



Division of Behavioral and Social Research

Program Officer: Psychological Development and Integrative Science

The [Individual Behavioral Processes Branch](#) (IBP) in the [Division of Behavioral and Social Research](#) (BSR) of the National Institute on Aging (NIA) is recruiting a dynamic and experienced psychological or behavioral scientist to manage and develop a portfolio of innovative grant-supported research and research training in psychological development and integrative science.

BSR offers a scientifically energizing and collegial environment with opportunities to develop research initiatives; cultivate a portfolio of grant-supported research; lead and participate in transdisciplinary research collaborations; and develop scientific programming (e.g., symposia, special journal issues, conferences, and workshops).

The successful candidate will have primary responsibility for developing and managing a portfolio of research grants on integrative approaches to understanding psychological aging, with a focus on biobehavioral and biosocial mechanisms or process that contribute to optimal aging outcomes. Topics include personality and non-cognitive skills, emotional function, subjective well-being, stress processes, and the impact – and potential reversibility – of early life adversity on aging-relevant outcomes. The portfolio emphasizes research combining multiple levels of analysis and examining reciprocal interactions among these levels with potential to delineate the basic mechanisms governing these behaviors and processes. Examples include (1) research on the neurobiological and physiological pathways through which psychosocial stress impacts behavior and physical or psychological health, (2) biobehavioral research on affective and socioemotional influences on behavioral and functional aging, and (3) the biobehavioral processes that support optimal aging, resilience, and well-being. Behavioral phenotypes (e.g. personality, self-regulation, affect) and social/interpersonal relationships are investigated as causal variables and as mediators or moderators of the relation between behavioral and social factors and aging-relevant outcomes. Research that takes a life course perspective on these topics is emphasized.

Responsibilities include:

- Scientific administration throughout the grants process, including reviewing and approving progress reports.
- Identifying significant research findings and communicating results to NIA leadership and other audiences.
- Proposing future program emphases and developing Funding Opportunity Announcements.
- Communicating about NIA program emphases and the NIH grant process to the research community.
- Presenting and justifying funding plans to NIA leaders and the National Advisory Council on Aging.
- Participating in initiatives related to the [NIA Strategic Plan](#), working with NIA and NIH colleagues, staff from other agencies, and stakeholders from the private sector and other levels of government.

Candidate Qualifications: The ideal candidate will possess a PhD, MD, or doctoral equivalent and substantial research training in psychological, behavioral, biobehavioral sciences and/or related fields; and strong writing, communication and interpersonal skills. The ideal candidate will have expertise in one or more of the following areas: Psychology (e.g., clinical, health, personality, developmental), Affective Science, Life-Span Development, Psychiatry, Psychosomatic Medicine, Behavioral Medicine; and several years of significant experience in research or research management. Applicants should have experience working at the intersection of psychology and other behavioral, social, biological, or biomedical sciences. Prior experience in aging research is not required.

Candidates must be US citizens. All applicants will receive consideration without regard to ethnicity, gender, national origin, age, religion, disability, or sexual orientation. DHHS, NIH and NIA are Equal Opportunity Employers. The work site is in Bethesda, Maryland. Salary is competitive and commensurate with experience; excellent benefits are offered. The position will be posted at the GS-12, 13, and 14 federal government salary grades, with an annual salary between \$86,335 and \$157,709.

For more information: Interested parties should contact Lisbeth Nielsen (Lisbeth.Nielsen@nih.gov). This is a pre-announcement of the vacancy. A Global “Health Scientist Administrator” job announcement will be posted on www.usajobs.gov on January 21, 2020. Applications must be submitted through that website by January 30, 2020, to be considered. *To be notified of the posting, please send a request to Lyn Neil (Lyn.Neil@nih.gov).* All inquiries will remain confidential.