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Dr. Schmader is the Principal Investigator (PI) of the NIA-funded Duke Pepper Older Americans Independence Center (OAIC) and Co-PI of the NIAID-funded Duke Vaccine and Therapeutic Evaluation Unit. He conducts clinical research studies in herpes zoster, infections, drugs and vaccines, including zoster, influenza and pneumococcal vaccines, in older adults funded by grants from the NIH, VA and industry sources. He also conducts research on drug use and development in older adults, especially focusing on polypharmacy, inappropriate prescribing and adverse drug reactions in older adults.

Dr. Schmader serves on the Working Groups for Herpes Zoster, Influenza, and Adult Immunization for the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). He is the American Geriatrics Society liaison to the ACIP.