

## Call for Applications

# Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH K12-NIH)

**Deadline to submit — Monday, February 6, 2023, by 10 a.m.**

All applications and supporting documents must be **submitted electronically in a single PDF file** to Donna Van Dolah at [dlvandolah@ucdavis.edu](mailto:dlvandolah@ucdavis.edu).

### OVERVIEW

Funding from the School of Medicine Dean's Office supports the Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health Research (NIH BIRCWH K12) for the career development of junior Ph.D. and M.D. faculty researchers interested in women's health research. The program provides multidisciplinary training and mentoring 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 will 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, and (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 BIRCWH 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.

Scholars in the BIRCWH program must devote a minimum of 75% of their professional time to their BIRCWH research project with the hope that scholars will develop independent, federally funded or externally funded research programs.

The grant will provide 75% of salary support up to \$100,000 plus benefits at the UC Davis composite rate, per year through April 30, 2024, which is the end of the current BIRCWH grant funding period. Additional funding is possible pending successful renewal of the UC Davis BIRCWH grant, at the requested funding level, and satisfactory scholar progress. The scholar's department is responsible for supplementing salary if 75% of salary is greater than \$100,000. In addition, scholars will receive \$25,000 in research and career development funds (e.g., supplies, research assistant, courses, etc.) and funds to travel to the mandatory annual BIRCWH meeting in Washington, DC, and another meeting of the scholar's choice. The amount of these funds will vary annually depending upon available BIRCWH grant funds.

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

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.)

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 or research training 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.

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

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3. Commitment of laboratory space and 75% protected time for women's health research from appropriate department, college, or school.
4. Commitment of funds from Scholar's department, college, or school to supplement BIRCWH salary commitment to ensure total salary consistent with UC Davis standards.
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](mailto:dlvandolah@ucdavis.edu) by 10 a.m., February 6, 2023. 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
- One-page cover letter detailing the candidate's career goals and describing how the BIRCWH 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
- **NIH Biosketches (NEW format) for both the applicant and mentors and any other co-investigator** (follow NIH guidelines for instructions including page limits and formatting based on [NOT-OD-21-073](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm), new requirements starting May 2021, <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm> from the applicant, both mentors, and appropriate collaborators. **The applicant's Biosketch should include all sources of current extramural funding and describe the applicant's role, % effort, and % salary support.**
- **Letter from department chair with commitment to** (1) protect 75% of scholar's time for the BIRCWH K12, (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% BIRCWH K12 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

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- **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.
  - 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. The Primary Mentor(s) must have a track record of NIH funding (does not include training grants).

**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 BIRCWH program
  - c) Likelihood of obtaining subsequent funding
  - d) 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. **Evidence of certification in human subject's protection.**  
<https://research.ucdavis.edu/policiescompliance/irb-admin/outreach/citi/>
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 BIRCWH 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  
*Reviewers evaluate each of the above categories for each application, and an overall impact score (following the NIH scale) is determined. Reviewers also provide a supplemental written evaluation identifying major overall strengths and limitations of each application.*

## PROGRESS OF SCHOLARS AND ANNUAL RENEWAL PROCESS

- Scholars must complete Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) during the K12 award, if selected. *RCR training dates are posted here:* <https://research.ucdavis.edu/policiescompliance/research-ethics-rcr-program/>
- Scholars and their mentors will meet regularly, agree on productivity goals, and discuss the scholar's progress. This will be a proactive process designed to identify and overcome any barriers to success, facilitate access to resources, and promote accelerated career development through networking.
- Scholars will present their work in progress at the CTSC Annual Scholar Symposium and the Annual ORWH Conference in Washington, DC.
- Documentation from both scholars and their mentors will be submitted (twice per year) for Semi Annual Scholar meetings, Annual RPPR, and/or other items as needed by the K12.
- Scholars are required to complete the UC Davis Health SEED training in compliance with the UC DEI requirements, and/or other training as identified in curriculum requirements.
- Scholars are required to attend the CTSC KL2 Works In Progress, (WIP) monthly meeting, and present annually. Scholar's may participate in the Paul Calabresi K12 training modules (optional) and will participate in journal club meetings as identified or as related to project focus.
- Scholars will attend the monthly BIRCWH K12 Breakfast meetings (in-person and/or virtually)
- Scholars will enroll in course work necessary for individual skill development and success:
  - **CTSC Resources:** <https://health.ucdavis.edu/clinicalresearch/>
  - **Admission Criteria:** <https://health.ucdavis.edu/clinicalresearch/admissions.html>
  - **Curriculum:** <https://health.ucdavis.edu/clinicalresearch/admissions.html>

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

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

**Deadline for Applications: February 6, 2023, at 10 a.m.**

**Anticipated funding start date: May 2, 2023, or as negotiated**