

**FOREST LABORATORIES
GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP IN AGING PROGRAM
PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

Center on Aging
University of Miami
Miami, Florida

I. OVERVIEW OF THE CENTER ON AGING (COA)

There has been a dramatic increase in the proportion and number of people in the population growing older. By the year 2020 one in every five Americans will be over 65 and by 2050, there will be 50 million people aged 65 and older and 18.9 million of these people will be 85+ yrs. Furthermore, racial and ethnic diversity of the elderly population will continue to increase.

A population shift of this magnitude has profound implications. For example, health care and social security costs are growing at an accelerated rate. This is occurring in the face of a shifting ratio of people contributing to the system vs. those drawing from the system. There are also issues surrounding housing and transportation systems for older people especially those who suffer some type of impairment such as dementia. Demands for products and services among older consumers are also increasing. The majority of older people are in good physical and mental health and searching for opportunities to maintain an active and productive role within society. Clearly, our aging population poses interesting challenges and opportunities. We need to develop strategies to meet these challenges to help insure that older people lead independent and productive lives.

The University of Miami, COA, is an independent University-wide Center. Its mission is to enhance the quality of life for elderly and aging population through research, education, service modeling and policy development. Within this broad mission, the COA faculty conduct basic and clinical research, train future scientists and professionals, offer information to the aged and the families caring for elders, and provide leadership for the development and improvement of health and human services for aging in South Florida. Philosophically, the COA approach emphasizes the diversity of populations over fifty and the need to view aging in our society as an opportunity rather than a problem.

The overall research program of the COA may be divided into general areas: basic, clinical, prevention, intervention and service evaluation. Basic research includes investigation into the basic sciences, i.e. biological, psychological, and sociological processes of aging. Clinical research includes investigations into the diseases associated with aging, including Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, i.e. vascular, pain syndrome, sensory loss, alcoholism, dermatological conditions, osteoporosis, wound healing, as well as a

broad area of psychiatric issues in the elderly, i.e., depression and anxiety. Intervention research focuses on the development of mechanisms/strategies, i.e., use of communication/computer technology, increased medication compliance to enhance the ability of older people and their caregivers to function independently and maintain a good quality of life.

What is the Forest Graduate Fellowship in Aging Program?

The Forest Graduate Fellowship in Aging Program is designed to provide support for graduate students to expand the research activities of the Center on Aging and help insure that there is a cadre of future scientists who have interests in issues related to older adults. Grants will be awarded to masters and doctoral level students to support research related to thesis or dissertation projects. The research must be related to the focus and goals of the Center on Aging and Forest. We anticipate funding up to four awards during the 2006-2007 academic year. Awards are limited to a maximum of \$3000.00. Two of these awards would be restricted to issues related to mental health and older adults.

Allowable Support

The Forest Graduate Fellowship program will provide support for the following categories of expenditures:

1. General expenses of research, such as supplies, materials, services, human subject costs which are essential to the project.
2. Equipment essential to the research being proposed. (Equipment requests related to a particular project, though the equipment will be used beyond its conclusion; more general equipment funding should be requested from other grants).
3. Travel costs to professional meetings to report on research supported by Center grant, will be covered for students only.
4. Tuition costs will not be funded.

No indirect costs will be paid as part of these awards.

Deadlines

Proposal must be submitted by September 29, 2006 with awards to be announced October 12, 2006. Proposals should be sent to: Dr. Carl Eisdorfer, 1695 NW 9th Avenue, Suite 3208, (D-28), Miami, FL 33136. Telephone (305-355-9041), fax (305-355-9076) or email spurcell@med.miami.edu .

II. PROPOSAL FORMAT

Each proposal in this program will be reviewed by Faculty affiliated with the Center. It is imperative that proposals be submitted in a format, which does not make inordinate demands on reviewer's time. For this reason, limitations on both length and style have been established and will be enforced. Font size and type may not be smaller than 12 point.

Proposals must conform to the following format in the order given:

1. Cover sheet: The first page of each proposal **must** be the program cover sheet, completed according to its directions and signed by (1) the proposer, (2) the faculty advisor, and (3) the department head. A copy is attached.
2. Abstract: A half-page abstract describing the research should be attached.
3. Letter of support: A letter of recommendation from a faculty member or advisor in behalf of the student and his or her project.

Items 4-6 have a total page limit of ten pages.

4. Introduction: The section **must** describe what you want to do, why it is important, and how it related generally to research and scholarly activity in the field of aging and technology research.
5. Research Plan: This section **must** provide a detailed description of what you propose to do. It must establish the merit and feasibility of the project and exactly what outcomes are expected. It should include procedures, facilities available, and a timetable for completing the work.
6. Explicit Linkage to Center Mission: The linkage of the proposed work to the Center must be clearly specified.
7. Budget: A detailed list of items for which funding is required must be given, Budgets must not exceed \$3000.00

One original plus three copies of each proposal must be submitted. Staple proposals in upper left hand corner only; do not use binders or plastic covers.

Cover letters are not necessary and will not be distributed to the review committee. All information must be included in the proposal itself.

III. REVIEW PROCESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

The goal of this grant program is the development and maintenance of excellent research in the general area of aging and thus, the quality and significance of the work proposed are of paramount importance. Consideration also will be given to how relevant the work is to the Center's mission. It is hoped that presentations at professional meetings and publications will result from funded work.

Among the major points the reviewers will consider are:

1. General:
 - a. Does the proposal communicate the importance of the work and the commitment of the proposer?
 - b. Have the proposal format guidelines been followed?

2. Significance:
 - a. Is the importance of the project within its field made clear?
 - b. Is the field one, which is, or should be, within the scope of the Center's research program?
 - c. Will successful completion of the project have an impact upon the field?
 - d. Is the project significant to the development of future research?

3. Project design:
 - a. Are the objectives clearly defined, and is the basic question to be answered clearly identified?
 - b. Are all necessary facilities available?
 - c. Does the proposer have the necessary background and expertise?
 - d. Are project activities well planned, and do they realistically fall within an appropriate timetable?

The committee of reviewers will include: the

Director of the Center on Aging, Dr. Carl Eisdorfer

Co-Director, Dr. Sara Czaja

Professor and Chairman of Religious Studies, Dr. Stephen Sapp

Professor, Department of Biology, Dr. David Wilson

Reports

A final report will be required upon completion of the project. It must include information on presentations and publications generated as a result of the grant. In addition, the student is expected to meet with his/her faculty advisor on a regular basis during the course of the project. It is expected that work on the project will begin upon receipt of funding. Finally, all student awardees are expected to present the results of their research at the Center on Aging's Annual Poster Session.

This program provides a significant educational opportunity for graduate and medical/nursing students at the University of Miami. These educational activities will be supported by the research and clinical programs at our University wide Center on Aging to enhance training in geriatric and gerontology studies and help provide future clinicians and leaders for the region. Students would participate in all aspects of the program following the Center on Aging's already established successful multidisciplinary student program.

Forest and its representatives will be publicly recognized for this important contribution during "Health and Aging week 2006".

THE FOREST LABORATORIES GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP IN AGING PROGRAM

PROPOSAL COVER SHEET

Grant Title: _____

Proposer: _____

Department: _____

Institution: _____

Summary of Research Grant Budget*

	Requested	Awarded
General Expense	\$ _____	\$ _____
Equipment	\$ _____	\$ _____
Travel	\$ _____	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____	\$ _____

Faculty Advisor
(Signature and Date)

Department Head
(Signature and Date)

Compliance Information

Animal Use? Yes ___ Biohazardous Research? Yes ___ Human Subjects? Yes ___

Required forms have been submitted to the appropriate office? Yes (copy of form attached)

I agree that if this award is approved, I will fulfill all requirements set forth in the University's Grant Guidelines.

Proposer's Signature _____ Date: _____

*** NO INDIRECT COSTS PAID TO INSTITUTION AS PART OF AWARD**