

## UF Institute on Aging

The University of Florida Institute on Aging is a decade-old institution administered by the department of aging and geriatric research within the College of Medicine. Its mission is to improve the health, independence and quality of life of senior citizens through emphasizing research, education and health care.

The Institute on Aging is composed of 26 faculty members with the department of aging and geriatric research, 34 staff members, seven clinical care physicians and 148 Institute on Aging-affiliated scientists throughout UF Health.

## Health care

The Institute on Aging and the department of aging geriatric research's division of geriatric medicine offers geriatric primary care through UF Health Senior Care in the Clinical and Translational Research Building. UF board-certified geriatricians staff the practice, and focus on providing high-quality, comprehensive health care for older adults in order to help patients live independent lives with a minimum of chronic pain and illness.

In addition to UF Health Senior Care, the IOA has added a geriatrician who is embedded in the emergency room of UF Health Shands Hospital, while a second geriatrician is available for inpatient medical services.

The Institute on Aging also offers care through Oak Hammock at the UF, a retirement community that has both long-term care and rehabilitation care as well as an assisted living facility.

## Education

The Institute on Aging has begun to offer a graduate certificate in the Aging and Geriatric Practice Program. Students can also earn a master's degree in aging and geriatric practice from the College of Medicine. Additionally, fourth-year medical students undergo a four-week geriatric clerkship, and a one-year fellowship is available to established physicians who would like clinical care training for older adults.

In 2014, the IOA began offering the Geriatric Care Boot Camp, an ongoing one-day set of lectures provided by physicians, nurses, pharmacists and bioethicists. The boot camp is offered to many different health care professionals, including nurses, pharmacists, physical therapists, dentists and physicians.

These programs, housed in the division of career development and education, are also designed to help students develop their research careers.



*Marco Pahor, M.D., director of the UF Institute on Aging*

**148**

**IOA affiliate members, including 88 UF scientists and 50 scientists from other institutions**

**26**

**faculty members**

**34**

**staff members**

**7**

**clinical care physicians**

## Research

In recent years, the Institute on Aging has funded the majority of its research through extramural grants. The IOA's division of biology of aging focuses on the biological mechanisms and functional consequences that underlie the aging process. Through this, researchers hope to better understand the physical and cognitive decline in both human and animals. IOA faculty also practice translational research, which takes basic findings and applies them to the health and well being of older adults.

Basic scientists, clinicians, epidemiologists, sociologists, health services researchers and statisticians work within the division of clinical research. These researchers collaborate to develop clinical research programs that address physical disability associated with aging.

The Institute on Aging also houses the Cognitive Aging and Memory Clinical Translational Research Program, which aims to translate basic science discoveries into clinical applications to help older adults slow, avert or restore age-related cognitive decline and memory loss. To help shape medical practice and geriatric care, the institute also offers clinical trials.

In 2007 and again in 2012, the institute was awarded a grant to host the Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center, which studies physical disability in older adults and the development of effective prevention therapies. The center also trains new investigators, helping to sharpen research on aging and disability and developing their leadership skills.



**69**

research projects in  
calendar year 2014

**391**

peer-reviewed publications  
in 2014

**2**

IOA stretches across two  
campuses: **The University  
of Florida** cmain campus  
in Gainesville and the **UF  
Research and Academic  
Center** at Lake Nona

**11**

Affiliated researchers in  
11 UF colleges