



REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTENT (LOI)

Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH) K12 Scholar Training Program

The University of Minnesota BIRCWH Program is an internal K12 grant mechanism (#K12HD05588709) designed to assist junior faculty develop an independent research career focused on women's health or sex differences research. The grant is funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH) and Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). This mentored research career development program will provide research training, protected time, and research support. Success of the BIRCWH program is judged by the number of junior faculty who go on to secure independent NIH K-awards and NIH R21 grants in the short term, and NIH R01 and R01 equivalent funding in the long term, for women's health or sex differences research. Researchers from all schools conducting projects that address basic, translational, clinical, epidemiological, and health services research are encouraged to apply. **Applications from underrepresented populations are strongly encouraged.**

- One BIRCWH positions will be awarded for this cycle
- Must be Assistant Professor (in rank \leq 6 years)
- Must attend biweekly BIRCWH seminars
- Must attend biweekly CTSI K Scholar Multidisciplinary Seminar Series
- Attend annual BIRCWH meeting in Washington DC
- Financial support: 75% (50% for surgical-specialties) salary support (up to \$100,000 inclusive of fringe), \$25,000 annually
- Three years of support based on satisfactory progress

Phase I – Request for Letters of Intent (LOI)

The BIRCWH Leadership Team announces a request for Letters of Intent from eligible junior faculty interested in applying for the University of Minnesota Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH) K12 Scholar Training Program. **Letters of Intent are due on July 2, 2018 at 4:00 pm.** Selected applicants will be invited by the BIRCWH Leadership to complete a full application contingent on NIH funding approval for BIRCWH Program.

IMPORTANT DATES

Announcement Date:	May 1, 2018
LOI Deadline:	July 2, 2018
Application Deadline:	September 17, 2018 (by invitation only)
Award Notification:	November 1, 2018
Start Date:	March 1, 2019 (negotiable)

LOI Submission Guideline

The LOIs should be no more than two pages in length and include the following:

- Scholar name, Academic Rank, Department/Division, School/College
- Potential mentoring team, including Academic Rank, Department/Division, School/College of each team member
- Project title & research area being addressed by this study
- Draft aims and significance of research
- Brief explanation of background and interest in women's health and/or sex differences research
- Scholar's curriculum vitae (not included in page maximum)
- Submissions should be sent in one PDF file to wmhealth@umn.edu by 4:00 pm on July 2, 2018.

Phase II – Invitation to Submit Full Application

Applicants who meet eligibility and selection criteria will be invited to submit a full application for consideration for BIRCWH Scholar funding. Application instructions and documents will be sent out with the invitation to submit a full application.

Eligibility

1. Be a junior faculty member (Assistant Professor in rank \leq 6 years and have $<$ 6 years of research experience or research training beyond last doctoral degree), who has the potential to establish their own funded research programs in women's health and/or sex differences. Applicants must have paid faculty appointments (rank of Assistant Professor) at the University of Minnesota or a signed offer letter indicating their appointment at the time of application.
2. Completed any postgraduate training normally expected for a faculty appointment in their field (including clinical or postdoctoral fellowship training, or residency if they have chosen not to sub-specialize).
3. Be able to spend 75% (50% for surgical-specialties) of full-time professional effort conducting research and research career development activities as a BIRCWH K12 scholar. Department or school must provide commitment to protected time and evidence that the scholar will be given adequate research space and all appropriate infrastructure support to complete research projects successfully.
4. United States citizen or permanent resident.
5. Research areas of interest can be basic, translational, clinical, epidemiological, or health services research that relate to women's health and/or sex differences.
6. Hold a clinical doctorate or PhD degree or its equivalent (e.g., MD, DO, DDS, DVM, OD, DC, PharmD).
7. No previous record as a principal investigator on an R01 or subproject of a Program Project (P01), Center Grant (P50, P60, P20, P30, U54), independent mentored career development grants (K-series), or other equivalent research grant awards or career development awards. Those serving as PI of an NIH R03 and R21 grant are eligible to apply for this K12 award.
8. Have three interprofessional mentors with evidence of research experience (current and past) and track record of trainees at the rank of Associate Professor or higher
 - a. Primary mentor (must be a Full Professor at the University of Minnesota)
 - b. Secondary mentors, at least two (Associate or Full Professor rank at the University of Minnesota)
 - c. At least one mentor must have statistical expertise
 - d. Please visit <https://www.med.umn.edu/research/womens-health-research-program/meet-the-team> for a list of NIH-approved mentors. Other mentors can be proposed but must be approved by BIRCWH Program Co-Directors and NIH. Please contact Kait Macheledt at kmac@umn.edu or 612-273-9715 if you have any questions regarding your mentoring team.

Reporting and Other Requirements

1. Participants are required to apply for independent research grant support by the end of the second year (NIH K or R series award; or foundational research funding from the American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, American Diabetes Association, or equivalent). NIH requires that BIRCWH salary support be reduced by that amount when a scholar receives extramural funding but scholars may still participate in the training and mentoring aspects of the BIRCWH program, if they so desire.
2. Submit progress reports twice per year, updated career development research plans, and updated budgets. Participate in semi-annual reviews with mentors and BIRCWH leadership team. Continued availability of awarded funds will be contingent on the annual progress report and review.
3. Participate in all required BIRCWH program activities including, but not limited to, annual national BIRCWH meeting, Interdisciplinary Advisory Committee meetings, BIRCWH seminars, CTSI KL2 Career Development seminars, mentoring and other special workshops, grant writing program, BIRCWH journal club, workshops and seminars with regional and national BIRCWH programs, local women's health research conferences, career development courses and seminars, annual reports, etc.

4. At the conclusion of the BIRCWH appointment, participate in an exit interview and a meeting with the BIRCWH leadership team, primary mentor, and department chair to discuss transition plans.
5. BIRCWH alumni are requested to provide annual updates of submitted and funded grants and publications and participate in mentoring current BIRCWH scholars.
6. All work conducted under the auspices of this appointment must acknowledge the NIH Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH) and participating NIH institutes and centers.
7. During the funding period, the Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health Scholar is expected to use the name of the appointment in their title in correspondence and in other communications, e.g., Jane Doe, PhD, 2018-2021 Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health Scholar.

Funding

1. **One award will be available in this funding cycle**
2. 75% salary support (50% for surgical-specialties) (up to \$100,000 inclusive of fringe) for protected time for women's health and/or sex differences research career development for 2-3 years based on satisfactory progress. \$25,000 per year for three years in research funds for technical assistance and/or supplies to assist in obtaining data. Travel funds to attend the national BIRCWH conference and one other national conference must be covered out of Scholars' allocated research funds.
3. Carry forward of research funds after the end of the award is not allowed per NIH guidelines.
4. Support is in the form of two consecutive 12-month appointments (evaluated annually), and renewable for up to one more year (three years total), depending on funding availability. Appointment renewal is contingent upon satisfactory progress as determined by the BIRCWH Interdisciplinary Advisory Committee and reported to the NIH in the annual progress report of the Program. Scholars are encouraged to apply for independent research grant support during the period of BIRCWH (K-12) support period, and are allowed concurrent salary support only while in the last two years when in compliance with NIH Policy Notice, NOT-OD-04-007 (<http://z.umn.edu/nihpolicynotice>).
5. For Scholars on a 9-month appointment, the expectation is that they will work 75% on the BIRCWH grant 11 months out of the year with one month for vacation (comparable to 12-month appointment). Therefore, in addition to covering 75% of the 9-month salary, the BIRCWH will provide 75% of 2/9 of the 9-month salary to cover the summer months.
6. In order to accommodate the needs of those interested in participating in this program that may have had a career hiatus because of family responsibilities, uniformed service, etc., there is no absolute limit on time elapsed since completion of training. At the time of their application, scholars must have less than six years of research/training experience beyond their last doctoral degree.

Selection Criteria

Scholars:

1. Background and potential for a successful academic research career in women's health and/or sex differences research
2. Demonstrate commitment to interdisciplinary women's health and/or sex differences research
3. Previous research and academic experience
4. Long-term career plan with milestones for later evaluation by interdisciplinary advisory committee
5. A 3-year career development and training plan with support of a mentoring team
6. Proposed research theme within a specific content area including significance and innovation of proposed project and its potential for future funding
7. Plan for interacting with mentors

Department:

1. Commitment of 75% protected time for the scholar (50% for surgical-specialties)

2. Plan for integration of the scholar into the unit's activities

Mentoring Team:

1. Timeline with milestones for career development of the scholar
2. Interprofessional nature of team
3. Team's plans for interaction with scholar
4. Integration with the mentoring team's professional activities
5. Adequacy of content, methodology, and statistical expertise and each team member's involvement in the proposal

Primary Mentor:

1. Plan for a long-term career path for the candidate
2. Experience with research theme proposed by the candidate
3. Plans for interaction with scholar and integration with mentoring team
4. Strong NIH funding record (current and past)
5. Strong research publication record
6. Previous and current mentoring experience and success

Supporting mentors:

1. Experience with research theme and/or methodology
2. Plans for interaction and career development of scholar
3. Previous and current mentoring experience and success
4. Listing of NIH funding record (current and past) and publication record

Contact Information

If you would like to learn more about the BIRCWH program, please contact Kait Macheledt at kmac@umn.edu to schedule a meeting with a BIRCWH leadership team member.