



2020 Funding Opportunity in Women's Health & Sex/Gender Differences Research

SUBJECT: Call for Applications for the CWHR Junior Faculty Research Development Awards & SCORE Pilot Grants

FROM: Judith G. Regensteiner, PhD, Director; Jane EB Reusch, MD, and Wendy Kohrt, PhD, Associate Directors, Center for Women's Health Research (CWHR) and the CWHR Grant Review Committee

DUE Date/Time: Friday, June 19, 2020, by 5:00 pm Mountain Time

A. The Center for Women's Health Research announces the availability of the following awards:

Award	Funds	Eligibility	Purpose
CWHR Junior Faculty Research Development Awards	\$25,000 each	CU-AMC full-time MD, MD-PhD, PhD, DO and PharmD faculty and fellows	Advance research career in women's health or sex/gender differences across the lifespan with a focus on: a) Cardiovascular disease (CVD) b) Diabetes c) Mental health as it relates to physical health
Specialized Center of Research Excellence (SCORE) on Sex Differences Pilot Grants	\$25,000 each	CU-SOM MD, MD-PhD, and PhD postdoctoral fellows and Assistant Professors	Promote translational research on the bioenergetic and metabolic consequences of the loss of gonadal function

B. Description of Awards

1. CWHR Junior Faculty Research Development Awards

The awards are 1-year grants, not to exceed \$25,000, for exceptional junior faculty members and fellows conducting research focused on women's health or sex/gender differences in the underlying mechanisms, diagnosis, treatment, or management of CVD, diabetes, and/or mental health as it relates to physical health. Research focused on other diseases or physiological questions will be considered relevant if there is a connection to CVD, diabetes or the intersection of physical and mental health on these diseases (e.g. cardiovascular complications of rheumatoid arthritis, oral health as it relates to CVD).

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Eligibility spans the full spectrum of research (e.g. basic, clinical, translational, population science, implementation, and big data). Interdisciplinary approaches, innovative ideas, and use of technologically advanced methodological approaches are encouraged. Topics must focus on women's health or sex/gender differences. Examples of past projects are listed below.

- a. Sex/gender differences in CVD occurring throughout the lifespan:
 - i. Cardiovascular implications of menopause
 - ii. Sex differences in the cardiovascular consequences of diabetes
 - iii. Disparities in cardiovascular treatments in men and women
 - iv. Characterizing gender disparities in ventricular assist device use through psychosocial evaluations
 - v. Understanding dilated cardiomyopathy in boys and girls
- b. Sex differences in the metabolic response to insufficient sleep
- c. Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes throughout the lifespan (as well as gestational diabetes)
- d. Fetal origins of adult disease
- e. Vascular mechanisms for the effects of loss of ovarian function on cognition in women
- f. Underlying causes of depression

Because the long-term goal of this award is to enable a researcher to pursue a research career in women's health and/or sex/gender differences, priority for this award is reserved for **early-career faculty applicants**. However, more **mid-level** and **senior faculty** will be considered if there is a clear reason why this type of funding would provide benefit to their research careers. Applications from exceptional post-doc **fellows** with very strong research proposals and mentors will also be considered.

The anticipated start of the funding period is September 2020.

2. SCORE on Sex Differences Pilot Grants

The awards are 1-year grants, not to exceed \$25,000, for exceptional postdoctoral fellows and assistant professors conducting research focused on the bioenergetic and metabolic consequences of the loss of gonadal function, with a focus on translational research. Applications from established investigators will be considered if this represents a new research direction for the applicant.

C. Considerations:

1. Priority will be given to applicants who demonstrate promise for being able to obtain further extramural funding. **Applicants can have other non-overlapping funding for the proposed project but must show a clear reason as to why their research career would benefit from this award.**
2. Applicants must be actively engaged in research in the areas prioritized for this proposal. Because the support is for one year, applicants must demonstrate that the work is likely to yield publishable results within funding period.
3. Applications are due no later than **Friday, June 19, 2020, by 5:00 PM**. Applications will be evaluated by the CWHR Grant Review Committee. All applicants will receive feedback.
4. Awardees will have the opportunity to participate in faculty trainings offered by the CWHR focused on career building and professional skills development during the grant period and in future years.
5. Awardees may be asked to present their research findings at a venue or venues specified by the Center for Women's Health Research. This may include both professional and lay audiences.
6. Awardees will be asked to communicate their accomplishments and career progress including additional grants and funding received, promotions, publications, and other accolades to the CWHR during the grant period and in future years.

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7. Awardees must recognize the CWHR and other funders as noted in the award within any publication or presentation of findings or data that is a result of the award.

D. Application Guidelines

1. **Format:** Applications must have one-inch margins and use 11-point Arial font.
2. **Face Page:** Provide the name of the applicant and mentor (if a Fellow, Instructor or Assistant Professor), including academic positions, schools, departments and contact information (email, phone, campus location and campus mailing address). Also, provide the title of the work proposed.
3. **Abstract:** Briefly describe the applicant's proposed research and research career goals.
4. **Lay Summary:** Provide a short lay summary (~5 sentences) of the goals and significance of the project.
5. **Budget and Budget Justification:** Include a detailed budget request for the award with all costs justified. The award can be used for salary support and/or project support.
6. **Biographical Sketch (current NIH Form):** Biographical sketches for both the applicant and mentor (where required, as stated above) are required, each of which lists all current and pending research support. Please use the most current NIH form.
7. **Description of Applicant(s) Career Goals:** Describe career goals and how the CWHR Faculty Research Development Award will help in attaining them. (1 page)
8. **Role of the Applicant's Mentor (for fellows and junior faculty):** Describe the mentor's role during the period of the award, including a mentorship plan (1 page).
9. **Description of Proposed Research:** A complete but concise (**no more than 5 pages**, single-spaced) description of the applicant's ongoing and proposed work must be included. Separate sections should be devoted to Specific Aims and Hypotheses, Background and Significance, Preliminary Studies, Experimental Design and Methods, and References Cited. All figures, tables and other relevant data should be included within the body of the proposal (i.e., no appendices). References can be in addition to the **5-page limit**. **The importance of the proposed work, its relevance to women's health or sex/gender differences, translational impact, and potential for generating further funded research should be included.** Explanation of interdisciplinary approaches, innovative ideas and use of technological approaches within the research should be provided when applicable.

E. Other Factors and Assurances

1. **Letter(s) of Recommendation** (for fellows and junior faculty): From the mentor, endorsing the applicant and stating that the mentor will support the Applicant's research.
2. **Letter of Support:** From Department Chair, Division Head or Section Head stating the institutional commitments to the applicant and the availability of the requisite space and other forms of support (e.g. laboratory space, salary, technical assistance).

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F. Other Stipulations/Final Report

1. Recipients of the award must submit a final report within 30 days of the conclusion of the grant period (typically 12 months after funding is received). Report needs to describe progress to date, including challenges and successes. Final reports should summarize the results of their studies supported by the grant, including copies of all publications, a list of those anticipated, and plans for and attempts to secure additional funding for the project(s).
2. Final Reports should be sent to:
Judith G. Regensteiner, Ph.D. (judy.regensteiner@cuanschutz.edu) in one combined PDF with a copy sent to Anne Kercksmar (anne.kercksmar@cuanschutz.edu)

G. Submission

Applications must be combined into one PDF and must be submitted electronically to Anne Kercksmar (anne.kercksmar@cuanschutz.edu) **no later than Friday, June 19, 2020, by 5:00 PM.**

Applications will be evaluated by the CWHR Grant Review Committee. All applicants will receive feedback.

Please address any questions to Judy Regensteiner, PhD, (judy.regensteiner@cuanschutz.edu).

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