# **Adult Changes in Thought (ACT) U19 Renewal**

# **Request for Project Proposals and Application Form**

**Background:**

The Adult Changes in Thought Study (ACT) is a longitudinal cohort study embedded within a healthcare system with unparalleled autopsy data that enables a life course approach for identifying dementia risk factors. Initiated in 1994, ACT has enrolled over 6000 adults aged 65 and over who were free from dementia at time of enrollment. Participants are followed every 2 years, and when cognitive impairment is detected, they undergo a detailed clinical assessment resulting in a consensus diagnosis for dementia. Data from medical records dating back to 1947 are available, along with a wide variety of other measures, including social and structural determinants of health across the life course, objective measures of physical activity, genetic, neuroimaging and neuropathology data. The ACT study is supported with six infrastructure cores:

* *Admin Core*
* *Clinical Core*
* *Life course Core*
* *Data and Analysis Core*
* *Neuropathology Core*
* *Neuroimaging Core*

Please refer to the ACT website for more detailed information about our [Cores](https://actagingresearch.org/about/research-program/act-study-research-support-cores) and data [Repository](https://actagingresearch.org/resources/act-data-repository). The ACT website also includes content from our [2023 Research Symposium](https://actagingresearch.org/application/files/4216/8753/8234/ACT_Symposium_2023_presenter_notes_for_web.pdf) that may be useful.

**Request for Proposals**

We are requesting letters of intent for proposals of projects to include in the ACT U19 renewal. We anticipate including 3 projects that can be each completed on a budget of no more than 500k directs per year. Projects that make novel and significant contributions to research on cognitive aging and ADRD will be prioritized. Renewals of current U19 projects are possible. We encourage LOIs for ideas that are in the early stages of development as we are looking for the best possible projects to include and will work with you to help develop your proposal.

To be eligible, projects should leverage ACT’s rich resources, and involve components of all cores. Investigators must be willing to work closely with ACT investigators in the development of their proposal and in the execution of their project, if funded. All new data collected as part of a project will be shared through ACT’s data sharing policies, overseen by the Admin Core (See [Data Sharing Plan](https://actagingresearch.org/application/files/1117/0440/4370/ACT_U19_Research_Program_Data_Sharing_Plan_v3_final.pdf)). Investigators and teams from diverse backgrounds and/or including junior investigators are encouraged to apply.

**Letter of Intent (LOI)**

Please complete the U19 Renewal Project LOI Application form below.

**Key Dates:**

* **LOI due:** March 01, 2024
* A webinar for questions will be hosted on February 12, 2024, at 10am Pacific Time. Details will be posted on our website here: <https://actagingresearch.org/news-and-results/act-events-and-seminars>
* Anticipated due date for ARA request, Dec 7, 2024 (requires completed budget information).
* Anticipated submission date for ACT U19 renewal: January 25, 2025
* The earliest start date is December 1, 2025.

**LOI Required Information**:

* Investigative team (if current ACT investigators are not included, we will work to connect you to ACT investigators with relevant expertise).
* Draft specific aims, addressing significance of proposed work and how it leverages ACT’s unique resources and utilizes all cores.
* Description of potential participant or clinical staff burden (if any).

**Criteria for review:** Relevance to brain aging and dementia and compatibility with current ACT data and cores. We will select projects that best align together to create a cohesive U19 when added to the cores, fitting within our life course theme. Projects that utilize multiple cores are preferred, as are those that will enrich ACT resources. Lead investigators should have strong experience in the field of aging and dementia, with experience leading an R01 or equivalent award.

**Evaluation**:

LOIs will be evaluated by ACT’s executive committee. Investigators may be invited to present to the executive committee during the evaluation process. Final selection will occur by May 1st, 2024.

**If selected**: ACT will work closely with the investigative teams selected to develop the strongest possible proposal to include in the U19 renewal. Investigators will be expected to attend the ACT symposium in May 2024 to discuss their proposals with ACT investigators.

**If not selected**: For meritorious projects, ACT will encourage investigators to [propose an ancillary study](https://actagingresearch.org/collaboration/work-with-us/propose-ancillary-study).

**Submission**: Please submit completed forms or questions to: [kpwhri-actadmin@kp.org](mailto:kpwhri-actadmin@kp.org)

# **U19 Renewal Project LOI Application Form**

**Project title, leader and investigative team**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Project title: |  |
| Short title (5 words or fewer): |  |
| Project leader name: |  |
| Project leader affiliation / organization: |  |
| Project leader address: |  |
| Project leader e-mail address: |  |
| Project leader phone number: |  |
| Is project leader an ACT researcher?  Yes  No | If **no**, please provide the name(s) of any ACT researchers with whom you have consulted for this proposal (not necessary prior to submission): |

**Please list all current team members (add additional rows if necessary)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Affiliation | E-mail Address |
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**What type of project are you proposing?**

Type 1 (Secondary analysis of existing ACT data)

Type 2 (Use of biospecimens, raw scan data, new EHR data fields)

Type 3 (Collection of new data from ACT participants)

**Is this project associated with one or more of the current ACT U19 Projects or Cores, affiliated grants, or prior approved proposals?**

Yes, please specify which one(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

No

**Lay summary of the project in the form of an abstract (30 lines maximum)**

**Specific aims (1 page maximum)**

**Integration of existing Cores**

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| --- | --- |
| **ACT U19 Core** | **Role on Proposed Project** |
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**General description of ACT data needed** (e.g., participant demographics, cognitive assessment data, etc.). Please explain whether your study will require new curation of ACT data such as abstraction of previously unused data from participants’ records. (Please refer to the available ACT Study [data documentation resources](https://actagingresearch.org/resources/act-data-repository) and [ACT Data Query Tool](https://act.kpwashingtonresearch.org/dqt/) on the ACT Study website to complete this section.)

**Description of New Participant Data Collection Procedures and Participant Burden (Type 3 only)** If your study will collect new data from ACT participants, please describe the t**ypes of data to be collected (survey, procedure, etc.) and estimated participant time required.** Please state which specific tests you intend to administer, the rationale for each, and considerations for reducing the burden on our older participants, especially if the data collection will be done at the same time as other examinations.