A. Personal Statement

The goal of the proposed research is to investigate the interaction between drug abuse and normal aging processes. Specifically, we plan to measure changes in cognitive ability and mental and physical health across a five-year period in a group of older drug users and matched controls. I have the expertise, leadership and motivation necessary to successfully carry out the proposed work. I have a broad background in psychology, with specific training and expertise in key research areas for this application. As a postdoctoral fellow at Berkeley, I carried out ethnographic and survey research and secondary data analysis on psychological aspects of drug addiction. At the Division of Intramural Research at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), I expanded my research to include neuropsychological changes associated with addiction. As PI or co-Investigator on several university- and NIH-funded grants, I laid the groundwork for the proposed research by developing effective measures of disability, depression, and other psychosocial factors relevant to the aging substance abuser, and by establishing strong ties with community providers that will make it possible to recruit and track participants over time. In addition, I successfully administered the projects (e.g. staffing, research protections, budget), collaborated with other researchers, and produced several peer-reviewed publications from each project. As a result of these previous experiences, I am aware of the importance of frequent communication among project members and of constructing a realistic research plan, timeline, and budget. The current application builds logically on my prior work, and I have chosen co-investigators (Drs. Gryczynski and Newlin) who provide additional expertise in cognition, gerontology and geriatrics. During 2005-2006 my career was disrupted due to family obligations. However, upon returning to the field I immediately resumed my research projects and collaborations and successfully competed for NIH support. In summary, I have a demonstrated record of accomplished and productive research projects in an area of high relevance for our aging population, and my expertise and experience have prepared me to lead the proposed project.

B. Positions and Honors

Positions and Employment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Position and Institution</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1998-2000</td>
<td>Fellow, Division of Intramural Research, National Institute of Drug Abuse</td>
<td>Bethesda, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000-2002</td>
<td>Lecturer, Department of Psychology, Middlebury College</td>
<td>Middlebury, VT</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001-2005</td>
<td>Consultant, Coastal Psychological Services</td>
<td>San Francisco, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002-2005</td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology</td>
<td>Washington University, St. Louis, MO</td>
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2007-    Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Washington University, St. Louis, MO

Other Experience and Professional Memberships
1995-    Member, American Psychological Association
1998-    Member, Gerontological Society of America
1998-    Member, American Geriatrics Society
2000-    Associate Editor, Psychology and Aging
2003-    Board of Advisors, Senior Services of Eastern Missouri
2003-05  NIH Peer Review Committee: Psychobiology of Aging, ad hoc reviewer
2007-11  NIH Risk, Adult Addictions Study Section, member

Honors
2003    Outstanding Young Faculty Award, Washington University, St. Louis, MO
2004    Excellence in Teaching, Washington University, St. Louis, MO
2009    Award for Best in Interdisciplinary Ethnography, International Ethnographic Society

C. Selected Peer-reviewed Publications (Selected from 42 peer-reviewed publications)

Most relevant to the current application

Additional recent publications of importance to the field (in chronological order)
**D. Research Support**

**Ongoing Research Support**

* R01 DA942367-03 Hunt (PI) 09/01/06-08/31/11 $300,000/year  
Health trajectories and behavioral interventions among older substance abusers  
The goal of this study is to compare the effects of two substance abuse interventions on health outcomes in an urban population of older opiate addicts.  
Role: PI

R01 MH922731-05 Merryle (PI) 12/15/07-11/30/12 $270,000/year  
Physical disability, depression and substance abuse in the elderly  
The goal of this study is to identify disability and depression trajectories and demographic factors associated with substance abuse in an independently-living elderly population.  
Role: Co-Investigator ($50,000/year)

Faculty Resources Grant, Washington University 08/15/09-08/14/11 $100,000/year  
Opiate Addiction Database  
The goal of this project is to create an integrated database of demographic, social and biomedical information for homeless opiate abusers in two urban Missouri locations, using a number of state and local data sources.

**Pending Research Support**

* R21 AA998075 Hunt (PI) 01/01/12-12/31/14 $160,000/year  
Community-based intervention for alcohol abuse  
The goal of this project was to assess a community-based strategy for reducing alcohol abuse among older individuals.  
Role: PI

**Completed Research Support**

Older Americans Research Foundation 04/01/07-03/31/10 $100,000/year  
Community-based intervention for alcohol abuse  
The goal of this project was to develop a community-based strategy for reducing alcohol abuse among older individuals.  
Role: PI

K02 AG442898 Hunt (PI) 02/01/05-01/31/08 $140,000/year  
Drug Abuse in the Elderly  
Independent Scientist Award: to develop a drug addiction research program with a focus on substance abuse among the elderly.  
Role: PI