

Our nation's elderly population, especially the over-85 age group, is growing faster than ever.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that by the year 2050, people age 65 and older will more than double to 80 million, while the over-85 age group alone will number over 18 million.

Florida has one of the oldest populations in the U.S.

Are there really genes that may help us live longer, healthier lives?

Are scientists closer to discovering cures for many diseases of aging?

Do you know the difference between normal and abnormal aging?

Please help advance the science of healthier aging!

Visit our website at www.afar.org, or send a tax-deductible contribution to:

National Headquarters
American Federation for Aging Research
55 West 39th Street, 16th floor
New York, NY 10018
212-703-9977

Florida Affiliate
American Federation for Aging Research
c/o Stein Gerontological Institute
5200 N.E. 2nd Avenue
Miami, FL 33137
305-762-1552 telephone
347-331-9633 mobile
www.afar.org
www.infoaging.org
www.healthcompass.org

Florida

American Federation for Aging Research

Advancing the
Science of
Healthier Aging

AFAR Florida Affiliate

The American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR), founded in 1981 and headquartered in New York, New York, has established a Florida Affiliate to:

Provide research grants to Florida's best and brightest PhDs and MDs in the field of aging research.

Even relatively modest grants can help young investigators make a contribution to aging research. Many AFAR-supported researchers have gone on to distinguish themselves as leaders in the field.

Increase distribution of funds to local scientists.

Florida is home to several leading research centers with excellence in aging research. The Florida Affiliate operates in partnership with area medical schools, community groups, foundations, and corporations to raise and distribute funds to worthy scientists in Florida. All local grant applications are reviewed through AFAR's renowned peer review process, comprising many of the nation's leading researchers in aging and age-related fields.

Create educational opportunities for scientists and the general public.

By creating environments that support the exchange of ideas among scientists, we can hasten the pace of aging research. And, by offering seminars, workshops, and other learning opportunities for Florida residents, we can share new discoveries about healthy aging.

The AFAR Florida Affiliate accomplishes its goals through a state-wide Board and network of key leaders in research and the lay community who care about advancing the science of healthier aging. We are pleased to count on the support of scientists from public and private academic and health care institutions around the state, currently including:

Florida State University

Mayo Clinic

Miami Jewish Home & Hospital for the Aged

Nova Southeastern University

Sarasota Memorial Hospital/Institute for Advanced Medicine

University of Florida

University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

University of South Florida

Why Support Aging Research in Florida?

Because you live or work or do business in Florida, consider this:

- Florida is ranked first in the nation in its percentage of residents age 65 and older.
- Florida's aging population has grown to over 23 percent of the state's total population—that's nearly one-fourth the entire state's population!
- Nearly 500,000—half a million—Floridians are living with Alzheimer's disease.
- Older Floridians, their families, and communities face a myriad of issues related to aging.

AFAR Helps to Find Answers

Scientists supported by the American Federation for Aging Research are seeking the answers to how and why we age. These answers will pave the way to preventing and controlling diseases that now devastate millions of older people.

AFAR researchers are studying ways to increase a healthy, active lifespan. Since 1981, our national organization has granted more than \$100 million to nearly 2,500 scientists, helping further careers in aging research and geriatric medicine.

How Can Aging Research Help?

Aging research can help to:

Improve the lives of older adults.

Scientists in aging research can improve the lives of older adults by generating new knowledge that can help prolong their health and independence.

Provide new information that informs society.

Scientists also provide important education about research to our local communities.

Increase our understanding of all age-related diseases.

Research on aging can lead the way to a greater understanding of all age-related diseases. It has the potential to improve public health to a far greater extent than science that examines only one disease at a time.

Everyday, scientists study the aging process to gain knowledge about how diseases of aging occur. This knowledge may one day allow for interventions to prevent diseases such as Alzheimer's disease, osteoarthritis, cancer, heart disease, and osteoporosis.

While there is no "fountain of youth," scientists are working to identify potential genes that help us live healthier and longer. Recent breakthroughs in a whole range of disciplines from biochemistry to molecular research, and from immunology to neurobiology, are fueling hopes for extended health.

How You Can Help

Through financial support from individuals, corporations, and foundations, AFAR helps to fill the gap left by limited research dollars. Nationally, AFAR's support provides many young researchers with their first grants and encourages young medical professionals to specialize in geriatrics. It also helps to sustain the work of mid-career scientists.

As Florida's demographic continues to shift to an older population and as scientists at Florida educational institutions compete for increasingly scarce research dollars, the need for funds to support aging research efforts in our state is more important than ever. Addressing this critical need is the mission of the AFAR Florida Affiliate.

Whether you are able to:

- Provide financial support for these critical research efforts
- Provide a corporate sponsorship
- Assist us in establishing new partnerships
- Introduce us to others with an interest in healthier aging
- Volunteer to help at one of our many activities and events

Please know that one person can make an important difference!

To learn how you can help advance the science of healthier aging, call 305-762-1552.