fiscal Stewardship

Federal Funding

NIH investment in aging research doubled from 2011 to 2020, growing from $6.2B across 15,238 funded projects to $13.2B across 25,788 funded projects. With Institute status, Ohio State will be better positioned to pursue center, program project, team, and training grants from federal agencies including NIH, NIA, and DOD. This elevated status will enhance competitiveness for specialized institute-specific funding mechanisms and strengthen collaborations with federal research entities. The NIA research portfolio spans core domains of cognitive function, aging adults, lifespan, animal models and infrastructure **(Figure 7).** OSU houses many distinguished aging research laboratories and specialized centers dedicated to addressing the complex challenges of aging science, outlined by the NIA. These entities have historically functioned as siloed operations. The newly established Institute on Aging will strategically integrate these dispersed research assets, fostering unprecedented collaboration to transform OSU into a leading authority in aging research and innovation.

Foundation Funding

Many agencies focus on the basic biology of aging, mechanisms underlying age-related disease, translational science of aging, the intersection of aging and chronic diseases, health-care delivery, health care policy for aging adults. As such, the Institute on Aging will be uniquely poised to support grant development for the basic studies to clinical research in aging adults.

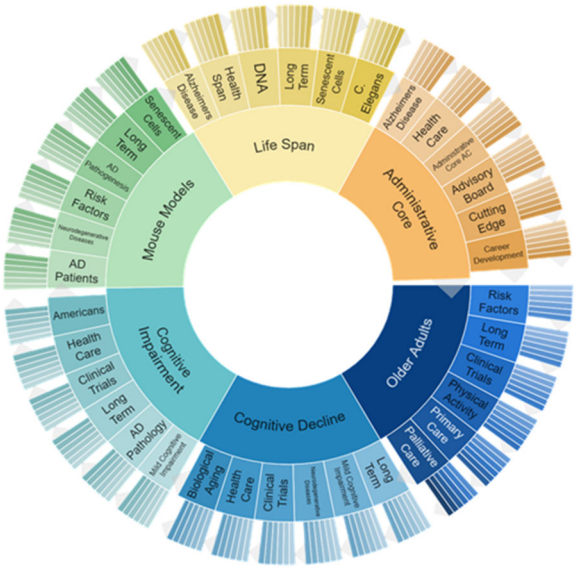

Figure 7. 34,000 NIA funded research projects spanning 6 core domains (life span, mouse models, cognitive impairment, cognitive decline, older adults, administrative 2020-2025). NIA funding for aging related research 250 clinical trials.[6]

Industry Strategy

Industry Partnerships. The Ohio State University Institute on Aging will be positioned to partner with industry (pharmaceutical, biomedical research, private firms) to conduct scholarly activity. Examples include age-specific clinical trials, biomedical research development, drug development, and database integration.

[6] NIH RePORTER. National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Accessed April 18, 2025 https://reporter.nih.gov/search.

~~**Training**. Leveraging the Institute on Aging's unique clinical expertise and established national reputation, we will offer educational opportunities that support training and knowledge dissemination. These training courses will generate revenue through registration fees and webinar development. **Clinical Trials**. Nationally, aging-focused clinical trials are supported by a range of sources, including the National Institutes of Health, academic institutions, hospitals, and industry partners.~~ We will continue to collaborate on developing age-centric human subject research aimed at improving care and outcomes for older adults, while also advancing our understanding of age-related acceleration in response to various therapeutic and non-therapeutic interventions.

Evaluative Criteria and Benchmarks

Evaluative Criteria

The criteria for evaluating the success of The Ohio State University Institute on Aging:

- Participation in Institute on Aging grant proposals as a principal investigator, co-investigator, or contributing faculty member.
- Member involvement in Institute on Aging resource development, including business strategies, intellectual property, and operational efficiencies.
- Member contributions to Institute on Aging curriculum development, including courses, workshops, and seminar series.
- Member service as mentor or committee member for scientists or trainees engaged in aging research.
- Member participation in Institute on Aging advisory committee(s) or liaison activities.
- Member service as a consultant for study design or data analysis for Institute-related research.
- Member receipt of funding to support aging research. Institute on Aging funding or direct external proposal development support.

Phase I Benchmarks

~~Objective performance metrics aligned with the evaluation criteria:~~

The following objective performance metrics will be reviewed regularly with ERIK leadership:

- Extramural funding increase of more than 10% per annum.
- Increase the number of Institute-supported collaborative grant applications.

- Achieve a 10% annual increase in the number of aging-related collaborative publications.
- Grow Institute membership by 20%, with demonstrated collaborations arising from Institute activities.
- Increase the number of aging-related clinical trials by 20%.
- Gain national recognition in geroscience as evidenced by the number and prestige of awards received.
- Demonstrate academic excellence through high-impact publications, successful career outcomes for students and postdoctoral fellows, and the growth of trainee-led communities.
- Establish and maintain new partnerships each year through formal agreements, contracts, or other collaborative engagements.
- Develop and sustain aging-related resources, measured by increased usage and positive community feedback.

Evaluation Process

Per The Ohio State University Academic Center Guidelines, Faculty Rule 3335-3-36 Centers and Institutes, the Institute on Aging leadership shall initiate a comprehensive self-study with guidance from at least two external reviews (identified by the Co-Directors, Deputy Directors, and IAC) aligned to the criteria for evaluation described above. The Institute Co-Directors will be responsible for obtaining performance metrics for awards proposed and awarded per annum, and demonstrations of internal and external collaborations. Upon yearly review, the Co-Directors, Deputy Directors and IAC will establish strategies to bolster areas of performance that do not meet or exceed benchmark criteria. Furthermore, as defined in 3335-3-6, the center will be reviewed two years after initial establishment and at 4-year intervals thereafter, as articulated in 3335-3-36. As a reporting unit of ERIK, the Institute on Aging will also follow associated guidelines and processes set by ERIK.

Supporting Materials

Appendix A: Institute on Aging Executive Committee

Institute on Aging Executive Committee			
College of Arts & Sciences			
Scott Hayes, PhD, MA	Associate Professor	Department of Psychology	Director, The Buckeye Brain Aging Lab
Christin Burd, PhD	Professor	Departments of Molecular Genetics, Cancer Biology & Genetics	Institute on Aging Co-Director, Director of the Aging Biomarkers Core
College of Engineering			
Derek Hansford, PhD, MS	Associate Professor	Department of Biomedical Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering	Associate Chair of Biomedical Engineering
College of Food, Agricultural, & Environmental Sciences			
Pat Bebo, MS, RDN	Assistant Dean	OSU Extension, Family & Consumer Sciences; Department of Extension, College of Food, Agriculture & Environmental Sciences	
Martha Belury, PhD, RD	Professor & Chair	Department of Food Science & Technology	Distinguished Fellow, American Society for Nutrition
College of Medicine			
Jennifer Bechtel	Program Manager	Office of Geriatrics and Gerontology	Education Program Specialist
Tanya Gure, MD	Professor	General Internal Medicine	Section Chief, Geriatrics, Clinical Medicine
Oscar Harari, PhD	Associate Professor	Department of Neurology	Department Chair, Neuroscience Research Institute Co-Director, Director of the Neurobiology of Aging & Resilience Center
Jessica Krok-Schoen, PhD, MA	Associate Professor	School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Division of Health Sciences	Faculty contact for the Aging Minor and Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Aging
Ana Mora, MD	Professor	Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine	Associate Director of Lung Research DHLRI
Christopher Nguyen, PhD, ABPP	Associate Professor	Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health	Director Office of Geriatrics/Gerontology, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Health, Director of Neuropsychology
Carolyn Presley, MD, MHS	Associate Professor	Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Medical Oncology	Institute on Aging Co-Director Co-Director of the Cancer and Aging Clinic

Carmen Quatman, MD, PhD	Associate Professor	Department of Emergency Medicine	Orthopedic Surgeon
Ashley Rosko, MD	Professor, Clinical	Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Hematology	Institute on Aging Co-Director, Medical Director of the Oncogeriatric Program, Co-Director of the Cancer and Aging Clinic
Kristin Stanford, PhD	Professor	Department of Surgery	Associate Director, Diabetes and Metabolism Research Center
Kristy Townsend, PhD	Professor	Department of Neurosurgery	
College of Nursing			
Mary Beth Happ, PhD, RN, FAAN, FGSA	Distinguished Professor		Nursing Distinguished Professor of Critical Care Research Co-Director, Golden Buckeye Center for Dementia Caregiving Co-Director
Kathy Wright, PhD	Associate Professor	Nursing – Faculty Affairs	
Diane Von Ah, PhD, RN, FAAN	Professor		Director of Cancer Research
College of Social Work			
Holly Dabelko-Schoeny, PhD	Professor	College of Social Work	Director of Research of Age-Friendly Innovation Center
Marisa Sheldon, MSW, LISW-S	Director	Social Work – Collaborative Community Initiatives	Director of Research of Age-Friendly Innovation Center
Enterprise for Research, Innovation, and Knowledge			
Loren Wold, PhD, FAHA, FAPS	Professor	Department of Surgery, Division of Cardiac Surgery	Associate Dean of Research Operations and Compliance in the College of Medicine

Appendix B: Potential Institute on Aging Membership

Faculty Name	Rank	Department	Other Title(s)
College of Arts & Sciences			
Meta Brown, PhD	Associate Professor	Department of Economics	
Christin Burd, PhD	Professor	Department of Molecular Genetics, Cancer Biology and Genetics	Institute on Aging Co-Director, Director of the Aging Biomarkers Core
Charles Emery, PhD	Emeritus Professor, Clinical	Department of Psychology	
Jeremy Grant, PhD, MA, MS	Instructor	Department of Psychology	
Stacy Harnish, MA, PhD	Professor	Speech Hearing Science	
Donald Haurin, PhD	Professor Emeritus	Department of Economics	
Jasmeet Hayes, MA, PhD	Associate Professor	Department of Psychology	
Scott Hayes, PhD, MA	Associate Professor	Department of Psychology	Director, The Buckeye Brain Aging Lab
Sarah Hayford, PhD	Professor	Department of Sociology	Director, Institute for Population Research
Andrew Leber, MA, PhD	Director	Center for Cognitive and Brain Sciences	
Ruchika Prakash, MA, PhD	Director	Center for Cognitive and Behavioral Brain Imaging	
Rin Reczek, PhD	Professor	Department of Sociology	
College of Dentistry			
Xi Chen, DDS, PhD	Associate Professor	Dentistry – Dental Public Health	
Sarah Peters, PhD	Assistant Professor	Dentistry – Biosciences	
College of Education and Human Ecology			
Lauren Roberson, PhD, RD, LD	Assistant Professor	Human Nutrition Program	State Extension Specialist
Caezilia Loibl, PhD	Professor	Human Sciences	
College of Food, Agricultural, & Environmental Sciences			
Pat Bebo, MS, RDN	Assistant Dean	OSU Extension, Family & Consumer Sciences; Department of Extension, College of Food, Agriculture & Environmental Sciences	
Martha Belury, PhD, RD	Professor	Department of Human Sciences	
Jessica Cooperstone, PhD	Associate Professor	Horticulture & Crop Science, Food Science & Technology	Faculty Lead, Crop and Food Improvement, Foods for Health
Rachel Kopec, PhD	Associate Professor	Department of Human Sciences	Foods for Health Precision Nutrition Faculty Lead

Kathryn Tutt, MS	Assistant Professor	Family & Consumer Sciences (Extension)	
Yael Vodovotz, PhD	Professor	Department of Food Science and Technology	
		College of Engineering	
Gunjan Agarwal, MS, PhD	Professor	Department of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering	
Paula Agudelo-Garcia, PhD	Assistant Professor	Department of Biomedical Engineering	
Rizwan Ahmad, MS, PhD	Professor	Department of Biomedical Engineering	
Daniel Conway, PhD	Professor	Department of Biomedical Engineering	
Christopher Fang-Yen, PhD	Professor	Department of Biomedical Engineering	
Daniel Gallego-Perez, PhD	Professor	Department of Biomedical Engineering, Department of Surgery, Division of General and Gastrointestinal Surgery	Edgar C. Hendrickson Chair in Biomedical Engineering, Director of Advanced Nanotherapeutics-Gene Therapy Institute
Derek Hansford, PhD	Associate Professor	Department of Biomedical Engineering	Associate Chair of Biomedical Engineering
Thomas Hund, MS, PhD	Professor	Department of Biomedical Engineering	
Asimina Kiourti, MS, PhD	Associate Professor	Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering	Innovation Scholar
Steven Lavender, PhD, CPE	Professor	Department of Integrated Systems Engineering	
Sarah McBride-Gagyi, MS, PhD	Assistant Professor	Department of Biomedical Engineering	
Tanya Nocera, MS, PhD	Professor, Clinical	Department of Biomedical Engineering	
Matthew Reilly, PhD	Associate Professor	Department of Biomedical Engineering	
Rengasayee Veeraraghavan, PhD	Professor	Department of Biomedical Engineering	
Seth Weinberg, PhD	Professor	Department of Biomedical Engineering	Associate Dean for Research, College of Engineering
Ting Zhu, MS, PhD	Associate Professor	Department of Computer Science & Engineering	
		College of Medicine	
Amanda Agnew, MA, PhD	Professor	School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences	
Ruth Barrientos, PhD	Associate Professor	Department of Psychiatry	
Erica Bell, PhD	Associate Professor	Department of Neurology	
Jennifer Bechtel	Program Manager	Office of Geriatrics and Gerontology	Education Program Specialist
Roberto Benzo, PhD	Assistant Professor	Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Cancer Prevention and Control	Director, OSUCCC Lifestyle Lab

Seema Bhat, MD	Associate Professor, Clinical	Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Hematology	
Jason Bischof, MD	Associate Professor, Clinical	Department of Emergency Medicine	Assistant Director of Clinical Trials, Department of Emergency Medicine
Marisa Bittoni, PhD, MS, BS	Research Assistant Professor	Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Medical Oncology	
John Bolte, MS, PhD	Professor	School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences	
Uma Borate, MD	Associate Professor, Clinical	Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Hematology	Clinical Section Head and Clinical Research Director, Acute Leukemia
Nathan Brummel, MD	Associate Professor	Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, & Sleep Medicine	NIA Beeson Scholar
Katherine Buck, MD	Associate Professor	Department of Emergency Medicine	NIA Beeson Scholar
Jeffrey Caterino, MD	Professor	Department of Emergency Medicine	Department Chair of Emergency Medicine, NIA Beeson Scholar
Ajit Chaudhari, PhD, FACSM	Professor	School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Physical Therapy	
Steven Clinton, MD, PhD	Professor	Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Medical Oncology	
Angela Collins, MD, PhD	Assistant Professor	Orthopedic Trauma Surgery	
Courtney Collins, MD	Associate Professor	Department of Surgery, Division of General and Gastrointestinal Surgery	
Lisa Christian, PhD	Professor	Department of Psychiatry	
Nathan Edwards, PhD	Assistant Professor	Department of Emergency Medicine	
Jonathan Godbout, PhD	Professor	School of Biomedical Sciences, Department of Neuroscience	
Tanya Gure, MD	Professor, Clinical	Department of Internal Medicine, General Internal Medicine and Geriatrics	Section Chief, Geriatrics, Clinical Medicine
Brittany Hand, PhD, OTR/L	Associate Professor	Department of Internal Medicine, General Internal Medicine	
Oscar Harari, PhD	Professor	Department of Neurology	Department Chair, Neuroscience Research Institute Co-Director, Director of the Neurobiology of Aging & Resilience Center
Cole Harrington, MD, PhD	Assistant Professor	Department of Neurology	

Michelle Humeidan, MD, PhD	Professor, Clinical	Department of Anesthesiology	
Lisa Juckett, PhD, OTR/L, CHT	Associate Professor	School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Division of Occupational Therapy	
Deborah Kegelmeyer, PT, MS, DPT	Professor, Clinical	School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences	
Olga Kokiko-Cochran, MS, PhD	Associate Professor	Department of Neuroscience	
Jessica Krok-Schoen, PhD, MA	Associate Professor	School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Division of Health Sciences	Faculty contact for the Aging Minor and Graduate Interdisciplinary Specialization in Aging
William Malarkey, MD	Faculty Emeritus	Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism	
Rama Mallampalli, MD	Chair	Department of Internal Medicine, Administration	
Daniel Merfeld, PhD	Professor	Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery	
Maria Mihaylova, PhD	Assistant Professor	Department of Biological Chemistry and Pharmacology	Representative for Midwest Aging Consortium
Ana Mora, MD	Professor	Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine	Associate Director of Lung Research DHLRI
Christopher Nguyen, PhD, ABPP	Associate Professor	Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health	Director Office of Geriatrics/Gerontology, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Health, Director of Neuropsychology
Samilia Obeng-Gyasi, MD, MPH	Associate Professor	Division of Surgical Oncology	
Electra Paskett, MSPH, PhD. FAACR	Professor	Division of Cancer Prevention and Control, Director	Deputy Director Population Sciences and Community Outreach Director Center for Community Outreach and Engagement
Carolyn Presley, MD, MHS	Associate Professor	Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Medical Oncology	Institute on Aging Co-Director Co-Director of the Cancer and Aging Clinic Section Chief Thoracic Medical Oncology NIA Beeson Scholar
Carmen Quatman, MD, PhD	Associate Professor	Department of Emergency Medicine	Orthopedic Surgeon NIA Beeson Scholar
Catherine Quatman-Yates, PT DPT PhD	Associate Professor	School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Division of Physical Therapy	
Monica Robinson, OTD, MS, OT/L, BCMH, FOATA	Associate Professor, Clinical	School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Division of Health Sciences	

Mauricio Rojas, MD	Professor	Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Pulmonary Critical Care & Sleep	
Ashley Rosko, MD	Professor, Clinical	Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Hematology	Institute on Aging Co-Director Medical Director of the Oncogeriatric Program OSUCCC Co-Director of the Cancer and Aging Clinic
Erin Scott, MD	Assistant Professor, Clinical	Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Palliative Medicine	
Douglas Scharre, MD	Professor, Clinical	Department of Neurology	
Lauren Southerland, MD, MPH	Associate Professor, Clinical	Department of Emergency Medicine	Director of Clinical and Implementation Research for Emergency Medicine
Daniel Spakowicz, PhD, MS	Assistant Professor	Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Medical Oncology	
Colleen Spees, PhD, MEd, RDN, LPN, FAND	Professor, Clinical	School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences	
Kristin Stanford, PhD	Professor	Department of Surgery	Associate Director, Diabetes and Metabolism Research Center
Erin Stevens, DO	Associate Professor, Clinical	Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Palliative Medicine	
Kristy Townsend, PhD	Professor	Department of Neurosurgery	
Sarah Wall, MD, MPH	Associate Professor, Clinical	Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Hematology	Director of Clinical Operations Transplant and Cell Therapy Program
Nicole Williams, MD	Associate Professor, Clinical	Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Medical Oncology	Director, Breast Cancer and Aging Resiliency Clinic
Jennifer Woyach, MD	Professor	Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Hematology	Division Director of Hematology Co-Leader, Leukemia and Hematologic Malignancies Program
Yinan Zhang, MD	Assistant Professor	Department of Neurology	
		College of Nursing	
Elizabeth Arthur, PhD, APRN-CNP, AOCNP	Research Assistant Professor	James – Nursing Research	
Claire Han, PhD, DNP, APRN-CNP	Assistant Professor	Nursing	
Mary Beth Happ, PhD, RN, FAAN, FGSA	Professor	Nursing – College Administration	Nursing Distinguished Professor of Critical Care Research Co-Director, Golden

			Buckeye Center for Dementia Caregiving Co-Director
Karen Moss, PhD, RN, CNL	Associate Professor	Nursing – Center for Health Aging, Self-Management & Complex Care	
Janine Overcash, PhD, APRN-CNP, FAANP, FAAN	Professor, Clinical	Nursing – Graduate Studies	Co-Director, Academy for Teaching Innovation, Excellence and Scholarship, Editor-in-Chief of the Oncology Nursing Forum
Karen Rose, PhD, RN, FGSA, FNAP, FAAN	Dean & Professor	Nursing – College Administration	Co-Director, Golden Buckeye Center for Dementia Caregiving Co-Chair of the Expert Panel on Aging in the American Academy of Nursing
Diane Von Ah, PhD, RN, FAAN	Professor	Nursing – College Administration	Director of Cancer Research
College of Optometry			
Dean VanNasdale, OD, PhD	Associate Professor	College of Optometry	
College of Pharmacy			
Macarius Donneyong, MPH, PhD	Associate Professor	Pharmacy – Practice & Science	
Jenny Wei, MSc, PhD	Associate Professor	Pharmacy – Pharmaceutics & Pharmacology	
College of Public Affairs			
Stephanie Moulton, PhD	Professor	Public Affairs – Economics Research	Associate Dean for Faculty and Research
College of Social Work			
Shannon Jarrott, PhD	Professor	Social Work – Faculty Affairs	Director of Faculty Development
Holly Dabelko-Schoeny, PhD, MSW	Professor	Social Work – Faculty Affairs	Director of Research of Age-Friendly Innovation Center
Marisa Sheldon, MSW, LISW-S	Director	Social Work – Collaborative Community Initiatives	Director of Research of Age-Friendly Innovation Center
College of Veterinary Medicine			
Shay Bracha, DVM, MS	Associate Professor	Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences	
Jessica Quimby, DVM, PhD, DACVIM	Professor	Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences	Vice Chair of Research
Laura Selmic, BVetMed (Hons), MPH, DACVS-SA, DECVS	Professor	Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences	Teckie and Don Shackleford Chair in Canin Medicine

Appendix C: Letters of Support

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