



School of Medicine and Public Health
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

BIRCWH
Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health

Request for Applications (RFA)

Note: *Appointments associated with this RFA are contingent upon the successful competitive renewal of the UW BIRCWH award (expect notification in July 2017).*

KEY DATES FOR 2016 BIRCWH PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

Call for Applications	October 24, 2016
BIRCWH Applications due	December 1, 2016
Applicant Interviews	January 2017
Notification of Award	February 2017
Appointment Start Date	October 1, 2017

KEY INFORMATION

Number of Openings	2-4
Appointment Term	2 years minimum
Effort Requirement	75%
Salary Maximum	\$100,000/year (plus fringe)
Questions	Terry Little, tlittle@uwhealth.org or (608) 262-6454

OVERVIEW

The mission of the University of Wisconsin (UW) Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH) Scholars program is to increase the number, diversity and skills of early career investigators committed to women's health research through a mentored research and career development program. For the past 10 years, the UW BIRCWH has been able to recruit and develop an outstanding cohort of investigators; create a network of mentors, sustain a community of leaders; and ultimately build programs that improve women's health. The UW BIRCWH has become a well-established and successful mentored research and career development program maintaining the unique focus championed by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH) while reaping the remarkable resources and pioneering traditions of the UW. The BIRCWH program is co-funded by the NIH ORWH and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). Additional information is available at the [UW BIRCWH website](#). ***Please review the following eligibility requirements and program expectations prior to submitting an application.***

BIRCWH ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Be a US citizen or non-citizen national, or lawfully admitted for permanent residence;
- Have a doctoral degree in a clinical or research discipline (e.g. MD, PharmD, DVM, DDS or PhD) and engaged in women's health research in such fields as nursing, medicine, pharmacy, social work, epidemiology, psychology, sociology, biostatistics;
- Have completed postgraduate training normally expected for a faculty appointment in their field (including clinical or postdoctoral fellowship training or residency);
- Have no more than six years of research or research training experience beyond their last doctoral degree (excepting those who may have had a career hiatus due to family responsibilities or uniformed service);
- Have a full-time faculty appointment at UW at the time of award appointment;
- Identify established mentors with extensive health services research experience;
- Commit 75% of full-time professional effort in the BIRCWH program and its related research activities;
- Not be or have been a PD/PI on an R01, R29 or subproject of a Program Project (P01), Center (P50, P60, U54) grant, independent mentored career development (K-series) grants, or other equivalent research grant awards.

SCHOLAR SELECTION CRITERIA

Each application will be reviewed by the PI and Program Coordinator to ensure eligibility criteria are met. Applications will then be reviewed by members of a Scholar Selection Committee derived from the UW BIRCWH Steering Committee, who will score the applications following BIRCWH program guidelines. During this phase, applicant scores will be tabulated and ranked, and the top applicants will be interviewed by UW BIRCWH program leaders. Following interviews, UW BIRCWH program leaders will determine final recommendations for scholar awards. Final confirmation is made by the UW BIRCWH Steering Committee. Scholars will be selected based upon their potential to develop into academically and scientifically successful investigators in women's health. Several factors will be used to evaluate this potential including:

- Candidate's qualifications and dedication to women's health, research and academics
- Availability and stated commitment of qualified mentors
- College/departmental commitment to the stated research effort requirements
- Scientific and technical merit of proposed research
- Demonstrated potential for becoming a successful independent investigator in women's health research

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- **Development of an Independent Research Project:** Each Scholar is required to develop an independent research project in a substantive area of women's health or sex/gender differences.
- **Preparation and/or Submission of Abstracts and Manuscripts:** Each Scholar is required to prepare and submit first author abstracts and manuscripts. The abstracts should be submitted to national meetings either in women's health or sponsored by a professional society in the Scholar's field. Similarly, manuscripts should be submitted to professional journals or to women's health journals.
- **Submission of Grant Applications:** By the end of the training program, each Scholar is expected to have submitted one, or preferably more, applications for independent research funding, to be revised and resubmitted when necessary.
- **Mentor Requirements:** Scholars must identify at least **3 mentors** (1 primary to guide the scholar's career development plan and 2 from different disciplines and training backgrounds fostering the development of interdisciplinary research).

- **Mentor Team Meetings:** Scholars and their mentors meet regularly to discuss research progress and career development opportunities. Scholars are expected to meet quarterly with the entire mentor team to review current research and career development activities.
- **Monthly BIRCWH Scholar Meetings:** Scholars are expected to attend and periodically lead a monthly BIRCWH Scholar meeting. Past Scholars and current mentors are also invited to attend. The meetings are used to exchange information about research progress and opportunities, review grant proposals in progress, and practice research presentations.
- **BIRCWH Steering Committee Meetings:** Scholars are expected to present their research progress at the quarterly meetings of the BIRCWH Steering Committee.
- **Responsible Conduct of Research:** All Scholars are required to complete the online CITI course in the Protection of Human Research Subjects. All Scholars will be required to take ongoing training on research ethics.
- **Workshops and Professional Development Seminars:** Scholars are expected to attend trainings addressing issues relevant to women's health, sex/gender differences, interdisciplinary research and seminars aimed at advancing the career of junior faculty.
- **Scientific Meetings:** Scholars are expected to attend a national scientific meeting in their area of research interest annually, in order to network with colleagues, learn about new research findings, and to present their own data.
- **Annual NIH BIRCWH Meeting:** Scholars are expected to attend the Annual BIRCWH Meeting at NIH, and make oral or poster presentations of their research findings.

APPLICATION

Completed applications must be submitted by December 1, 2016, adhering to the instructions provided. Application materials are to be emailed as a single document to Terry Little, tlittle@uwhealth.org. Please contact Terry Little, BIRCWH Program Coordinator at tlittle@uwhealth.org, (608) 262-6454 with any questions.

BIRCWH PROGRAM APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Full Application Content (limited to 12 pages) Requirements 6-10 are not included in page limit

1. Application Face Page (2 pages)
2. Candidate Statement (2 pages): brief statement on training, qualifications and goals relating to women's health and/or sex/gender differences research
3. Applicant's Career Development Plan (2 pages): brief description of professional milestones and projected activities to progress towards these goals
4. Research Plan (4 pages): proposed research activities and timeline
5. Mentoring Plan (2 pages): proposed mentors and defined activities
6. Mentor letters of commitment (primary and 2 secondary from differing disciplines – 1 page each)
7. Letter of support/commitment from Dean of School/College or Department Chair (1 page)
8. Candidate NIH Biosketch
9. Candidate CV
10. Mentors NIH Biosketch

BIRCWH APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Complete and submit all sections of the application in the order listed below into a **single electronic document**, titled "yourlastname2016bircwhApp" to Terry Little, tlittle@uwhealth.org by **December 1, 2016**.

The anticipated start date for this application cycle is October 1, 2017.

Application Materials:

___ BIRCWH Application Face Page

___ Candidate Statement

___ Career Development Plan

___ Research Plan

___ Mentoring Plan(3):

- NIH Biosketch for each mentor
- Letter of Commitment from each mentor

___ Applicant's Current CV and NIH Biosketch

___ Letter of commitment from Dean/Department Chair/Director confirming 75% protected time while on the BIRCWH award



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Application Face Page

The BIRCWH Scholars Program welcomes and encourages women, members of underrepresented minority groups, and individuals with disabilities to apply.

Name (Last, First, MI):

Degree/s:

Birthdate (mm/dd/yyyy):

Current Position:
(Title, department, school or college)

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Telephone:

Email address:

Anticipated start date with the BIRCWH program:

Citizenship (select one):

- U.S. Citizen
 Permanent Resident of the U.S.

How did you hear about our program?

- E-mail from the University of Wisconsin
 Faculty, staff or student from the University of Wisconsin-Madison
 A person outside of the University of Wisconsin-Madison
 Internet/Website
 Word of Mouth Other, please describe:

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FOR NIH REPORTING

Provision of the following information is voluntary. Responses to these questions will help provide statistical information on the participation of individuals from diverse groups in Public Health Service (PHS) programs and identify inequities in terms of recruitment and retention based on race, ethnicity, disability and/or disadvantaged background. Applicants, trainees, scholars, and participants are strongly encouraged to provide this information, however declining to do so will in no way affect their appointments. This information will be retained by the PHS in accordance with and protected by the Privacy Act of 1974.

Racial/ethnic/disability/background data are confidential and all analyses utilizing the data will report aggregate statistical findings only and will not identify individuals.

Gender Female Male

Hispanic (or Latino/a) Yes No

What is your racial background?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian | <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White (non-Hispanic) | <input type="checkbox"/> More than one race |

Do you have a disability? Yes No Do Not Wish to Provide

If yes, which of the following categories describe your disability?

- Hearing Visual Mobility/Orthopedic Impairment Other

Are you from a disadvantaged background? Yes No Do Not Wish to Provide

I hereby certify that the information presented in this application is true and correct. I have not knowingly withheld any facts or circumstances that could interfere with the integrity and accuracy of this application.

BIRCWH Applicant Signature

Date

I understand and will ensure that the applicant will be able to commit 75% of full-time professional effort in the BIRCWH Scholars Program and its related research activities in the event they are chosen to participate in the program.

Department Chair Signature

Date