Availability & Purpose of Funds
The Center for Perioperative Mental Health will award approximately 2 new pilot projects per year, beginning in 2021. The goal of this program is to support the generation of preliminary data leading to the submission of external (e.g., NIMH or NIA) research grants that advance the science of perioperative wellbeing. Faculty members and post-doctoral fellows or equivalent from any department at Washington University, Goldfarb School of Nursing, and the University of Health Sciences & Pharmacy are encouraged to apply.

Background: the science of perioperative mental health
Depression and anxiety are very common in older adults who face major surgeries. These problems are often untreated or undertreated, and co-occurring cognitive impairments, sleep problems, chronic pain, and polypharmacy are common. In this context, older adults with mental health problems often have poor patient experience and poor outcomes, including reduced recovery and rehospitalization.

The Center for Perioperative Mental Health, established in 2021, is a transdisciplinary, transdepartmental center at Washington University, funded by an NIMH P50 grant. Its focus is conducting research to improve perioperative experience and outcomes in the context of mental health.


A key center goal is to “build the bench” of perioperative mental health researchers, providing pilot funds to allow researchers to conduct preliminary studies in this new and evolving field.

Letter of Intent
A Letter of Intent (LOI) is due by 5 PM Central time on September 1, 2021. The LOI should be brief (1-page) and include the project’s specific aims, plus be accompanied by biosketch(es) of the PI(s). The LOI will be reviewed by leaders of our Administrative and Methodology Cores for its responsiveness to this Call for Proposals and its fit to Center priorities. You will be notified within 1 week whether the LOI was selected to proceed with a full application. You are also welcome to
contact the Center directors, Eric Lenze and Michael Avidan, with a brief email with your idea, if you are unsure about its fit with center priorities.

Qualifications and guidelines
- Applicants must hold a faculty appointment or be a postdoctoral research fellow or the equivalent.
  - Multiple Principal Investigators are permitted.
- There is no specific citizenship requirement.
- Research should be focused on the topic of perioperative (pre/post operative) wellbeing. The project can also include sleep, pain, and cognitive function, as well as other important geriatric outcomes such as falls and rehospitalization.
- The application should include a description of how the project can advance health equity.
- The project should be broadly congruent with the Aims of the Center, but not duplicating research already being conducted by the Center, such as the ongoing R34s.
- The intent must be to collect preliminary data in support of an external (e.g., NIH) grant.
- There should be an intent to publish the data in a peer-reviewed journal within one year of starting the project.
- Priority will be given to those who have not already received funding from the CPMH.

Budget Guidelines
- Grants of up to $40,000 (direct costs) for up to one year. Budget should assume a start date of December 1, 2021 and an end date no later than November 29, 2022 (but can be earlier).
- It is expected that the Grantee will use the full amount of funding awarded during each one-year term of the award. Special permission is required to carry forward remaining funds at the budget year-end and will not be granted except for extraordinary situations.
- The Center directors discourage requests of funds for computers, software, travel, tuition, journal subscriptions, memberships to professional societies or the purchase of printed reference materials. Any such requests in a budget justification will be reviewed and likely denied.

Review
- Applications are evaluated by the Center for Perioperative Mental Health Steering Committee.
- Once submitted to the Steering Committee, each proposal will be assigned at least two independent reviewers.
- Each reviewer will rate the proposal in 3 categories (Significance, Innovation and Approach) on a 9-point scale, using NIH Center for Scientific Review criteria.
- The Steering Committee will compile reviews and select proposals based on numeric and written feedback about the quality of the proposals, their relevance to the Center priorities, and their ability to advance the field.

General Guidelines
- NIH PHS 398 (03/2020) non-modular format (see page 3 for specific instructions).
- An entire copy of the proposal must be e-mailed as a single pdf document to perioperativewellness@wustl.edu by 5 pm, November 1, 2021. Subject line: “PILOT APPLICATION”
- Applications do NOT need to go through the Grants & Contracts office.
- Successful proposals must be approved, if applicable, by the Human Studies, Animal Studies, Biosafety, and Radiation Safety Committees before funds will be released. This is not required for grant submission.
Applicant Eligibility

- Each pilot & feasibility study proposal should state clearly in an accompanying cover letter the justification for eligibility of the investigator under one of three criteria:
  - New faculty members or postdoctoral research fellows or equivalent involved in research regarding older adult mental health, preferably in the perioperative setting, who have not yet obtained independent funding. Applications from these individuals are most likely to be supported by this mechanism.
  - Established investigators not involved in research regarding older adult mental health, preferably in the perioperative setting, who propose pilot feasibility studies related to this area.
  - Established investigators involved in research regarding older adult mental health, preferably in the perioperative setting, who propose pilot feasibility studies clearly not related to previously supported research.
- An important eligibility criterion for the CPMH Pilot & Feasibility awards is that the individuals to whom awards are made must hold a faculty appointment and be independent investigators or a postdoctoral research fellow or equivalent. For those applicants who hold a mentored award (e.g., NIH K01, K08, Scientist Development Grant, etc.) or who have indicated that a senior scientist will serve as a mentor, the application should be accompanied by the mentor's other support page and a letter from the mentor stating that the proposed project is independent of the mentor's research program.

Requirements for Pilot & Feasibility Award Recipients

- CPMH support must be acknowledged on all presentations and publications related to Pilot & Feasibility Award (1P50MH12235)
- Grantees will assist the CPMH in collecting follow-up data regarding their career progression
- Present progress at the annual CPMH Team Meeting
- Successful proposals involving human subjects research must be prepared to provide the following to the CPMH [perioperativewellness@wustl.edu](mailto:perioperativewellness@wustl.edu) who will then forward to the NIMH for approval before funds will be released:
  1. Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval
  2. Brief description of the project purposes/aims, intervention(s), outcomes/endpoints, and eligible population with sample size (1-2 pages)
  3. Data and Safety Monitoring Plan (DSMP) (refer to NIMH DSMP Guidance), if applicable
  4. Project Enrollment Tables
  5. Clinicaltrials.gov registration number, if applicable
  6. Education in the Protection of Human Research Participants certifications

In addition, all CPMH supported projects including non-exempt human subjects research will be required to:
  1. Submit planned enrollment/inclusion data in the Humans Subjects System (HSS)
  2. Register all clinical trials in clinicaltrials.gov and deposit the results according to clinicaltrials.gov regulations

Application should include the following PHS398 (03/2020) Form Pages (in order): Link to NIH forms: [https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html)

- Face Page (fp1)
- Description/Abstract (fp2)
- Detailed budget (fp4)
- Budget for entire period with justification (fp5)
- NIH Biosketch (5 page limit) (Include PMCID numbers for publications) [https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm)
- Other support (continuation page)
- Resources
- Body of the Application: Specific Aims and Research Plan that together do not exceed 5 pages (including tables and figures, excluding references). Please address Significance, Innovation, and Approach. Use NIH Continuation pages for this section.
- Appendix is required and must include (in order):
  1. Cover Letter from applicant stating eligibility.
  2. Letter from Department Head or Division Chief endorsing the project.
  3. Mentor’s letter and other support page, if required. See above eligibility guidelines.

The deadline for the Letter of Intent is 5pm CST September 1, 2021. This must be e-mailed to perioperativewellness@wustl.edu with the subject line “PILOT LOI”

An entire copy of the proposal must be e-mailed as a single pdf document to perioperativewellness@wustl.edu by 5 pm CST, November 1, 2021. Subject line: “PILOT APPLICATION”

Questions: Contact perioperativewellness@wustl.edu