A decorative background at the top of the slide featuring a network diagram with light blue lines connecting various nodes, some of which are highlighted in a darker teal color.

# 2025 NACC/Alzheimer's Association New Investigator Award Program Information Webinar

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Sarah Biber, PhD and Heather Snyder, PhD



# Welcome to the NIAP Webinar!

## 2025 New Investigator Award Program



Advance your AD/ADRD Research Career: Ten \$135k Awards & Mentorship

# NIAP Webinar Agenda

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## Program Overview & Framework

- Heather Snyder, PhD, Alzheimer's Association & Sarah Biber, PhD, NACC

## Mentorship Program

- Susy Stark, PhD, REC Steering Committee

## Q&A

- Moderated by Stefania Forner, PhD, Alzheimer's Association

# NIAP Overview

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- Jointly funding 10 New Investigator Awards
- \$135,000 in direct costs per award
- Eligibility: Open to any early career investigators that are affiliated with an ADRC
- Mentorship: Choose to be matched with a mentor to provide guidance on the application
- Any area of research related to AD/ADRD is eligible
  - Goal is to foster a diverse and inclusive pool of applicants working across a broad range of research areas
- Our research team is available if you would like to use NACC data

# NIAP Eligibility and Affiliation Criteria

- Be a new investigator with a pre-existing affiliation with an ADRC that is ongoing and was established before October 2024
  - You must submit a Letter of Support from your ADRC Director that confirms your affiliation
- Be a postdoctoral fellow, resident, or junior faculty member
- Be within 10 years of your terminal degree
  - Exceptions may be considered for career disruptions
- Have not received a R01 or NIAP Award before
- Have not been promoted beyond assistant professor rank (MD or PhD)

**Read eligibility  
section of the  
RFA for details**



[bit.ly/NewInvestigatorAwards](https://bit.ly/NewInvestigatorAwards)

# NIAP Application Process - LOI

- **Step 1: Read the Letter of Intent section of the RFA**
  - Make sure you understand the eligibility criteria
  - If you have questions, ask!
- **Step 2: Submit Letter of Intent form on ProposalCentral**
  - Log in to your existing ProposalCentral profile (create a new account if you don't have one)
  - Request a mentor
  - Provide title and brief description for your proposal
  - Choose keywords that describe your proposal

**Download the  
RFA**



[bit.ly/NewInvestigatorAwards](https://bit.ly/NewInvestigatorAwards)

# Why Sign Up for a Mentor?

## Highlights from 2024 Mentorship Program

- **77%** of applicants requested mentors, all of whom were matched by NACC and REC
- **80.2%** of mentees felt their mentor helped strengthen their proposal
- **92.2%** of applicants expressed confidence in applying the guidance received to future grant applications
- **95.4%** of mentors expressed interest in continuing as mentors for future award cycles

**Mentorship  
helps applicants  
develop  
stronger  
research  
proposals**

# NIAP Application Process - Proposal

- **Step 1: Read the Research Plan section of the RFA**
  - Make sure you understand the requirements
  - If you have questions, ask!
- **Step 2: Prepare your proposal and submit required information via ProposalCentral, including:**
  - Who should have access to your proposal (e.g., mentor, other staff)
  - Your budget details
  - Upload required documents (Specific Aims, Research Plan, Biosketches, Letter of Support, etc.)

**Download the  
RFA**



[bit.ly/NewInvestigatorAwards](https://bit.ly/NewInvestigatorAwards)



# NIAP Application Process – Research Plan

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- **Specific aims (1 page max)**
  - State goals and specific objectives of your proposed research
  - Summarize the rationale and expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will exert on your research field(s)
  - Make it easy to read and clear
- **Research plan (6 pages max)**
  - Organize your research strategy under these headings: Significance, Innovation, Approach
  - Details are in the RFA

# NIAP Review Process

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All reviews are conducted by NACC's Scientific Review Committee (SRC) and Alzheimer's Association reviewers.

- **Letter of Intent**
  - NACC and Alzheimer's Association teams review each LOI to verify eligibility, based on the RFA
- **Application/Proposal**
  - Applications are assigned to and reviewed by a panel of experts in either biomedical or social/behavioral/psychosocial research (based on the applicant's research focus) through ProposalCentral
  - The SRC panel discusses and evaluates the proposals and ranks them in comparison to other proposals within the same research area using the same comprehensive set of criteria (as outlined in the RFA)

# NIAP Review Criteria

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All proposals, regardless of panel assignment, will be evaluated using the same comprehensive set of criteria, including:

- **Overall Impact:** The potential for the project to significantly influence relevant research fields
- **Significance:** The importance of the project
- **Investigator(s):** The qualifications of the research team
- **Innovation:** The novelty of the research and/or methods
- **Approach:** The overall scientific strategy, methodology, and analyses
- **Environment:** The adequacy of the research setting
- **Budget & Resources:** Quality and suitability of the proposed budget and resources

# NIAP Timeline

Date/Time	Action
November 8, 2024, 5pm ET*	Submit Letter of Intent (LOI) and sign up for a Mentor
January 16, 2025, 5pm ET*	Submit final application
May 2025	Award recipients announced at the 2025 Spring ADRC Meeting in San Francisco

\*No LOIs or applications will be accepted after their respective deadlines; no exceptions.

Learn more about the NIAP program and apply

[bit.ly/NewInvestigatorAwards](https://bit.ly/NewInvestigatorAwards)





# **NIAP Mentorship Program**

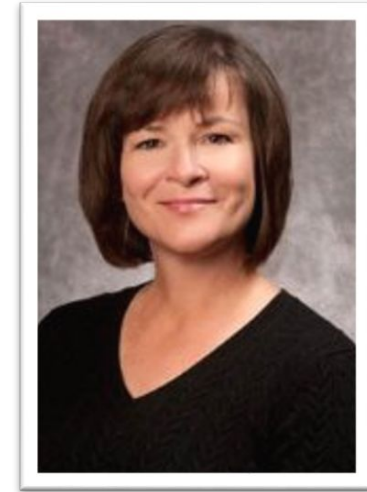
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**Susan Stark, PhD  
Washington University ADRC  
NIAP Lead, REC Steering Committee**

# NIAP Mentorship Program

NACC and the REC Steering Committee are partnering again this year to identify and match early career investigators with mentors:

- Matches are based on research expertise and background
- Mentors review and provide feedback on specific aims and proposal
- Mentors and mentees conduct two review and feedback sessions before the application deadline



Susan Stark, PhD  
Washington University ADRC  
NIAP Lead - REC Steering  
Committee



# NIAP Mentorship Program

## Benefits

- Expert guidance
  - Mentors are experienced researchers from across the ADRC network
- Personalized support
  - Mentorship is tailored to each applicant's research focus and needs
- Flexible interaction
  - Mentorship meetings can be virtual or in-person, synchronous or asynchronous
- Stronger proposals
  - Mentors provide constructive feedback that enhances the quality of the proposals

**Expert  
mentors are  
available to  
support you!**

# NIAP Mentorship Program

## Expectations of Mentors and Mentees:

- Meet at least twice between November 22, 2024, and January 15, 2025
- Participate in program evaluations:
  - Mid-Program Check-In Survey (Dec 2024-Jan 2025)
  - End of Program Evaluation Survey (February 2026)
  - Follow-up Survey (one year later)





# NIAP Mentorship Program

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## How to Request a Mentor

When you submit your Letter of Intent form online via ProposalCentral:

- Select "Yes" to request a REC Mentor when prompted

**Learn more about the NIAP Mentorship Program**

[bit.ly/NewInvestigatorAwards](https://bit.ly/NewInvestigatorAwards)



# NIAP Mentorship Program

We are now seeking outstanding mentors from across the ADRC network who are willing to participate in supporting the next generation of AD/ADRD scientists!

- New Mentors
  - **Sign up by November 8, 2024**
- Returning Mentors
  - **Confirm your participation** (via NACC survey) **by November 8**
  - Thank you for your continued support!

**Sign up to become  
a NIAP Mentor!**



<https://bit.ly/NIAP-Mentor-2025>

# NIAP Mentorship Program

Deadline	Action
November 8, 2024, 5pm ET*	Applicants submit Letter of Intent (LOI) and sign up for a Mentor
November 22, 2024, to January 15, 2025	Mentors and Mentees are matched and meet to review aims and proposal
January 16, 2025, 5pm ET*	Applications due
January 17 to February 15, 2025	Respond to Mentor/Mentee Survey
August-September 2025	Respond to 6-month Mentee Survey

**\*No LOIs or applications will be accepted after their respective deadlines; no exceptions.**

Questions? Please email [info@nacccdata.org](mailto:info@nacccdata.org)

# Resources

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## Have questions?

- Go to NIAP website: [bit.ly/NewInvestigatorAwards](https://bit.ly/NewInvestigatorAwards)
- Email [grantsapp@alz.org](mailto:grantsapp@alz.org) and [info@nacccdata.org](mailto:info@nacccdata.org)

A decorative background featuring a network diagram with light blue lines connecting various nodes. Some nodes are highlighted in a darker teal color, while others are light blue or grey. The network is spread across the top and bottom of the page, framing the central text.

# Q & A

**Thank you!**

