The UF Institute on Aging, hand in hand with the department of aging and geriatric research in the UF College of Medicine, works to improve the health, independence and quality of life of older adults through multidisciplinary basic, clinical and translational research, education and patient care.

Research in the institute focuses on identifying cellular mechanisms and disease origins and developing prevention and rehabilitation strategies for cognitive and physical disabilities. Together, the institute’s researchers have more than 90 active NIH and other grants totaling more than $160 million, and almost 40 pending grant proposals that would garner close to $70 million if funded. Notable among them is the $64 million LIFE Study, the largest randomized controlled trial ever conducted on physical activity in older adults at risk of mobility disability, funded by the largest single federal grant to the University of Florida. The institute is also the recipient of a competitive Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center grant, which supports specialized research and research training in geriatrics.

The institute has a robust education and career development program for undergraduate, graduate, professional and postgraduate trainees within an integrated model of patient care and research. Trainees take part in mentoring programs of the Pepper Center and the UF Clinical and Translational Science Institute.

The institute’s commitment to providing state-of-the-art, comprehensive patient and community-centered care for older adults will be embodied in the new multispecialty geriatrics clinic in the new CTRB building.

And with facilities for clinical research recruitment and assessment, laboratories, training, conferences and lifestyle intervention, the new Institute on Aging headquarters will be a one-stop facility that makes it easier for mobility-restricted older adults to take part in clinical trials. It will also strengthen connections among existing UF research centers, including the Pepper Center, the CTSI and the Cognitive Aging and Memory Clinical Translational Research Program.