



**Marco Pahor, M.D.**  
Director, UF Institute on Aging

**107**

**IOA affiliate members from throughout UF Health**

**76**

**faculty members**

**31**

**staff members**

**7**

**clinical physicians**

## UF Institute on Aging

The mission of the University of Florida Institute on Aging, or IOA, is to enhance the health, independence and quality of life of older adults through interdisciplinary teams involved in research, education, clinical care and community outreach.

The institute's continuing goal is to be at the forefront of translational research, education and career development in aging. The IOA strives to make significant contributions in aging science and the preservation of independence for older adults through the prevention and rehabilitation of disabilities.

The institute is composed of more than 100 IOA-affiliated scientists throughout UF Health.

## Patient Care

As Americans age, their health care needs change. The complex health issues that often accompany older age can require specialized medical care. Department of aging and geriatric research physicians affiliated with the institute are board-certified geriatricians committed to listening to patients' concerns and providing patient-centered, advanced geriatric care. Among a range of services, physicians work with the admitting service to address the special needs of older patients in the hospital, which includes the prevention and treatment of delirium, assessing and treating dementia, and reviewing medications to avoid polypharmacy.

## Education

Whether in the clinic or in the lab, the institute strives to create an environment that encourages students to develop excellence in patient care, clinical research skills, writing research grants proposals and manuscript writing — all with a focus in the area of aging, sarcopenia, and the prevention and rehabilitation of disability.

The IOA offers a graduate certificate in the Aging and Geriatric Practice Program through the department of aging and geriatric research. Students can also earn a master's degree in aging and geriatric practice from the UF College of Medicine.

The National Institutes of Health-funded Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center develops mentored training to foster research careers for early career scientists.

The IOA's Research Education Core seeks to promote and augment the development of future research leaders in the field of aging.

**Research**

In recent years, the IOA has funded the majority of its research through extramural grants. The institute's various research cores, which include biostatistics, data sciences and applied technology, pilot/exploratory studies and clinical research, focus on all aspects of aging, from the molecular level to the bedside. IOA researchers seek to better understand physical and cognitive decline in humans and the biological mechanisms and functional consequences that underlie the aging process. Collections of large data and new software technology, in addition to artificial intelligence, are used to monitor, evaluate and enhance the mobility of older adults.

In 2007, 2012 and 2017, the institute was awarded grants to host the Pepper Center, which studies physical disability in older adults and the development of effective prevention therapies. The center also trains early stage investigators, helping to sharpen research on aging and disability and to develop leadership skills.

The Health Promotion Center provides a dedicated facility for investigators conducting clinical research involving the conduct of lifestyle-based interventions.

The NIH-funded Jacksonville Aging Studies Center, or JAX-ASCENT, offers a renovated clinical translational research facility, pilots studies and research career education for junior scientists at UF Health Jacksonville.



The Health Promotion Center provides a dedicated facility for clinical research investigators on lifestyle-based interventions.



**68**  
**active research grants**  
**totaling \$135.5 million**

**\$135 million**  
**in active research grant funding**

**200**  
**peer-reviewed publications**

**Affiliated researchers**  
**in 11 UF colleges**

**Houses the National**  
**Institutes of Health-**  
**funded Claude D.**  
**Pepper Older Americans**  
**Independence Center**