

# Wake Forest Pepper Center Early Career Faculty Scholar Positions Request for Applications (RFA)

The Research Education Core (REC) of the Wake Forest Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center seeks applications from early career faculty to support their development into independent scientists with an interest in aging, diseases that affect physical function in older adults, interventions that integrate pathways affecting physical function for new approaches to disability prevention, and clinical or community implementation of programs to preserve independence. Faculty with an interest in basic, clinical, translational, or population research are invited to apply.

## *Support:*

- Protected research time (2-3 years of support is typical)
- A formal mentoring team
- Priority access to Pepper Center Research Support Cores and resources
- Travel funds

## *Qualifications:*

- Faculty appointment at the Instructor or Assistant Professor level at the time of application. Physicians are encouraged to apply
- A proposed research project relevant to pathways to physical disability, muscle function, body composition, neurologic substrates of physical function, translation of insights from biology of aging, or novel applications of functional assessments to improve patient care
- Commitment to a research career with an aging focus
- Sufficient protected time ( $\geq 50\%$ ) dedicated to research and career development activities
- Letter of support from Department Chair / Section Head

## *Selection Process:*

- Applicants whose proposed project aligns with the Wake Forest Pepper Center research themes (based on LOI) will be invited to submit a full application
- Applications are reviewed by three reviewers
- Endorsement by the Pepper Center Executive Committee

Please upload a letter of intent by December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, to the REDCap link below. Your LOI should include a brief summary of your training plan and your proposed research project along with its relevance to Wake Forest's Pepper Center theme.

<https://redcap.school.wakehealth.edu/surveys/?s=4A9HLHHHAYAEPHCR>

Interested candidates should contact Denise Houston, PhD ([denise.houston@wfusm.edu](mailto:denise.houston@wfusm.edu)) and/or Heidi Klepin, MD, MS ([heidi.klepin@wfusm.edu](mailto:heidi.klepin@wfusm.edu)) to discuss their research area prior to submitting their LOI.

**Letter of intent due:** December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Application Deadline:** March 6, 2026

**Anticipated Start Date:** July 1, 2026

**Information / Q&A sessions will be held on December 9<sup>th</sup> at noon and December 10<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm via MS Teams. RSVP to Elizabeth Owens ([sarah.simpsonowens@advocatehealth.org](mailto:sarah.simpsonowens@advocatehealth.org)) by Dec 5<sup>th</sup> to confirm your attendance at one of the information sessions and receive a calendar invite.**