



Pilot and Exploratory Studies Core

Core Leaders

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PESC Goals

- To build a translational pipeline for early stage innovative and interdisciplinary research
 - Generation of proof-of-concept preclinical data to expedite the development of FPTs.
 - Mechanistic studies for target identification or hypotheses building by which FPTs exert their effects on skeletal muscle and physical function
 - Pilot testing of translational interventions or research protocols in human subjects or animal models for safety, feasibility, or determination of optimal time course or dosage.



PESC Goals

- To build connectivity between PESC investigators and OAIC core resources.
- To monitor biannually and guide success of research projects by PESC investigators.
- To catalyze pilot and exploratory projects into high quality peer-reviewed publications, grant applications, and intellectual property/ patents, whenever possible.



PESC Activities

- Pilot and awardee recruitment and selection every other year
- Pilot study progress tracking at 6 months
- Monthly seminar series
- Supports the self-organized “Aging Researchers in Early Stages” (ARIES) group
- Leveraging other funding for awardees



PESC Accomplishments

- PESC Awardees have received 5 grants
- PESC Awardees have published 30 papers
- 3 PESC awardees have finished their projects and all three received new grants

First PESC Awardees: Successes over 2.5 yrs

- ***Dae Hyun Kim, MD, PhD:*** B&W 12 papers. Home-Based Exercise Program For Functional Recovery After Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement. Received R01, has a 4th percentile second R01 and 8th percentile R21 pending
- ***Donato Rivas, PhD:*** Tufts 8 papers. Circulating microRNA as novel predictors of skeletal muscle anabolic response in aged humans. Received K01 and a foundation grant
- ***Brad Manor, PhD:*** HSL 10 papers. Optimization of non-invasive brain stimulation for the improvement of dual task walking in older adults. Received R01, an internal grant, and has a 5th percentile R21 pending



Current PESC Awardees



- **Ron Neppi, PhD**, Brigham and Women's Orthopedic Surgery
“lncRNA ‘Kratos’ and muscle”



- **Rajan Singh, PhD**, Brigham and Women's Endocrinology
“Ornithine decarboxylase role in testosterone mediated effects on prostate and muscle”



- **Shivani Sahni, PhD**, Hebrew SeniorLife Musculoskeletal Research Center “The Mediterranean diet and frailty incidence”