Funding Overview
The Carol and Gene Ludwig Pilot Grant Program in Neurodegeneration will provide grants to support high-risk/high-reward research projects in promising areas of neurodegenerative disease, with the goal of building a cohort of researchers focusing on the mechanisms of neurodegeneration and translation of the new knowledge into clinically useful tools.

Funding Opportunity: Ludwig Pilot Grant

Funding Amount: Up to $157,500 total costs per year for up to two years (up to $150,000 direct costs and 5% indirect costs or up to $7,500 indirect costs per year). The committee is expecting to fund 2 projects annually. Funding will be based on merit and the second year of funding contingent upon progress at the end of Year 1.

Key Dates and Submission Information
Request for Application Open: February 15, 2024, and annually thereafter.

Letter of Intent: March 15, 2024, and annually thereafter (*Invitations for full applications will be sent out in April*).

Full Application: May 15, 2024, and annually thereafter.

Anticipated Award Decision: June 2024, and annually thereafter.

Project Duration: 24 months from July 1-June 30

Letters of intent and full application packages should be sent to Daniel Krug (djk2178@cumc.columbia.edu) prior to the application deadline.

Eligibility
In order to promote research collaborations, applications must be submitted by **research teams** consisting of two or more researchers with faculty appointments at Columbia University. Research teams should have at least two fields of research experience and expertise.

Topics of Interest
The Ludwig Family Foundation Pilot Research Program seeks applications focused on developing new knowledge about the pathobiology of neurodegenerative disease, and dementia in particular, that will enable the development of innovative tools and molecules to diagnose, monitor, and treat these diseases.

- The proposed work program must focus on neurodegenerative disease, and an emphasis on **neurodegenerative dementias** is especially encouraged.

- The proposed work program should be multidisciplinary and should contain at least two independent laboratories with naturally complementary skills.

- **For the 2024 RFA, we welcome applications that address the following topic:**

- o **In order to move from basic science towards therapeutics, we are asking for proposals centered around molecules and pathways that could be targeted with peptide tool compounds, which after validation can be converted to therapeutic peptides.**
- o **Some examples include:**
  - **Disruption of protein-protein interactions**
  - **Regulation of protein folding**
  - **Signaling peptides**
  - **Hormones**
  - **Competitive inhibitors**

Budget
Allowable costs include:
     Personnel time and effort
     Fringe and associated personnel costs
     Direct research expenses including supplies, services, animals, etc.
     Up to $2500 for travel to conferences to present research
     Publication costs
     Participant support costs

Unallowable costs include:
     Administrative or overhead costs
     Capital Equipment

Funding will be allocated annually up to $150,000. Year 2 funding is contingent upon progress at the end of Year 1. Carryforward is allowable upon approval of Year 2. Separate from the funding intended to directly support the project, recipients will receive 5% indirect costs, up to $7,500 per year.

Letter of Intent Requirements
Project team – list of personnel and research expertise.
Research description (1 page total)

Application Requirements
Proposal narrative – (5 page limit, not including references)
Detailed budget
Budget justification – (1 page)
NIH format Biosketch for all key personnel
Other support for all key personnel

Review Criteria
Impact
Collaboration
Innovation
Feasibility
Alignment with mission

Reporting Requirements
Awardees will be referred to as "Ludwig Investigators" and are required to submit annual progress reports based on the following schedule:

Year 1 Progress Report - June 30, 2025, and annually thereafter
Year 1 Financial Report
Final Progress Report
Financial Report – July 31, 2026

In addition, awardees are required to meet with the program directors on a bi-monthly basis (every other month) for 30 minutes to provide an informal update on research progress. Meetings should be followed up with a brief 1-2 paragraph summary.

<u>Administrative Requirements</u>
Any changes to the project team require prior approval from the committee.
Significant changes (up to 25%) to the project team's level of effort commitment require approval from the committee.
Significant changes in the project direction require prior approval from the committee.

<u>Key Contacts:</u>
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