CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE LORNA G MOORE FACULTY LAUNCH AWARD

Nanette Santoro, MD, Director

*All dates are tentative, to be confirmed by December 1, 2019*

**Letter of Intent due date: January 15, 2020**

**Application due date: March 1, 2020**

The University of Colorado’s Denver and Anschutz campuses proudly announce the next call for applications for the Lorna Grindlay Moore, PhD, Faculty Launch Award. Eligible Instructors or Assistant Professors are invited to apply for $40,000/yr for up to 2 years to help launch their independent research programs. Faculty may be appointed in any of the schools or colleges of the University of Colorado Denver’s Downtown Campus or Anschutz Medical Campus whose research is centered on women’s health across the lifespan. Appropriate areas include, but are not limited to, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, education, family planning, infertility, mental health, oncology, pregnancy complications, and public policy.

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<td>Lorna Grindlay Moore Faculty Launch Award</td>
<td>One or two years award at $40k/yr.</td>
<td>CU Denver or CU Anschutz Medical Campus full-time Instructor or Assistant Professor with the terminal degree in their field (e.g., PhD, MD, MD-PhD)</td>
<td>Improving retention in post-secondary education&lt;br&gt;Factors influencing acceptability of contraceptive methods&lt;br&gt;Weight loss programs for reducing cardiovascular risk&lt;br&gt;Role of potassium channels in regulating uteroplacental blood flow&lt;br&gt;Molecular mechanisms of drug-resistance in ovarian cancer&lt;br&gt;Signaling pathways linking obesity and infertility&lt;br&gt;Genetic determinants of uterine prolapse&lt;br&gt;Epigenetic mechanisms underpinning intrauterine programming of fertility</td>
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Mechanisms linking gestational diabetes to later metabolic syndrome later in life in the mother or child.

Description: The award is for one or two years, not to exceed $40,000/yr, for exceptional junior faculty members at CU Denver or CU Anschutz conducting research directly relevant for improving women’s health across the lifespan. Examples of eligible topics are listed above.

Eligibility: Women’s health across the lifespan must be the central focus of the proposed research, but may be basic, clinical or translational in nature and based in the applied, life or social sciences. Junior faculty are considered those as having been at their current rank for less than five years; if more time has elapsed, a clear justification as to why the faculty member is eligible must be provided. Applicants may have previously received a fellowship, postdoctoral or institutionally-funded seed grant award but are not eligible if they have received a major, independent research grant. A major research grant is defined here as one from a national or internationally-funded agency, of at least two years’ duration, and funded as a result of a competitive peer-reviewed process. Since the long-term goal of this award is to enable a researcher to pursue an independent research career in women’s health, this award is reserved for applicants who are at the early stages of their careers; that is at the Instructor, Senior Instructor or Assistant Professor levels.

Additional considerations an requirements are:

- Likelihood that the proposed research will improve the faculty member’s ability to obtain further, extramural funding.
- Applicants may have other funding but it must not be duplicative of the work being proposed and a clear justification provided as to why additional funding is needed.
- The extent to which the applicant’s research career will benefit from receipt of this award.
- Extent to which the applicant is actively engaged in the area(s) required.
- Feasibility that the proposed work can be completed, and publishable results obtained within the time period for which support is being requested.
- If support is sought for two years, the work to be conducted within each year must be clearly delineated and justified. If a two-year award is sought, a review panel will be convened for deciding whether a second year is justified based on the 1st yr progress.
- A letter of intent is required and will be used to select persons with the appropriate expertise for serving on the grant review committee. Letters of intent are due January 15, 2020. The following format is required for the letter of intent:
  
  o A cover letter which should include the following information:
    ▪ Title of proposal
    ▪ Principal Investigator
    ▪ Co-investigator
    ▪ Mentors
    ▪ Current and past faculty positions
    ▪ Title, total direct costs/yr and funding agency of all current funding
    ▪ Title, total direct costs/yr, funding source for all grants received in the past five years, and for all grants applied for in the past three years
  
  o A one page description of the intended application which includes a brief background/premise, central hypothesis, specific aims, significance and innovation, and
anticipated impact on the applicant’s career.

- **Applications** adhering to the guidelines listed below are due no later than 5 pm March 1, 2020.
- Grants will be reviewed by a special review panel convened by Dr. Santoro that will include members with expertise appropriate to the applicant pool. All applicants will receive feedback.
- Awardees are encouraged to participate in faculty-training programs offered at the UCD Downtown or Anschutz Medical campuses for developing their careers and professional skills during the grant period, and in future years.
- Awardees must agree to cite support from the Lorna Grindlay Moore Faculty Launch Award in their presentations, publications, and other accomplishments stemming from the work conducted within the award period.
- Awardees must agree to provide a report to Dr. Santoro no later than **one year** following the completion of the award that summarizes a) the research accomplished within the award period and b) the value it has provided for their career development.

**Application Guidelines**

1. **Format:** Applications must have one-inch margins and use no smaller than 11-point Arial font. All materials must be submitted as a single pdf file. Applications not adhering to these guidelines will be returned and not considered further.
2. **Face Page (1 page):** Provide the name of the applicant -- including present and all prior academic positions (including department[s] and institution[s]), the applicant’s contact information (email, phone, fax, campus location and campus mailing address), and the title of the work proposed. Also list the names and positions of all other personnel involved in the project as mentors or co-investigators.
3. **Abstract (300-word maximum):** Briefly describe the applicant’s proposed research and research career goals. The abstract should be on a separate page.
4. **Budget and budget justification:** Include a detailed budget request for the award period with all costs justified. The award can be used for salary support and/or project support. Aspects of the proposed research receiving support from existing sources, whether institutional funds or other grants-in-aid, must clearly be justified.
5. **Biographical Sketch:** Provide a biographical sketch for the applicant and all other persons named in the proposal as mentors or co-Investigators, listing **all** current and pending research support for each person. Please use the most current NIH form ([https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch-blankformat.docx](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch-blankformat.docx)).
6. **Description of Applicant(s) Career Goals (500-word maximum):** Describe the applicant’s career goals and how the Lorna Grindlay Moore Faculty Launch Award will help in attaining them.
7. **Mentor and training plan (2 single-spaced pages maximum).** All applicants must include a training plan with specific goals enumerated and the roles of the mentor and, if appropriate, a mentoring committee clearly delineated.
8. **Description of Proposed Research (5 single-spaced pages maximum):** A complete but concise description of the applicant’s ongoing and proposed work must be included. Separate sections should be devoted to Specific Aims and Hypotheses (1-page maximum), Background and Significance, Preliminary Studies, and Experimental Design and Methods. All figures, tables and other relevant data should be included within the body of the proposal (i.e., no appendices). References are not included within the 5-page limit. The importance of the proposed work, its relevance to and impact upon women’s health, and potential for generating future, funded research must be included.
9. Other Factors and Assurances:
   a. Letter(s) of Support: The applicant’s Department Chair is required to provide a letter of recommendation that guarantees that the applicant will have sufficient salary support, protected research time, laboratory space and/or other resources necessary for the successful completion of the proposed project. If the project involves more than one department, both Chairs are required to provide such letters.
   b. Letter(s) of Recommendation: Each mentor named in the application must provide a letter that endorses the applicant and states whether and how that Mentor will support the applicant’s research and career development.

10. Final Report: A final report must be submitted within one year of the conclusion of the award period that summarizes the progress achieved, including the challenges and successes encountered; conferences and workshops attended; and the efforts made and/or anticipated for securing further funding. Copies of all articles emanating from the work conducted within the period of the award that has been published or is under review are required components of the report.

Letters of Intent and Applications should be addressed to:
   Nanette Santoro, MD, Professor and E. Stewart Taylor Chair  
c/o Nicole Solazzo (Nicole.Solazzo@ucdenver.edu)  
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Mail Stop, 8613  
12700 E. 19th Avenue, RC-II 3012  
Aurora, Colorado 80045

Final Reports should be sent to:  
Nanette Santoro, MD, Nanette.Santoro@ucdenver.edu as one PDF file (combining all the elements mentioned above), with a copy to Jane Brown, Jane.Brown@ucdenver.edu.

Please address any questions to:  
Nanette Santoro, MD, Nanette.Santoro@ucdenver.edu with a copy to Jane Brown, Jane.Brown@ucdenver.edu.