

Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH)

Urgent Funding Opportunity for Postdoctoral Fellows/Instructors Applications due 5 pm on May 23, 2023

Due to a special congressional supplement, our BIRCWH Program has been notified of a new funding opportunity for one scholar for a one-year period, between July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024. Funding is contingent on review and approval by Program Administration at the NIH.

Introduction and Program Objectives

The purpose of the Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health in Pittsburgh (BIRCWH@Pitt) program is to equip talented Univ. of Pittsburgh faculty Scholars to be independent investigators in interdisciplinary research in women's health. The program encompasses basic, translational, clinical, behavioral, engineering, and health services research in reproductive sciences and women's health, spanning embryonic life to advanced age.

Under this special initiative, the scholar will be supported for one year to take advantage of the extraordinary environment at the Univ. of Pittsburgh Schools of the Health Sciences and Magee-Womens Research Institute as they work with a personalized mentorship team and supportive program advisory committee members and current BIRCWH scholars to develop a research program that is not only relevant to the Scholar's research interests in women's health, but will serve as the foundation for the Scholar's independence.

This supplement supports individuals in the postdoctoral/instructor scholar research phase of training who wish to participate as investigators in ongoing research projects and career development experiences in preparation for an independent career in health-related research. This experience should serve as a means of assisting the scholar's development into a productive researcher. The scholar is expected to contribute intellectually to the research, and to enhance their research skills and knowledge regarding the selected area of biomedical, clinical, behavioral, engineering, or social sciences regarding the health of women. It must also provide evidence of a focus on the enhancement of the research capability of the individual trainee, and that the research experience is intended to provide opportunities for career development as a productive researcher.

Eligibility Criteria

At the time of the appointment, BIRCWH Scholar candidates must:

- Have a PhD, clinical doctorate degree (MD/DO) or its equivalent
- Hold a full-time research position at the University of Pittsburgh at the postdoctoral or instructor level
- Have at least one year but no more than eight years of research or research training experience beyond their last doctoral degree
- Be able to spend at least 75% of full-time effort conducting research and career development activities related to their BIRCWH project
- Not be or have been a PD/PI on an R01 or subproject of a Program Project (P01), center (P50, P60, U54) grant, independent mentored career development (K-series) grants, or other equivalent grant awards; except for R03 and R21
- Be a U.S. citizen or noncitizen national, or must have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence and possess an Alien Registration Receipt Card (I-151 or I-155) or some other verification of legal admission as a permanent citizen. Individuals on temporary or student visas are not eligible.

Scholar Support

1. **Scholar's salary:** The BIRCWH program will provide funds for salary and fringe benefits up to \$65,000 total direct costs. The Scholar's department must supplement the BIRCWH contribution to meet salary and fringe benefits that are consistent with that department's scale. Departmental supplementation of a salary cannot require duties or responsibilities that would interfere with the purpose of BIRCWH or with the requirement that 75% effort be spent on their BIRCWH program and its career development activities.

2. **Scholar's research development:** The BIRCWH program provides \$25,000 (direct costs) to support the scholar's research, including supplies and reagents, equipment, core research services and technical personnel.

Program Activity and Expectations

Scholars work with a personalized mentorship team and supportive program advisory committee members to develop a research program that is not only relevant to the Scholar's research interests in women's health but will serve as the foundation for the Scholar's independence. Key activities in the program include:

- **Research:** Scholars will conduct interdisciplinary (as noted above) research in women's health, executing experiments, analyzing and preparing data for publication in peer-reviewed journals and presentations. The research experience is intended to provide opportunities for career development as a productive researcher.
- **Mentorship:** Scholars will engage with a dedicated mentorship team to achieve research and career development goals. The team is comprised of a primary mentor and at least one secondary mentor in a relevant scientific discipline different than that of the primary mentor, thus enhancing the interdisciplinary aspects of the research plan. Mentors should be recognized as accomplished investigators and have a successful record in training independent investigators. Scholars and primary mentors should meet not less than once every two weeks, on average; weekly meetings are encouraged when possible. The scholar and full mentorship team must meet at least three times during the year. A brief, written summary of the full team meeting will be submitted with progress report materials prior to Advisory Committee Meetings.
- **BIRCWH Program Interactions:** Every two months, the scholar will attend the BIRCWH Advisory Committee Meetings. In addition to presentation of their own progress, mentorship, plans and future goals, scholars contribute during discussion of other projects, and provide suggestions and recommendations on resources, approaches and opportunities for collaboration. The primary mentor must attend every other meeting with the scholar. The scholar will attend monthly peer-mentoring discussions with the current scholars and research director. The scholar will also participate in regular (weekly) MWRI conferences and in special events, such as "K Club" scholar enrichment activities, Grant-in-Progress Meetings, MWRI's Annual Research Day, and the BIRCWH National Meeting at the NIH. The scholar will prepare reporting materials prior to the Advisory Committee meetings and as part of the program's annual reporting to the NIH.
- **Workshops and Coursework:** Scholars must complete 8 hours of instruction related to responsible conduct of research. The training may be tailored to the scholar's experience and research project. The University of Pittsburgh's Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) and Office of Academic Career Development (OACD) provide free workshops on a broad range of topics that fulfill this requirement. Representative offerings from this current academic year may be found at <https://ctsi.pitt.edu/education-training/responsible-conduct-of-research-training/> and <https://www.oacd.health.pitt.edu/content/research-series>. The 8-hour requirement may be lowered with proof of completion of training that has already occurred during the postdoctoral period. Additional courses are optional.

Application Submission

The application must be submitted via email (Word or PDF attachments) to Ms Lori Rideout at rideoutl@mwri.magee.edu. **The application deadline is 5:00 pm on Tuesday, May 23, 2023.**

| Candidate's documents | |
|---|---|
| Completed application form | See next pages |
| Current NIH Biosketch | See https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm |
| Current NIH Other Support | Include current and pending support |
| Research Training and Research Plan <i>(2 pages total, using 11 pt Arial font, 0.5" margins, references and budget/justification are excluded from page limit)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research training and career development plan (0.5 page): Address the interdisciplinary nature and the reproductive sciences-women's health focus of the training, and proposed coursework/workshops • Summary of proposed research (1.5 pages): Address hypothesis, innovation and approach, and describe how the proposed plan will promote the candidate's education and development as an independent investigator | |
| Proposed research budget | Not to exceed \$25,000. A brief justification (3-4 lines) should be included. |

| Mentor's documents (from each mentor) | |
|--|---|
| Current NIH biosketch | Personal statement should include expertise relevant to the proposed research and mentorship contribution |
| Current NIH Other Support | |
| NIH Data Tables | Table 1 (Postdoctoral), Table 2, Table 3, Table 4 and Table 5 (Postdoctoral) |
| Letter of Support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The primary mentor's letter should include confirmation of available resources to advance the proposed research. The primary mentor should have sufficient independent research support to cover the costs of the proposed research project and scholar salary/fringe benefits in excess of the allowable costs of this award. The primary mentor should also describe the nature of the planned supervision and mentoring and a plan for the candidate's career development. A brief letter from the secondary mentor should describe the mentor's areas of expertise, and the nature of the involvement with the candidate. Co-mentors should describe how they will coordinate with the primary mentor and the candidate to provide an integrated mentoring effort. |

Candidate Evaluation

Proposals will be reviewed by the PI and Program Advisory Committee. Once a scholar is accepted to the program, additional documentation may be requested during the formal appointment process.

Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH)

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|---|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Name | <i>Last, First, Initial</i> | | Start date | August 15, 2022 |
| Business Address | | Home Address | | |
| Phone | <i>Work</i> | <i>Home</i> | <i>Cell/pager</i> | |
| Email address | | | | |
| Personal | <i>Date of birth</i> | <i>Place of birth</i> | | |
| | <i>Country of Citizenship</i> | <i>If Non-US Citizen, then do you have a permanent US resident visa (Green Card)?</i> | | |
| Education | Institution, Location | Dates | Degree/field of training | |
| Undergraduate | | | | |
| Graduate | | | | |
| Post-graduate | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Proposed mentors (name, academic titles, department affiliation) | | | | |
| Primary mentor | | | | |
| Supporting mentor | | | | |
| Supporting mentor | | | | |

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FOR NIH REPORTING

What is your race (you may select more than one)?

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> African American | <input type="checkbox"/> Alaskan Native | <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian | <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> White |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do not wish to provide | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe): | <input type="text"/> |

Are you Hispanic?

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Do not wish to provide |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|

What is your gender?

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Female | <input type="checkbox"/> Male | <input type="checkbox"/> Do not wish to provide |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|

Do you have a disability?

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (describe): | <input type="text"/> |
|-----------------------------|--|----------------------|

REQUIRED NIH MENTOR TRAINING TABLE DATA

The NIH requires that the proposed mentors provide Training Tables 1-5 (Postdoctoral sections for Tables 1 and 5). If they have been completed recently for another training program at Pitt, those may be provided and we will extract as needed.

Table 1. Census of Participating Departments or Interdepartmental Programs (Part II. Postdoctorates)

Please provide the below information regarding faculty and postdoctoral trainees in your department. You may need to seek the assistance of a department administrator, or if your department hosts an NIH training program, then that coordinator may have this information as well.

| Participating Department or Program | Total Faculty in Dept | Participating Faculty Name | Total Number of Postdoctorates in Department | Total Number of Dept Postdoctorates Supported by any HHS Training Award | Total Number of Postdoctorates with Participating Faculty | Number of Training Grant Eligible (TGE) Postdoctorates with Participating Faculty |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | |

Table 2. Participating Faculty Members

Please provide the below information regarding your position, research interests and training experience.

| Name | Degree(s) | Rank | Primary Department or Program | Research Interests (2-3 brief bullets) | Training Role | # of Predoctoral Trainees past 10 yrs | | | # of Postdoctoral Trainees past 10 yrs | | |
|------|-----------|------|-------------------------------|--|---------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|---|--|--------------------|---|
| | | | | | | In training | Completed training | Continued in research or related career | In training | Completed training | Continued in research or related career |
| | | | | | Mentor | | | | | | |

Table 3. Federal Institutional Research Training Grants and Related Support Available to Participating Faculty Members

Please provide the below information regarding any other training programs for which you serve as a mentor/are listed as a mentor on the faculty roster. You may need to seek assistance from the program's coordinator for these data. Please copy/insert additional lines as needed.

| Grant Title | Award Number | Project Period | PD/PI | Number of Predoctoral Positions | Number of Postdoctoral Positions | Number of Short-Term Positions | Number of Participating Faculty (Number Overlapping) | Names of Overlapping Faculty |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|-------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | | To be addressed by BIRCWH coordinator | To be addressed by BIRCWH coordinator |
| | | | | | | | To be addressed by BIRCWH coordinator | To be addressed by BIRCWH coordinator |

Table 4. Research Support of Participating Faculty Members

List current research support on projects for which you serve in a leadership role (PD, PI, Project or Core Lead). For multi-project grants, provide only the financial information relevant to the support of your lab/research team. Do not include training grants, research education grants or career development grants. Do not include pending awards.

| Faculty Member | Funding Source | Grant Number | Role on Project | Grant Title | Project Period | Current Year Direct Costs (to Faculty Member's Lab) |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------|---|
| | | | | | | |
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Table 5B. Publications of Postdoctoral Trainees

Please list all publications of postdoctoral trainees from the last 10 years. resulting from their period of training in your laboratory/research group. For trainees without a publication, indicate "No Publications" and provide an explanatory phrase (new entrant, leave of absence, change of research supervisor, left program, other, etc).

| Faculty Member | Name of Trainee | Past or Current Trainee? | Training Period (YYYY-YYYY) | Publication(s) |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| | | | | |

| Faculty Member | Name of Trainee | Past or Current Trainee? | Training Period (YYYY-YYYY) | Publication(s) |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
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