

Call for Applications

Dean's Scholar Women's Health Research (DSWHR)

All applications must be submitted electronically in a single PDF file to Donna Van Dolah at dlvandolah@ucdavis.edu by 10 a.m. on 04/01/22.

OVERVIEW

Funding from the School of Medicine Dean's Office supports the Dean's Scholar in Women's Health Research (DSWHR) for the career development of junior Ph.D. and M.D. faculty researchers interested in Women's Health research. The program provides the same multidisciplinary training and mentoring as the NIH-sponsored Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH) program to help such faculty establish independent biomedical research careers in areas relevant to women's health and creates an environment that nurtures interdisciplinary collaborations in focused and interactive research areas that are essential to improving the health of women.

Established researchers mentor junior faculty in one of four interacting areas of women's health: (1) neurosciences/behavioral with attention to gender-specific aspects of neurodevelopmental and neurodegenerative diseases, (2) gender-specific aspects of musculoskeletal/aging; (3) nutrition-related and metabolic/ inflammatory syndromes and their special impacts on women, or (4) cancer, including gender-related differences in risks, outcomes, and education-related interventions. Faculty conducting research in other areas of women's health and/or gender differences are also encouraged to apply. UC Davis DSWHR Scholars will address the NIH/ORWH crosscutting BIRCWH themes of lifespan, sex/gender determinants, health disparities/differences and diversity, and interdisciplinary research and employ one or more of the special emphasis areas of prevention, treatment, and biological and/or behavioral basis of sex and gender determinants.

The Dean's Scholar in Women's Health Research program must devote a minimum of 75% of their professional time to their DSWHR research project with the hope and intention that s/he will develop an independent, federally funded, or externally funded research program.

The grant will provide 75% of salary support up to \$100,000 plus benefits at the UC Davis composite rate per year based upon available funds and satisfactory scholar progress. The scholar's department is responsible for supplementing salary, if 75% of the salary is greater than \$100,000. In addition, the DSWHR scholar will receive \$25,000 in research and career development funds (e.g., supplies, research assistant, courses, etc.) and funds to travel to the annual BIRCWH annual meeting in Washington, D.C., and another meeting of the scholar's choice. The amount of these funds will vary annually depending upon available funds.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. A junior faculty member in the tenure-track, in-residence, clinical, or adjunct faculty appointment at UC Davis (any School or College), with less than **six** years of postdoctoral research experience (Applicants cannot have more than six years of research training and experience beyond their last doctoral degree at the time of application.)
2. Evidence of interest, experience, and/or training in women's health and demonstrated potential for development as a successful independent researcher
3. Commitment of laboratory space and 75% protected time for women's health research from the appropriate department, college, or school
4. Commitment of funds from scholar's department, college, or school to supplement DSWHR salary commitment to ensure total salary consistent with UC Davis standards

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5. Scholar cannot be receiving concomitant salary support from any other federal grant.
6. Scholar cannot be or have been a Principal Investigator on an R01 or subproject of a Program Project (P01), Center (P50, P60, U54) grant, or mentored career development (K-series) grant. R03 and R21 awards are permitted, even if the scholar is the PI if no salary is provided from these awards to the Scholar.)
7. Scholar must be a United States Citizen or non-citizen national or have legal admission into the United States as a permanent citizen.

APPLICATION

Candidates must submit a written application electronically in a single PDF file

to dlvandolah@ucdavis.edu by **10 a.m., April 1, 2022**. The application should conform to the standard NIH organizational structure and NIH guidelines with respect to the details of formatting (e.g., font size, margins) and include the following components:

- Completed application cover sheet and demographics information (see attached)
- One-page cover letter detailing the candidate's career goals and describing how the DSWHR program will contribute to those goals
- **Two-page** research proposal (plus references):
 - Objectives (one paragraph)
 - Rationale (one paragraph)
 - Methods
 - Significance to and potential impact on women's health (one paragraph)
 - Interdisciplinary nature of the project (one paragraph)
 - Innovation of the project (one paragraph)
- Proposed timeline for project
- Proposed interdisciplinary research and career mentors
- Recent NIH Biosketches for applicant and his/her mentoring team, including all sources of current extramural funding (**must include applicant's/mentor's role, dates of support, % effort and % salary support**)
- **Letter from department chair with commitment to** (1) protect 75% of scholar's time for the DSWHR, (2) supplement scholar's salary, if 75% of salary is greater than \$100,000 and benefit rate is above the UC Davis composite rate, and (3) indicate provision of space needed to complete project.

This letter should also:

- Explain how the applicant's effort will be adjusted to comply with the 75% DSWHR research effort requirement (i.e., detailed % effort on other grants, as well as clinical and teaching time)
- Assess applicant's potential
- Be cosigned by division chief, if applicable
- **Letter from mentors:** Because this is a program of mentored interdisciplinary clinical research, the letter should indicate the interdisciplinary nature of the mentoring team, convey the mentors' enthusiasm for the candidate and describe the proposed meetings and interactions between the mentors and the mentee. Therefore, considerable attention should be paid to the requirements for the mentors' letter as described here:
 - The candidate will need to identify at least two mentors from distinctly different disciplines, each of whom will contribute to the applicant's program of research and training.

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- The mentors' letter is to be jointly authored and cosigned by the two mentors. This letter must make clear how the disciplinary expertise of each mentor will contribute to the candidate's research and training plans. It should describe how the mentors plan to work together with the applicant and what each will contribute to the applicant's research and training.
- The mentors' letter must provide evidence of familiarity with the candidate's research and educational/training program. Ideally, the mentors will guide the candidate in the development of the research proposal to be submitted as part of this application. The mentors' letter should describe their degree of involvement in the preparation of the application.
- The mentors' letter should also describe specific plans for the frequency of contact between the mentors and the applicant and identify expectations for candidate productivity (i.e., expectations regarding manuscripts, submission of applications for extramural funding, etc.) The mentors should indicate a willingness to complete the required semi-annual documentation of the scholar's progress and participate in seminars with the other scholars and their mentors.
- Finally, each mentor should describe their experience with mentoring and provide a table identifying prior mentees, their current positions, and any evidence of their mentees' research productivity.

REVIEW CRITERIA

1. Potential of the applicant for a successful research career in Women's Health:
 - a) Quality and feasibility of the proposed research
 - b) Likelihood of benefiting from the DSWHR program
 - c) Likelihood of obtaining subsequent funding
2. Evidence of research experience and productivity, including having applied for peer-reviewed funding and having written and published manuscripts with data obtained and analyzed by the applicant.
3. Impact of DSWHR program on career goals
4. Additional considerations to ensure a diverse pool of DSWHR/BIRCWH scholars:
 - a) Broad recruitment of candidates with an emphasis on minorities
 - b) Attempts to achieve diversity (in research areas, received degrees, disciplines, gender, ethnicity) in the scholar pool
5. Relevance of the proposed project to women's health and incorporation of an interdisciplinary approach

For questions regarding DSWHR/BIRCWH K12 application process or other concerns, contact:

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DEAN'S SCHOLAR WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH

Donna Van Dolah

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Clinical Translational Science Center

UC Davis Health

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All proposals must be sent electronically **in ONE single PDF file** to Donna Van Dolah, Program Manager, dlvandolah@ucdavis.edu.

Deadline for Applications: **April 1, 2022, at 10 a.m.**

Anticipated funding start date: **July 1, 2022, or as negotiated**