



KPA “Aging–Associated Diseases” announces interdisciplinary seed funding grants

Main Objective:

The accelerating demographic change towards an increasingly aging society poses urgent socio-economic and health challenges with consequences across all sectors of public life. The KPA Aging–Associated Diseases (AGING) of the University of Cologne pursues to gain deeper insights into how the aging process and age-related diseases are influenced by environmental, gender-specific, transgenerational factors, and social, socioeconomic, and anthropological conditions. We aim to develop evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies for healthy aging in order to meet the major challenges facing healthcare in modern societies.

To maintain and further expand the critical mass and infrastructure necessary to further develop the KPA in terms of content and structure, we will initiate new projects in the field of “Demographic change towards an aging society” to promote further interactions between researchers across the different disciplines of the University of Cologne and partnering institutions. Proposals should also outline how they will use the KPA funded project phase for developing a third party funded project or consortium application.

1. Eligibility

Criteria

- Applicants have to be a KPA AGING member (full or associate)
- The project you apply for must be submitted by at least two different groups in the form of a joint project, groups have to represent at least two different faculties
- For PIs with dual affiliation, the faculty assignment is the primary affiliation
- All applicants must have a contract at the UoC/University Hospital Cologne at least until 06/2028
- The proposal has to fit within the research line of the KPA AGING outlined above
- The topic of the project is not funded otherwise
- Associated members can be included in applications, however funding can only be provided to groups located at the UoC

2. Application

The project description in English must include the following issues.

Please use the word-template provided for your proposal.

- State of the art (1 page)
- Own previous work (1 page)
- Project outline (2 pages)
- Strategy implementation and plan for third party funding application (1 page)
- Budget plan (1 page)
- References including up to ten references of own work of all applicants highlighted in bold
- CVs of main applicants in DFG format (see template attached)

Application Deadline: Applications can be submitted until **March 15th, 2026**.

Please submit your proposal as one PDF file to the following address:

KPA-Aging@uni-koeln.de

3. Selection procedure

Selection will be done by representatives of the KPA Aging executive board and selected external reviewers. Criteria are (A) interdisciplinary and translational relevance and scientific quality and (B) strengthening the overall aims of the KPA AGING



4. Funding

Each project is funded with max. 100 k€.

The funding period begins in May/June 2026, max. project duration is 2 years. Seed funding may be used for personnel and/or direct project costs.

Please note: The spending of the funding follows yearly provisions due to internal regulations.

Please provide a yearly budget plan.

5. Contact

In case of questions, please contact:

Sibylle Grandel, sgrandel@uni-koeln.de, Tel. 0221-478-84046 (organization)

Björn Schumacher, bjoern.schumacher@uni-koeln.de (scientific questions)

Annex

For staff cost calculations, please use the numbers provided below, which represent full costs for the different staff categories.

Kind of position	2026	2027	2028
Postdoc E13 (PhD is 65% E13)	91.512	93.800	96.145
E12	90.159	92.413	94.723
E11	85.608	87.748	89.942
E9 – TA	72.816	74.636	76.502
E8 – Secretary	64.575	66.189	67.844