

YALE PEPPER CENTER

INSTRUCTIONS FOR LETTER OF INTENT - REC AND PESC Awards (2025-2026)

Research Education Core (REC) and Pilot Exploratory Study Core (PESC) Awards

1. REC Career Development Awards:

This award provides \$45,000 in direct costs per year for two years (\$90,000 maximum) to support salary and/or research activities for junior faculty. Proposals must align with the Yale Pepper Center theme (see below).

REC Award Eligibility and Requirements:

- Must hold a full-time Yale faculty appointment within 5 years of initial hire.
 - Candidates who are in their final year of training are eligible to apply if a faculty appointment offer is in place and is not contingent on funding
- Must have a minimum of:
 - 75% protected time for research (50% for surgeons or procedural specialists such as interventional cardiologists/radiologists)
- The career development plan must support the goal of becoming an independently funded investigator
- Must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Must commit to participation in the Yale Pepper seminars and didactic sessions

2. PESC Pilot Project Awards:

This award provides up to \$40,000 in direct costs for one year to support pilot projects that will inform future grant applications. Projects must aim to advance understanding of the etiology, diagnosis, treatment or prevention of common geriatric health conditions, as described in the Pepper Center theme.

PESC Eligibility and Requirements:

- Must hold a faculty appointment or provide documentation confirming transition to a faculty role by **July 2026**
- Research may be basic, translational, epidemiological, or clinical provided it is consistent with the Pepper Center's theme
- Although senior investigators may apply, the Yale Pepper Center prioritizes funding for more junior investigators
- The Yale Pepper Center also prioritizes investigators who have not previously received a PESC award

Timeline:

October 6, 2025, at 5:00 PM	Letter of Intent due
October 29, 2025	Invitations issued for full proposal
December 10, 2025	Full application deadline
July 1, 2026	Funding begins

Application Components:

- 1) **Cover page (form provided)**
- 2) **Letter of Intent (3 pages for REC, 2 pages for PESC):**
 - a) Specific aims and hypotheses
 - b) Research strategy (Significance, Innovation, Approach)
 - c) One paragraph on how the proposed project fits within the Yale Pepper Center Theme*
 - d) Plans for future funding
 - e) Timeline

For REC Award Applicants Only: include a 1-page description of career goals, development plans and proposed mentor(s) with qualifications.

- 3) **Budget and Justification (no page limit):**
 - a) **REC Awards:**
 - i) Funding for two years with a maximum of \$45,000 (direct costs) per year for a total of \$90,000 (direct costs)
 - ii) Budget may be allocated to salary, project expenses, and education
 - (1) Budget cannot be used for travel to scientific meetings, administrative support, or computers
 - (2) Salary support is not permitted for individuals with existing K or federal career development awards
 - iii) Second year funding is contingent upon successful completion of year one objectives and deliverables
 - b) **PESC Awards:**
 - i) Funding for one year with a maximum of \$40,000 (direct costs)
 - ii) Budget may be allocated to salary, project expenses, and supplies/equipment
 - iii) Budget cannot be used for travel to scientific meetings, administrative support, or computers
- 4) **NIH Biosketch (5-page limit):**
 - a) Applicant
 - b) Mentors (for REC applicants only)

Submission

- Send all materials via email to: poa@yale.edu
- Deadline: **Monday, October 6, 2025, by 5:00 PM ET**

* Yale Pepper Center Research Theme

The unifying theme of the Yale Pepper Center is the investigation of multifactorial geriatric health conditions. This theme encompasses (1) single health conditions with multiple contributing factors or with multiple relevant outcome domains and (2) multiple conditions occurring simultaneously. **A defining criterion for Yale Pepper Center support is that, regardless of the condition or type of research, the work acknowledges, and accounts for, the multiple factors determining health in older adults.**

The conceptual underpinning of this theme is that both single conditions and multiple coexisting conditions are determined by the co-occurrence of multiple predisposing and precipitating factors; these conditions and factors, in turn, affect the individual in a range of health outcomes. The predisposing factors may be at the genetic, molecular, physiologic, impairment, disease, or socio-

demographic levels, while the precipitating factors may include behavioral, environmental, social, medical, psychological, and/or other triggers. The Yale theme requires designs and models (e.g. molecular, animal, and statistical) that inform the study of multiple, simultaneously interactive, factors and outcomes. **It is not sufficient to merely state that the condition is multifactorial—your approach must clearly demonstrate how it is multifactorial, including how your design, methods, or models capture complex interactions.**

As a related **subtheme**, the Yale Pepper Center also aims to advance the science of **clinical decision making in the face of trade-offs and multiple competing outcomes**. This includes developing strategies to elicit older persons' health outcome priorities. The scope of work to be supported by the Yale Pepper Center encompasses basic, translational, epidemiological, clinical trial, health services, informatics, and gerontologic biostatistics research.

Review Criteria:

Applications will be evaluated on:

- **Significance, innovation, and quality of the approach**
- Likelihood of leading to **independent funding**
- Strength and qualifications of the investigator (and mentor, if applicable)

Questions About Fit with the Theme?

Contact the Yale Pepper Center leadership for guidance:

- **Dr. Terri Fried & Dr. Andrew Cohen** (Patient-Oriented research): terri.fried@yale.edu & andrew.b.cohen@yale.edu
- **Dr. Al Shaw** (Biology of aging): albert.shaw@yale.edu

For general questions regarding your submission, contact POA@yale.edu